

# Suwannee Valley 4Cs

## Head Start / Early Head Start

### Community Assessment

*Data to understand the challenges, resources and strengths  
of low-income families with children in  
Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee Counties, Florida.*

*Completed March 2019  
Updated March 1, 2020  
Updated April 1, 2021  
Updated March 1, 2022*

On March 17, 2022, the Census Bureau released the 2016-2020 ACS 5-Year Estimates, after multiple delays due to quality and response issues for 2020 data collection. Suwannee Valley 4Cs will update the Community Assessment using the new census data beginning November 2022.

## Executive Summary

### **Purpose of Community Assessment**

Suwannee Valley 4Cs Community Assessment provides data to demonstrate the need for child development and health services in Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee Counties in north Florida. This data is used to design and implement the Head Start and Early Head Start programs offered by Suwannee Valley 4Cs.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs collects and analyzes data from the communities it serves using data from a variety of sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Education, Office of Early Learning, community partners, as well as Suwannee Valley 4Cs Program Information Report (PIR) which provides a compilation of data regarding program services for each fiscal year.

Community members are invited to share their perspectives and knowledge as well as to brainstorm ideas for future planning through a community needs assessment survey. Two surveys are disseminated to parents annually to determine the needs and challenges of participating children and families.

Management staff analyze the data collected to inform decision-making and provide recommendations to the Policy Council and Board of Directors. Together, Council / Board members and management staff review agency recommendations then final recommendations are included in long and short-term plans and submitted to both full bodies for review/approval.

### **Methodology – (HSPPS 1302.11.b)**

Every five years, Suwannee Valley 4Cs conducts a comprehensive community assessment to stimulate strategic thinking about the Head Start and Early Head Start programs, services provided, needs within the community and community strengths.

*Head Start Program Performance Standard 1302.11.b states:*

- b. 1. The program must conduct a Community Assessment at least once over the five-year grant period. The Community Assessment must use data that describes community strengths, needs and resources and include at a minimum:*
  - i. The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children and expectant mothers including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:*
    - A. Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possibly, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A));*
    - B. Children in foster care; and*
    - C. Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;*
  - ii. The education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;*
  - iii. Typical work, school and training schedules of parents with eligible children;*

- iv. Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;*
  - v. Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families, and,*
  - vi. Strengths of the community.*
- b.2. The program must annually review and update the community assessment to reflect any significant changes including increased availability of publicly-funded pre-kindergarten (including an assessment of how the pre-kindergarten available in the community meets the needs of the parents and children served by the program, and whether it is offered for a full school day), rates of family and child homelessness, and significant shifts in community demographics and resources.*
- b.3. The program must consider whether the characteristics of the community allow it to include children from diverse economic backgrounds that would be supported by other funding sources, including private pay, in addition to the eligible funded enrollment. The program must not enroll children from diverse economic backgrounds if it would result in serving less than the eligible funded enrollment.”*

**Recommendations** (March 2019)

Seek EHS expansion to serve more infants-toddlers in Columbia and Suwannee Counties.

Continue to focus on working with parents to obtain high school diploma or equivalent.

Share health-related information with families and staff regarding smoking cessation, proper nutrition, exercise, mental health and the opioid epidemic.

Contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Gateway (ELCFG) for school readiness services in Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties, as needed, based on needs of parents working or attending school.

March 2022: Seek guidance from Regional Office regarding new State of Florida Minimum Wage Requirements.

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## **Overview**

Suwannee Valley Community Coordinated Child Care, Inc. (also referred to as Suwannee Valley 4Cs, the program or the agency) is a private, non-profit corporation formed in 1985. Suwannee Valley 4Cs was initially awarded the Head Start grant for Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee counties in September of 1996. In September of 1998, the agency was awarded the Early Head Start grant for Columbia County and received an Early Head Start expansion grant for Hamilton and Suwannee counties in the summer of 2003. In March 2010, the agency was awarded another Early Head Start expansion grant to serve an additional 64 infants and toddlers in Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start and Early Head Start serves 415 children and their families in the four county service area with a high-quality child development and health services program for low-income families with children from birth to five and expectant moms. The program addresses Early Childhood Education, Health, Disabilities, Social Services, Nutrition, Mental Health and Parent / Family and Community Engagement.

## **Population and County Data**

The Suwannee Valley 4Cs service area is comprised of four rural, low-income and under-resourced counties of Columbia, Hamilton, Suwannee and Lafayette located in extreme north central Florida with a total approximate population of 138,953. Columbia County is the most highly populated county in the service area (71,686), followed by Suwannee (44,417), Hamilton (14,428) and Lafayette (8,422). All our rural counties are identified as Fiscally Constrained Counties and are "Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO)" defined as rural communities, or a region composed of rural communities, that have been adversely affected by extraordinary economic events or natural disasters<sup>i</sup>. The majority of the service area is undeveloped land or farmland, with population widely-scattered throughout. Population density per square mile ranges from 87 in Columbia, 65 in Suwannee, 29 in Hamilton and 16 in Lafayette.

Significant changes in population have occurred since 2010. In our two largest counties of Columbia and Suwannee, the population has increased by 6.2% and 6.9% respectively. While in our two lesser populated counties of Hamilton and Lafayette, the population has decreased by 2.5% and 5.0% respectively.

Individual county geographical information and population data follows.

**Columbia County** borders the state of Georgia to the north and is located in a rapidly growing region of North Central Florida. The intersection of two major interstate highways, I-75 and I-10, is located in the heart of Columbia County in Lake City. The county is also served by multiple rail lines. Based on information from the local chamber of commerce, the top four major employers in Columbia County are the County School Board, Veterans Administration Medical Center, HAECO Aircraft Maintenance, and the Columbia County Correctional Facility.

<b>Columbia County Pop. Rank</b>	<b>2019 Pop. Estimate</b>	<b>Square Miles</b>	<b>Pop. Density (per square mile)</b>	<b>Pop. Change Since 2010</b>
39 <sup>th</sup> of 67	71,686	797	88.4	+6.2%

<b>Columbia County Population Characteristics</b>	<b>County Poverty Rate<sup>ii</sup></b>	<b>% Under Age 18</b>	<b>% 65 of age and over</b>	<b>Median Age (2017)</b>	<b>Inmate Population as of June 2019</b>
	15.6%	22.5%	15.4%	41.2	3,575/5.0%

**Hamilton County** is located west of Columbia County, and shares its northern border with the state of Georgia. The county is divided by I-75, a major north/south corridor, and the east/west corridor of I-10 that nearly parallels the county's southern border. The most populated areas in the county include the City of Jasper (located in the heart of the county), followed by the towns of Jennings and White Springs. Based on information from the local chamber of commerce, major employers in Hamilton County are PCS Phosphate, the Department of Corrections, healthcare, retail, the County School Board and the County Government.

<b>Hamilton County Pop. Rank</b>	<b>2019 Pop. Estimate</b>	<b>Square Miles</b>	<b>Pop. Density (per square mile)</b>	<b>Pop. Change Since 2010</b>
58 <sup>th</sup> of 67	14,428	515	28.4	-2.5%

<b>Hamilton County Population Characteristics</b>	<b>County Poverty Rate</b>	<b>% Under Age 18</b>	<b>% 65 of age and over</b>	<b>Median Age (2017)</b>	<b>Inmate Population as of June 2019</b>
	32.5%	19.7%	13.1%	41.1	2,543/17.6%

**Lafayette County** is located south-west of Columbia County, midway between Tallahassee to the northwest and Gainesville to the southeast. US Highway 27 is the major transportation route through the county. The most common employment sectors in Lafayette County are in public administration, educational services, agriculture and healthcare / social assistance.

Lafayette County Pop. Rank	2019 Pop. Estimate	Square Miles	Pop. Density <i>(per square mile)</i>	Pop. Change Since 2010
59 <sup>th</sup> of 67	8,422	543	15.6	-5.0%

Lafayette County Population Characteristics	County Poverty Rate	% Under Age 18	% 65 of age and over	Median Age (2017)	Inmate Population as of June 2019
	18.0%	20.1%	12.2%	38.0	1,212 / 14.4%

**Suwannee County** borders Columbia County to the west. As the county's name implies, the meandering Suwannee River has a big influence on the county and forms three of its four boundaries (North, West, and South). Interstate 10 runs through the northern portion of the county, and the Interstate 75 interchange is a short distance east of the county line in Columbia County. CSX Railways operates east/west rail service through the northern part of the county. Based on information from the local chamber of commerce, the largest employers are Pilgrim's Pride, Advent Christian Village, Suwannee Correctional Institute, Suwannee County School System and Klausner Lumber One.

Suwannee County Pop. Rank	2019 Pop. Estimate	Square Miles	Pop. Density <i>(per square mile)</i>	Pop. Change Since 2010
43 <sup>rd</sup> of 67	44,417	688	66.0	+6.9%

Suwannee County Population Characteristics	County Poverty Rate	% Under Age 18	% 65 of age and over	Median Age (2017)	Inmate Population as of June 2019
	17.1% %	22.7%	18.9%	43.2	1,979 / 4.5%

### Program Options / Center Data

Suwannee Valley 4Cs operates eight Head Start / Early Head Start centers. All children are served under the center-based option. Suwannee Valley 4Cs Early Head Start program serves 184 infants / toddlers (birth to age three) and pregnant women in three of the counties (Columbia - 88 children, Hamilton - 40 children and Suwannee - 56 children) and 231 Head Start children in all four counties (Columbia – 108 children, Hamilton – 34 children, Lafayette – 17 children and Suwannee – 72 children). The program provides high-quality child development and health services and support for families designed to foster health, early education, parenting skills / engagement and economic stability. Pre- and postnatal screenings, education and mentoring are provided to participating pregnant moms.

Head Start operates on a ten-month program year with operational calendars that closely coincide with the service area public school calendars. Each Head Start classroom operates under the center-based, single session/full-day option. Voluntary Pre-K is offered to four-year-olds in Columbia and Suwannee County Head Start centers. The staffing pattern in each Head Start classroom is one Lead Teacher plus one Teacher or Teacher Assistant for every ten children. Center staff is supervised by a Site Coordinator who is supervised by the Education Coordinator.

Early Head Start operates under the center-based, single session/full-day/full-year (12 month) option. The staffing pattern is one Teacher for every four infants or toddlers. Efforts are made to maintain continuity of care by keeping the same teacher with the same group of four children for the entirety of the child’s enrollment in Early Head Start. Each Early Head Start center has a transition room to assist children and families in the program to successfully transition from infant/toddler experiences to preschool experiences. Center staff is supervised by a Site Coordinator who is supervised by the Education Coordinator.

<u>Head Start Centers</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Number of Classrooms</u>	<u>Funded Enrollment</u>
Lake City Learning Center	Columbia	258 SW Columbia Ave, Lake City, FL 32025	5	91
Ft. White Learning Center	Columbia	305 SW Dortch St, Fort White, FL 32038	1	17
Jasper Learning Center	Hamilton	6183 NW Hwy. 41, Jasper, FL 32052	1	17
Jennings Learning Center	Hamilton	1432 Turrett Ave, Jennings, FL 32053	1	17
Mayo Learning Center	Lafayette	173 NE Hawkins, Mayo, FL 32066	1	17
Live Oak Learning Center	Suwannee	843 SW Marymac St, Live Oak, FL 32064	4	72
<b>Totals</b>			<b>13</b>	<b>231</b>

<u>Early Head Start Centers</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Number of Classrooms</u>	<u>Funded Enrollment</u>
Lawton’s Place	Columbia	878 NE Jackson Ave, Lake City, FL 32055	9	72
Lake City Learning Center	Columbia	258 SW Columbia Ave, Lake City, FL 32025	2	16
Jasper Learning Center	Hamilton	6183 NW Hwy. 41, Jasper, FL 32052	3	24
Jennings Learning Center	Hamilton	1432 SW Turrett Ave, Jennings, FL 32053	2	16
Azalea Park First Class	Suwannee	405 SW Walker Ave, Live Oak, FL 32064	7	56
<b>Totals</b>			<b>23</b>	<b>184</b>



**Estimated Number of Potentially Eligible Children – Note: 2020 Census data is not available at this time. No updates.**

Children from birth to five are eligible, if family income is equal to or below the poverty line or the family is eligible for public assistance, the child is in foster care, the child has a diagnosed disability or the child is considered homeless. Three indicators are used to estimate the number of children in poverty:

- **Poverty Rate by County/Zip Code**(estimated **1,881** children)
  - o **By family type** (**1,202** children in single-parent households – 64%, **679** children in two-parent households – 36%)
- **Free / Reduced Lunch Eligibility** (estimated **2,102** children), and
- **Medicaid Births** (estimated **3,116** children).

**Children under Age Five Below Poverty Level, By County, 2015-2019 (5-Year Rolling Average) <sup>iii</sup>**

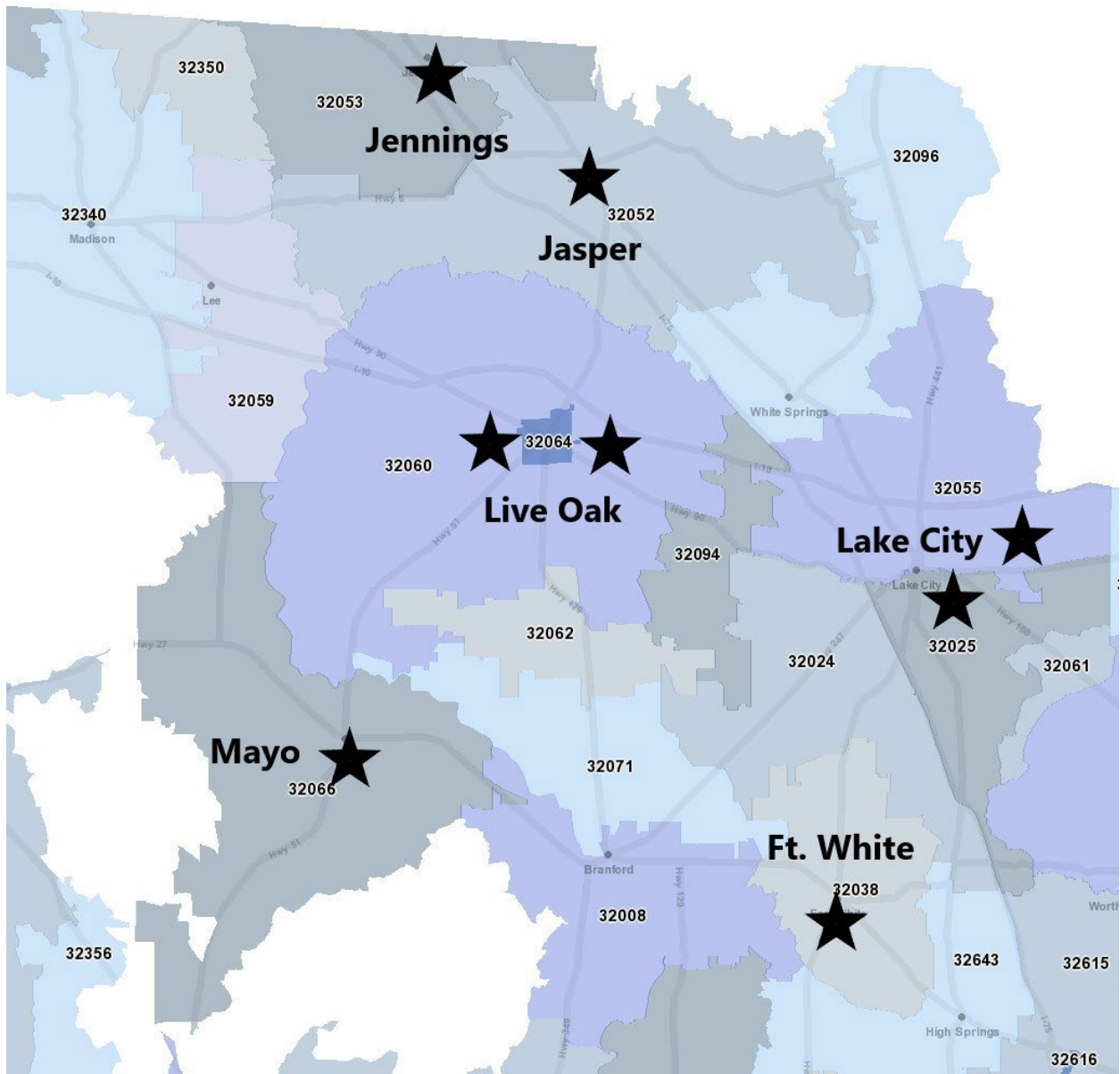
	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Service Area Total	Florida
Population estimate, All children under 5	4,139	629	453	2,108	7,329	1,109,315
Children under 5, below poverty level	1,007	339	113	422	<b>1,881</b>	248,184
% Children under 5, below poverty level	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>53.9%</b>	<b>24.9%</b>	<b>20.0%</b>	-	22.4%

**Children under Age Five Below Poverty Level, by Zip Code, 2015-2019 (5-Year Rolling Average) <sup>ii</sup>  
vs Suwannee Valley 4Cs Cumulative Enrollment**

Columbia Zip Codes	Population estimate, Children under 5	Estimated % below poverty level	Estimated number below poverty level		Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY2019 PIR	
					Cumulative number served	Percentage served
Lake City 32024	1,106	18.4%	204	Total 979	271	27.7%
Lake City 32025	1,219	15.2%	185			
Ft. White 32038	656	15.4%	101			
Lake City 32055	1,148	40.0%	459			
Lulu 32061	30	100%	30			
<b>Hamilton Zip Codes</b>				Total 367	95	25.9%
Jasper 32052	367	70.8%	260			
Jennings 32053	256	30.9%	79			
White Springs 32096	34	82.4%	28			
<b>Lafayette Zip Code</b>				Total 99	26	26.3%
Mayo 32066	417	23.7%	99			
<b>Suwannee Zip Codes</b>				Total 436	157	36.0%
Branford 32008	211	15.6%	33			
Live Oak 32060	1,345	27.0%	363			
McAlpin 32062	60	31.7%	19			
Live Oak 32064	0	0.0%	0			
O’Brien 32071	209	2.4%	5			
Wellborn 32094	57	28.1%	16			
<b>Totals</b>				<b>1,881</b>	437	<b>23.2%</b>

Suwannee Valley 4Cs served **23.2%** of the children in poverty within the service area in FY 2019. The total estimated number of children in poverty is well beyond the current funded enrollment for Suwannee Valley 4Cs.

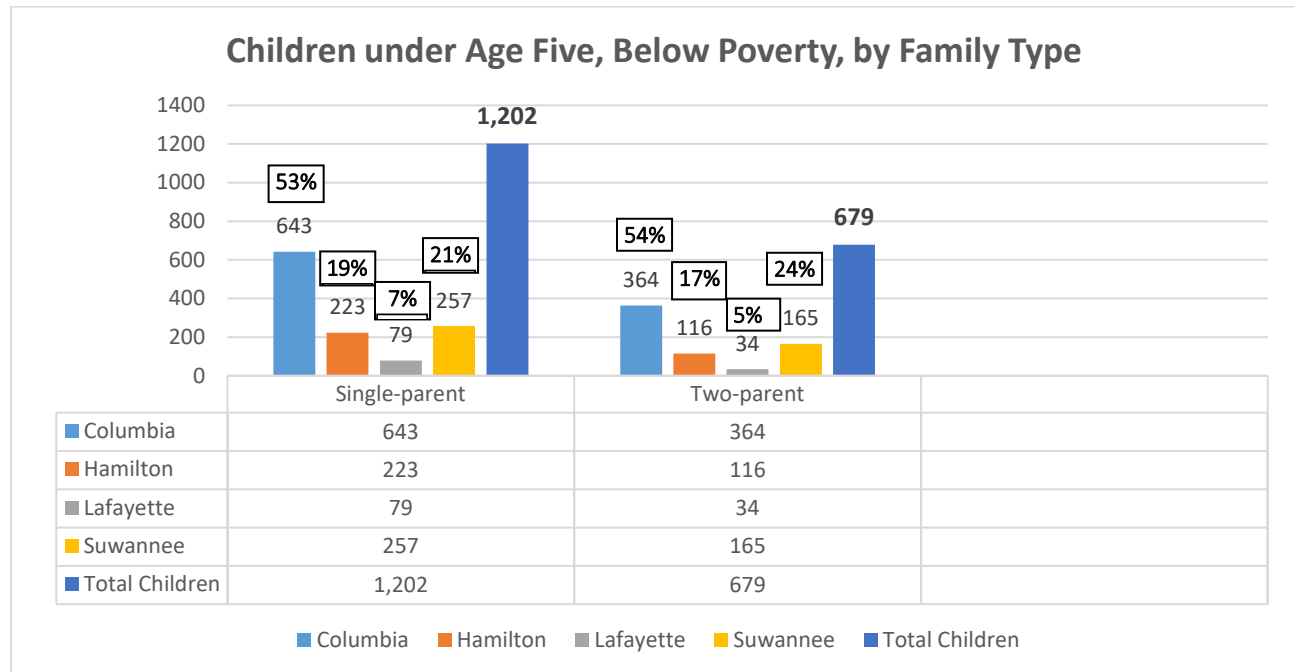
**Service Area Zip Code Map with Center Locations**



### Children under Age Five in Poverty by Family Type

Single-parent families in poverty with children under age five are the most at-risk for poor outcomes in any community. Children growing up in single-parent families typically do not have the same economic or human resources available as those growing up in two-parent families.

Based on ACS data for 2015-2019<sup>iii</sup>, the total estimated number of children under age five in poverty in the service area is **1,881** with **1,202** children in single-parent households and **679** children in two-parent households. This data is presented in the table that follows and is broken down by county and household type.



In FY 2019, Suwannee Valley 4Cs served 378 single-parent households program-wide, or 31.4% of the 1,202 estimated children in single-parent homes in the service area.

Estimated percentages for household type and child poverty by county from Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR data and shown in the table that follows. Program-wide, **73%** of the families served are single-parent households and **27%** are two-parent households.

	Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR Data	
	% Single-Parent Households	% Two-Parent Households
<b>Columbia</b>	74%	26%
<b>Hamilton</b>	92%	8%
<b>Lafayette</b>	54%	46%
<b>Suwannee</b>	70%	30%
<b>Program-wide</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>27%</b>

**Free / Reduced Lunch<sup>iv</sup>**

The Federal Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) program in each school district can be an effective gauge of Head Start program eligibility as FRL eligibility may be based on public assistance, foster care, homelessness, etc. Therefore, the number of Head Start eligible children birth to five years of age is assumed to be the same proportionally as those enrolled in Voluntary Pre-K and Kindergarten who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program in the school district during a given year.

<b>2020 Data</b>	<b>Voluntary Pre-K Children Eligible</b>	<b>Kindergarten Children Eligible</b>	<b>Total Free and Reduced Lunch Eligible</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	245	582	827
<b>Hamilton</b>	41	75	116
<b>Lafayette</b>	24	60	84
<b>Suwannee</b>	109	334	443
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,470</b>

*Note: Beginning in school year 2018-2019, all children enrolled in public school (K-12<sup>th</sup> grade) in the service area are provided with free breakfast and lunch, regardless of family income, through the National School Lunch Program.*

**Medicaid Births<sup>v</sup>**

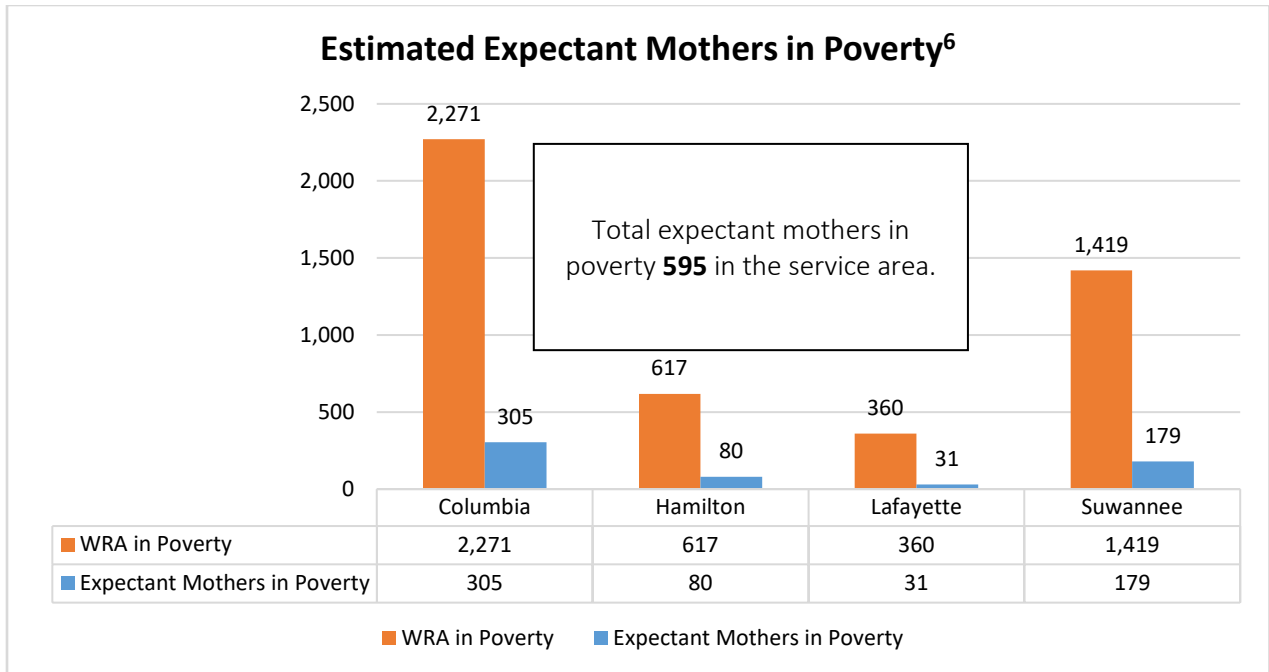
Medicaid eligibility is another low-income indicator that is reviewed in estimating the number of potential Head Start eligible children. Births covered by emergency Medicaid are typically nonresident/undocumented immigrant moms with little or no pre- or postnatal care. The most current 3-year data available follows.

<b>2017-2019 Data</b>	<b>Total Births</b>	<b>Medicaid Births</b>		<b>Emergency Medicaid Births</b>	
		<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	2384	1,5936	66.8%	27	1.1%
<b>Hamilton</b>	495	344	69.5%	17	3.4%
<b>Lafayette</b>	190	124	65.3%	4	2.1%
<b>Suwannee</b>	1345	893	66.4%	32	2.4%
<b>Service Area Totals</b>	4,414	2,954			
<b>Florida</b>	665,097	318,556	47.9% %	23,390	3.5%

**Estimated Number of Potentially Eligible Expectant Mothers<sup>vi</sup>**

Estimates of the number of women of reproductive age (WRA) from 15-44 in poverty is based on the American Community Survey 2014-2018, 5-year estimates. Using this data and the CDC formula to estimate the number of expectant women in a given area, we can estimate the number of expectant women in poverty by county.

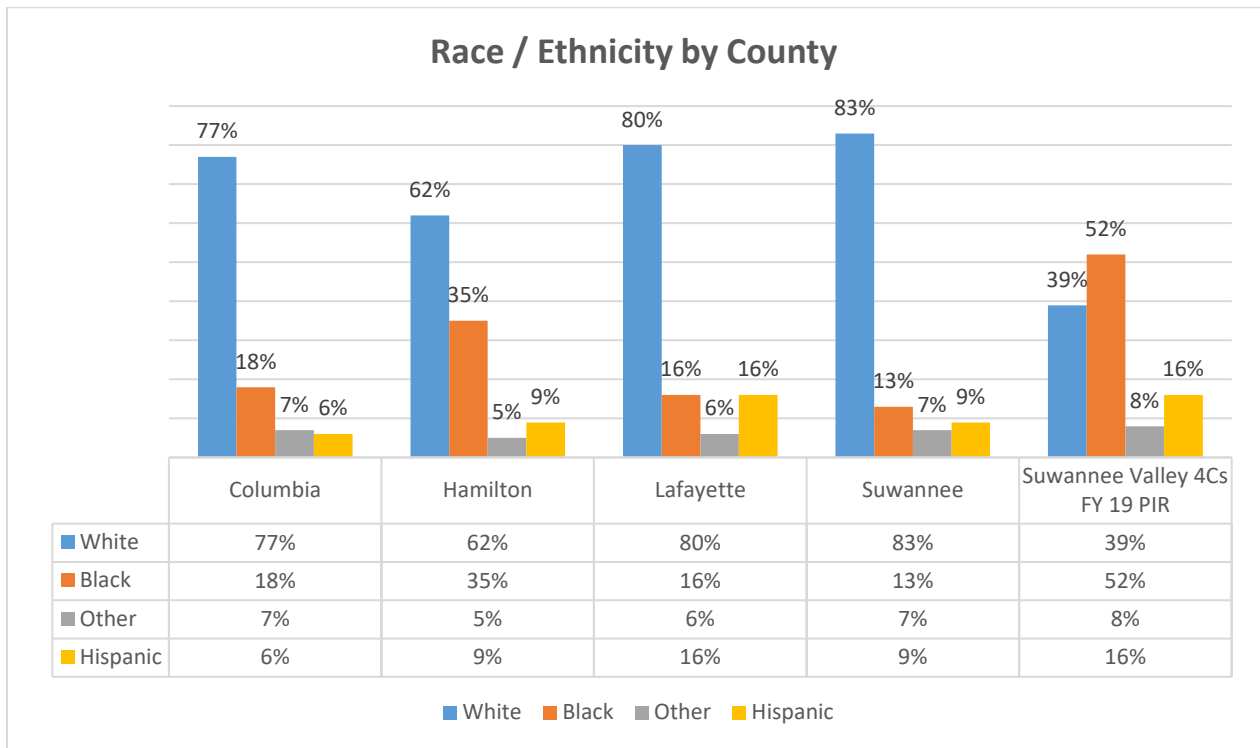
The total estimated number of expectant moms in poverty in the service area is **595**. Estimates by county are provided in the chart that follows.



Suwannee Valley 4Cs Pregnant Mom Program (PMP) provides 12 slots for expectant mothers in Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties. Expectant moms participating in the program are provided with a guided curriculum that includes pre- and postnatal support, the benefits of breastfeeding, screenings, and resources.

**Race / Ethnicity of Potentially Eligible Children<sup>vii</sup>**

An overview of service area race and ethnicity composition is provided in the chart that follows and includes Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR family data.



Additional tables follow that provide detailed county poverty data by race and ethnicity based on Census Bureau American Community Survey 2014-2018, 5-year estimates. A separate table is provided for each county.

## Poverty Status, All Families, Race and Ethnicity, by County

(ACS 2014-2018, 5-Year Estimate, S1702)

### Columbia

Family Type in Poverty by Race / Ethnicity	All Families		Married-couple Families		Female Householder, no husband present	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Race</b>						
White alone	13,034	8.6%	10,093	4.7%	2,023	26.9%
Black alone	2,101	24.7%	1,058	18.9%	876	34.4%
American Indian and Alaska native alone	39	-	39	-	-	-
Asian alone	131	17.6%	61	37.7%	70	-
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-
Some other race alone	100	24.0%	76	-	24	100.0%
Two or more races	174	17.8%	103	6.8%	24	100%
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	704	30.4%	438	9.1%	212	80.7%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	12,508	7.5%	9,780	4.6%	1,835	21.6%

### Hamilton

Family Type in Poverty by Race / Ethnicity	All Families		Married-couple Families		Female Householder, no husband present	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Race</b>						
White alone	2,169	17.5%	1,707	14.2%	297	33.3%
Black alone	949	37.4%	301	9.3%	594	49.3%
American Indian and Alaska native alone	24	91.7%	17	88.2%	7	100.0%
Asian alone	7	100.0%	7	100.0%	-	-
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-
Some other race alone	47	93.6% %	41	92.7%	-	-
Two or more races	14	-	14	-	-	-
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	153	45.1% %	133	47.4%	14	-
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	2,073	17.5%	1,625	13.8%	283	35.0%

**Lafayette**

Family Type in Poverty by Race / Ethnicity	All Families		Married-couple Families		Female Householder, no husband present	
	Race	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
White alone	1342	20.0%	1,075	9.3%	225	75.1%
Black alone	179	66.5%	38	-	141	84.4%
American Indian and Alaska native alone	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian alone	-	-	-	-	-	-
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	-	-	-	-	-	-
Some other race alone	2	-	2	-	-	-
Two or more races	42	54.8%	19	-	23	100.0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	129	52.7%	70	12.9%	59	100.0%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	1,234	16.3%	1,026	8.9%	166	66.3%

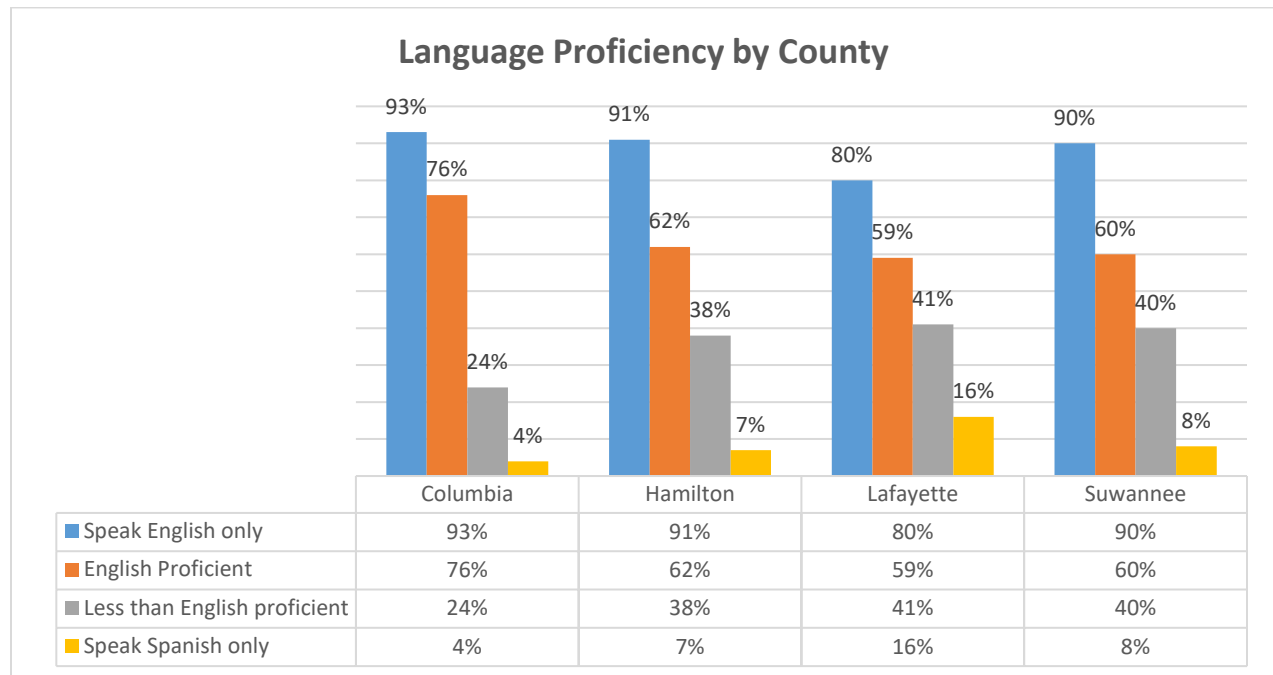
**Suwannee**

Family Type in Poverty by Race / Ethnicity	All Families		Married-couple Families		Female Householder, no husband present	
	Race	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
White alone	9,032	10.9%	6,886	8.6%	1,419	17.5%
Black alone	1,224	34.2%	517	13.9%	589	58.1%
American Indian and Alaska native alone	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asian alone	5	-	5	-	-	-
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	17	100.0%	-	-	-	-
Some other race alone	106	-	106	-	-	-
Two or more races	351	1.1%	140	-	4	100.0%
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	706	15.2%	514	7.2%	86	47.7%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	8,482	10.6%	6,511	8.5%	1,333	15.6%



## Languages Spoken<sup>viii</sup>

Spanish is the primary language in the four county area of those who are not English proficient. Language proficiency by county and PIR data follows.



Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR	English	Spanish	Other Language
Language spoken in the home	92%	8%	1%

Young dual-language learners (DLLs) lag behind their peers when they enter kindergarten and the gap in academic achievement appears to widen as children grow older. There is great variability among young DLLs with regard to the rate and the manner in which they learn a second language. Several factors influence the process of second language learning, like child age, motivation, personality, first language proficiency, and program/school factors (e.g., instructional approaches, teacher preparation), and socio-cultural factors (e.g., poverty, familial stress, incongruence between home and school environments).

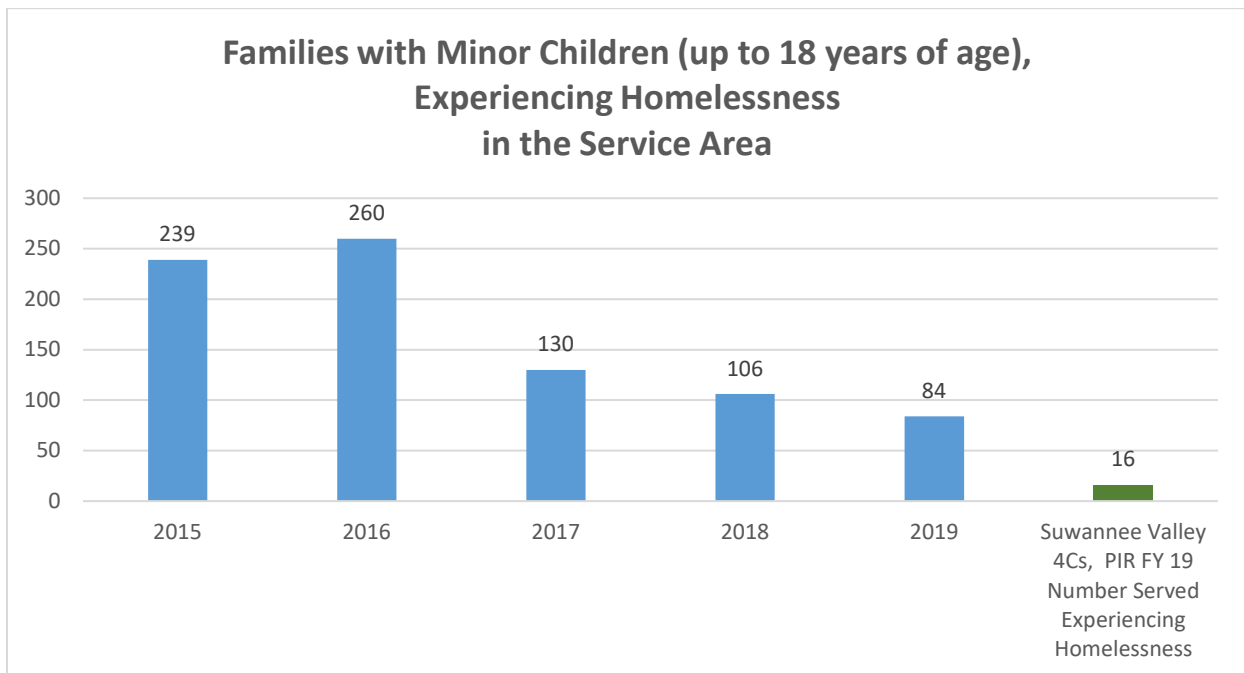
Suwannee Valley 4Cs staff encourage parents of DLLs to maintain their home language with their children to help ensure a strong language foundation for each child. Parents are encouraged to visit the classroom to teach an activity, read a story or sing a song in their home language. Children are encouraged to speak their home language with other children in the classroom who speak that language. At the same time, children are encouraged to learn the English language in the classroom through bi-lingual signage and activities. Teachers work toward children's understanding of the English language and building their vocabulary through repetition, using non-verbal signs, and dual language references to objects or pictures. Bi-lingual staff is available.

## **Children Experiencing Homelessness**

Children experiencing homelessness are automatically eligible for enrollment per the McKinney Vento Act 2001. Homeless children are defined as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence." This would include an individual who:

- Is sharing housing with others
- Is living in a motel, hotel, travel trailer park or camping ground due to a lack of alternative, adequate accommodations
- Is living in an emergency or transition shelter
- Has a primary night-time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- Is living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, bus or train station or similar setting
- Is a migratory individual because he/she is living in circumstances previously described

The chart that follows provides 5-year data<sup>ix</sup>, on families with minor children (up to 18 years of age) who are experiencing homelessness and, Suwannee Valley 4Cs PIR FY 2019 data.



Suwannee Valley 4Cs is an active member of the homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC) agencies with a written memorandum of agreement for mutual referrals for families with children that are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The United Way of Suwannee Valley is the lead Continuum of Care agency for Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee Counties.

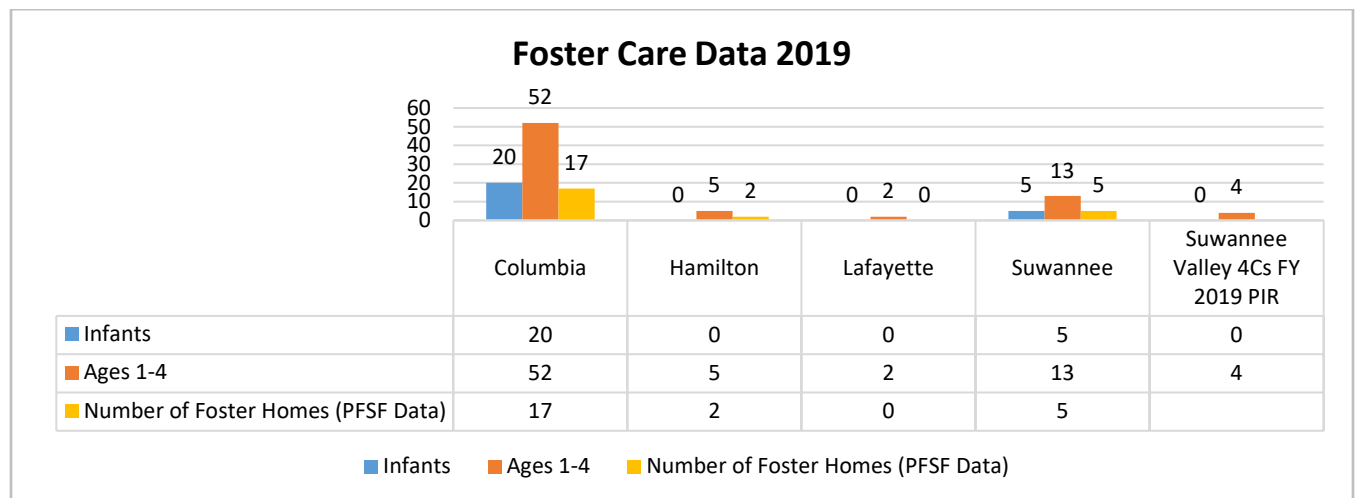
## Children in Foster Care

Children in foster care are automatically eligible for enrollment. Children are removed and placed in foster care because of maltreatment by their parents or guardians. Most of these children were born in poverty.

Substance abuse contributes to 75% of incidents of child abuse and neglect of children in foster care. Nearly 80% of children in foster care have prenatal exposure to maternal substance abuse. Of the children in foster care, 80% have at least one long-term health problem. Twenty-five percent of children in foster care have three or more long-term health problems, which is three to seven times greater than the number of health problems found among other children living in poverty.<sup>x</sup>

There is a growing body of research on the effects of early maltreatment on brain development. All children in foster care have experienced loss and trauma and are more likely to have behavioral and emotional challenges and are at a much higher risk of poor education, physical, social and emotional outcomes.

Data on children in foster care in 2019<sup>xi</sup>, and foster care homes as of 2019 for the four county area, is provided in the chart that follows. Foster home data was provided by the Partnership for Strong Families (PFSF). Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR eligibility data for children in foster care is also provided.



## **Children in Out-of-Home Care**

For the year 2019, data from the Department of Children and Families reported 97 children, from birth to age four, entered 'Out-of-Home Care' in the four county area. The majority were removed because of domestic violence, parental drug use, and the caretaker's inability to cope.

**Columbia**  
72

**Hamilton**  
5

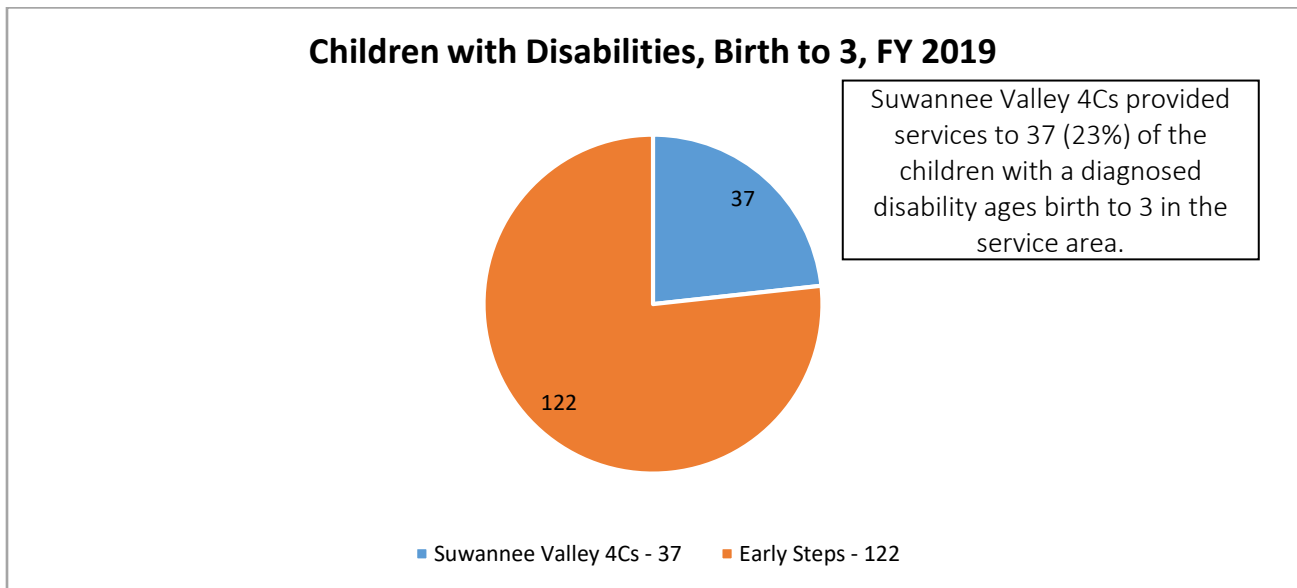
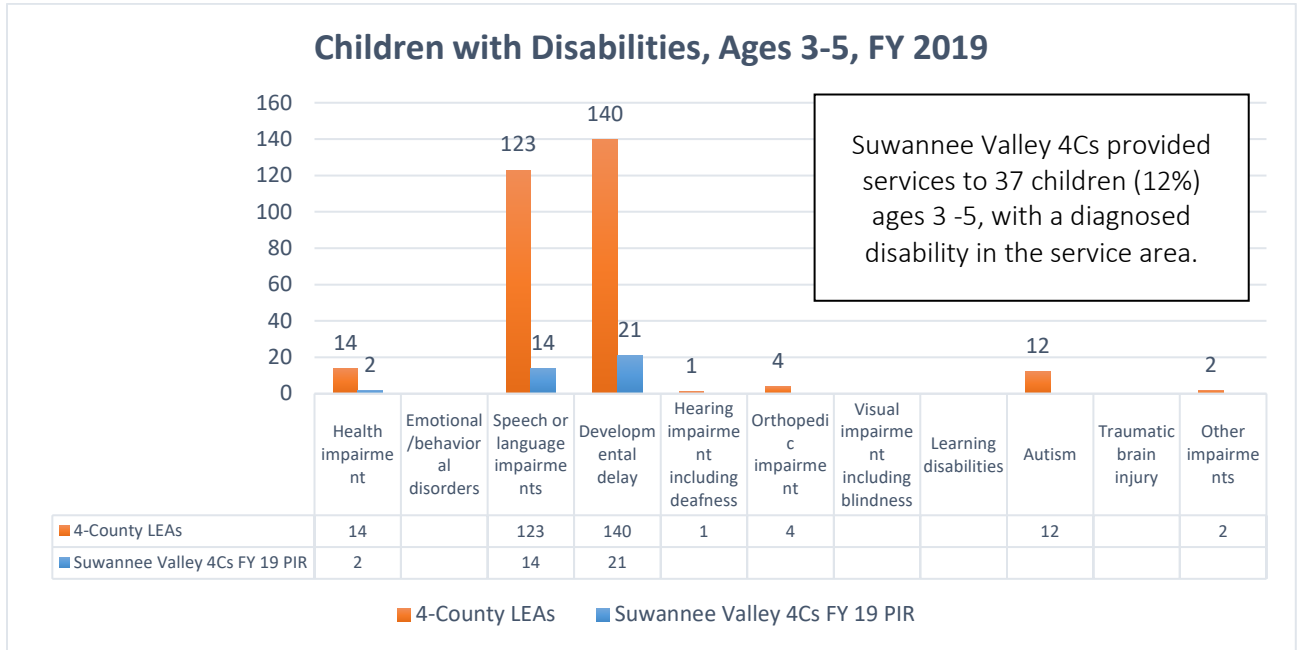
**Lafayette**  
2

**Suwannee**  
18

Source: <https://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childwelfare/dashboard/>

## Children with Disabilities

Children with a diagnosed disability are automatically eligible for enrollment. Suwannee Valley 4Cs overall disability enrollment for FY 2019 was 14%. Suwannee Valley 4Cs served 12% of all children, ages three to five, in the service area and 22% of all children birth to three. Data from LEAs<sup>xii</sup>, Early Steps, and Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR is provided in the charts that follow.



Through written interagency agreements between Suwannee Valley 4Cs, the Children's Transition Network, Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), the Special Education Local Agencies and Early Steps (Part C), our staff help families access necessary early assessment and services. Suwannee Valley 4Cs staff participate in meetings with school districts and others on a regular basis. Shared training opportunities are in place and have been successful. The Special Education Local Agencies in the service area are the four county school districts. School districts assign special education staff to Suwannee Valley 4Cs sites to provide services for children when needed.

Agencies providing resources to infants, toddlers and preschool aged children with disabilities and their families are available and accessible through FDLRS, exceptional student education programs and private providers throughout the service area. Services available include occupational, physical, speech and language therapy; assistive technology; counseling and support groups. Individual assistance, parent training and informational workshops provide learning opportunities for parents of children with disabilities.

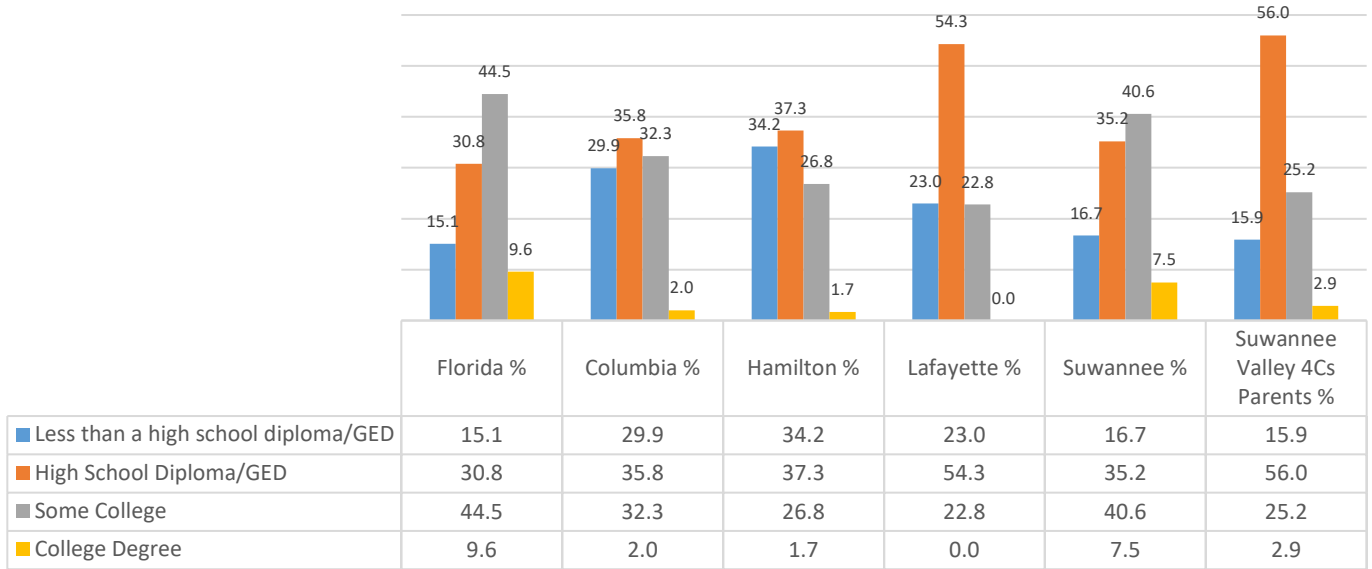
**Needs of Eligible Children and Their Families – Note: 2020 Census data is not available at this time. No updates.**

**Education**

Educational attainment is a strong indicator of family well-being and self-sufficiency. Family economic stability is strongly tied to the parent’s educational success that often leads to a child’s success. Therefore, lack of a high school diploma or equivalent can often lead to a cycle of poverty within the family.

Hamilton and Lafayette have the highest rates of adults 18 to 24 years with less than a high school diploma or equivalent. County<sup>xiii</sup> and Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR educational attainment data follows.

**Educational Attainment, 18 to 24 year-olds, County Percentages Compared to Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR Parents**



■ Less than a high school diploma/GED ■ High School Diploma/GED ■ Some College ■ College Degree

Parent Education Level Counts (at enrollment) Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR	Less than a High School Diploma / GED	High School Diploma / GED	Some College	College Degree
<b>Columbia</b>	34	128	78	3
<b>Hamilton</b>	23	58	7	0
<b>Lafayette</b>	3	13	4	4
<b>Suwannee</b>	21	87	40	8
<b>Totals</b>	81	286	129	15
<b>Percentages</b>	15.9%	56.0%	25.4%	2.9%

### Continuing Education and Job Training

Suwannee Valley 4Cs maintains a productive relationship with the adult education departments in each county to assist parents in earning GEDs. Head Start parents who are interested in attending college are assisted in enrolling in either Florida Gateway College in the service area, or North Florida Community College in nearby Madison County. Parents are also assisted in accessing services and vocational training provided by the local Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) and River Oak Technical College in Live Oak.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR parent education / job training data is provided on the number of parents who expressed an interest or identified a need during the enrollment year and the number of parents receiving education / job training services and completing job training, a grade level or obtaining a diploma by the end of the enrollment year.

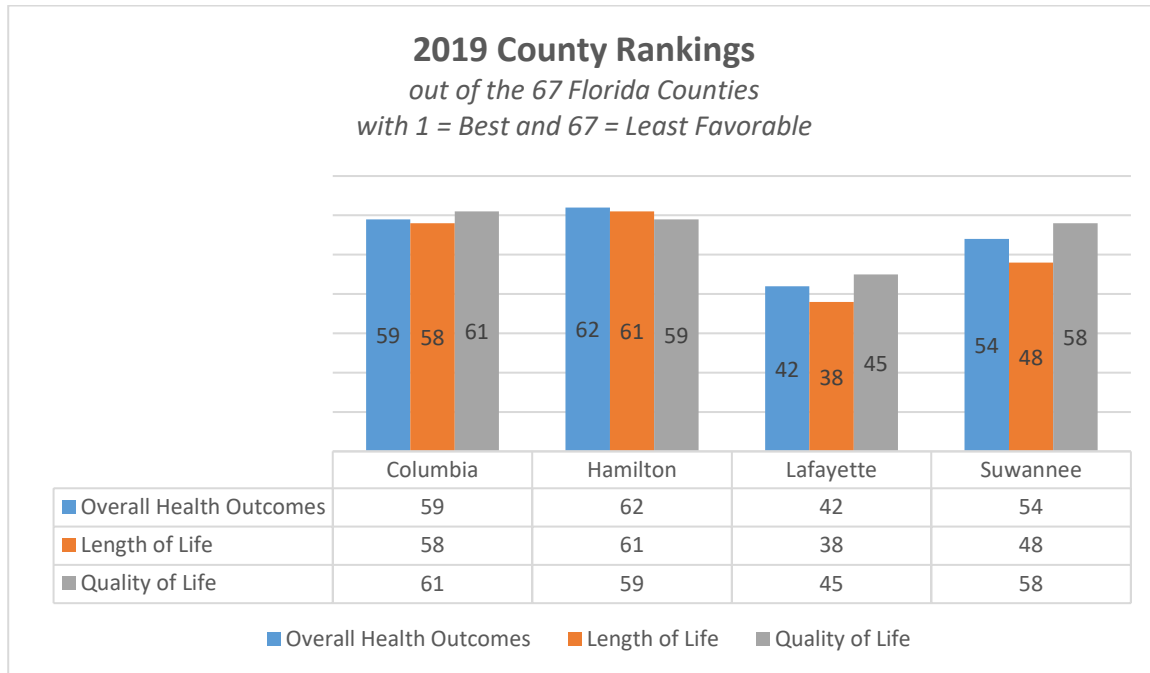
Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR	Expressed Interest		Completed During Program Year			
	Adult Education (GED Programs and College Selection)	Job Training	Job Training Program	Completed a Grade level	Obtained GED	Awarded Associate or Baccalaureate Diploma
Number of Parents	181	192	31	22	57	17

Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR	English as a Second Language (ESL) Services	
	Expressed Interest	Received Services (Referral)
Number of Parents	30	30

## Health

### County Health Rankings<sup>xiv</sup>

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) overall county health outcomes is based on two types of measures: length of life and quality of life. Length of life is measured as premature death before age 75. Quality of life is based on numerous health indicators including low-birth weight babies. Counties are then ranked on a scale of all counties within their state with 1 being the county with the best health outcomes.





## Health Incidence - Adults

In reviewing all health indicators, three, smoking, adult obesity, and sedentary/inactive lifestyle, contribute to the overall low health outcomes for service area counties. County and state data on these indicators is provided in the table that follows.

Health Indicator <sup>xv</sup>	Columbia		Hamilton		Lafayette		Suwannee		Florida
	%	Quartile	%	Quartile	%	Quartile	%	Quartile	
<b>Adult Smoking</b>	24%	4 <sup>th</sup>	24%	4 <sup>th</sup>	21%	4 <sup>th</sup>	20%	3 <sup>rd</sup>	16%
<b>Adult Obesity</b>	37%	4 <sup>th</sup>	37%	4 <sup>th</sup>	36%	4 <sup>th</sup>	40%	4 <sup>th</sup>	27%
<b>Physical Inactivity</b>	65%	4 <sup>th</sup>	65%	4 <sup>th</sup>	66%	4 <sup>th</sup>	59%	3 <sup>rd</sup>	57%

(Quartiles: 1 = Most favorable, 4 = Least favorable)

## Opioid Epidemic

Drug overdose deaths are a leading contributor to premature death and are largely preventable. Currently, the United States is experiencing an epidemic of drug overdose deaths. Since 2000, the rate of drug overdose deaths has increased by 137% nationwide. Opioids contribute largely to drug overdose deaths; since 2000, there has been a 200% increase in deaths involving opioids (opioid pain relievers and heroin).<sup>xvi</sup> Opioids also called opiates are depressant drugs and include both illicit drugs and legal opioid-based prescription drugs. They are considered narcotics and depress the central nervous system. Drugs in this group include heroin, morphine, methadone, codeine, OxyContin, Vicodin, Percodan, etc.

According to the Florida Medical Association<sup>xvii</sup>, 33,000 people died in the U. S. from opioid overdose in 2015. In the first six months of 2016, there were 2,664 opioid-related deaths recorded in Florida alone. Opioid-related ER visits in Florida increased 32.3% between 2009 and 2014. Nationally, opioid-related ER visits increased 99.4% between 2005 and 2014.

To address this concern, Florida prioritized behavioral health issues, including alcohol and substance use, in its State Health Improvement Plan and just released a new Opioid Use Dashboard to their website. Current statistics for the opioid epidemic follows.

Opioid Epidemic Indicator 2018 <sup>xviii</sup>	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Florida
<b>Opioid overdose deaths</b>	11	-	-	3	3,727
<b>Opioid overdose death rate</b> <i>(per 100,000 persons)</i>	15.7	-	-	7.0	18.7
<b>Suspected non-fatal opioid-involved overdose</b>	31	4	1	17	11,820
<b>Number of opioid prescriptions dispensed</b>	84,664	5,295	4,153	36,007	14,005,815

## Health Incidence – Children

### Children and the Opioid Epidemic

The recent increase in opioid abuse requires a focus, not only on the adults who are struggling with use and addiction, but on the epidemic’s extensive impacts on children. Infants who are born with prenatal exposure to opioids often experience neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS), which is characterized by symptoms such as tremors or seizures, vomiting, fevers, excessive crying, poor feeding and rapid breathing. Nationally, the rate of babies born with NAS has increased from 1.2 in 2000 to 5.8 in 2012 (per 1,000 hospital births). The rate of maternal opiate use has increased from 1.19 in 2000 to 5.0 in 2013 (per 1,000 hospital births).<sup>xix</sup>

NAS remains a critical public health issue and the rise in the incidence of NAS disproportionately occurs in rural areas. There is no one standardized tool to assess newborns for NAS. The most common tool has not been validated to show utility in improving outcomes for infants with NAS. In order to garner more timely data, Florida along with many states has made the syndrome a publicly reportable condition that will allow for improved public health surveillance and targeted response.<sup>xx</sup>

The most current state and county data, as available, reflecting NAS statistics follows.<sup>xxi</sup>

<b>Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) from Birth Defects Registry, Counts</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Columbia	8	12	5	7
Hamilton	n/a	n/a	<5	<5
Lafayette	n/a	n/a	<5	<5
Suwannee	n/a	n/a	<5	<5
Florida	1,510	2,122	1,503	1,375

## Asthma

In reviewing Department of Health child data for 2019, one of the major health incidence affecting children, ages one to five, is chronic asthma. The tables that follow provide statistics for the service area, state and Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR data.

<b>Asthma Hospitalizations Ages 1 - 5</b>	<b>Columbia</b>	<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>Suwannee</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<b>Number of Asthma Hospitalizations</b>	18	-	-	12	5,515
<b>Percentage</b>	.42%	-	-	.47%	.48%

<b>Chronic Asthma Diagnoses, Suwannee Valley 4Cs, FY 2019 PIR</b>	<b>Early Head Start</b>	<b>Head Start</b>
<b>Number</b>	23	29
<b>Percentage</b>	9.10%	9.5%

Suwannee Valley 4Cs' Health Services Coordinator develops a health care plan for each child with a chronic condition based on the medical provider's diagnosis and treatment plan. The Health Care Plan is individualized to help ensure that the child's medical requirements are properly met during the day. The plan gives a description of the illness, signs and symptoms and what to do in the event that the child's condition flares up while in school. A parent signature acknowledgement on the plan is required.

The Health Services Coordinator performs ongoing monitoring of all health care plans in the classroom.

## Obesity

Child obesity / overweight continues to be prominent in the service area with percentages exceeding those of the state. Percentages for 2019 WIC children ages two- to four-years old in the service area are provided in the table that follows.

2019 WIC Children, Ages 2 to 4	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Florida
<b>Overweight Percentage</b>	14.7%	16.4%	10.0%	15.8%	14.25%
<b>Obese Percentage</b>	11.1%	14.8%	15.0%	17.0%	13.0%

Our Health Services staff perform body mass index screenings at the beginning of each program year. Screening results letters and a Health Readiness Checklist are provided to parents for all children. Parents with children possessing a BMI out of normal range are provided additional resources and offered a referral to WIC and the program's contracted Nutritionist. Child BMI data from Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR is provided in the table that follows.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR BMI Results	Columbia	Hamilton	Lafayette	Suwannee	Result %
<b>Underweight, BMI less than 5<sup>th</sup> percentile</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Healthy Weight</b>	66	20	16	37	45%
<b>Overweight</b>	31	7	4	23	22%
<b>Obese, BMI at or above 95th percentile</b>	42	15	6	37	33%
<b>Overweight % by County</b>	22%	17%	15%	24%	
<b>Obese % by County</b>	30%	36%	23%	38%	

### Immunization – Vaccination Coverage<sup>xxii</sup>

Vaccination is the most effective intervention to reduce morbidity and mortality from vaccine-preventable diseases in young children.

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides federally-purchased vaccine available to both public and private immunization providers. The program has succeeded in raising immunization coverage rates among high-risk children and reducing disparities in access to health care. Vaccinations are free at VFC providers. There are seventeen VFC providers in the service area.

The tables that follow reflect current vaccination coverage rates by age group.

Vaccination Percentages 2019	One year olds	Two year olds
Florida <sup>xxiii</sup>	73.0%	93.4%

Vaccination Percentages 2019	Kindergartners <sup>xxiv</sup>
Columbia	94.3%
Hamilton	98.4%
Lafayette	100.0%
Suwannee	95.7%
Florida	93.8%

Upon enrollment into the program, Suwannee Valley 4Cs ensures each child is up-to-date on the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule and recommended schedule of early childhood vaccines per the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

## **Health Care**

Health care incorporates a wide range of concerns from access, quality and cost, to patient education and prevention. Even though all counties in the service area have similar federal designations indicating shortages of health professionals (medical, mental health and/or dental providers) for either the low-income or whole population and/or geographical area, each county in the service area has its own public health department with all providing dental services. Health care providers in the service area are culturally competent and reflect the cultures and languages of the families served.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs Health Services Advisory Committee meets regularly and includes participants from county health departments. County health departments provide professional and technical assistance to the program as needed. Formal partnerships continue with each county health department.

## **Child Health and Oral Health**

Healthy children are ready to learn. Good physical and oral health is important for children to develop skills and knowledge. Healthy children have better attendance, are more alert, engaged and better able to concentrate and learn. There is a strong correlation between poor oral health status and other systemic diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and pre-term and low-weight births.<sup>xxv</sup>

Health routines, as practiced in Suwannee Valley 4Cs classrooms and in the home, help children stay healthy and when established early in life will help children as they grow into adults to continue to practice healthy habits.

Regular checkups with access to ongoing primary and dental care is essential. Suwannee Valley 4Cs ensures each child has an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health and dental care and is up-to-date on a schedule of age-appropriate preventative and primary health care according to the EPSDT schedule for well-child care. Each county in the service area has its own public health department with all providing varying levels of pediatric dental care.

Screenings for developmental progress, health, dental, vision and hearing are provided to all Head Start and Early Head Start children, as appropriate, by program staff and qualified contractual providers. Referrals and treatment are provided when concerns are identified.

Parental health literacy is another important factor in the physical and oral health of a child. Parents who have health information they can understand can make better health choices for their children. Suwannee Valley 4Cs provides each parent with a Health Readiness Checklist with their child's screening results letter that explains in everyday language the link between health and school readiness and a child's ability to learn. Multiple parent workshops are provided each year on the topics of child health and oral health.

**Insurance - Medicaid / KidCare**

Medicaid provides much needed health care coverage for low-income families. Families of enrolled children are assisted by our Family Support Specialists in obtaining Medicaid coverage, when needed. Insurance coverage data from the American Community Survey, Florida Department of Health and Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR is provided in the tables that follow.

	<b>Health Insurance Coverage Status, Children Under Six Years of Age<sup>xxvi</sup></b>			
	<b>With Coverage</b>		<b>No Coverage</b>	
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>Columbia</b>	4,943	97%	176	3%
<b>Hamilton</b>	703	94%	42	6%
<b>Lafayette</b>	581	91%	60	9%
<b>Suwannee</b>	2,675	96%	108	4%
<b>Florida</b>	1,274,744	95%	70,826	5%

**Health Insurance Coverage – Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR Data – beginning of / at end of enrollment**

<b>Pregnant Women Cumulative Enrollment</b>	<b>Type Coverage At Enrollment</b>	<b>Beginning Enrollment Percent</b>	<b>End of Enrollment Percent</b>
7	Medicaid	88%	88%
1	Private Insurance	12%	12%

<b>EHS Children Cumulative Enrollment</b>	<b>Type coverage at enrollment</b>	<b>Beginning Enrollment Percent</b>	<b>End of Enrollment Percent</b>
254	Medicaid	98%	98%
	Private Insurance	1%	1%
	No Insurance	1%	1%

<b>HS Children Cumulative Enrollment</b>	<b>Type coverage at Enrollment</b>	<b>Beginning Enrollment Percent</b>	<b>End of Enrollment Percent</b>
306	Medicaid	93%	93%
	Private Insurance	5%	5%
	No Insurance	2%	2%

Suwannee Valley 4Cs program-wide child health insurance coverage exceeds the state rate of 94%.

## **Maternal and Infant Health**

Maternal health and prenatal care is the most important factor that determines infant health. Timing and adequacy of prenatal care (PNC) is essential for a healthy outcome for both mom and baby. Studies have linked late or no prenatal care, low birth weight and infant death rates to the mother’s educational attainment and level of poverty. Research from the University of Washington reiterates low birth weight is the primary risk for infant deaths and stated it is a key predictor of health and socioeconomic status throughout life and across generations.<sup>xxvii</sup>

The National Vital Statistics Reports on the timing and adequacy of prenatal care in the United States 2016<sup>xxviii</sup> reported:

- Mothers under age 20 were least likely to receive first trimester PNC (61.2%), particularly mothers under age 15 (36.7%)
- Black women were least likely to start PNC in the first trimester (66.5%)
- Hispanic women were most likely to begin PNC in the first trimester (72%)
- Women with less than a high school education received first trimester PNC at a rate of 62.7%
- Late or no PNC was most common among women with less than a high school education (11.2%)
- Among women for whom Medicaid was the source of payment, 68.1% received PNC in the first trimester, compared with 87.0% of women with private insurance, 54.8% who self-paid for delivery.

Service area PNC and other maternal and infant data<sup>xxix</sup> for 2019 is provided in the tables that follow.

	<b>Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.)</b>	<b>Received PNC in 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester, Percentage</b>	<b>Received PNC in 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester or No PNC Percentage</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	11.4	73.9%	7.9%
<b>Hamilton</b>	11.2	66.7%	12.5%
<b>Lafayette</b>	7.4	74.4%	8.1%
<b>Suwannee</b>	10.0	70.6%	8.9%
<b>Florida</b>	10.6	76.5%	7.2%

	<b>Mothers with Less than High School Diploma (age 19 and over), Percentage</b>	<b>Low Birth Weight Percentage</b>	<b>Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 live births)</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	15.5%	10.4%	12.6
<b>Hamilton</b>	30.3%	9.9%	2.0
<b>Lafayette</b>	15.2%	7.9%	-
<b>Suwannee</b>	20.1%	9.7%	9.7
<b>Florida</b>	10.2%	8.8%	6.0

Suwannee Valley 4Cs Pregnant Mom Program (PMP) arranges regular scheduled pre- and postnatal care and expectant mom / family education and services (breastfeeding education, smoking cessation, fetal development, bonding, shaken baby, SIDS/Sleep Safe, etc.).

Suwannee Valley 4Cs partners with multiple agencies, such as Healthy Start and WIC, in all four counties of the service area to provide pre- and postnatal education and access to care for pregnant women. Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) provides services in Columbia and Hamilton Counties only.



## Teen Pregnancy<sup>xxx</sup>

Teen pregnancy and childbearing bring substantial social and economic costs through immediate and long-term impacts on teen parents and their children. Pregnancy and birth are significant contributors to high school dropout rates among girls. Only about 50% of teen mothers receive a high school diploma by 22 years of age, whereas, approximately 90% of women who do not give birth during adolescence graduate from high school.

Children of teenage mothers are more likely to have lower school achievement and to drop out of high school, have more health problems, be incarcerated at some time during adolescence, give birth as a teenager, and face unemployment as a young adult.

These effects continue for the teen mother and her child even after adjusting for those factors that increased the teenager's risk for pregnancy, such as growing up in poverty, having parents with low levels of education, growing up in a single-parent family, and having poor performance in school.

Florida's Teen Pregnancy and Prevention Program is an initiative that emphasizes the importance of education (staying in school), personal responsibility (abstinence), and building lasting relationships. Since 2010 when the initiative began, Florida's teen birth rate has fallen from 32.4 to 16.2 in 2019 (per 1,000 female teens). The teen birth rate for three of the four counties in the service area is well above the state rate in 2019, only Lafayette County has a lower teen birth rate at 15.9 (per 1,000 female teens). While the percentages are still high for the service area, a drastic reduction in all counties has been seen since the 2010 initiative began. Comparison of 2010 teen birth data and the most current data available is provided in the table that follows.

<b>Rates per 1,000 Female Population</b>	<b>Teen Female Population, 2010</b>	<b>Teen Birth Rate, 2010</b> <i>(Per 1,000 female teens)</i>	<b>Teen Female Population, 2019</b>	<b>Teen Birth Rate, 2019</b> <i>(Per 1,000 female teens)</i>	<b>Birth Rate Change</b> <i>(Per 1,000 female teens)</i>
<b>Columbia</b>	2,017	62.0	1,851	27.6	-34.4
<b>Hamilton</b>	390	84.6	326	42.9	-41.7
<b>Lafayette</b>	215	74.4	252	15.9	-58.5
<b>Suwannee</b>	1,220	59.8	1,224	35.9	-23.9
<b>Florida</b>	591,435	32.4	588,355	16.2	-16.2

Teen moms in high school have the opportunity to participate in Suwannee Valley 4Cs Pregnant Mom Program and are referred to Suwannee Valley 4Cs by the local education agencies (LEA) as part of formal written agreements (Drop Out Prevention Program).

## **Postpartum Depression<sup>xxxix, xxxii</sup>**

Postpartum depression (PPD) is moderate to severe depression that affects 11 – 18% of women any time after giving birth. Women with PPD may experience feelings of guilt, anxiety, irritation, decreased energy and motivation, and a sense of worthlessness. They may also experience sleep difficulties, loss of concentration, and changes in appetite. Mothers with postpartum depression may also be unable to care for herself or baby, be afraid to be left alone with her baby, and have negative feelings toward the baby.

Depressed mothers report higher incidences of intimate partner violence, rape, child abuse and are at increased risk for future major depression or mood disorders. Postpartum depression in mothers is also associated with negative health effects in their children. Infants of mothers with postpartum depression are more likely to be abused, neglected, become hospitalized with health issues, and to be diagnosed with failure to thrive. The cognitive, social-emotional, and behavioral development of these children can all also be negatively affected. Young age and low socioeconomic status, single marital status and low educational attainment have been found to increase a woman's risk for postpartum depression.

In a special report on PPD, the Florida Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) reported more than 58% of moms in Florida experienced PPD symptoms months after childbirth. Among mothers who reported experiencing PPD symptoms, 9.5% sought professional help.

For participating moms, Suwannee Valley 4Cs Health Services Coordinator makes a home visit after the baby is born to check on the mom and baby. An informal screening is made for postpartum depression and a referral is provided if needed. Additional materials on infant care is provided and includes emergency care and contact numbers.

## Mental Health<sup>xxxiii</sup>, <sup>xxxiv</sup>

Child Mental Health – Just as you can help prevent a child from catching a cold or breaking a bone, you can help prevent a child from having mental health problems. We know what it takes to keep a child physically healthy—nutritious food, exercise, immunizations - but the basics for good mental health aren’t always as clear. The first “basic” is to know that children’s mental health matters. We need to treat a child’s mental health just like we do their physical health, by giving it thought and attention and, when needed, professional help. Although there can be a genetic or biological component to mental illness, and many children live in unsafe environments that put them at risk of developing mental health problems, the consequences of mental illness may often be prevented through early intervention. At the very least, it is possible to delay mental illness and/or lessen symptoms.

The best way to promote children’s mental health is to build up their strengths, help to protect them from risks and give them tools to succeed in life. Promoting a child’s mental health means helping a child feel secure, relate well with others and foster their growth at home and at school. We do this by helping to build a child’s confidence and competence - the foundation of strong self-esteem. This can be achieved by providing a child with a safe and secure home; warmth and love; respect; caring and trusting relationships with family, friends, and adults in the community; opportunities to talk about experiences and feelings; time to play, learn, and succeed; encouragement and praise; and consistent and fair expectations with clear consequences for misbehavior.

Beginning at birth, children need positive relationships with the adults who care for them. When children learn to recognize and share their feelings with trusted adults, they feel good about themselves. These relationships help them develop the confidence to learn new skills, and learn how to manage their feelings, thoughts and behaviors.

The tables that follow provide three year combined state data and Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR data on child mental health and our contracted mental health professional consultations, services and referrals.

<b>Mental Health Treatment Services, 2016-2018 , Children Ages One–Five</b> <i>(Table reflects combined 3-year totals.)</i>	<b>Columbia</b>	<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>Suwannee</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<b>2016-2018 Population, Ages One–Five</b>	12,687	2,304	1,204	7,443	3,399,709
<b>Count</b>	19	2	0	4	9,144
<b>Rate per 1,000 children</b>	1.5	0.9	0.0	0.5	2.7

<b>Number of Children Receiving Mental Health Services Through Suwannee Valley 4Cs, FY 2019 PIR</b>	<b>Early Head Start</b>	<b>Head Start</b>
<b>Mental Health professional consulted with staff/parents</b>	1	6
<b>Individual mental health assessment provided</b>	0	6
<b>MH professional facilitated a referral for services</b>	0	6

Adult Mental Health – Mental disorders, when serious and untreated, can cause significant morbidity, reduced quality of life, numerous hospitalizations and a burden to the local healthcare system. Mood disorders are particularly important contributors to disability-adjusted life years lost and to years lived with disability.<sup>xxxv</sup>

Suwannee Valley 4Cs’ Mental Health Consultant provides direct-service counseling and treatment for children and families enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start. The region’s community mental health provider, Meridian Behavioral Health Services, also provides counseling and treatment for low-income families based on a referral system.

The table that follows represents Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR data on the number of parents who expressed an interest or identified a need at the beginning of the enrollment year and the number of parents receiving services by the end of the enrollment year.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR	Early Head Start Parents	Head Start Parents
Expressing interest / identified a need for mental health services	34	42
Received services	34	42

**Substance Abuse<sup>xxxvi</sup>**

The opioid epidemic is a public health issue and the effects on the service area / state were discussed earlier in the Foster Children and Health Incidence sections of this report.

Substance abuse affects an estimated 25 million Americans. In terms of people who are affected indirectly such as families of abusers and those injured or killed by intoxicated drivers, an additional 40 million people are affected. The monetary cost to society and the economy because of reduced productivity, property damage, accidents, and health care are astounding. Alcoholism is a progressive disease and afflicts ten million adults and three million children. An estimated 12.5 million Americans are addicted to other drugs such as sedative-hypnotics or barbiturates, opiates, sedatives, hallucinogens and psychostimulants.

There are many symptoms and warning signs of substance abuse including: using the substance on a regular basis (daily, weekends or in binges), tolerance for the substance, failed attempts to stop using the substance, physical and/or psychological dependence, withdrawal symptoms (delirium tremens, trembling, hallucinations, sweating and high blood pressure), and in some cases dementia. The specific causes of substance abuse are unclear, though they seem to be a combination of hereditary, environmental and social factors.

The table that follows provides FY 2019 PIR data on substance abuse prevention and treatment as an interest / identified need by parents at the beginning of the enrollment year and services that were provided.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR	Expressing an interest or identified need during the program year	Received services (referral or workshop) during the program year
Substance Abuse Prevention	22	22
Substance Abuse Treatment	4	4

## **Nutrition**

The relationship between nutrition, health and learning is undeniably strong: nutrition is a major factor that can impact a child's development. Poor nutrition, and by extension food insecurity, has been shown to influence health and well-being throughout the life cycle, from the prenatal period on into elder years.

Undernourished children birth to three years of age cannot learn as much, as fast, or as well because chronic under-nutrition harms their cognitive development during this critical period of rapid brain growth, actually changing the fundamental neurological architecture of the brain and central nervous system. They do more poorly in school and have lower academic achievement because they are not well prepared for school and cannot concentrate. They have more social and behavioral problems because they feel bad, have less energy for complex social interactions, and cannot adapt as effectively to environmental stresses. Undernourished children are sick more often, and more likely to have to be hospitalized, suffer growth impairment that precludes them from reaching their full physical potential, incur developmental impairments that limit their physical, intellectual and emotional development. <sup>xxxvii</sup>

Suwannee Valley 4Cs provides family-style meals and snacks that are nutritious and represent the cultures of the children served. All menus are reviewed and approved by the contracted nutritionist. Parent workshops are provided on nutrition and the relationship to child development and school readiness. Parents have the opportunity to receive services from the contracted nutritionist. Information on health and nutrition is included in many issues of the Family Focus newsletter that is distributed to parents.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs, WIC and county health departments work together to address the issues of childhood obesity and other nutrition-related concerns affecting young children.

## **Food Environment<sup>xxxviii</sup>**

The food environment index ranges from zero (worst) to ten (best) and equally weights two indicators of the food environment: limited access to healthy foods and food insecurity.

Limited access to healthy foods estimates the percentage of the population that is low income and does not live close to a grocery store. Living close to a grocery store is defined differently in rural and non-rural areas; in rural areas, it means living less than ten miles from a grocery store whereas in non-rural areas, it means less than one mile. "Low income" is defined as having an annual family income of less than or equal to 200% of the federal poverty threshold for the family size.

<b>Limited Access to Healthy Food, 2015</b>	<b>Columbia</b>	<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>Suwannee</b>	<b>Florida</b>
<b>Percentage of Low-income Population Living More than ten miles from a Grocery Store (Rural)</b>	7.0%	11.0%	3.0%	9.0%	6.7%

Food insecurity refers to the USDA’s measure of lack of consistent access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods. Food-insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household’s need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.

The table that follows represents 2019 estimated food insecurity data from Florida’s Department of Health in our service area counties and the state.

<b>Florida Department of Health Estimates, 2019</b>	<b>Child Food Insecurity</b>	<b>Population within ½ mile of Healthy Food Source</b>	<b>Population within ½ mile of Fast Food Restaurant</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	15.2%	8.4%	7.9%
<b>Hamilton</b>	19.8%	5.7%	1.1%
<b>Lafayette</b>	14.7%	0.3%	0.3%
<b>Suwannee</b>	15.2%	3.7%	4.4%
<b>Florida</b>	13.0%	31.0%	32.3%

Suwannee Valley 4Cs provides nutritious breakfast, lunch and snacks daily to every child enrolled according to USDA guidelines. Local food assistance is provided through coordination with the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC), the Christian Service Center and Catholic Charities, among others.

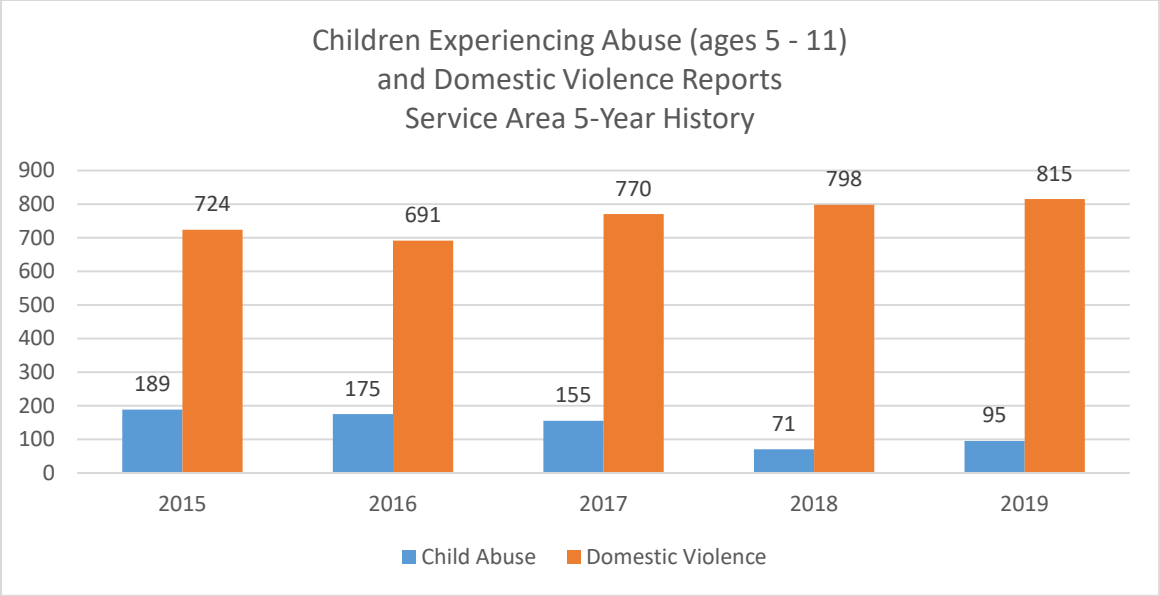
**Social Services**

Social services covers a wide array of issues and can include health care, insurance coverage, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, substance abuse, employment, parent / family engagement and assistance to address material needs. Suwannee Valley 4Cs provides comprehensive services to participating families that includes referrals to community resources and parenting education based on a research-based parenting curriculum. The family and Family Support Specialist, in partnership, identify the family’s needs. Family Support Specialists provide community agency referrals and assistance to families to meet the needs of the family and support if the family and children experiences a crisis.

**Child Abuse / Domestic Violence**<sup>xxxix</sup>

Children exposed to domestic violence are at a greater risk of experiencing abuse and / or neglect. The turmoil of an environment of domestic violence is likely to produce behavioral and emotional challenges for children and higher risk of poor educational, social and emotional outcomes. Child abuse and neglect were also discussed previously in relation to Foster Children, the Opioid Epidemic and Substance Abuse sections of this report.

Data on the number or rate of children birth to five years old experiencing abuse / neglect was not immediately available. Data for children aged five to eleven years old experiencing child abuse / neglect is provided in the chart that follows and is shown comparatively with domestic violence reports for the same time period.



Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR data on the number of parents who expressed an interest or identified a need at the beginning of the enrollment year and the number receiving services during the program year is provided in the table that follows.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2019 PIR	Parents expressing an interest or identified need during the program year	Parents received services (referral or attended workshop) during the program year
Child abuse and neglect services	25	26
Domestic violence services	24	24

Suwannee Valley 4Cs partners with local domestic violence agencies, Another Way and Vivid Visions, to provide referrals for parents experiencing domestic violence and to provide annual parent workshops on Domestic Violence Awareness. Through the Department of Children and Families, Suwannee Valley 4Cs provides an annual Child Abuse and Neglect Detection and Prevention staff workshop.

**Employment / Unemployment<sup>xl</sup>**

November 2021 Unemployment Rates:

National	4.2%
Florida	4.5%
Black / African-American	6.0%
Hispanic / Latino	5.9%
Columbia County	3.7%
Hamilton County	5.1%
Lafayette County	3.5%
Suwannee County	3.7%

Unemployment rates decreased from 2020 highs, when rates had doubled for almost all groups evaluated, presumably due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Black and Hispanic populations, though, are still experiencing higher unemployment rates than the current state and national averages. Hamilton County ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> highest unemployment rate in the State of Florida and also exceeds the national rate for unemployment.

The table that follows includes county population data, employed and unemployment information from November 2020.

	<b>Median Age</b>	<b>Population</b> <i>(less Inmate Population)</i>	<b>Employed</b>	<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>2010 Unemployed Rate</b>	<b>Nov. 2020 Unemployed Rate</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	40.4	67,105	28,319	1,722	10.8%	5.7%
<b>Hamilton</b>	40.9	11,392	3,987	315	11.4%	7.3%
<b>Lafayette</b>	37.3	6,601	2,670	135	7.3%	4.8%
<b>Suwannee</b>	43.3	43,052	17,047	943	9.8%	5.2%
<b>Florida</b>	42.0	20,613,743	9,496,000	640,000	11.1%	6.3%



## **Public Assistance**<sup>xli</sup>

Families receiving public assistance with age-eligible children are automatically eligible for services. The following table provides the most current data (2019 ACS) on public assistance by county in the service area and FY 2019 PIR data.

<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>Public Assistance Income or Food Stamps/SNAP in the past 12 Months</b>	<b>Suwannee Valley 4Cs PIR FY 2019 Public Assistance as Basis for Eligibility</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	4,891	55
<b>Hamilton</b>	1,326	9
<b>Lafayette</b>	430	2
<b>Suwannee</b>	3,242	30
<b>Florida</b>	1,093,078	-

## **Transportation**

Public transportation is nearly non-existent in our very rural, widely-scattered population service area which can make transportation a major challenge for some low-income families. There is one public transportation entity, Suwannee Valley Transit Authority<sup>xliii</sup> (SVTA), which provides assistance for medical and groceries trips for transportation disadvantaged residents in Columbia, Hamilton and Suwannee Counties. Additionally, Medicaid provides transportation to medical appointments only for Medicaid recipients.

**Typical Parent Schedules (Working, School, Training)<sup>xliii</sup>**

Information on parent schedules in regards to work, school or training, is obtained two ways: through the program’s enrollment application and a mid-year participating-parent survey. Working parent (WP) as used in this report also refers to parents in a training program or going to school.)

**Enrollment Application Information:**

FY 2021 enrollment applications show that the typical weekly schedules identified by working parents are Monday through Friday, in a standard day format (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and number of hours worked between twenty and forty per week.

The following table provides FY 2021 program enrollment application information derived from working parent applications and their response on the application to hours offered by Suwannee Valley 4Cs.

There were 700 enrollment applications submitted in FY 2021 with 455 (65%) of those being from parents who work, go to school or are in a training program. Of these, 394 (86.6%) stated the program hours would meet their child care needs.

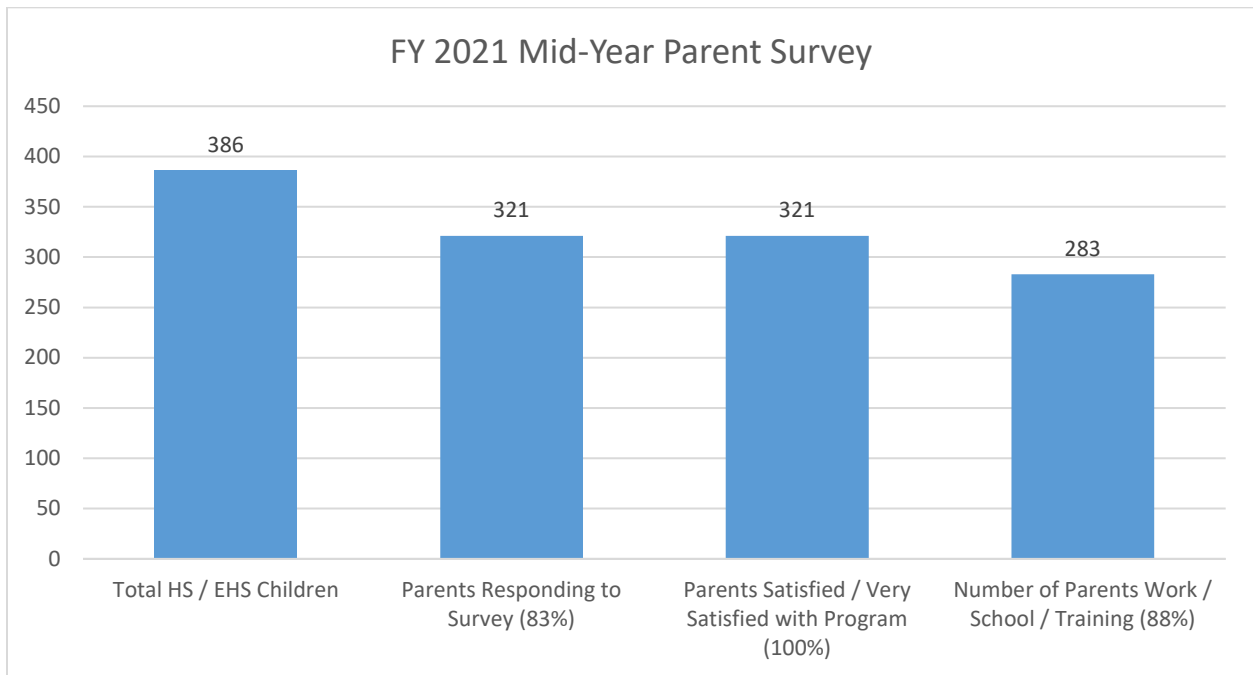
<b>Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2020 PIR Working Parent Enrollment Applications</b>	<b>Number of WP Applications</b>	<b>Percentage of WP Applications</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	231	67.9%
<b>Hamilton</b>	93	66.9%
<b>Lafayette</b>	18	72.0%
<b>Suwannee</b>	113	57.4%
<b>Of the 700 applications</b>	455	66.1%
<b>Suwannee Valley 4Cs FY 2020 PIR Working Parents Child Care Needs Met by Suwannee Valley 4Cs</b>	<b>Number of WP Needs Met</b>	<b>Percentage of WP Needs Met</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	202	87.4%
<b>Hamilton</b>	83	89.2%
<b>Lafayette</b>	17	94.4%
<b>Suwannee</b>	92	81.4%
<b>Of the 455 WP applications</b>	394	86.6%

**Mid-Year Parent Survey:**

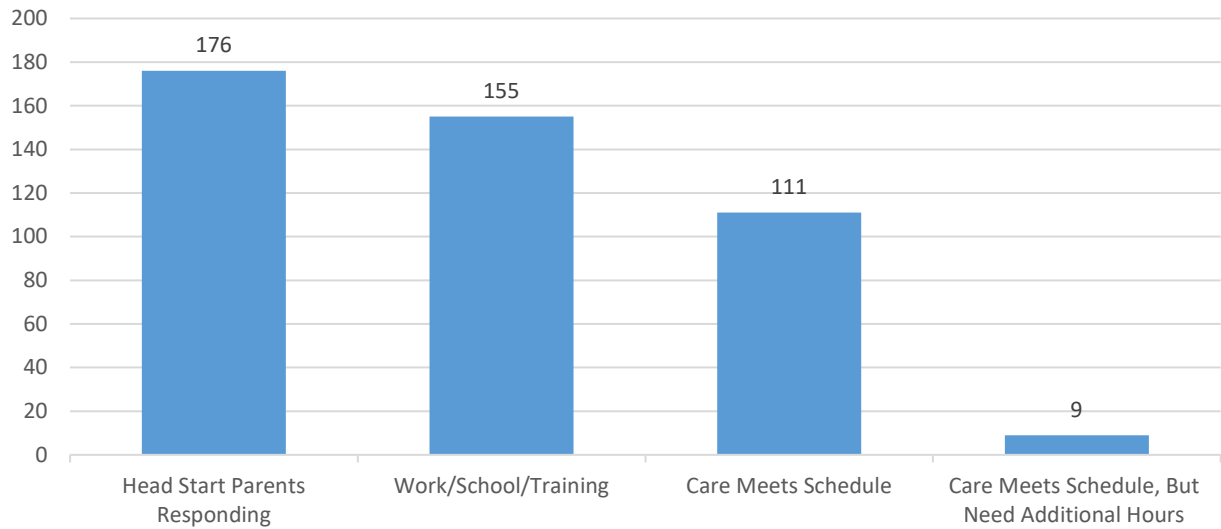
March 2021 Update: 321 Parents Responding:

Satisfied / Very Satisfied	100%
Parents Working / School / Training	88%
Needs Met (Parents Working / School / Training)	69%

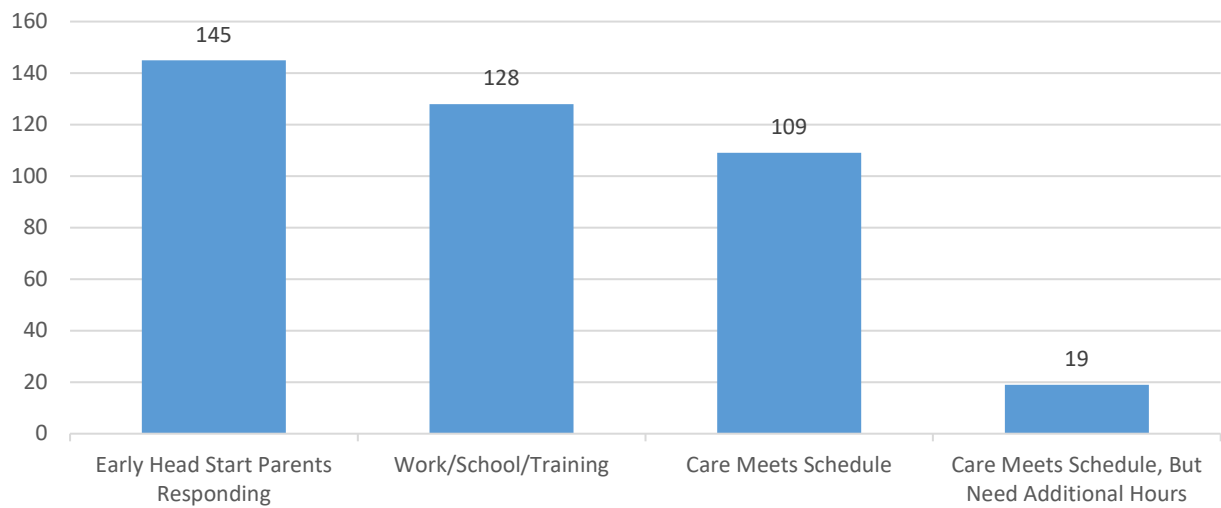
The annual mid-year participating parent survey asks parents to rate their satisfaction level with the program and to provide program improvement feedback and suggestions. Parents who work, go to school or are in training are asked to describe their typical weekly schedule and child care needs. Of the 386 children enrolled in the program at the time of survey, 321 of their parents (83%) responded. Of the 321 responding, 100% are very satisfied / satisfied with the program and 283 (88%) are working parents (or going to school or in training). Families are currently referred to the Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Gateway for service hours outside what is provided by the program. Working parent survey results are provided in the charts that follow.



### Do Program Hours Meet the Needs of HEAD START Parents Working / In School / In Training?



### Do Program Hours Meet the Needs of EARLY HEAD START Parents Working / In School / In Training?



**Other Child Care Services - FY 2022 - No update available**

The service area has a variety of resources and providers of early childhood, child care and child development services. The child care delivery system includes family child care, private and faith based centers, Head Start, Early Head Start and public schools. The economic reality of working families continues to reflect a need for full-day and wrap-around child care. The cost of child care remains prohibitive for many working families. The average annual cost of child care for one preschooler and one infant can range from \$10,000 - \$15,000 a year.

Parents may choose whichever form of care they feel is best suited for their children, and may also choose to blend child care options, such as VPK with Head Start. Use of part-time and full-time services is available based on the needs of the family.

**School Readiness Providers**

School readiness (birth to school-age) programs are administered by The Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Gateway, Inc. (ELCFG) which oversees provider contracts. The school readiness program is a financial assistance program (sliding scale) for working families who are income-eligible or whose children are at risk of abuse or neglect.<sup>xiv</sup>

School readiness providers fill a critical gap in child care for low-income parents (up to 150% of FPL) who are working or going to school. It should be noted that school readiness providers do not provide the same level of Head Start/Early Head Start comprehensive early childhood education services including family and health services.

State fiscal year 2017-2018 (as of June 2018) data for school readiness for each county in the service area follows.

<b>School Readiness (SR) Providers by Type<sup>xiv</sup></b>	<b>Private Center/School</b>	<b>Family Day Care Home</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	40	3	43
<b>Hamilton</b>	19	5	24
<b>Lafayette</b>	6	0	6
<b>Suwannee</b>	32	3	35
<b>Total SR Providers</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>108</b>

<b>Children (birth to 5), Served by SR Providers</b>	<b>Infant / Toddler</b>	<b>Pre-K</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Columbia</b>	382	635	1,017
<b>Hamilton</b>	43	48	91
<b>Lafayette</b>	10	16	26
<b>Suwannee</b>	116	228	344
<b>Total Children Served</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>1,478</b>

## Waitlists for Suwannee Valley 4Cs and School Readiness Programs

January 2021 waitlist data is provided in the tables that follow.

Infants / Toddlers Waitlisted	Suwannee Valley 4Cs Early Head Start	Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway <sup>xlvi</sup>	Combined Waitlisted Infants / Toddlers
<b>Columbia</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>71</b>
Age 0	15	42	57
Age 1	9	-	9
Age 2	4	1	5
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>
Age 0	8	7	15
Age 1	4	-	9
Age 2	4	-	4
<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Age 0	-	2	2
Age 1	-	-	-
Age 2	-	--	-
<b>Suwannee</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>
Age 0	6	8	14
Age 1	7	-	7
Age 2	3	1	- 4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>121</b>
Age 0	29	59	88
Age 1	20	-	20
Age 2	11	2	13

3 to 5 year-olds Waitlisted	Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start	Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway <sup>xlvii</sup>	Combined Waitlisted 3 to 5 year-olds
<b>Columbia</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>58</b>
Age 3	30	-	30
Age 4	17	1	18
Age 5	-	10	10
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>
Age 3	9	-	9
Age 4	3	-	3
Age 5	-	-	1
<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
Age 3	2	-	2
Age 4	-	-	-
Age 5	-	1	1
<b>Suwannee</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
Age 3	7	1	8
Age 4	3	-	3
Age 5	-	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>86</b>
Age 3	48	1	49
Age 4	23	1	24
Age 5	-	13	13

Infant / toddler waitlists continue to show the significant number of children in this age group in need of care, particularly in Columbia and Suwannee Counties. Pre-K waitlists, while less in number, still show the need for three to five-year-olds in the service area.

## Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Providers<sup>xlvi</sup>

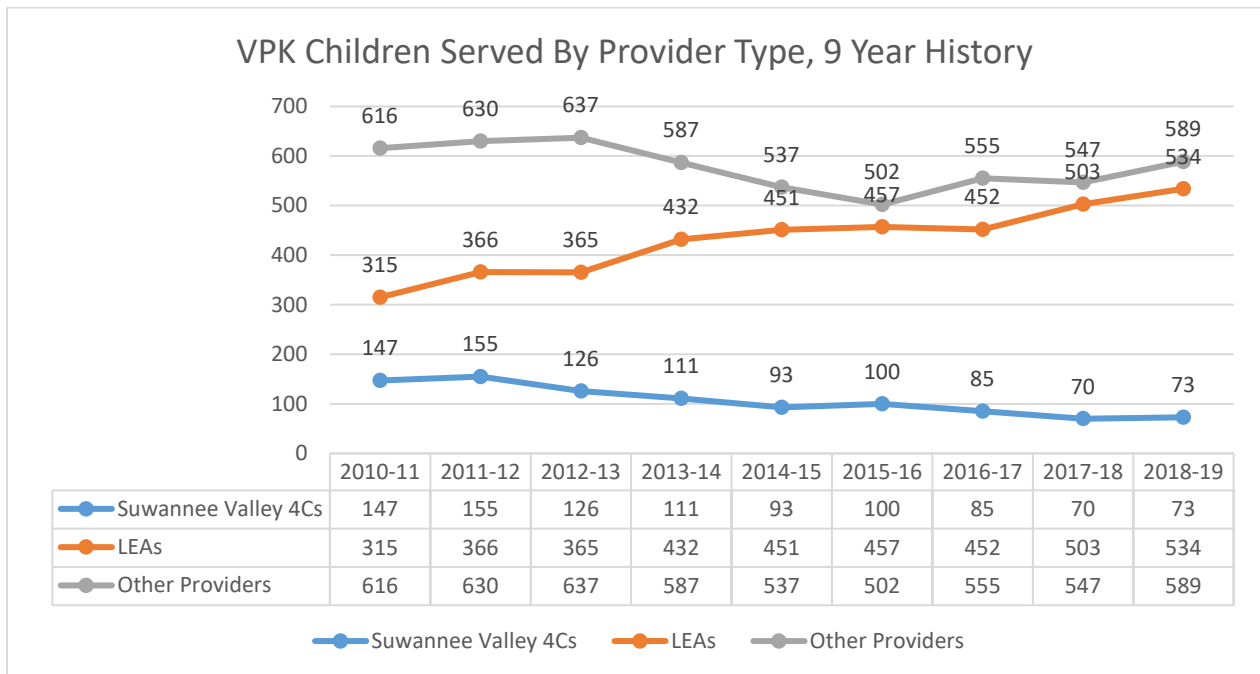
Voluntary Pre-K (for four-year-olds) programs are also administered by The Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Gateway, Inc. (ELCFG) which oversees provider contracts.

Florida’s Voluntary Pre-K program is free to all four-year-olds. The state ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the country for enrolling four-year-olds, with 75% of four-year-olds participating.<sup>xlix</sup> The increase in availability of VPK through LEAs and private providers over the last 9 years has had a negative impact on Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start VPK program enrollment. (See line graph below.)

The FY 2019 data for VPK for each county in the service area follows.

VPK Provider Type	Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start	Private Center/School	LEAs	Total VPK Providers
Columbia	2	22	10	34
Hamilton	0	1	1	2
Lafayette	0	2	1	3
Suwannee	2	10	3	15
<b>Total VPK Providers</b>	4	35	15	52

VPK Children Served by Provider Type	Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start	Private Center/School	LEAs	Total VPK Children Served
Columbia	40	385	294	720
Hamilton	0	5	57	62
Lafayette	0	19	42	61
Suwannee	33	180	141	354
<b>Total VPK Served</b>	73	589	534	1,196



### **Home Visiting Parenting Program<sup>l</sup>**

The Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program serves at-risk pregnant women and parents with children up to three years of age. The program provides parenting skills services in Columbia and Hamilton Counties only. In 2019, MIECHV served 29 families in Columbia County and eight in Hamilton.

Healthy Families of Florida (HFF) provides home visiting services for expectant parents and parents of newborns experiencing stressful life situations. In 2019, HFF served 265 parents in Columbia County, 65 in Hamilton, 65 in Lafayette and 82 in Suwannee County.

### **Head Start / Early Head Start**

East Coast Migrant Head Start Project (a six-month program) provides services to 60 migrant and seasonal farmworker families in Hamilton County.

Suwannee Valley 4Cs Head Start and Early Head Start funded enrollment per program / county / center is provided on page 4.

### **Other Licensed Providers<sup>li</sup>**

As of 2018, there are 13 other licensed child care providers in the service area, however, they do not serve low-income families. In addition, these providers do not provide VPK or school readiness programs to the 193 children they serve.

### **State of Florida New Minimum Wage Requirements**

In November 2020, Florida voters approved changes to the state’s minimum wage, which will gradually increase to \$15 per hour by September 2026. Employers must implement the following hourly minimum wage schedule through 2026:

<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Florida Minimum Wage</b>
January 1, 2021	\$8.65
September 30, 2021	\$10.00
September 30, 2022	\$11.00
September 30, 2023	\$12.00
September 30, 2024	\$13.00
September 30, 2025	\$14.00
September 30, 2026	\$15.00



## Community Resources

Suwannee Valley 4Cs partners with multiple agencies in the service area to improve service delivery, increase access to services and prevent duplication of services. A number of community partners have already been identified within prior sections of this community assessment, many of whom are participating agencies in the umbrella agreement known as The Children's Transition Network. The agreement includes:

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities – University of Florida

Department of Children and Families

Division of Blind Services

Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway

The University of Florida Early Steps Program

Children's Medical Services Network

Florida Department of Health in Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette and Suwannee Counties

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Gateway (FDLRS)

Florida School for the Deaf and Blind Outreach Infant Toddler Program for North Central Florida

Healthy Families

Healthy Start

Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)

Northeast Florida Educational Consortium

Partnership for Strong Families

Rural Partnership for Healthy Kids

School Districts of Columbia, Hamilton Lafayette and Suwannee Counties

W.I.C.

Additional agreements are in place with:

Family Literacy Council

Pregnancy Care Center

Suwannee River Economic Council

United Way of Suwannee Valley

And other agencies.

A resource directory is provided in the appendix of this report.

Community Strengths<sup>lii</sup> - FY 2022 - No update available

As part of Suwannee Valley 4Cs planning process, a survey is conducted with community partners / providers each year to assess family and children needs.

The questions and responses from the December 2020 survey follows.

*“What are the most significant strengths in our communities?”*

1. Community Involvement
2. Community Church

*“Greatest challenges facing children and families.”*

1. Job skills / training
2. Affordable Housing

*“Services needed but not well-provided.”*

1. Transportation
2. Emergency Shelters

*“Greatest barriers to obtaining assistance.”*

1. Transportation
2. Unaware of Available Services

*“Populations of special concern.”*

1. Children
2. Homeless & Teen Parents (tied for #2)

*“Number of clients served last year.”*

1. Decreased & Increased (tied for #1)
2. No Change

## Conclusions

**Unemployment:** Rates of unemployment improved nationally, in the State of Florida, and in all SV4Cs service areas over the past year, after peaking in 2020. However, Hamilton County ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> highest for unemployment rate in the State of Florida and also exceeds the national rate of unemployment.

**State of Florida Minimum Wage Requirements:** The new minimum wage requirements will be a challenge for many employers in our 4-county area. Suwannee Valley 4Cs will work with the Regional Office regarding options for funding.

**Resources:** Availability of Comprehensive Early Childhood Education. Suwannee Valley 4Cs is the only full-year comprehensive early childhood education and family engagement program for low-income families in the four county area.

## Appendix: Resource Directory

### Alphabetical Listing

**Adult Literacy Council, Columbia County**  
(386) 758-2111

**Alcoholics Anonymous Hotline**  
(800) 870-3795

**Another Way**  
(386) 719-2700 or (386) 792-2747

**Broome Eye Care & Optical**  
(386) 466-1062

**Child Birth Classes** (*Call your county Health Department*)

**Children's Medical Services (CMS)**  
(800) 523-7545

**Christian Service Center**  
(386) 755-1770

**Crisis 24- Hour Help Line**  
(800) 330-5615

**Department of Children & Families**  
(866) 762-2237

**Domestic Violence Hotline**  
(800) 500-1119

**Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway**  
(386) 752-9770 or (866) 752-9770

**Early Steps** (for children with special needs)  
(800) 334-1447

**Florida Abuse Hotline**  
(800) 96-ABUSE

**Florida Gateway College** (386) 752-1822

**FDLRS/Gateway Child Find**  
(800) 227-0059 or (386) 792-2877

**G.E.D. Tests**  
(386) 755-8190 or (386) 364-2750

**Guardian Ad Litem**  
(386) 758-1170

#### Health Departments

**Columbia County**  
(386) 758-1068

**Suwannee County**  
(386) 362-2708

**Lafayette County**  
(386) 294-1321

**Hamilton County**  
(386) 792-1414

#### Hospitals

**Gainesville** (Shands-UF)  
(352) 265-0111

**Jasper** (S. Georgia Med. Ctr)  
(229)433-1000

**Jennings** (S. Georgia Med. Ctr)  
(229)433-1000

**Lake City** (Lake City Medical Center)  
(386) 719-9000

**Live Oak** (Shands at Live Oak)  
(386) 362-0800

**River Valley Medical Center**  
(386) 294-1226

**Jobs & Benefits- Career Source Florida Crown**  
(386) 755-9026

**Lad's Soup Kitchen**  
(386) 758-2217

#### Libraries

**Branford** (386) 935-1556

**Ft. White** (386)497-1108

**Jasper** (386) 792-2285

**Jennings** (386) 938-1143

**Lake City – Main Branch** (386) 758-2101

**Lake City – West Branch** (386) 758-1321

**Live Oak** (386) 362-2317

**Mayo** (386) 294-1021

**White Springs** (386) 397-1389

**Meridian Behavioral Healthcare**  
(800) 330-5615

**North Florida Eye Care** (Lake City)  
(386) 752-1722

**North Florida Eye Care** (Live Oak)  
(386) 362-5055

**Parent Helpline**  
855-427-2736

### **POISON CONTROL 800 222-1222**

**Prescription Assistance**  
(800) 477-2669

**Pregnancy Care Center** (Columbia)  
(386) 755-0058

**Pregnancy Care Center** (Suwannee)  
(386) 330-2229

**Pregnancy Care Center** (Hamilton)  
(386) 792-1182

**Public Housing Authority**  
**Columbia County**  
(386) 752-4227

**North Central Housing Authority**  
(386) 935-1198

**Northwest FL. Regional Housing Authority**  
(850) 263-4442

**Renewed Thrift store** (Clothing & Food Pantry)  
(386) 319-7161

**Resolutions Health Alliance**  
(386) 754-9005

**School Boards**

**Columbia County (386) 755-8000**  
**Hamilton County (386) 792-1228**  
**Lafayette County (386) 294-1351**  
**Suwannee County (386) 647-4600**

**Subsidized Child Care (Early Learning Coalition)**

**(386) 752-9770 or (866) 752-9770**

**Suwannee River Economic Council**

*(SHIP, Home Winterization, Home Repairs)*

**Columbia County (386) 752-8726**  
**Hamilton County (386) 792-2941**  
**Lafayette County (386) 294-2202**  
**Suwannee County (386) 362-4115**

**Suwannee Valley Transit**

**(386) 362-7433 or (386) 362-5332**

**Three Rivers Legal Services**

**(386) 752-5960**

**Vivid Visions**

**(386) 364-5957**

**VPK Registration (Early Learning Coalition)**

**(386) 752-9770 or (866) 752-9770**

**River Oaks Technical College**

**(386) 364-2750**

**White (Henry & Rilla) Foundation**

**(386) 752-7813**

**W.I.C.**

**(800) 342-3556**

**By Category**

<b>ABUSE</b>	
<b>Child Abuse</b> (800) 422-4453	<b>Elder Abuse</b> (866) 363-4276 or (800) 962-2873
<b>Florida Abuse Hotline</b> (800) 962-2873 or (800) 458-5145 (TDD)	<b>Peaceful Paths</b> (352) 377-8255 (Gainesville)
<b>Another Way</b> (800) 500-1119 (Florida Domestic Violence Hotline) Outreach (386) 719-2700 or (386) 792-2747	<b>Refuge House</b> (850) 973-4144 (Madison) (850) 584-8808 (Taylor)
<b>Vivid Visions</b> (386) 364-2100 (Hotline) (386) 364-5957	<b>Victim Services, Inc. (State Attorney)</b> (386) 362-2320 Crisis: (800) 262-9799
<b>Hamilton County Alcohol &amp; Drug Prevention Coalition</b> (386) 792-9388	<b>Suicide Crisis Hotline</b> (800) 273-8255
<b>Pregnancy Care Center (Lake City)</b> (386) 755-0058	<b>Pregnancy Care Center (Live Oak)</b> (386) 330-2229
<b>Pregnancy Care Center (Jasper)</b> (386) 792-1182	<b>Self-Abuse/Self harm</b> (800) 366-8288

<b>AFTER SCHOOL CARE</b>	
<b>Annie Mattox Recreation Center</b> (386) 755-5076	<b>Boy Scouts of America</b> (800) 232-0845
<b>Boys Club of Columbia County</b> (386) 752-4184	<b>Girl Scouts of Gateway Council (USA)</b> or (877) 764-5237
<b>Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway</b> (386) 752-9770	<b>Girls Club of Columbia County</b> (386) 719-5840
<b>Suwannee County Police Athletic League</b> (386) 364-3422	

### CHILDREN SERVICES

<b>Center for Children with Disabilities</b> (800) 695-0285	<b>Guardian Ad. Litem/Voices for Children</b> (386) 758-1170 (Columbia) (386) 364-7720 (Live Oak)
<b>Child Birth Classes:</b> Call your county's Health Department for this information.	<b>Henry &amp; Rilla White Foundation</b> (386) 752-7813
<b>Child Support Hotline</b> (800) 622-5437	<b>National Center for Missing &amp; Exploited Children</b> (800) 843-5678
<b>Children's Home Society</b> (352) 334-0955 (Gainesville) (904) 493-7744 (Jacksonville)	<b>Partnership for Strong Families</b> (386)243-8800 or (866)832-5562 (Lake City) (386)364-7774 or (866)850-8133 (Live Oak)
<b>Interface Youth Program</b> (386) 487-0190	<b>Runaway Switchboard</b> (800) 621-4000 or 1-800-RUNAWAY
<b>Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway</b> (VPK, Subsidized Child Care) 1104 SW Main Blvd, Lake City (386) 752-9770 or (866) 752-9770	<b>Suwannee Valley 4C's</b> (386) 754-2222
	<b>Youth Line Crisis</b> (877) 968-8491

### CLOTHING SOURCES

<b>Hopeful Baptist Closet</b> (386) 752-4135	<b>LOVE INC.</b> (386) 364-4673 (Live Oak)
<b>Christian Service Center</b> (386) 755-1770	<b>Melody Christian Center Live Oak Thrift Store</b> (386) 688-6611
<b>First Baptist Church of Live Oak</b> (386) 362-1583	<b>Renewed</b> (386) 319-7161

### CONSUMER / BUSINESS SERVICES

<b>Attorney General, Florida</b> (866) 966-7226	<b>Free Items Online</b> <a href="http://www.freecycle.org">www.freecycle.org</a>
<b>Better Business Bureau</b> (904) 721-2288	<b>IRS Problem Resolution Office</b> (800) 829-1040
<b>Blind Services</b> (352)955-2075	<b>Office of Citizens Services</b> (800) 321-5366
<b>Consumer Complaint, Business &amp; Professional Regulation</b> (850) 487-1395	<b>Consumer Product Safety</b> (800) 638-2772
<b>Consumer Services, Fla. Division of Scams, Frauds &amp; Alerts</b> (850) 410-3800	<b>Financial Services, FL Dept.</b> (877) 693-5236
<b>Poison Control</b> (800) 222-1222	<b>Prescription Assistance</b> (800) 477-2669
<b>Veteran's Service Office</b> (386)792-1272 (Hamilton County) (386) 758-1013	<b>Vital Statistics</b> (904) 359-6900 (Jacksonville)

<b>CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES</b>	
<b>Columbia County</b> (386) 752-9212	<b>Suwannee County</b> (386) 362-2222
<b>Hamilton County</b> (386) 792-1001	<b>Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches</b> (386) 842-5501
<b>Lafayette County</b> (386) 294-1222	

<b>CRIMINAL</b>	
<b>Crime Stoppers (Report Crime Anonymously)</b> Columbia: (386) 754-7099    Hamilton: (386) 792-8477 Lafayette (386) 232-8477    Suwannee: (386) 208-8477	
<b>Department of Corrections Adult Probation</b> Suwannee County: (386) 362-2869 Columbia County: (386) 755-9419 Hamilton County: (386) 792-3447	<b>Public Defender</b> Columbia County: (386) 758-0540 Suwannee County: (386) 362-7235
<b>Department of Juvenile Justice</b> Suwannee County: (386) 362-6838 Columbia County: (386) 758-1448	<b>Application for Expungement Department of Law Enforcement</b> (850) 410-7870
<b>Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, Inc.</b> (305)573-1106	

<b>DENTAL HEALTH</b>	
<b>Acorn Dental Clinic</b> (352) 485-2772	<b>Miles of Smiles</b> (386) 752-9914
<b>Kids Only Dental Place</b> (352) 335-7777	<b>Palm Dental</b> (386) 752-5904
<b>Lafayette County Health Dept.</b> (386) 294-1321 ext 223	<b>Dr. Jerry Smith, Jr.</b> (386) 792-1197
<b>Madison Dental Associates (Dr. Rogers)</b> (850) 973-6621	<b>Suwannee County Health Dept.</b> (386) 362-2708
<b>Madison Health Dept.</b> (850) 973-5000 ext 3	<b>UF College of Dentistry</b> (352) 273-6701 or (352) 273-7643

<b>DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES (DCF)</b> <b>(Child Abuse – Food Stamps – Medicaid – TANF)</b>	
<b>Client Relations Coordinator (Complaints)</b> (800) 342-9004	<b>Food Stamps/Medicaid/Cash Assistance</b> Customer Care (866) 762-2237
<b>Protective Services Investigations</b> Lake City: (386) 243-6067 Live Oak: (386) 243-6129	<b>National Medicaid/Case Fraud Hotline</b> (800) 447-8477 or (800) 633-4227

### ELDERLY SERVICES

<b>Aging &amp; Adult Services</b> Columbia: (386) 755-0235 Suwannee: (386) 364-5814	<b>Area Agency on Aging North Fla.</b> (850) 488-0055
<b>Elder Helpline</b> (800) 262-2243	<b>Human Rights Advocacy Committee</b> (800) 777-4723
<b>Mid. Fla. Area Agency – Elder Options</b> (352) 378-6649 (Suwannee, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison Counties)	<b>SHINE (Elder Helpline)</b> (800) 963-5337

### EMPLOYMENT / EDUCATION / LITERACY

<b>Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities</b> (800) 342-0823 or (TDD) (800) 346-4127 (800) 350-4566 (Spanish/Creole)	<b>CareerSource Florida Crown</b> (386) 755-9026 (Columbia County)
<b>Columbia Adult Education (Literacy)</b> (386)758-4888	<b>G E D Classes</b> (386) 755-8190 or (386) 364-2750 (386)792-7805 (Hamilton County) (800) 342-8170 (Commission on Human Relations) (386) 758-2101 (Lake City Library)
<b>Employment Connection</b> (386) 362-7000 (Suwannee & Hamilton Counties)	<b>Lafayette County GED Information</b> (386) 294-1701
<b>AMI Kids</b> (386)792-0955 (Hamilton County)	<b>Northeast Florida Library Information Network</b> <a href="mailto:School@neflin.org">School@neflin.org</a> Fafsa.ed.gov: 800-433-3243
<b>North Florida Workforce Development Board</b> (850) 973-2672 (Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison & Suwannee)	<b>Worker’s Compensation</b> (800) 342-1741

### EYE CARE

<b>Broome Eye Care &amp; Optical Lake City</b> (386) 466-1062	<b>Dr. Eduardo Bedoya</b> Lake City (386) 755-7595
<b>North Florida Eye Care</b> Lake City (386) 752-1722    Live Oak (386) 362-5055	

### FAMILY SERVICES / PARENTING EDUCATION / DIVORCE

<b>Parents, Children, Divorce (Taylor County)</b> (850) 838-3509	<b>Children’s Home Society Visitation Center</b> (386) 758-0591
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### FOOD SOURCES

<b>Catholic Charities</b> (386)754-9180	<b>Lad's Soup Kitchen</b> (386) 758-2217
<b>Christ Central Ministries of Live Oak</b> (386) 208-1345	<b>Live Oak Church of Christ</b> (386) 364-5922
<b>Christian Mission in Action Ministries</b> (386) 364-4560	<b>Melody Christian Center Live Oak</b> (386) 364-4800
<b>First United Methodist Church</b> (386) 362-2047	<b>New Bethel A.M.E.</b> (386) 792-2323
<b>First Baptist Church of Live Oak</b> (386) 362-1583	<b>New Life Center Ministries</b> (386) 755-7847

### GENERAL LAW

<b>Three Rivers Legal Services</b> (Serving Columbia, Suwannee, Lafayette, Madison, Hamilton & Taylor) (386) 752-5960 or (800) 495-0039	<b>Division of Worker's Compensation</b> (800) 342-1741
	<b>Court Administrator/Mediator</b> (386) 758-2163
<b>Florida Bar Referral Service</b> (800) 342-8011	<b>Americans for Immigrant Justice</b> (305) 573-1106
<b>Florida Call a Law</b> (850) 561-1200	<b>Consumer Product Safety Commission</b> (800) 638-2772
<b>State Attorney's Office</b> (386) 362-2320 or (386) 758-0470	<b>Florida Office of Financial Regulation</b> (800) 848-3792
<b>Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services 1-</b> (800) 435-7352	<b>Florida Department of Transportation</b> (850) 617-2606
<b>Department of Legal Affairs-Citizen Services</b> (850) 414-3990	<b>Immigration and Naturalization Service</b> (800) 375-5283
<b>Office of Citizen Services</b> (800) 321-5366	

### HEALTH / MENTAL HEALTH

#### POISON CONTROL (800) 222-1222

<b>Advent Christian Village</b> (assisted living facility) (800) 647-3353	<b>Lions Club</b> (provides vision assistance & hearing aids) (386) 755-3831
<b>American Diabetes Association</b> (800) 342-2383	<b>Florida Health Line</b> (800) 451-2229
<b>CDS Family &amp; Behavioral Health Services</b> (family counseling, youth shelter) (386) 487-0190	<b>Meridian Behavioral Health</b> (386) 487-0800 or (800) 330-5615
<b>Florida Diagnostic Learning Center</b> (child diagnostics) (386) 792-2877 or (800) 227-0059	<b>National Alliance for the Mentally Ill</b> (703) 524-7600
<b>Kindred at Home</b> (386) 364-4593	<b>Resolutions Health Alliance</b> (Mental Health Consultants) (386) 754-9005
<b>Greenleaf Behavioral Health</b> (800) 247-2747	<b>Shands Home Care</b> (800) 999-2189
	<b>Suwannee Valley Nursing Center</b> (386) 792-1868
<b>Haven Hospice</b> (386) 752-9191	<b>Shepard's Hands Clinic of Suwannee Valley</b> <b>(386)362-1837</b>

**SHELTERS / HOUSING**

<b>Domestic Violence Shelters:</b> <b>Another Way</b> (386) 719-2700 <b>Vivid Visions</b> (386) 364-5957 <b>Youth Shelter:</b> <b>Interface Youth Shelter</b> (386) 487-0190	<b>Housing Authorities:</b> <b>Columbia</b> (386) 752-4227 <b>Hamilton</b> (800) 365-9527 <b>Lafayette</b> (800) 365-9527 <b>Live Oak</b> (386) 362-2123
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**POLICE DEPARTMENTS**

**SHERIFF DEPARTMENTS**

<b>Jasper :</b> (386) 792-1130	<b>Columbia County:</b> (386) 752-9212
<b>Lake City:</b> (386) 752-4344	<b>Hamilton County:</b> (386) 792-1001
<b>Live Oak:</b> (386) 362-7463	<b>Lafayette County:</b> (386) 294-1222
<b>White Springs:</b> (386) 397-2222	<b>Suwannee County:</b> (386) 362-2222
<b>Suwannee County Crime Stoppers:</b> (386) 208-8477	

**SOCIAL SECURITY AND DISABILITY**

<b>Disability Rights Florida</b> (800) 342-0823 or (800) 346-4127 (TDD)	<b>Medicare Hotline</b> (800) 633-4227
<b>Disability Determination</b> (800) 772-1213	<b>Social Security Administration</b> (800) 772-1213 or (386) 755-3227 (Columbia Co.)

**Transportation**

**Suwannee Valley Transit Authority**  
(800) 258-7267

## Suwannee Valley 4Cs Community Assessment 2020-2021

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- i <http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/rural-community-programs/rural-areas-of-opportunity>
- ii <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSST5Y2019.S1701&tid=ACSST1Y2019.S1701>
- iii <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSDT5Y2019.B17006&tid=ACSDT5Y2019.B17006>
- \*Note: The reader is cautioned that when reviewing ACS data provided throughout this report the margin of error is high for the small counties in the service area. (Population under 100,000).
- iv <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/charts/SearchResult.aspx>
- v <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Birth.DataViewer&cid=0595>
- vi <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B17001&tid=ACSDT5Y2019.B17001>;  
<http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Birth.DataViewer&cid=0025>
- vii <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSDP5Y2019.DP05&tid=ACSDP5Y2019.DP05>
- viii <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=S1601&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1601>
- ix <https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/docs/2019CouncilReport.pdf>  
Council on Homelessness 2019 Annual Report, Page 52
- x National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children
- xi <https://www.myflfamilies.com/programs/childwelfare/placement.shtml#1>
- xii LEA Disabilities Survey
- xiii <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=S1501&tid=ACSST5Y2019.S1501>
- xiv [https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/media/document/state/downloads/CHR2019\\_FL.pdf](https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/sites/default/files/media/document/state/downloads/CHR2019_FL.pdf)  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2019 County Health Rankings Report, Page 10
- xv <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=ChartsProfiles.CountyHealthSummary>
- xvi <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/florida/2018/measure/factors/138/description>
- xvii [https://www.flmedical.org/florida/Florida\\_Public/Resources/Opioid/Opioid\\_Statistics.aspx](https://www.flmedical.org/florida/Florida_Public/Resources/Opioid/Opioid_Statistics.aspx)
- xviii <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=ChartsProfiles.OpioidUseDashboard>
- xix Bipartisanpolicy.org
- xx <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5843557/> - April 2018
- xxi <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=ChartsProfiles.OpioidUseDashboard>
- xxii Hill HA, Elam-Evans LD, Yankey D, Singleton JA, Kang Y. Vaccination Coverage Among Children Aged 19–35 Months — United States, 2016. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2017;66:1171–1177. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6643a3>.
- xxiii <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/Charts/OtherIndicators> and <http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/immunization-coverage-surveys-reports/state-surveys.html>
- xxiv <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/Charts/OtherIndicators/NonVitalIndNoGrpDataViewer.aspx?cid=0075>
- xxv <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/school-readiness/article/healthy-children-are-ready-learn>
- xxvi <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B27001&tid=ACSDT5Y2019.B27001>
- xxvii [www.washington.edu/news/2016/01/28/study-shows-u-s-has-greater-link-between-low-birth-rate-and-inequality](http://www.washington.edu/news/2016/01/28/study-shows-u-s-has-greater-link-between-low-birth-rate-and-inequality)
- xxviii [https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67\\_03.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67_03.pdf), page 8
- xxix <http://flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=ChartsProfiles.CountyBirthDataComparison>
- xxx <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Birth.DataViewer&cid=0015>
- xxxi <http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/survey-data/pregnancy-risk-assessment-monitoring-system> (The Florida Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is an ongoing surveillance system, designed to collect data on maternal behaviors and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy. Every year, approximately 2,500 new mothers in Florida are randomly selected to participate.)
- xxxii <http://www.amchp.org>
- xxxiii <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/Charts/OtherIndicators/NonVitalIndNoGrpDataViewer.aspx?cid=0663>
- xxxiv Mental Health America/Childrens Mental Health Matters
- xxxv <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/charts/SocialAndMentalHealth/default.aspx>
- xxxvi <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditions/substance-abuse>
- xxxvii <https://www.nokidhungry.org/sites/default/files/child-economy-study.pdf>
- xxxviii <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/Charts/OtherIndicators/NonVitalIndRateOnlyDataViewer.aspx?cid=9910>
- xxxix <http://www.flhealthcharts.com/Charts/OtherIndicators/NonVitalIndNoGrpDataViewer.aspx?cid=0560>
- xl <http://www.floridajobs.org/workforce-statistics/workforce-statistics-data-releases/monthly-data-releases>
- xli <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B19058&tid=ACSDT5Y2019.B19058>
- xlii SVTA website
- xliii CP1039 and Parent Survey
- xliv OEL Summary
- xlv OEL Fact Book, SR Providers and SR Enrollments by Age, 17-18
- xlvi ELCFG January 2021

xlvi ELCFG May 2019

xlviii OEL Fact Book, VPK Providers, 2018-19

xlx [https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Florida\\_YB2019\\_Rev.pdf](https://nieer.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Florida_YB2019_Rev.pdf)

<sup>1</sup> Healthy Families Florida Website

<sup>ii</sup> DCF public search

<sup>iii</sup> Children and Family's Needs Assessment – Community Survey, Jan 2021