

2024 Annual Report

DATE: April 1, 2025

COMMITTEE NAME: Health and Human Services Advisory Council (HHSAC)

CHAIR: Tara Haley

STAFF SUPPORT: Juliette Maronel, St. Johns County Health and Human Services

BCC LIAISON: Commissioner Sarah Arnold

BRIEF HISTORY OF COMMITTEE: In 1997, the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee and the Mental Health Substance Abuse Advisory Committee were combined to form the Health and Human Services Advisory Council to the Board of County Commissioners. The Council evaluates human services programs in the community, assists in determining the effectiveness of programs to help reduce duplication of services and assures the health and human services needs of the residents of St. Johns County are met. The Council reviews applications requesting County funding for programs that provide health, mental health, substance abuse, and social services and submits recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. The Council performs its functions and duties without regard to the race, religion, gender or national origin of any affected person.

MISSION STATEMENT: The health and well-being of a community is a function of its quality of life, including the delivery of health and human services supported by public policy and funding those in need of such services. Our mission is to be responsive to those needs and to recommend funding programs worthy of public support for citizens of St. Johns County.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Funding in the amount of \$2,144,395.00 for Fiscal Year 2024 was determined by a contract extension of the FY 2023 funding amount established through the FY 2022 RFP.
- The Advisory Council required attendance by funded agencies at monthly general meetings and received regular updates on the performance of funded programs. The Council also requested a representative from Flagler Hospital, the lead agency for the Continuum of Care for Homelessness, attend Advisory Council meetings so that a monthly update would be provided to the Council concerning the CoC, the Point in Time Count, and other matters related to homelessness.
- The Advisory Council invited guest speakers monthly to cover various topics. These included a presentation from the St. Johns Continuum of Care, who conducted the PIT Count (Point-In-Time), measuring the number of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night, and a GAPS analysis, assessing the homeless needs and services available within the geographic area. Additionally, Flagler Health hosted the BRAVE Summit (Be Strong and Voice Emotions), which focused on encouraging youth to take charge of their mental health.
- The Council closely monitored progress on two, large, multi-family affordable housing projects, San Marcos Heights and Victoria Crossing, by requesting monthly updates and meeting attendance by the two developers as they began to lease up the properties.

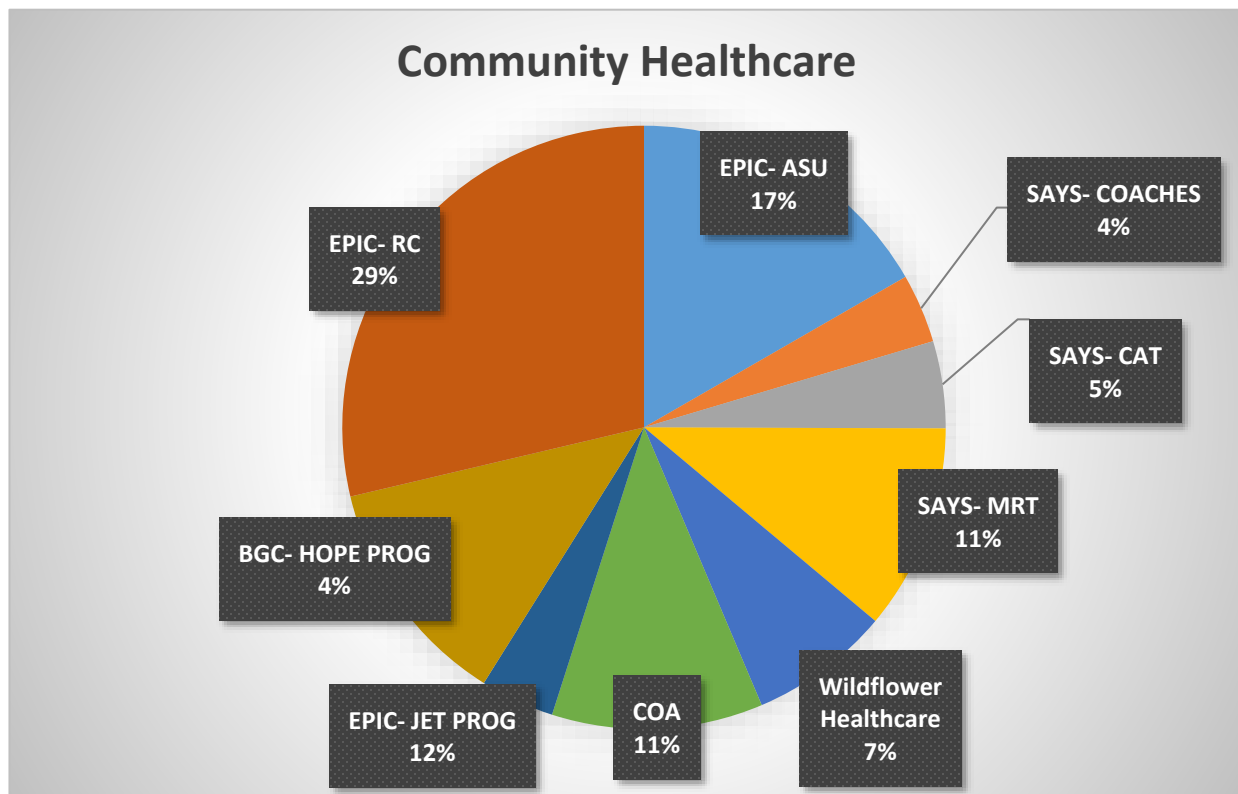
- Funded agencies were required to provide written quarterly reports for the Advisory Council to be kept informed of the effectiveness of the services being provided through County funding.

The Health & Human Services Advisory Council would like to thank the Board of County Commissioners for their ongoing support and thank all the County staff members who supported the HHSAC throughout the year.

FY 2024 – Independent Agency Funding:

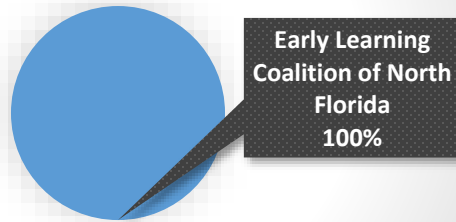
In preparation for independent agency funding for fiscal year 2024, the Health & Human Services Advisory Council put out a Request for Proposals in 2022. The ultimate funding methodology was based upon application scores and rankings, and community priorities and needs.

These amounts were included in the County’s fiscal year 2024 budget and were formally adopted on September 19, 2023, by the Board of County Commissioners. As indicated above, these funding priorities were determined by an extension of the FY 2023 contract.



Wildflower Healthcare Community Services	\$104,102.00
EPIC – JET Re-Entry Program	\$171,545.00
EPIC Community Healthcare Adult Substance Use Outpatient (ASU)	\$230,757.00
EPIC Community Healthcare Recovery Center (RC)	\$396,663.00
St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS)– Community Action Team (CAT)	\$ 64,485.00
St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS)– Mobile Crisis Response Team (MRT)	\$152,634.00
St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS)– COACHES Program	\$ 51,191.00
Betty Griffin Center – Hope Program (BGC)	\$ 55,000.00
Council on Aging (COA)	\$156,430.00
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TOTAL	\$1,382,807.00

Employment Opportunities

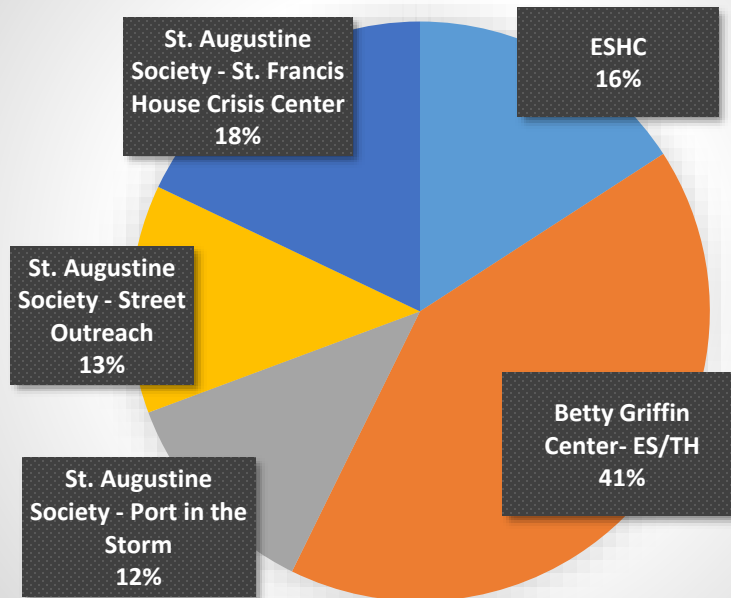


Early Learning Coalition of North Florida – Child Care Assistance
for at Risk/Economically Disadvantaged Families

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TOTAL \$134,000.00

Affordable Housing and Homelessness



Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition (ESHG)	\$99,521.00
Betty Griffin Center Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing (CE/TH)	\$259,956.00
St. Augustine Society – Street Outreach	\$79,951.00
St. Augustine Society – St. Francis Housing Crisis Center	\$112,560.00
St. Augustine Society – Port in the Storm	\$75,600.00
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TOTAL	\$627,588.00

GOALS & OBJECTIVES FOR 2025:

1. Begin onsite monitoring of funded agencies in addition to the ongoing desk monitoring's historically performed by HHS staff.
2. Issue a Request for Proposal, score and evaluate submissions, and devise funding methodology for FY26 through the eCivis portal or manual submission. Priorities will be based upon data collected through a comprehensive needs assessment completed by Flagler Health+, in addition to staff knowledge of service gaps and needs.
3. Procure a formal Human Services Needs/GAPS Analysis Assessment pursuant to the allocation in the County's FY25 budget for HHS.
4. Continue to require monthly meeting attendance and updates by all funded agencies.
5. Continue to follow the Continuum of Care to ensure the effective coordination of services by all community service providers and continued participation by community stakeholders.
6. Continue to review quarterly reports by all funded agencies to monitor their outcomes.