

Marathon County Department of Social Services Community Response Program

Dawn Perez
Child Welfare Manager



From 2008 to 2010



- *Grant funded through the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board from 2008 to 2010*
- *Embedded in the Child Protective Services Access and IA unit*
- *Engagement rate and responses to referrals*
- *Staffed by one FTE Social Worker*

From 2011 to Current



- *Grant funding expired*
- *MCDSS presented program outcomes to Marathon County Committees and Boards*
- *Program then became tax levy funded in 2011*
- *Program location and implementation remained the same*
- *\$10,000 flex fund*

Program Review

Marathon County Community Response: Child Abuse Prevention Findings

FALL 2014

Katie Maguire-Jack, MSW, MPA, PhD

Tori Campbell, MSW

Ohio State University Policy Brief 2014

Marathon County's Community Response Program
A child protective services early intervention

Is the County's investment in the program worth it?

Background:

The Community Response (CR) Program is an early intervention program designed to support families who have risk factors so that they do not enter the formal Child Protective Services (CPS) system. The program promotes self-sufficiency, improves function and increases family social support systems. Families are eligible for CR when they are reported to DSS for child maltreatment concerns that do not rise to the level of screening in for investigation, but they have identified risk factors present. This is a voluntary program and DSS has a 62% participation rate, which exceeds state average program participation.

DSS has operated the CR program from 2008 to present. The program began with grant funding and currently all case management services provided are funded 100% by levy, approximately \$75,000 annually. We acknowledge Greenheck Foundation for also investing in the Community Response Program with flexible funding to support eligible families with essential needs.

2014 White Paper

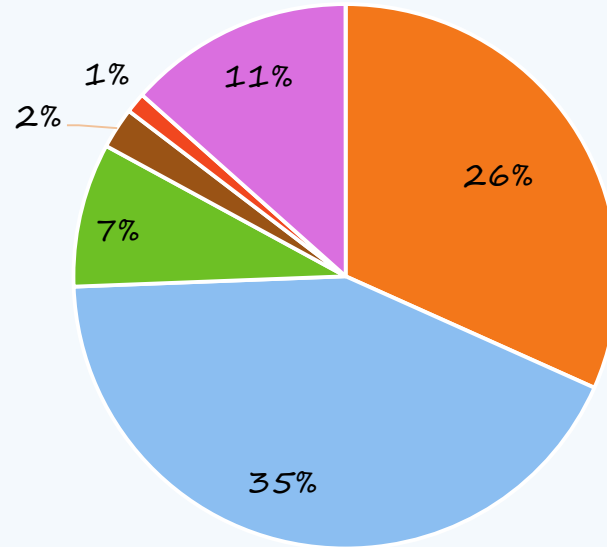


2015
B.A. & Esther
Greenheck
Foundation Grant
\$10,000.

*Amber Weisnicht, Brian
Gumness, and Dawn Perez*

Use of Flex Funds

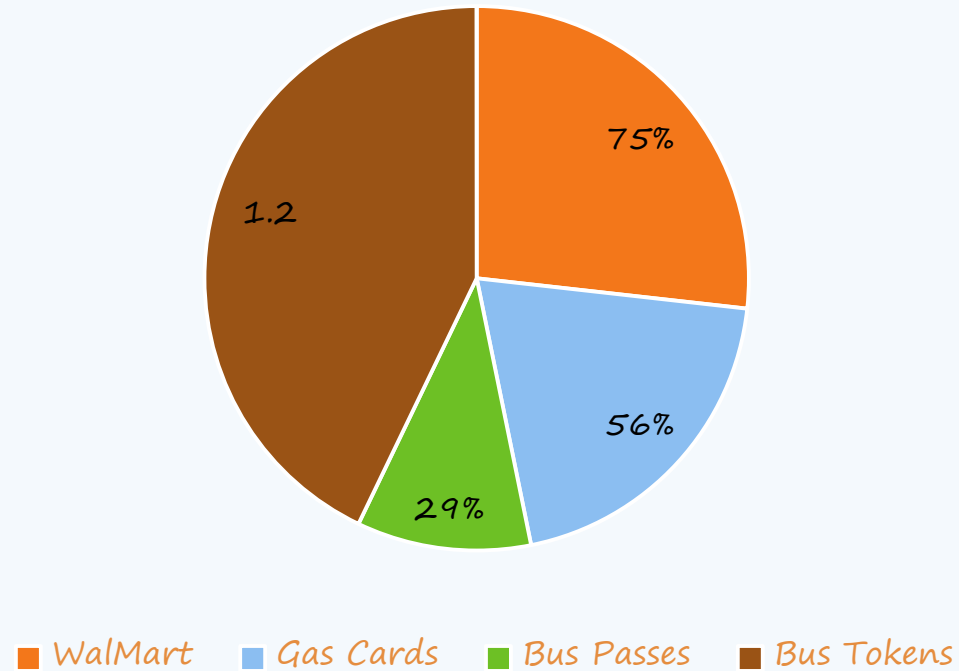
Family Supports Paid for with Flex Funds



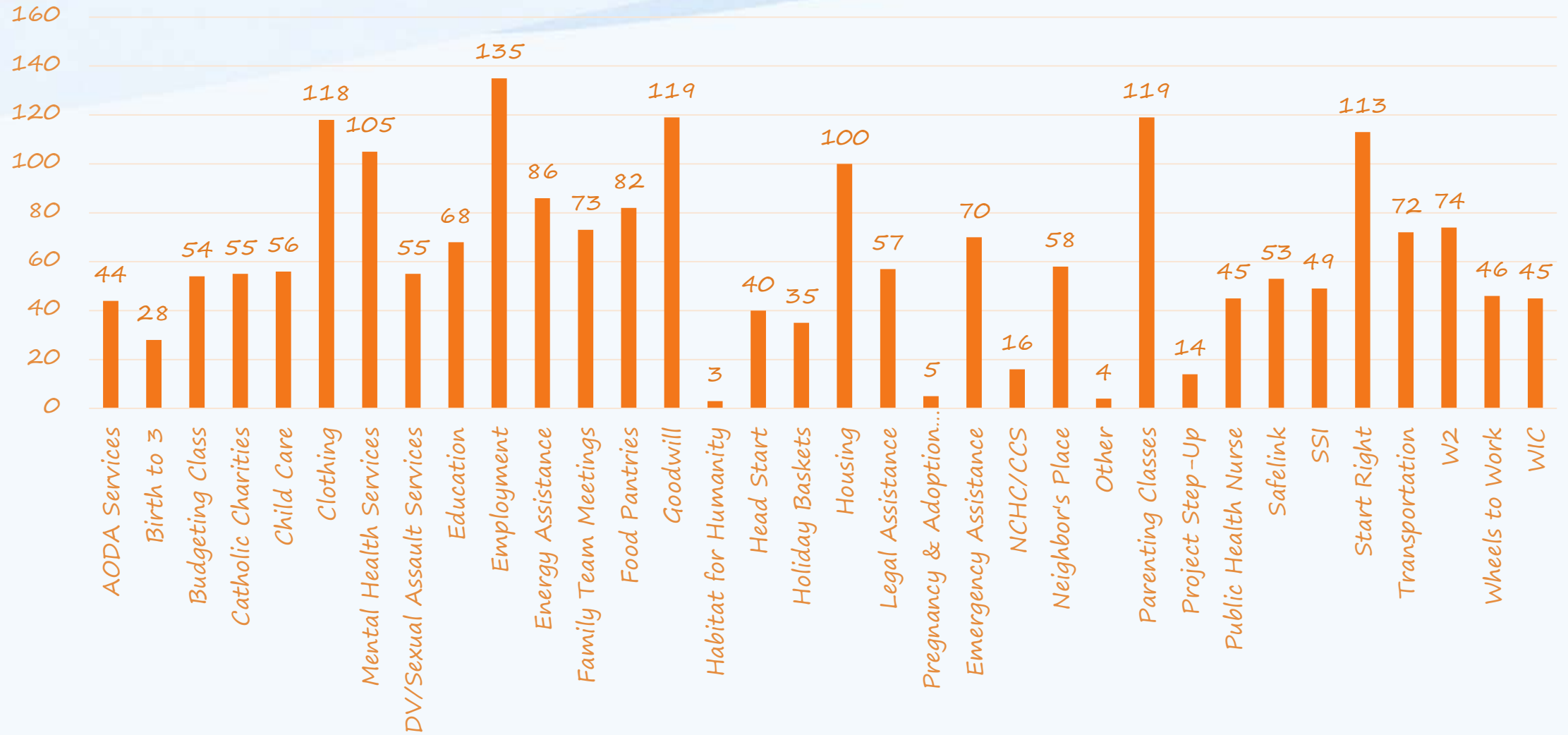
■ Utilities ■ Rent/Security Deposit ■ Car Repairs ■ Guardianship Fees ■ Child Care Fees ■ Other

More Use of Flex Fund

Gift Cards/Bus Passes/Bus Tokens



Community Service Referrals made for Participants



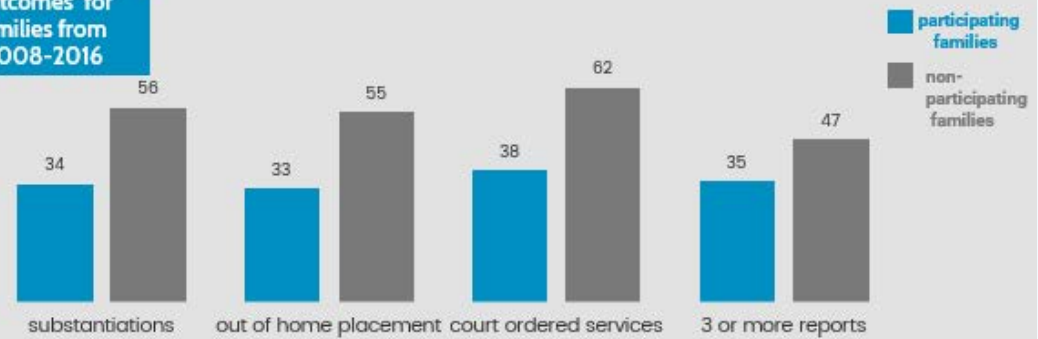


Marathon County Department of Social Services Community Response Program

442 Referrals from 2008-2016



Outcomes for Families from 2008-2016



Average time between Community Response services & substantiated abuse/neglect **25 months**



Significant savings in early intervention programs are not only the dollars saved in foster care, but also the improved quality of life for children and families in our community.

Listen from to perspective of a program participant



Questions?

Contact Information:

Dawn.Perez@co.marathon.wi.us

715-261-7507

