



Healthy Start

Healthy Start Coalition
of Hardee, Highlands
and Polk Counties

Annual Report FY2024-2025



Every Baby Deserves A Healthy Start!

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Connecting Families

Connect⁺ Families + Resources



Connect staff are often the first contact for a pregnant woman and/or family just leaving the hospital. They provide initial education and support on topics including:

- pre-eclampsia, SIDS, and postpartum depression
- importance of a medical home
- benefits of breastfeeding
- stress management
- safe baby (car seat safety and safe sleep)
- importance of prenatal visits, postpartum visits, and well-child visits
- interconception care (ICC)



Healthy Start Program Providers:



Connect completed over 9,500 initial intakes for the tri-county area! If the client agrees, additional referrals are provided for services including:

- Home visiting / parenting education services
- Mental health services
- Doula services
- Fatherhood programs
- Medicaid
- WIC
- Childcare assistance
- Beds for Babies
- Early Steps
- Community Resources

Healthy Start clients receive various screenings throughout enrollment to ensure they are referred to additional services they need. During FY24-25, Healthy Start home visitors completed:

- 626 ASQ-3 screens (infant development screening)
- 1,384 Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Screens (EPDS) completed prenatally and postpartum
- 871 Intimate partner violence screens
- 801 Substance use screens
- 662 Tobacco screens

100%

of Healthy Start clients who were screened for depression and had a positive score were referred to available services for depression

93.9%

of infants who scored below the cut-off value on the ASQ-3 or ASQ-SE were referred to available services



290

pack n play cribs distributed by the *Beds for Babies program, providing families with a safe place for their baby to sleep!



Survey results indicated 98.81% of participants responded correctly to 'you should always put a healthy baby on its back to sleep.'

*This program/project was funded (or funded in part) by a grant from the

Florida's Natural Growers Foundation, Inc. of Lake Wales, Florida.
*This project is funded through a grant from George W. Jenkins Fund within GiveWell Community Foundation.

Educating Families



Over 1,050 Healthy Start clients received home visiting services with a total of:

- 94 childbirth education sessions
- 1,244 breastfeeding services provided
- 3,310 parenting education sessions

Our home visitors are unique! Some of the certifications our home visitors have are:

- Safe Baby
- CPR/AED
- FOCEP (childbirth education)
- Doula
- Smoking Cessation Counseling
- Infant Massage
- Certified Car Seat Technician
- Breastfeeding Support



Our doulas provided support to 70 clients!



Doula Client Testimonial:
My doula was there not just physically, but emotionally before, during, and after birth. Although my birth didn't go as planned, she made sure I still felt empowered and supported.

96% of clients who completed an exit survey stated the techniques they learned from their doula were helpful in handling emotional aspects of labor and/or birth.



Our 3 fatherhood coaches worked with over 120 participants between the T.E.A.M. Dad & Dad M.O.D.E. programs.



Between July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 our Nurse Family Partnership nurses completed 852 home visits with 66 participants!



Over 680 teens served in Polk County.

After participating in the Teen Outreach Program (TOP), 88% of TOP teens reported being able to get themselves to relax, versus 38% prior to participating in the program.



- 36 FIMR cases reviewed
- Over 160 attendees educated and provided resources via our community baby showers. Topics covered: marijuana during pregnancy, doulas, preeclampsia, Healthy Start services, and fatherhood



2024 Highlands Community Baby Shower Event: Fatherhood Panel

Coalition Successes

This year's Teen Summit educated 98 youth on healthy relationships, positive body image & nutrition, and the importance of good mental health.



Teen Summit 2025

During FY24-25 we hosted many successful events and endeavors including:

- Annual HSC Meeting
- Community baby showers held in each county
- Festival of Faith event
- Filming a new HSC promotional video
- HSC Yard Sale
- Lunch & Learns focused on doulas, fatherhood, home visiting programs, and living tobacco free
- Teen Summit event

Keynote speaker Ahmad Black spoke on how to be a "pro" in life, both on and off the field at the HSC 2025 Annual Meeting.

HSC 2025 Annual Meeting



Our first ever HSC Yard Sale exceeded our goal of \$1,000 and collected over \$1,600!



Healthy Start Coalition Yard Sale

Financial Statement

Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties, Inc.

Statements of Financial Position
June 30, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 2,289,757	\$ 2,328,528
Contract Receivables	920,800	971,702
Prepays and Other Assets	14,203	16,617
Property, Plant, and Equipment, Net	27,000	33,750
Operating Right-of-Use Leases, Net	181,685	76,999
Total Assets	\$ 3,433,445	\$ 3,427,596
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Payables to Subrecipients	\$ 297,650	\$ 264,572
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	148,324	222,759
Operating Right-of-Use Lease Liabilities	193,080	77,000
Total Liabilities	639,054	564,331
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	2,250,227	2,349,172
With Donor Restrictions	544,164	514,093
Total Net Assets	2,794,391	2,863,265
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 3,433,445	\$ 3,427,596

Thank You to our Donors and Sponsors!

- Aetna
- Bay Area Youth Services, Inc.
- Comfort Stitchers
- Florida Moose Association
- Good Intents Marketing, LLC
- Jemmaline LLC
- Kaplan Early Learning Company
- Lake Gibson Methodist Church
- Pediatric Associate's
- Polk County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge
- Publix
- St. Catherine's Catholic School

St. Catherine's Catholic School Diaper Drive



Over 4000 diapers collected by St. Catherine's Catholic School were distributed to Healthy Start families in Hardee and Highlands Counties!

A HUGE thank you to the Florida Moose Association for selecting Healthy Start for their Heart of the Community Project. Over \$3,800 worth of baby items were distributed to Healthy Start families in our tri-county area.

Comfort Stitchers donates handmade baby items, including bibs, burp cloths, and stuffed animals, throughout the year for our families.



Healthy Start
Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions



FLORIDA MIECHV
Maternal, Infant, & Early Childhood HOME VISITING INITIATIVE



Thank You to our Funders



Polk County's voter approved ½ cent sales tax for Indigent Health Care



The Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties, Inc. is a non-profit corporation established in 1992 to serve as an advocate for improved maternal and child health services for all residents in Hardee, Highlands, and Polk counties.