

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Resilient Coastal Georgia collaborative partners work together in Chatham, Effingham and Bryan Counties to build resilient and trauma-informed communities.

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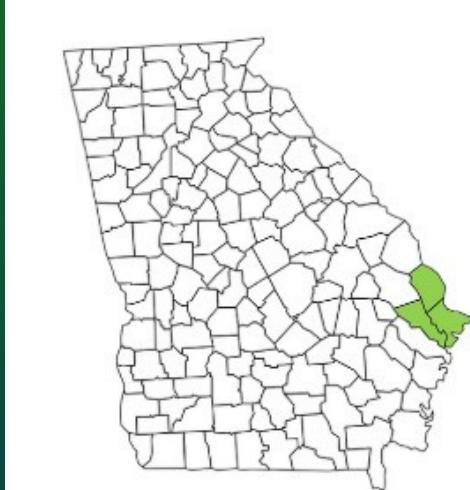
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Resilient Georgia has been working with 16 regions across Georgia to provide an emphasis on trauma-informed awareness and care, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and child sexual abuse prevention training as a basis to transform systems and procedures crossing both public and private sectors.

- Resilient Georgia serves as a supportive and guiding resource during each region's planning and implementation process.
- These regional action plans each address the behavioral health needs of individuals birth through 26 years old and families in the community and surrounding counties using the Collective Impact framework (a diverse, robust and well-planned public-private partnership).
- Trauma-Informed Care, ACEs and child sexual abuse prevention can be the basis for systemic changes in a community. Each region has identified how one or more of these content areas are delivered to diverse community members through formal training, education, marketing and communications.
- In November of 2019, Resilient Georgia began partnering with Round 1 regional coalitions based out of Athens, Augusta, Macon, Savannah and surrounding areas. Round 2 partnerships began in July 2020 with regional coalitions based out of Albany, Columbus, Rome, Thomasville and surrounding areas. Round 3 partnerships began in March 2021 with regional coalitions based out of Clayton, Cobb, Gwinnett, Valdosta and surrounding areas. Round 4 partnerships began in December 2021 with regional coalitions based out of Atlanta, Brunswick, Gainesville, and Waycross and the surrounding areas.
- In their third and fourth years of partnership with Resilient Georgia, coalitions have bolstered their work to create bold, systemic, sustainable change in consistent ways across statewide issues, to affect policy, systems and environmental (PSE) change and incorporated a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) lens in their action plans.
- In their fifth and sixth years of partnership, coalitions were to deepen their efforts to effectively engage partners across all regional counties, ensuring comprehensive representation and participation, particularly in under-resourced and historically underserved areas.





*A regional coalition of*



# MISSION STATEMENT

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**To transform our communities  
from hurting to healing  
by building a trauma-informed  
and resilient region.**

# Summary

Resilient Coastal Georgia is a strong coalition fostering trauma-informed policy, systems and environmental change to cultivate resilience in the coastal region of Georgia.

Our focus:



Resilient Coastal Georgia developed a Collective Impact Framework to guide efforts in two (2) rural counties, one (1) urban city, and suburban areas in the region, with targeted groups including:

- Public school systems
- Out-of-School Networks including YMCA, faith communities, libraries, recreation centers and youth serving organizations
- Judicial and first responder organizations
- Behavioral health providers.



**Kim  
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## Steering Committee Leadership



**Molly  
Lieberman**

Loop It Up Savannah



**Maureen  
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McFadden Therapy and  
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**Holly  
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Deep Center



**Kate  
Blair**

Brightside Child and Family  
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**Lydia  
McCrary**

Chatham Fire BHU



**Tameka  
Tribble**

SCCPSS



**Vira  
Salzburn**

The Mediation Center of  
the Coastal Empire

# Coalition Partners

## Public:

Chatham County

- Juvenile and Superior Courts
- District Attorney's Office
- Youth Intercept
- Fire Department
- Park and Recreation

City of Savannah

- Human Services
- Neighborhood Safety & Engagement
- Recreation Department
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Police Department

## Private:

- Next Step Evaluation
- Front Porch Improv
- Heart Property Solutions

## Regional Partners:

- Bryan Family Connections
- Bryan County Public Schools
- Effingham Family Connections
- Effingham Co. Public Schools

## Academic:

- Georgia Southern University
- Savannah Technical College

## Healthcare Providers:

- Gateway Community Service Board
- Georgia Department of Health Coastal Health District
- Memorial Health/HCA

## Juvenile Justice:

Chatham County

- Juvenile Court
- District Attorney's Office

## Community Organizations:

- First Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
- Overcoming By Faith
- Live Oak Public Libraries (Chatham, Effingham, Bryan & Liberty Counties)
- St. Thomas Episcopal Church

## First Responders:

Chatham County

- Emergency Services
- Savannah Fire
- Savannah Police
- Chatham County Police
- Port Wentworth Police
- Garden City Police
- Behavioral Health Units (BHU)

## Early Childhood Education:

- Child Care Resource & Referral
- YMCA of the Coastal Empire

## Georgia Department for Early Care & Learning:

- Southeast Region

## Georgia Department of Family & Child Services:

- Chatham

## Non-Profits:

- YMCA of the Coastal Georgia,
- United Way of the Coastal Empire
- Parent University
- Family Promise
- Brightside Advocacy (CASA)
- Mediation Center
- Coastal Ga Indicators Coalition
- Loop it Up Savannah
- Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless

## Parents & Caregivers:

- Parent University
- Shelter from the Rain

## Youth Serving Organizations:

- Deep Center
- Park Place Outreach
- Loop It Up Savannah
- Chatham County Youth Intercept
- The Front Porch
- Frank Callen's Boys & Girls Club

## Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities:

- Region 5

## Schools & Educational Centers:

- Savannah Chatham Co. Public School System (SCCPSS)
- Brantley Co. Public School System
- Bryan Co. Public School System
- Effingham Public School System

# Coalition Partners



# Regional Partners

## Chatham, Bryan and Effingham Counties

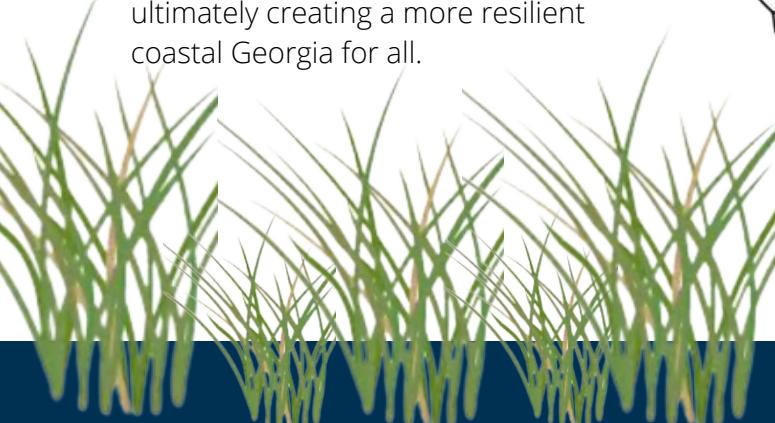
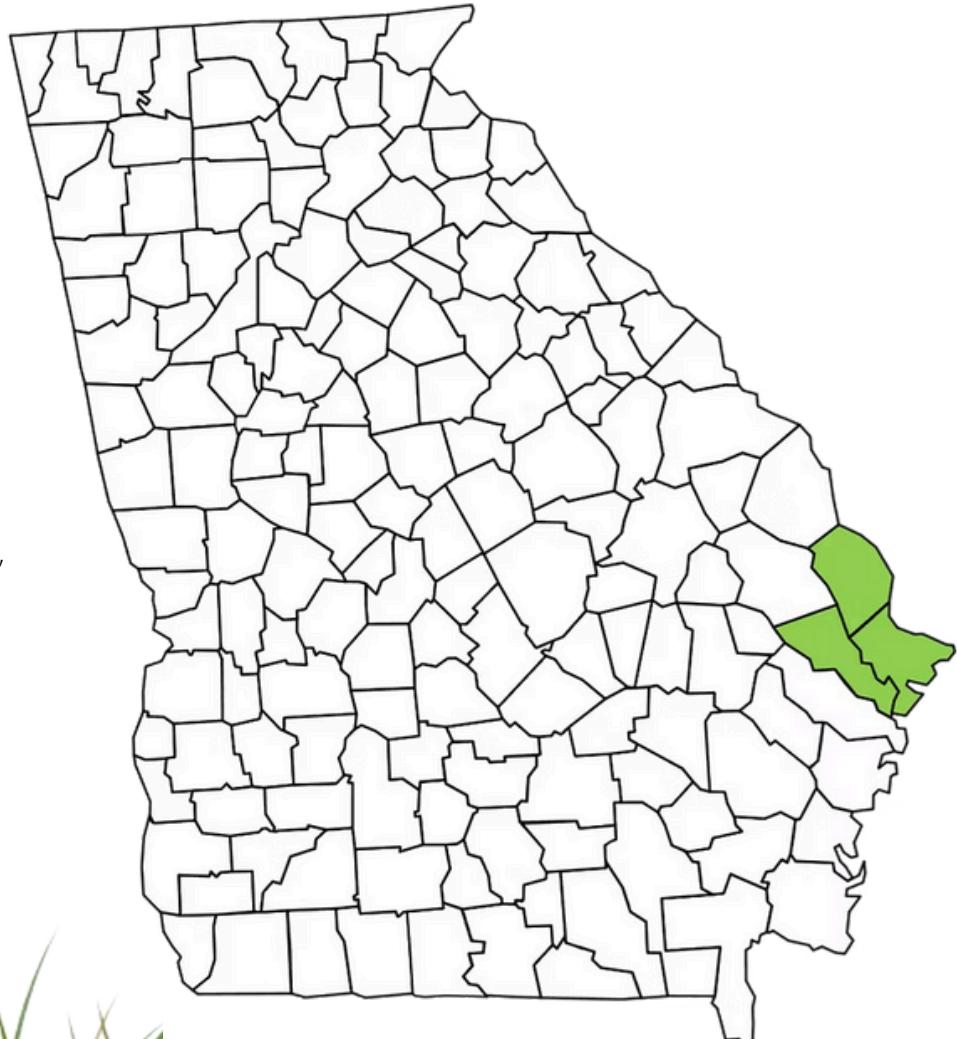
The Resilient Coastal Georgia Coalition represents a powerful tri-county partnership spanning Chatham, Bryan, and Effingham counties in coastal Georgia, working collectively to build trauma-resilient communities and improve mental well-being for children, youth, and families across the coastal region.

This collaboration is strengthened through coordination with the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition (CGIC), which serves as the lead agency for the Chatham Family Connection Collaborative, the Bryan County Family Connection and the Effingham County Family Connection. Through this unique network, the coalition empowers all three counties to craft local solutions based on local decisions, while maintaining the data infrastructure and community partnerships essential for measuring progress and impact.

Each county brings together community partners to develop, implement, and evaluate plans that address the challenges facing children and families. This coordinated approach ensures efficient resource flow across county lines and best practice sharing through the region.

By engaging partners from public schools, mental health agencies, community organizations, local governments, and beyond, the Resilient Coastal Georgia Coalition demonstrates the power of cross-sector collaboration to create lasting, systemic change.

Together, these three counties are proving that regional collaboration—anchored by strong local Family Connection partnerships—can transform how communities prevent and heal childhood adversity, ultimately creating a more resilient coastal Georgia for all.



# Message from Coalition Leadership



**RESILIENT**  
**COASTAL GEORGIA**

Dear Friends and Partners,

Year 6 of Resilient Coastal Georgia has been a powerful testament to what happens when diverse organizations unite around a shared vision. From classrooms to police departments, from youth programs to healthcare settings, our coalition partners have woven trauma-informed approaches into the fabric of our region. The Mediation Center, Deep Center, Loop It Up Savannah, Bryan County Family Connection, Effingham Family Connection, and countless other partners have demonstrated that meaningful systems change happens through collaboration, not isolation.

The successes documented in the following pages—over 2,400 people trained, hundreds of youth served, policy changes embedded trauma informed practices in city and county funding processes, the local public schools system, school construction guidelines, and innovative programs like Savannah Solutions connecting families to comprehensive support—reflect the dedication and expertise of our entire coalition. Each organization brings unique strengths, and together we create something greater: a region where trauma-informed care is becoming the expectation, not the exception.

Yet even as we celebrate these achievements, we know the work continues. Every child who needs support, every educator seeking tools for their classroom, every family navigating crisis reminds us why this matters. We remain committed, energized, and ready—because building truly resilient communities is not a destination but an ongoing journey we take together.

With gratitude and determination,

The Resilient Coastal Georgia Leadership Team



# Collective Impact Framework

**GOAL:** Build trauma-resilient communities, working together to prevent and heal childhood adversity

**Backbone Organization**  
Convene, sponsor, manage and support initiative

## Steering Committee

Steering committee – provide strategic direction and oversight to the initiative, representing a broad swath of constituents

Work Group #1 – School-based collaborative model of trauma-responsive team

Work Group #2 – Trauma-informed and trauma-sensitive out-of-school network

Work Group #5 – Robust and consistent model of response across behavioral health providers

Work Group #3 – Trauma-informed capacity-building across judicial and first responder systems

Work Group #4 – Regional trauma-informed systems change and capacity-building in 13 counties

Work groups (4-6) – identify and implement strategies; align around a function or group of strategies; engage stakeholder groups

## Communications

## Data

Connecting Groups – support strategies/tactics across work groups (examples only; initiative determines appropriate number and type of connecting groups)

## Our Approach

*The value of the Collective Impact Framework strengthens our ability to transform complex social problems by uniting diverse stakeholders around a shared vision, ensuring coordinated and mutually reinforcing activities, and tracking progress and adjusting strategies as needed. By fostering collaboration, aligning efforts, and focusing on long-term policy, systems and environmental change, Collective Impact enables us to address challenges in a more holistic and effective manner.*

# Snapshot of Key Impacts Years 1 - 6

## YEAR 2

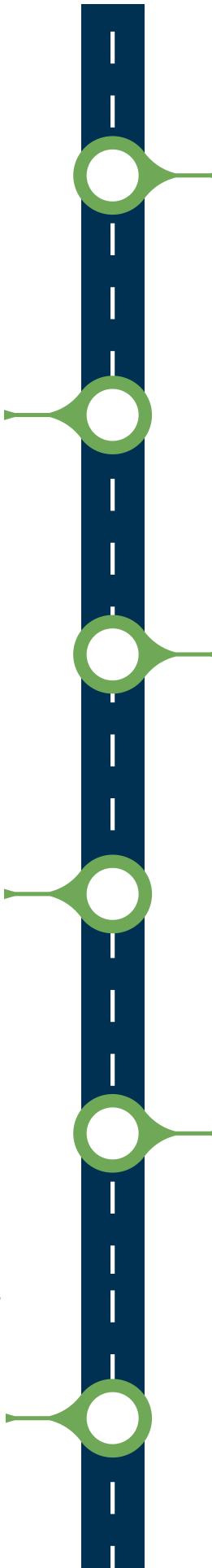
- Increased Capacity of Safety and Resilience Programs: Trauma Sensitive Interactions, Community Resilience Model, Mindful Self Compassion, Front Porch ACTS, and Trauma Sensitive Yoga
- Handle with Care launch with Savannah Police and Public School System
- 1st Edition Learning Mindfulness Zone Curriculum & Teacher guide finalized - 12 story book-based units
- Mindfulness Zone Space at Brock Elementary
- 3030 children received Mindfulness Resources

## YEAR 4

- 165 Handle with Care referrals in Chatham
- 82 Handle with Care referrals in Effingham
- 7,275 Mindfulness Zone Program student participants, ages 4-18
- RCG website over 2,800 site visits
- 55 Community Resilience Model (CRM) training sessions to 1,345 community members
- Resilience Enhancement and Leadership Model (REALM) developed - 170 participants

## YEAR 6

- 2,438 trained in Safety and Resilience programs
- Trauma Informed Assessment implemented in policy at City of Savannah and Chatham County
- Mindfulness Zones and school gardens implemented in construction plans for SCCPSS
- First Handle With Care recognition ceremony held
- Positive Peer Influence program grew to over 300 youth mentors



## YEAR 1

- 8,000 participate in Suicide Prevention training
- 500 Mindfulness Zone @ Home Tool Boxes
- 1st Trauma Informed Schools Symposium (TIES)
- 575 community members attend virtual MH Symposium
- Suicide Root Cause Analysis
- Mindful Self Compassion implemented and scaled

## YEAR 3

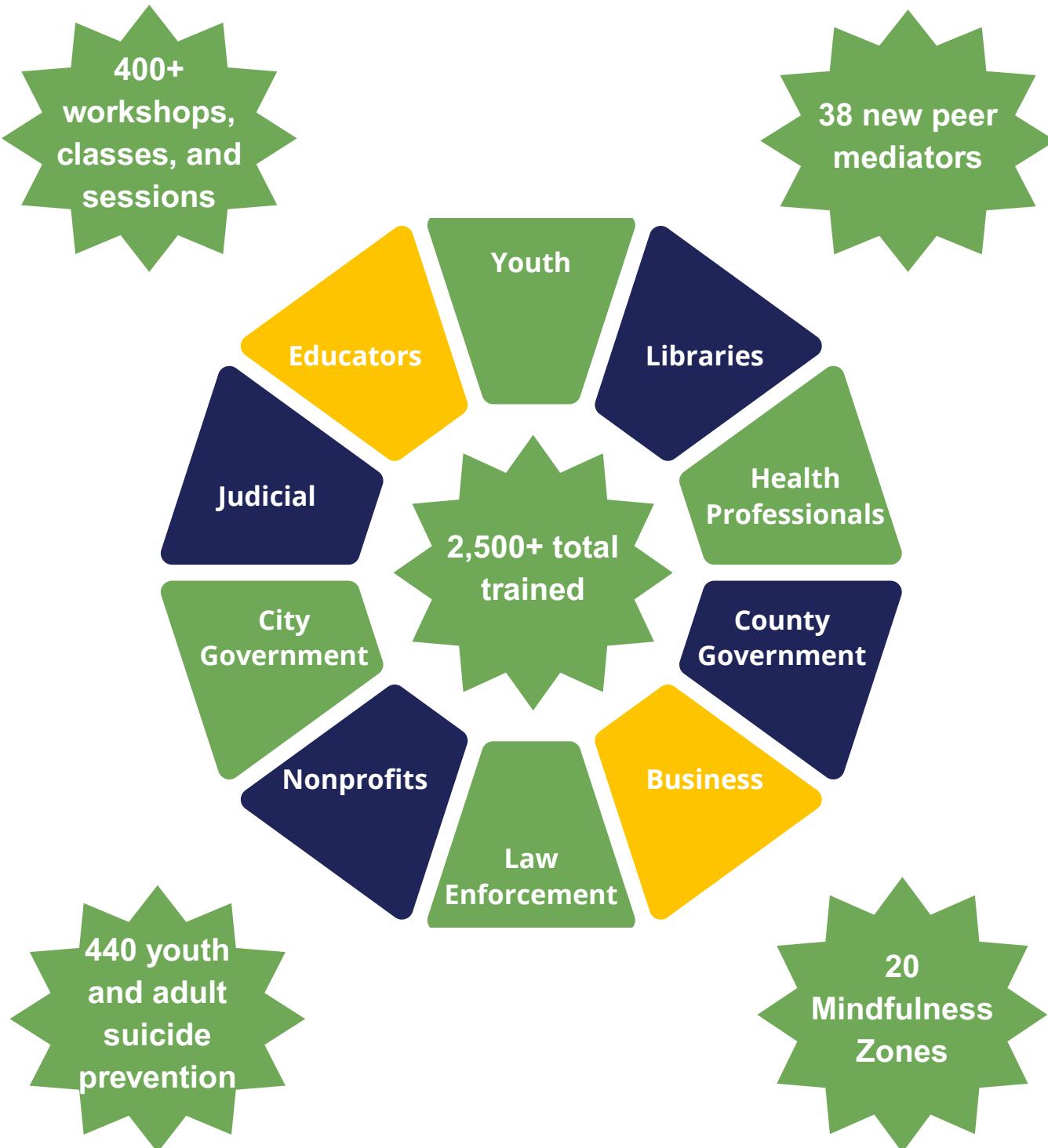
- Resilient Coastal GA Website
- Collective Impact Framework developed and implemented
- Steering Committee and Work Groups established
- 20 Mindfulness Zones completed
- Resilient Toolkits for youth developed in English and Spanish

## YEAR 5

- Resilient Schools Resource Guide for SCCPSS
- Chatham Co. Juvenile Court trained 125 individuals in Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) including 13 agencies
- Inclusion DEI subject matter experts in Steering Committee
- Trauma Informed Assessment Tool and Training included in Blueprint Funding recommendations
- Suicide Prevention Task Force Formation
- Mindfulness Zones expansion in Bryan and Effingham Counties

# Key Impacts/ Accomplishments

Resilient Coastal Georgia continues to strengthen trauma-informed systems across the coastal region through strategic partnerships and collaborative programming. In Year 6, our coalition deepened its impact through expanded training initiatives, innovative partnerships, and significant policy changes that demonstrate our commitment to creating lasting systems change. Below are just a few of the accomplishments over the year and sectors reached.



# Key Impacts/ Accomplishments

## Training & Capacity Building

2,483 participants across Coastal Georgia received trauma-informed training through The Mediation Center's Safety & Resilience programming, including:

- Community Resiliency Model (CRM): 33 sessions reaching 521 participants across city staff, libraries, schools, and first responders
- SuicideTALK: 10 sessions serving 372 individuals in schools and youth programs
- Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC): 17 sessions for 231 educators and parents
- REALM & Resilient Teams: 16 sessions for 263 SPD, EMS, and corporate leaders
- Trauma-Sensitive Yoga (TSY): 110 sessions serving 425 youth and families
- ASIST: 8 sessions for 131 behavioral health and community leaders

The Mediation Center also provided 4 training sessions in Restorative Practices, reaching 97 participants across multiple sectors including the District Attorney's office, SCCPSS, healthcare systems, and community organizations. Additionally, 38 new Peer Mediators were trained through youth programming.

Deep Center's Healing Schools Initiative provided extensive professional development:

- 40 workshops reaching over 200 unique adult participants in youth-serving schools and organizations
- Deep Writing Project Summer Intensive served 12 educators
- Fierce Self Compassion for Educators engaged 10 participants
- Writing Fellow and Ed Fellow Training prepared 32 adult mentors
- In-Service Professional Development reached 83 educators across multiple topics including restorative practices, trauma-informed boundaries, and cross-cultural communication

Loop It Up Savannah expanded mindfulness training across two counties:

- Chatham County: Over 539 students across grades 2-7 participated in regular mindfulness programming at Gadsden Elementary and other schools
- 15 Chatham County schools engaged: Trainings completed or scheduled for 330+ educators across elementary, K-8, middle, and high schools.
- Williams Elementary intensive support: 30 drop-in sessions throughout spring semester to reinforce Mindful Monday training and demonstrate practical classroom integration during morning routines.
- White Bluff new teacher onboarding: Provided 12 classroom sessions for first-year teachers, modeling Mindful Monday practices for different points in the school day, with decks provided to each teacher for continued use.
- Effingham County: Launched a 5-school pilot program serving hundreds of students and staff
- Teacher training sessions held across multiple schools, with ongoing professional development

Effingham Family Connection partnered with Tharros Place to provide human trafficking awareness training to 62 attendees and collaborated with Effingham Emergency Management for hurricane preparedness training reaching 52 participants.

Bryan County Family Connection hosted:

- SuicideTalk Training with 22 attendees
- CRM Training for 10 participants
- Handle With Care training planned for Pembroke Police Department

# Key Impacts/ Accomplishments

## Youth Programming & Engagement

Deep Center served 446 youth and 32 adults through 400 annual workshops across multiple programs:

- Young Author's Project
- Block by Block advanced creative writing lab
- Drop-In programs (ages 7-18)
- SLAM Team (6 youth poets)
- Action Research Team (12 youth conducting participatory research)
- 912 Freedom School (23 youth in summer intensive)

The Mediation Center expanded youth leadership initiatives:

- Positive Peer Influencers (PPI) grew from 60 to 300 high school mentors across 7 schools
- Youth mentors facilitate peer-to-peer conversations about leadership, mental health, and substance-use prevention

## Systems Change & Policy Impact

Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

- Loop It Up's Mindfulness Zones and School Gardens were integrated into SCCPSS construction guidelines, ensuring these spaces are included in all new school buildings and major renovations
- Henderson Formey Early Learning School became the first school to include a designated Mindfulness Zone in their renovated building
- Restorative Practices integrated into the Student Code of Conduct through partnership with The Mediation Center

Deep Center achieved significant policy wins:

- Developed and piloted Trauma-Informed Restorative Apology Letter Templates at Savannah High School, which led to a K-8 partner school requesting an age-appropriate adaptation
- Established an Intergenerational Restorative Practices Committee at Savannah High School, co-creating community commitments and access protocols for the school's Mindfulness Space
- Microgrant Program resulted in multiple classroom and school-based changes to promote restorative and trauma-responsive environments

Bryan County Sheriff's Office After attending CRM and SuicideTalk training through Bryan County Family Connection and The Mediation Center, leadership is creating new policies related to officer-involved high-stress incidents and resulting trauma, including:

- Implementing a peer-debriefing program
- Creating a comfortable space for debriefing meetings
- Incorporating trauma-related trainings into FTO training practices and policies

Effingham County School District Following the success of Loop It Up's 5-school pilot program, Superintendent Dr. Yancy Ford requested expansion to all 15 schools in the district. A presentation on Mindfulness Awareness Zones led to the decision to implement this approach district-wide.

# Key Impacts/ Accomplishments

## **System Change and Policy Impact continued**

SAFE Shelter Adopted formal trauma-informed policies with consultation from The Mediation Center.

City of Savannah Incorporated CRM into employee onboarding and Human Services training through partnership with The Mediation Center.

## **Statewide Leadership**

The Mediation Center established a formal partnership with the Georgia Department of Education as a state-approved provider for the Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT) program, delivering 8 evidence-based trainings to schools and districts statewide at no cost to participants. This positions Coastal Georgia as a leader in statewide trauma-informed education.

## **Community Engagement & Awareness**

Peace in the Park 2025 Over 1,600 residents gathered at Daffin Park for The Mediation Center's annual community celebration featuring live music, conversation circles, and the presentation of Peacebuilder Awards—Savannah's largest community-based trauma-informed gathering.

Savannah Solutions A monthly meeting launched in October 2024 by the Resilient Coastal Georgia Team has grown from 8 to 20 people representing diverse agencies. The meetings provide a space for community providers to present cases where they feel "stuck" and identify resources, resulting in direct connections between families and services.

## **Collective Impact**

The collective work of RCG partners demonstrates how trauma-informed approaches create ripple effects across systems. When Bryan County Sheriff's Office officers received training from The Mediation Center, they not only changed department policies but also inspired two collaborative partners to pursue CRM Teacher Training. When Loop It Up establishes Mindfulness Zones, they partner with The Mediation Center (Trauma Sensitive Yoga) and Brightside (Front Porch Acts) to layer complementary programming. When Deep Center trains educators in restorative practices, those teachers implement changes that reduce behavioral referrals by 30% and create more equitable learning environments.

This interconnected approach—where training leads to policy change, policy change creates demand for more training, and multiple organizations support the same schools and systems—exemplifies the power of collective impact in building truly resilient communities.

# TIC/ACEs Prevention/Intervention

## **Loop It Up Savannah's Mindfulness Programming**

Loop It Up expanded evidence-based mindfulness interventions across Chatham and Effingham counties, serving over 7,500 students directly through school-based programming.

### Chatham County Impact:

At Gadsden Elementary School, 503 students and 37 teachers participate in ongoing monthly workshops through the Mindfulness Zone program. Teacher feedback demonstrates the program's impact:

- "It helps the teaching and learning process flow smoothly and benefit[s] the whole student." - Gadsden Elementary, 4th Grade Teacher
- "A great program for students who need support in socializing with peers and practicing mindfulness" - Gadsden, 4th Grade Teacher
- "I think it's an excellent program that empowers kids with life skills that will enable them to be productive adults in the future." - Gadsden Elementary, 5th Grade Teacher

Fall 2025 survey data from 539 students across grades 2-7 revealed:

- 90% demonstrated social/emotional skills
- 87% demonstrated positive peer interactions
- 66.2% demonstrated leadership skills
- Over 90% of students are open to using mindfulness outside of school
- 79.4% overall positive student impact

Teachers reported that 80-100% of their students are showing growth in emotional regulation, peer relationships, and leadership. Observed mindfulness skills include breathing techniques, conflict resolution, focused attention, kindness and empathy, self-awareness and patience, and intrinsic motivation and responsibility.

### Effingham County Expansion:

Loop It Up launched a 5-school pilot program, with each school implementing customized approaches:

- Rincon Elementary School: Calm Corner supplies and teacher training for all K-2nd grade classrooms
- South Effingham Middle: Enhanced sensory room resources for adaptive learning students, with 90.5% of students showing mood improvement and 100% of dysregulated students experiencing improved regulation
- EnCompass Academy: Complete Mindfulness Zone plus classroom calm corner baskets
- Crossroads Academy: Flexible seating and mindfulness resources
- Effingham College and Career High School: Teacher wellness room for staff support

## **Tharros Place Training Enhancement**

Through support from Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition, Tharros Place staff participated in Onsite Technical Assistance training from the Freedom Network Training Institute, deepening expertise in:

- Trauma and Adolescent Development
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Voluntary Services
- Vicarious Trauma

The training fostered meaningful team bonding and skill development, reinforcing the organization's commitment to providing compassionate, informed care for youth survivors of human trafficking.

# TIC/ACEs Prevention/Intervention

## **The Mediation Center's Youth Mental Health Initiatives**

During September 2025 Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, The Mediation Center trained over 440 youth and adults through suicide prevention/intervention training while promoting the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

The Positive Peer Influencers program expanded dramatically from 60 to 300 high school mentors serving as leaders across 7 schools, facilitating peer-to-peer conversations about leadership, mental health, and substance-use prevention—strengthening protective factors for younger students.

## **Deep Center's Youth Development Programs**

Deep Center served 446 youth through 400 annual workshops, providing spaces for young people to process trauma through creative expression:

- Young Author's Project: Entry-level writing and mentorship where students explore language, narrative, and identity while developing literacy skills
- Block by Block: Advanced creative writing lab where high school youth explore community voices and stories through arts and civic education
- Drop-In: Open-access program (ages 7-18) offering writing, visual arts, zine-making, and spoken word workshops
- SLAM Team: 6 youth poets competing nationally, awarded "Spirit of the Competition" at Brave New Voices
- Action Research Team: 12 high school youth conducting participatory action research on systemic challenges; created "Deep Spaces" workshops for peer conversations on topics not covered in school
- 912 Freedom School: 23 youth (ages 13-18) engaged in politically grounded, culturally rooted youth development

Survey data showed that 55% of Young Author Project participants reported improved grades in ELA during program semesters, and 70% of Action Research Team members expressed greater confidence in identifying and acting on problems impacting themselves and peers.

## **Park Place Outreach's Prevention Program**

Park Place launched a new Prevention program incorporating three novel priorities:

- Upstream prevention addressing social determinants of health before crisis, providing cash assistance, case management, mental and behavioral health counseling, and family strengthening
- Youth Action Board comprised of youth with lived experience informing project planning and implementation
- Development of role-playing training videos from a youth perspective for new hires on trauma-informed interactions

# TIC/ACEs Advocacy and Policy, Systems and Environmental

*This work aligns with RG strategies A4 (Promote the Adoption of Evidence Based Practices to Prevent ACEs and Foster PCEs), C1 (Communicate, Promote, and Implement the Elements of a Common Language), and D2 (Partner with Diverse Stakeholders to Drive a Policy Agenda Informed by the Community and Focused on Sustainable Systems Change).*

## **Capital Infrastructure Changes**

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System made a groundbreaking decision to include Mindfulness Zones and School Gardens in construction guidelines for all new and renovated school buildings. This systems-level change ensures that trauma-informed spaces are built into the physical infrastructure of schools rather than being dependent solely on grant funding.

Henderson Formey Early Learning School became the first to include a designated Mindfulness Room in their renovated building. Loop It Up is currently consulting with architects for a renovated building that will house all four district alternative schools, with each school's wing including Mindfulness, Calm Down, or Sensory spaces.

## **School District Policy Integration**

Multiple school districts integrated trauma-informed practices into official policies:

### Savannah-Chatham County Public School System:

- Restorative Practices integrated into the Student Code of Conduct through partnership with The Mediation Center and Deep Center
- 30% reduction in school behavioral referrals following implementation of trauma-informed approaches

### Effingham County School District:

- Superintendent Dr. Yancy Ford committed to district-wide Mindfulness Zone implementation across all 15 schools following successful 5-school pilot
- Five schools expanded from initial Mindfulness Awareness Zones to comprehensive implementation

## **Organizational Policy Changes**

Bryan County Sheriff's Office: Following training from The Mediation Center and Bryan County Family Connection, leadership is creating new policies related to officer-involved high-stress incidents:

- Peer-debriefing program
- Designated comfortable space for debriefing meetings
- Trauma-related training incorporated into Field Training Officer (FTO) practices and policies

City of Savannah: Incorporated CRM into employee onboarding and Human Services training through partnership with The Mediation Center.

SAFE Shelter: Adopted formal trauma-informed policies with consultation from The Mediation Center. New de-escalation and trauma-responsive initiatives emphasize self-regulation, situational awareness, and safety through connection rather than control.

Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire: Updated Employee Handbook to require CRM training within the first year of employment; youth volunteers required to complete Youth Mental Health First Aid Training.

# TIC/ACEs Advocacy and Policy, Systems and Environmental

## Organizational Policy Changes continued

### YMCA of the Coastal Empire:

- Hired 2 Youth Behavior Specialists trained in CRM to keep children connected to programming who might otherwise face expulsion
- Hired two staff support specialists running Professional Learning Communities
- All new childcare staff required to complete 3 hours of DECAL credited CRM training in first 90 days
- Implementing Conscious Discipline in Child Learning Centers
- Increased Family Engagement events to strengthen parental partnership

## Restorative Practice Tools and Systems

Deep Center led development of innovative tools that shifted school discipline practices:

Trauma-Informed Restorative Apology Letter Templates: Deep Center engaged educators and students in co-designing a tool that centers reconnection, accountability, and repair rather than shame. Piloted at Savannah High School and integrated into the school's restorative discipline process, the template's success led a K-8 partner school to request an age-appropriate adaptation, signaling growing district-level interest in restorative alternatives to punitive discipline.

Intergenerational Restorative Practices Committee: Deep Center helped Savannah High School establish a committee cultivating shared ownership of school climate work—unlike traditional adult-only implementation teams. The committee's first major accomplishment was co-creating community commitments and access protocols for the school's new Mindfulness Space. Multiple students requested the process continue in future years, and other partner schools have expressed interest in replicating the model.

Mindfulness Space Implementation Support: Deep Center supported full implementation and usage of Mindfulness Spaces by:

- Providing age-appropriate materials and manipulatives
- Leading dialogue processes to create Community Usage Agreements
- Developing policies and procedures for student access, including specific hall passes and plans
- Creating training materials to re-introduce spaces to educators and build buy-in

Microgrant Program: Deep Center's Healing Schools Initiative offers microgrants for educators and school-based staff with individualized support to make sustainable changes to spaces and pedagogical practices aligned with four restorative principles: meaningful equity-centered SEL, student engagement and voice, building relationships, and culturally-affirming practices.

## Statewide Systems Change

The Mediation Center's partnership with the Georgia Department of Education as a state-approved MHAT provider extends Coastal Georgia's trauma-informed influence statewide, delivering 8 evidence-based trainings across multiple school districts at no cost to participants.

# TIC/ACEs Advocacy and Policy, Systems and Environmental

## Advancing Trauma-Informed Systems Through Policy Change

The City of Savannah and Chatham County governments have taken significant steps toward embedding trauma-informed practices into their funding structures, marking a shift from individual training efforts to sustainable, policy-level change.

Both jurisdictions have revised their grant award processes to require trauma-informed organizational assessments for all funded organizations. This requirement, now formalized in Memorandums of Understanding, helps grantees examine their policies, procedures, and organizational culture through a trauma-informed lens. In addition to the assessment, The City of Savannah strongly recommends that grantees participate in trauma-informed training, while Chatham County requires a designated percentage of each grantee's staff to complete this training, ensuring that knowledge and practice extend throughout funded organizations.

Resilient Coastal Georgia has been instrumental in supporting both the City and County through this process, providing technical assistance, consultation, and resources to help translate trauma-informed principles into concrete policy language and implementation strategies.

These policy changes represent a fundamental shift in how local government supports community health infrastructure. By incorporating trauma-informed requirements into funding agreements, both the City and County are creating accountability structures that promote long-term organizational change. As these practices become standard expectations for grant recipients, the foundation is being laid for a more coordinated, trauma-responsive system of care across the community.

### City of Savannah

#### City Contract language:

Trauma-Informed Care Organizational Assessment & Training: The CITY, in collaboration with Chatham County and the United Way of the Coastal Empire, partnered with the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition and Resilient Coastal Georgia to inform non-profit agencies of the value of utilizing trauma-informed practices with their staff and those they serve.

- a. The RECIPIENT must complete the Resilient Coastal Georgia Trauma-Informed Organizational Assessment with their staff within the first reporting period.
- b. The RECIPIENT is strongly encouraged to engage in one of the trainings listed below during the contract period.
  - i. Mandating Reporter (Child Abuse Reporting)
  - ii. Credible Messenger
  - iii. Motivational Interviewing
  - iv. Restorative Practices
  - v. Community Resiliency Model (CRM)
  - vi. Connections Matter (Trauma Informed)

### Chatham County

#### County Contract language:

Chatham County will be REQUIRING ALL AWARDED ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES that a minimum of 25% of staff and/or volunteers from the organization complete the Trauma Informed assessment provided by Resilient Coastal GA by and no later than the Quarter 1 reporting period. Note that staff members who submit the assessment will stay anonymous.

After staff members and/or volunteers have completed the assessment, each agency will be provided with their specific results. Resilient Coastal Georgia will contact the organization to help determine next steps in policies and operations to become trauma informed.

In addition to the assessment, Chatham County will REQUIRE ALL AWARDED ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES that a minimum of 25% of staff or volunteers engage in 1-3 hours of the trainings listed below during the awarded year and to be completed by the Quarter 4 reporting period. Once complete, Chatham County will request a copy of certification of completion from training that was attended for proof of attendance.

# TIC/ACEs Training

## The Mediation Center's Comprehensive Training Portfolio

Between November 2024 and November 2025, The Mediation Center provided 215 training sessions reaching 2,483 participants across Coastal Georgia:

Training Type	Sessions	Participants	Primary Audiences
Community Resiliency Model (CRM)	33	521	City staff, libraries, schools, first responders
SuicideTALK (youth & adult)	10	372	Schools & youth programs
Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC)	17	231	Educators & parents
REALM & Resilient Teams	16	263	SPD, EMS, corporate leaders
Trauma-Sensitive Yoga (TSY)	110	425	Youth & families
Trauma-Sensitive Interactions (TSI)	2	156	Public health staff
Tactical Body	9	150	Savannah Police Department
ASIST	8	131	Behavioral health & community leaders
TRUST	3	50	Corporate & school teams
School Support System	4	98	Educators and School Staff
Trauma-Sensitive Mindfulness	2	74	Educators and school staff
Mental Health First Aid	1	12	DPH staff
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>2,483</b>	

### Key partnerships included:

- Savannah Police Department: Tactical Body training developed and provided to all 400+ SPD officers addressing physical and emotional health
- Savannah State University: CRM and suicide prevention training for all First-Year Experience students (300+ students); monthly radio educational conversations on WHCJ 90.3 FM reaching approximately 12,000 listeners per quarter hour
- Gateway Community Service Board: Joint behavioral health training initiatives
- Coastal Health District/Department of Public Health: Key staff across 8 counties trained in Trauma Sensitive Interactions

### Restorative Practices Programming:

- Restorative Practices Workshop: 3 sessions, 64 participants
- Restorative Conference Facilitation Training: 2 sessions, 33 participants
- Total: 97 participants representing diverse sectors including DA's office, City of Savannah, SSU, SCCPSS, healthcare, juvenile court, and multiple community organizations

### Youth Peer Mediation:

- 38 new Peer Mediators trained in restorative justice and conflict resolution principles, learning active listening, reframing, de-escalation, and collaborative problem-solving.
- Training impact data showed:
  - 92% improved self-regulation
  - 87% plan to apply skills
  - Georgia Southern University conducting mixed-methods evaluation study

# TIC/ACEs Training

## Deep Center's Educator Development

Deep Center provided 40 workshops reaching over 200 unique adult participants in youth-serving schools and community organizations:

- Deep Writing Project Summer Intensive (12 participants): Two weeks of daily workshops supporting local educators to develop as writers, develop critical literacies, and gain leadership skills as agents of change. Each participant developed an individual Social Action Project for measurable change in their educational setting.
- Fierce Self Compassion for Educators (10 participants): Deep Center staff, certified as Mindful Self Compassion teachers, adapted curriculum to add values of systemic analysis and equity. Participants engaged in practices to identify and interrupt burnout and secondary trauma.
- Deep Writing Fellow and Ed Fellow Training (32 participants): Prepared adult mentors to facilitate creative writing workshops grounded in trauma-informed, culturally sustaining, and healing-centered practices using Deep's Healing Literacy Framework.
- In-Service Professional Development (83 participants): Deep Center partnered with schools and the district to provide workshops on:
  - Unpacking Respect from a Restorative Perspective
  - Gratitude and Restorative School Culture
  - Trauma-Informed Boundaries and Cross-Cultural Communication

Evaluation data showed statistically significant changes in participants' self-compassion, self-efficacy, and hope, including reducing educators' feelings of inadequacy and loneliness while increasing tolerance and patience.

## Bryan County Family Connection

- SuicideTalk Training: 22 attendees (September 2025)
- CRM Training: 10 attendees (October 2025)
- Handle With Care training planned for Pembroke Police Department (November 2025)
- Ongoing coordination with Mediation Center for SuicideTalk, CRM, and REALM training with Bryan County Sheriff's Office detention officers



## Effingham Family Connection

- Human Trafficking Awareness training with Tharros Place: 62 attendees (September 2025)
- Hurricane Awareness and Preparedness training with Effingham Emergency Management: 52 attendees (September 2025)
- Comprehensive training efforts strengthen the region's capacity for trauma-informed care, mental health awareness, emotional regulation, and crisis response across schools, workplaces, and community settings.

# TIC/ACEs Training

## Loop It Up's Mindfulness Implementation Training

Loop It Up conducted extensive teacher training to support classroom integration of mindfulness practices:

Chatham County:

- Teacher training at multiple elementary schools during planning blocks
- School counselor training for cascade model implementation
- Student workshops with teacher participation for professional development
- Monthly workshops serving 503 students and 37 teachers at Gadsden Elementary

Effingham County:

- Training sessions across 5 pilot schools
- Customized implementation support based on each school's existing SEL initiatives
- Teacher wellness programming at Effingham College and Career High School

Teacher feedback emphasized relevance and ease of implementation, with mindfulness practices like quiet time, breathing, and calming strategies noted as helpful and accessible.



## GROW Initiative GA

GROW Initiative GA has provided Community Resiliency Model (CRM) training to 48 individuals. An additional six sessions are scheduled before the end of the year with a focus on engaging community members from vulnerable populations across Effingham and Chatham Counties and expanding access for non-English speaking participants to ensure culturally and linguistically inclusive learning opportunities.



# TIC/ACES Research and Evaluation

## Loop It Up Savannah Comprehensive Evaluation System

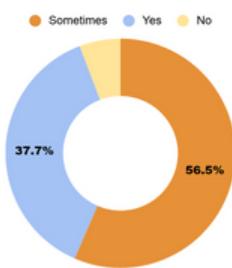
Loop It Up implemented a robust data collection system including:

- Beginning and End of School Year Teacher Surveys
- Beginning and End of School Year Student Surveys
- Teacher Training Surveys
- Ongoing tracking of participant numbers by school site, grade level, and program track

Fall 2025 Student Survey Results (grades 2-7, multiple schools):

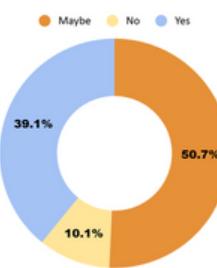
### Do you feel you can guide yourself through a mindfulness activity?

Pulaski 7th Grade Students



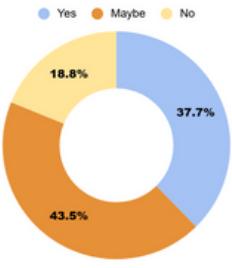
### Would you use one of the mindfulness activities outside of the classroom?

Pulaski 7th Grade Students



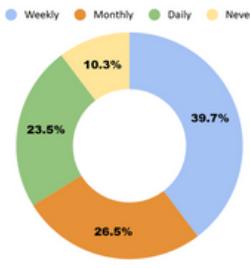
### Do you feel you could guide someone else through a mindfulness activity?

Pulaski 7th Grade Students



### How often would you like to see Loop It Up bring mindfulness sessions into your classroom?

Pulaski 7th Grade Students



### Student voice on school experience revealed:

- Primary sources of excitement: Friends, teachers, specific subjects (PE, art, science), activities.
- Primary challenges: Early mornings, bullying/peer conflict, academic pressure, strict rules
- Support strategies: Emotional support, play/distraction, encouragement, helping with tasks

### Teacher Survey Results (28 respondents, 539 students):

Teachers reported strong positive impact:

- 90% of students demonstrating social/emotional skills (485 of 539)
- 87% demonstrating positive peer interactions (470 of 539)
- 66.2% demonstrating leadership skills (357 of 539)
- 79.4% overall positive student impact

**"Students are better at practicing self-control."**

**"They show more awareness of others' feelings and fewer arguments."**

**"Mindfulness helps the teaching-learning process flow smoothly and benefit the whole student."**

# TIC/ACEs Research and Evaluation

## **The Mediation Center Evaluation Partnership**

The Mediation Center partnered with Georgia Southern University's National Youth Advocacy and Resilience (NYAR) Research Center for mixed-methods evaluation of the Building Resilient Schools initiative, measuring:

- Changes in belonging
- Perceived safety
- Self-regulation
- Adult efficacy in restorative and trauma-informed practices

Data collection includes pre- and post-surveys, school climate data, interviews, and focus groups. Findings showed:

- 92% improved self-regulation
- 87% plan to apply skills
- 30% drop in school behavioral referrals

## **Deep Center Impact Assessment**

Deep Center uses pre- and post-surveys for cohort-model programming with validated measures including:

- Maslach Educator Burnout Inventory
- Hope Scale
- Self-Compassion Scale
- Teacher Sense of Self-Efficacy Scale

Statistically Significant Changes:

- Increased self-compassion among educators
- Increased self-efficacy
- Increased hope
- Reduced feelings of inadequacy and loneliness
- Reduced over-fixation on problems
- Increased tolerance and patience

Youth Outcomes:

- 55% of Young Author Project participants reported improved ELA grades during program semesters
- 70% of Action Research Team members expressed greater confidence in identifying, speaking about, and acting on problems impacting themselves and peers

Technical Assistance Documentation:

Deep Center tracked approximately 70 hours of intensive individual technical assistance to 6 unique school-based staff members on topics including:

- Implementing mindfulness spaces sustainably and responsively
- Planning learning and community-building activities
- Incorporating accountability into trauma-informed discipline responses
- Trauma-informed and restorative considerations for literacy and pedagogical practices

# TIC/ACEs Research and Evaluation

## Trauma Informed Assessment Evaluation Process

The Trauma-Informed Organizational Assessment process utilizes both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of each organization's trauma-informed practices. Data is gathered through a secure SurveyMonkey online survey that captures non-identifiable responses from staff across participating organizations. These survey results are analyzed and compiled into detailed reports that highlight organizational strengths, areas for growth, and specific recommendations for advancing trauma-informed practices. Each grantee organization receives an individualized comprehensive report to guide their ongoing development, while both the City of Savannah and Chatham County receive aggregate reports on their respective cohorts of grantees, enabling them to assess the collective impact of their policy changes and identify systemic opportunities for support and capacity building.

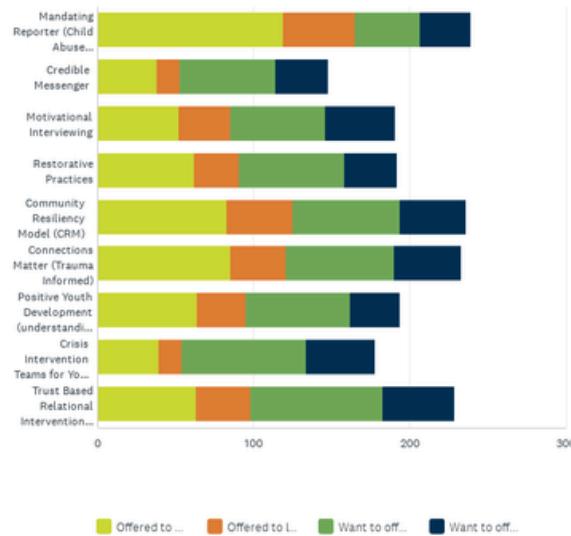
As this is a new process, the survey instrument, data collected, and overall assessment process will undergo a thorough review to identify necessary adjustments and improvements. This iterative approach ensures that the assessment tool continues to evolve and effectively serves both the organizations being assessed and the governments working to support trauma-informed system change.

A total of 236 responses were collected on the first round of trauma informed organizational assessments (including both City and County).

Some of the needs identified by respondents include:

- Trauma-Informed Training
- Professional and Leadership Development
- Funding and Financial Support
- Staff Training Operations
- Training Access and Opportunities
- Program and Service Expansion
- Crisis and De-Escalation Training
- Staffing and Capacity Building
- Client Support Services
- Community and Family Support
- Wellness Resources
- Resource Accessibility
- Practical Training Delivery
- Organizational Governance
- Knowledge Sharing and Communication
- Staff Compensation
- Trauma Awareness
- Multilingual Support
- Program Implementation Support
- Podcast Resources
- Diversity Resources

Q2 Which of the following trainings has your organization already engaged in or plan to engage in?

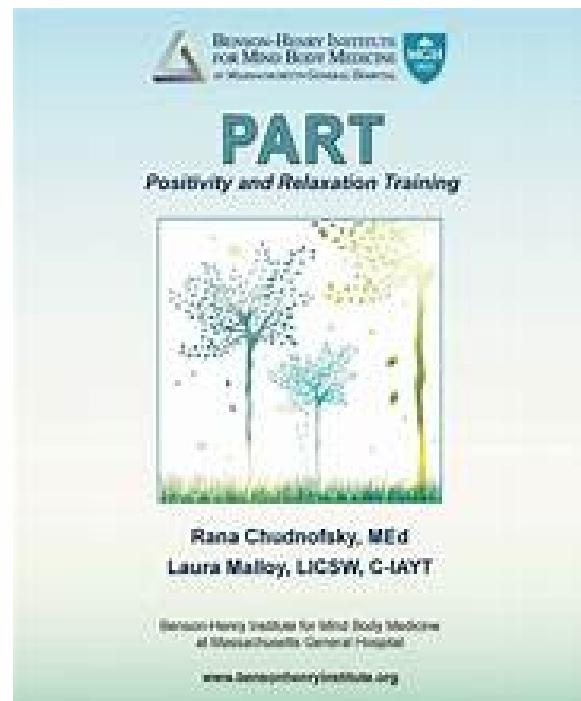


# TIC/ACEs Other efforts in other areas and categories

## Investing in Our Leaders: The PART Program

Resilient Georgia staff and regional leaders are on the front lines every day, working to prevent and heal childhood adversity, reduce mental health stigma, and create integrated behavioral health systems for children and young adults across our state.

This year, we invested in the wellbeing of those doing this critical work by introducing the Positivity and Relaxation Training (PART) program through 2 9-week cohorts. This program, developed at the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, teaches participants to recognize personal stress responses, practice meditation and relaxation techniques, cultivate adaptive thinking, and explore creativity, humor, and appreciation. For coalition leaders and partners, these are essential tools for preventing burnout and secondary trauma.



### A Snapshot of What Our Participants Gained

Our leaders developed concrete practices they now use in their daily work:

**Body Awareness:** Participants learned to identify personal stress warning signals and recognize when they're absorbing others' trauma, allowing them to activate the Relaxation Response before stress becomes overwhelming.

**Social Support:** The program helped leaders build intentional support networks across regions. The PART cohort itself became a powerful source of connection, with participants continuing to check in with each other long after the program ended.

**Reframing Challenges:** The Coping Log exercise taught participants how different thoughts about the same difficult event create entirely different physical and emotional responses. One coalition leader said: "The situation didn't get better, but I did."

**Cultivating Positivity:** Through practices in appreciation and creative expression, participants learned that joy and sorrow can coexist and how to incorporate these practices into daily work.

### The Ripple Effect

When our leaders can manage their own stress and trauma responses, they make clearer decisions, build stronger partnerships, and stay in this work for the long haul. We cannot create trauma-informed communities without taking care of the people leading that transformation.

Our investment in PART is an investment in the sustainability of our mission. By equipping our staff, coalition leaders, and partners with the tools to prevent burnout and address secondary trauma, we're ensuring that Resilient Georgia can continue working toward our vision: that every child and young adult in Georgia will have access to high-quality, integrated behavioral health services and support.

# TIC/ACEs Other efforts in other areas and categories

## Handle With Care: Bridging Crisis Response and School Support

Handle With Care serves as a critical communication bridge between first responders and schools, ensuring that children who experience traumatic incidents receive appropriate support during their school day when needed. When law enforcement or emergency personnel respond to situations involving children—whether as witnesses or direct participants—they can submit a Handle With Care notification to the child's school. The strength of this model lies in its simplicity and respect for privacy: no details of the incident are shared, only the child's name, approximate age and school along with a notice to "handle with care". This allows educators to support the child with increased awareness and sensitivity, providing additional support or resources, if needed, without requiring the child to relive or explain what happened.

Since its inception in Chatham County, Handle With Care has expanded across six jurisdictions and generated over 350 referrals, connecting children to compassionate school-based support during some of their most vulnerable moments. By creating a seamless, trauma-informed pathway between emergency response and education systems, Handle With Care helps ensure that a child's worst day doesn't become compounded by misunderstanding or lack of support in the classroom.

Resilient Coastal Georgia engaged the support of Chaplain's 10-33, a local non-profit supporting mental health for all first responders. This organization, founded a led by a retired firefighter/certified paramedic/chaplain, conducted roll call trainings with all Savannah Police Department staff on proper procedures and the importance of Handle With Care.

To support first responders, show gratitude for their dedication to protecting children in our community, and help ensure the longevity of the model across our jurisdictions, a recognition ceremony was planned to honor officers who made Handle With Care referrals. These officers are recognized by their peers, commanding officers, and City of Savannah and Chatham County officials for their compassionate response to children in crisis and their commitment to trauma-informed practice in the field.



# Innovative Partnerships

## **Statewide Educational Leadership**

The Mediation Center established a groundbreaking partnership with the Georgia Department of Education as a state-approved provider for the Mental Health Awareness Training (MHAT) program. This collaboration delivers 8 evidence-based trainings to schools and districts statewide at no cost to participants, positioning Coastal Georgia as a leader in statewide trauma-informed education and extending the region's influence across Georgia.

## **Cross-County School District Expansion**

Loop It Up Savannah's partnership with Effingham County Family Connection and the Effingham County School District led to successful collaborative expansion beyond Chatham County. Kate Keith, Coordinator of Social Emotional Learning for the district, facilitated connections to both school-level and district-level leadership. The success of the 5-school pilot program resulted in Superintendent Dr. Yancy Ford requesting district-wide implementation across all 15 schools, demonstrating systems-level buy-in for trauma-informed approaches.

Similarly, Loop It Up is working with Bryan County Family Connection and Bryan County School District to launch a 3-school pilot program, extending evidence-based mindfulness programming to a third county in the region.

## **Integrated Youth Mental Health Services**

The Mediation Center partnered with Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools and the Chatham-Savannah Counter Narcotics Team to expand the Positive Peer Influencers program from 60 to 300 high school mentors across 7 schools. This collaboration integrates peer leadership, mental health awareness, and substance-use prevention into a comprehensive youth development model.

## **Law Enforcement Trauma Support**

Bryan County Family Connection and The Mediation Center collaborated to provide training that catalyzed policy change within the Bryan County Sheriff's Office. Following SuicideTalk and CRM training, two collaborative partners from the Sheriff's Office and Safe Harbor expressed interest in CRM Teacher Training, demonstrating how training partnerships create ripples across multiple organizations and inspire leadership development.

## **Layered School-Based Programming**

Loop It Up continues to work closely with The Mediation Center (Trauma Sensitive Yoga) and Brightside (Front Porch Acts) to layer collaborative school-based wellness programming into Mindfulness Zones and schools interested in comprehensive wellness. This coordinated approach ensures students receive complementary, reinforcing supports rather than siloed interventions.

# Innovative Partnerships

## **Higher Education Partnerships**

Deep Center expanded its collaborative partnership with Georgia Southern University's College of Education, including access to space and resources to host community-serving events, reaching more pre-service and new teachers, and connecting with teacher-educators with specialized expertise in high-need areas like students with disabilities. This partnership increases academic validation and dissemination of activities and knowledge development.

The Mediation Center partnered with Georgia Southern University's NYAR Research Center for rigorous mixed-methods evaluation of the Building Resilient Schools initiative, strengthening the evidence base for trauma-informed practice adoption.

Savannah State University collaborated with The Mediation Center to provide CRM and suicide prevention training to all First-Year Experience students (300+ students) and hosts monthly radio educational conversations on WHCJ 90.3 FM, reaching approximately 12,000 listeners per quarter hour across Savannah, Hinesville, and Hilton Head, SC.

## **Public Health Integration**

The Mediation Center partnered with the Coastal Health District/Department of Public Health to train key staff across 8 counties (Bryan, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh) in Trauma Sensitive Interactions. New de-escalation and trauma-responsive initiatives with Coastal Health District and SAFE Shelter train public health teams and advocates in compassionate response strategies emphasizing self-regulation, situational awareness, and safety through connection rather than control, bridging public health and conflict-resolution systems.

## **Human Trafficking Response Network**

Effingham Family Connection partnered with Tharros Place to provide human trafficking awareness training to 62 community members, building capacity for identification and response. Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition supported Tharros Place staff training through the Freedom Network Training Institute, strengthening expertise in trauma-informed care for trafficking survivors.

## **Residential Care Integration**

Loop It Up initiated partnerships with SAFE Shelter and Tharros Place to support integration of mindfulness practices into both facilities in ways that are accessible to residents, extending trauma-informed approaches beyond schools and community settings into residential care environments.

## **Media and Communications Amplification**

The Mediation Center achieved significant media visibility throughout 2025 with more than twenty interviews and features across regional outlets including Savannah CEO, WTOC Morning Break, WSAV Community Corner, and Savannah Magazine. The organization's monthly radio program on Savannah State University's WHCJ 90.3 FM reaches thousands with trauma-informed messages about resiliency, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and youth development.

# Innovative Partnerships

## Community Safety Network

The Resilient Coastal Georgia Team launched Savannah Solutions, a monthly meeting that grew from 8 to 20 people representing diverse agencies including:

- Savannah Chatham County Public School System
- Park Place Outreach Shelter
- Viewpoint
- Deep Center
- YMCA
- Coastal Children's Advocacy Center
- Grow Initiative
- St. Mary's Shelter
- Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club
- Front Porch Staff
- City of Savannah Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
- Gateway Community Service Board - Youth Clubhouse
- Tharros Place
- Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire

This collaborative space allows staff to present cases where they feel "stuck," identify resources, and connect directly with agency members responsible for providing services. The meetings facilitate both immediate problem-solving and relationship-building across sectors.

## Multisector Coalition Building

Deep Center's partnerships span multiple sectors including the District Attorney's Victim-Witness Assistance Program, City of Savannah, Savannah State University, SCCPSS, Juvenile Court, St. Joseph's/Candler Health System, Park Place Outreach, West Broad Street YMCA, Offenders Alumni Association, SAFE Shelter, and Savannah Children's Theatre—demonstrating how trauma-informed approaches bridge justice, education, healthcare, and community development systems.

## Coalition Partnership

Resilient Coastal Georgia had the opportunity to work with Resilient Communities of East Georgia to pilot the Resilient Teens program in Chatham/Effingham/Bryan Counties. The pilot of this 9-week skill and awareness building program is the first expansion outside of the original RCEG area.

These innovative partnerships highlight how Resilient Coastal Georgia creates an interconnected ecosystem where training leads to policy change, policy change creates demand for more support, and multiple organizations collaborate to serve the same populations—exemplifying the power of collective impact in building resilient communities.

# Spotlight

## Building a Foundation: The Story of Savannah Solutions

In October 2024, eight people gathered at the Front Porch for the first Savannah Solutions meeting—a collaborative space born from a critical concern: staff were getting stuck. Members of the Resilient Coastal Georgia Steering Committee heard the same story across agencies: frontline staff didn't know what resources existed to help their clients and felt overwhelmed by gaps in their knowledge. From this challenge came a simple yet innovative solution—meet to present stuck cases and collectively identify resources.

### Growing Impact Through Connection

What started with 8 people has grown to 20 or more regular participants representing a remarkable cross-section of the community's support systems, providing diverse wisdom, programs, and solutions:

- Schools (Savannah Chatham County Public School System)
- Youth services (Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club, Deep Center, YMCA)
- Crisis support (Park Place Outreach Shelter, St. Mary's Shelter, Gateway Community Service Board Youth Clubhouse)
- Safety and healing (City of Savannah Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Coastal Children's Advocacy Center, Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire)
- Specialized services (Viewpoint, Grow Initiative, Tharros Place)
- Community infrastructure (Front Porch Staff)



The graphic features the Resilient Coastal Georgia logo at the top left, which includes a stylized tree and the text 'RESILIENT COASTAL GEORGIA'. To the right, the words 'SAVANNAH SOLUTIONS' are written in large, bold, blue letters, with 'SAVANNAH' above 'SOLUTIONS'. Below this, a large blue hexagon contains the text '4th Wednesday of every month' and '10:00 AM - 12:00 PM'. Underneath is the address 'The Front Porch 2203 Abercorn St, Savannah, GA 31401'. To the right of the hexagon is a graphic of two hands holding a red heart. To the left of the hexagon is a box containing text about what a Savannah Solutions meeting looks like, and to the right is text about learning more or contacting Tara Jones.

If you are a social service provider in Chatham County looking to connect with other providers to problem solve and create solutions for individuals, children and families, then Savannah Solutions is for you.

Maximize your organization's impact by combining creativity, knowledge and resources with community partners.

4th Wednesday of every month

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The Front Porch  
2203 Abercorn St,  
Savannah, GA 31401

What does a Savannah Solutions meeting look like?

- Social service providers meet in a supportive environment
- Discuss challenges in meeting needs of individuals, children or families served
- Collaborate with other providers to create solutions.
- Share and learn about community resources.

Want to learn more or receive calendar reminders?

Contact Tara Jones to get more information or get involved.

[tara@coastalgaindicators.org](mailto:tara@coastalgaindicators.org)

### Tangible Outcomes

The outcomes have been consistently positive:

Resource identification and direct connection: Those seeking resources can identify and connect directly with people providing resources, eliminating barriers and creating warm hand-offs.

Solutions for stuck cases: Staff who came with children and family cases where they felt stuck leave with concrete solutions, next steps, and partners to help implement them.

Cross-agency relationships: Connections made extend beyond the meetings. Staff from different agencies build relationships facilitating future collaboration and more seamless service delivery.

### The Ripple Effect

Savannah Solutions exemplifies the collective impact approach at the heart of Resilient Coastal Georgia's work. What began as a response to staff feeling overwhelmed has become a model for trauma-informed systems change—not through top-down mandates, but through creating space for connection, collaboration, and collective problem-solving that weaves a safety net from relationships, knowledge, and shared commitment to helping families thrive

# Inspired Action

## Join the Movement Toward Trauma-Informed Communities

Resilient Coastal Georgia's work demonstrates that creating trauma-informed systems requires collective action. Whether you're an educator, healthcare provider, first responder, business leader, parent, or community member, there are meaningful ways to engage with this work.

### Learn More and Stay Connected with RCG and Partners

Website: [www.resilientcoastalga.org](http://www.resilientcoastalga.org)

Follow us on social media for updates on trainings, events, and resources

### Partner Organizations

Connect with partners organizations for trainings, projects, and community events

### Attend Community Events

Resilient Coastal Georgia and partners engage with the community in a variety of settings. Join us in the community whether it is offering or seeking support.

### Request Training for Your Organization

Is your organization, school, workplace, or faith community interested in becoming more trauma-informed? Contact our partner organizations to explore training opportunities including but not limited to:

- Community Resiliency Model (CRM)
- SuicideTALK and ASIST
- Trauma-Sensitive Yoga
- REALM (Resilience Enhancement and Leadership Model)
- Mindful Self-Compassion
- Restorative Practices

### Support the Work

#### Financial Support

Partner organizations welcome financial contributions to expand trauma-informed programming. Contact individual organizations directly to learn about giving opportunities.

#### In-Kind Contributions

Many programs welcome donations of materials, space, volunteer time, and expertise. Reach out to partner organizations to learn about current needs.

#### Share Your Story

If you or your organization have experienced the impact of trauma-informed approaches, share your story. Your experience can inspire others and demonstrate the power of this work.

### Advocate for Systems Change

Support policies and practices that promote:

- Trauma-informed approaches in schools, workplaces, and community settings
- Adequate funding for mental health and youth development services
- Integration of resilience-building into capital infrastructure planning
- Professional development for those working with vulnerable populations

# Inspired Action

## Bring It to Your Setting

Consider how you can integrate trauma-informed principles in your sphere of influence:

- Educators: Request Mindful Monday cards or Mindfulness Zone support for your classroom or school
- Healthcare providers: Explore Trauma-Sensitive Interactions training
- Law enforcement: Connect with training on officer wellness and community engagement
- Employers: Bring CRM or resilience training to your workplace
- Parents and caregivers: Practice mindfulness with your children using community resources
- Youth: Join youth leadership programs like Peer Mediation, Positive Peer Influencers, or Deep Center's youth cohorts



## Connect With Us

The strength of Resilient Coastal Georgia lies in the connections between individuals and organizations committed to building healthier, more resilient communities. We invite you to become part of this network. Together, we are creating a region where trauma-informed care is not the exception but the expectation—where every child, family, and community member has access to the support and resources they need to heal, grow, and thrive.

Your engagement matters. Your voice matters. Your community needs you.

For more information about how to get involved, visit [www.resilientcoastalga.org](http://www.resilientcoastalga.org) or contact our partner organizations directly.

## News Coverage of Resilient Coastal Georgia Related Work

### Peace in the Park -

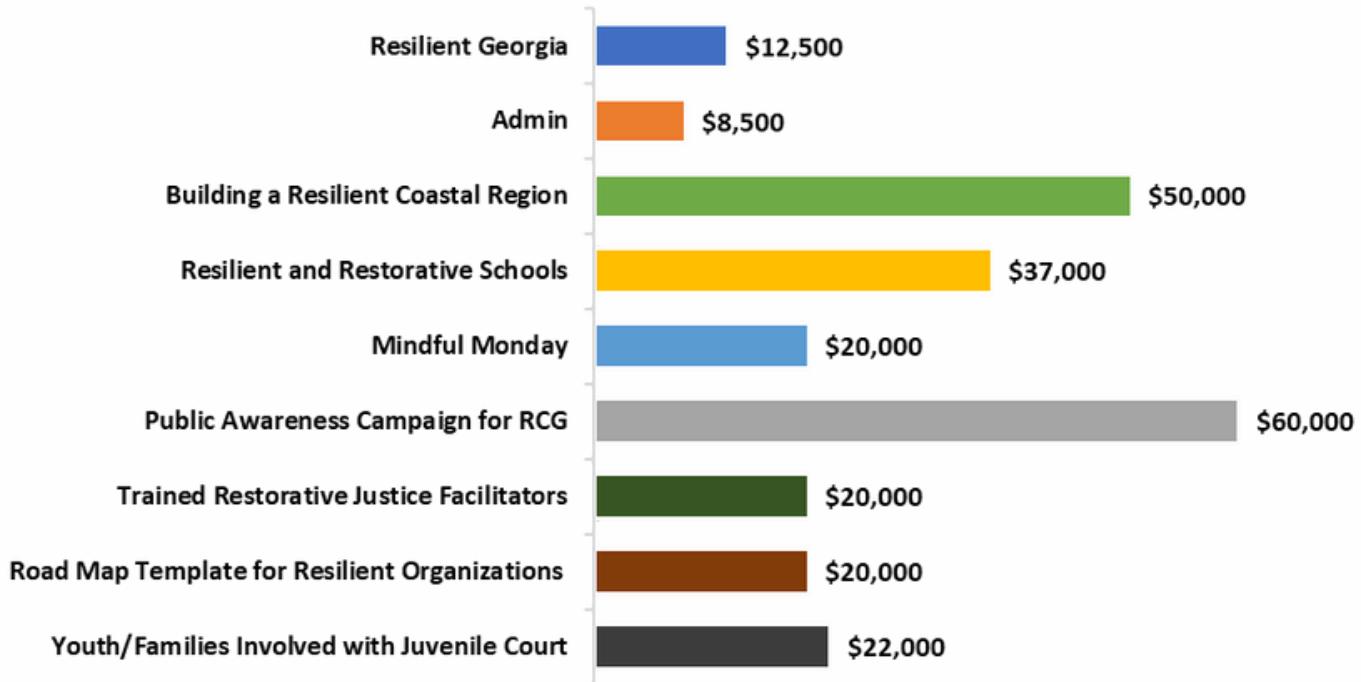
[https://www.wjcl.com/article/community-unites-for-peace-at-savannahs-peace-in-the-park/68105721?fbclid=IwY2xjawN3JXleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHpwUvaaVh4lfkEMjYfhMwtVC81nMAPlhibOy2mTRR5dkZaPn1bOj7Jktjw\\_aem\\_UsfYtgJ7K2CrYxs3CO-wlg](https://www.wjcl.com/article/community-unites-for-peace-at-savannahs-peace-in-the-park/68105721?fbclid=IwY2xjawN3JXleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHpwUvaaVh4lfkEMjYfhMwtVC81nMAPlhibOy2mTRR5dkZaPn1bOj7Jktjw_aem_UsfYtgJ7K2CrYxs3CO-wlg)

### Annie E. Casey Data Book 2025 -

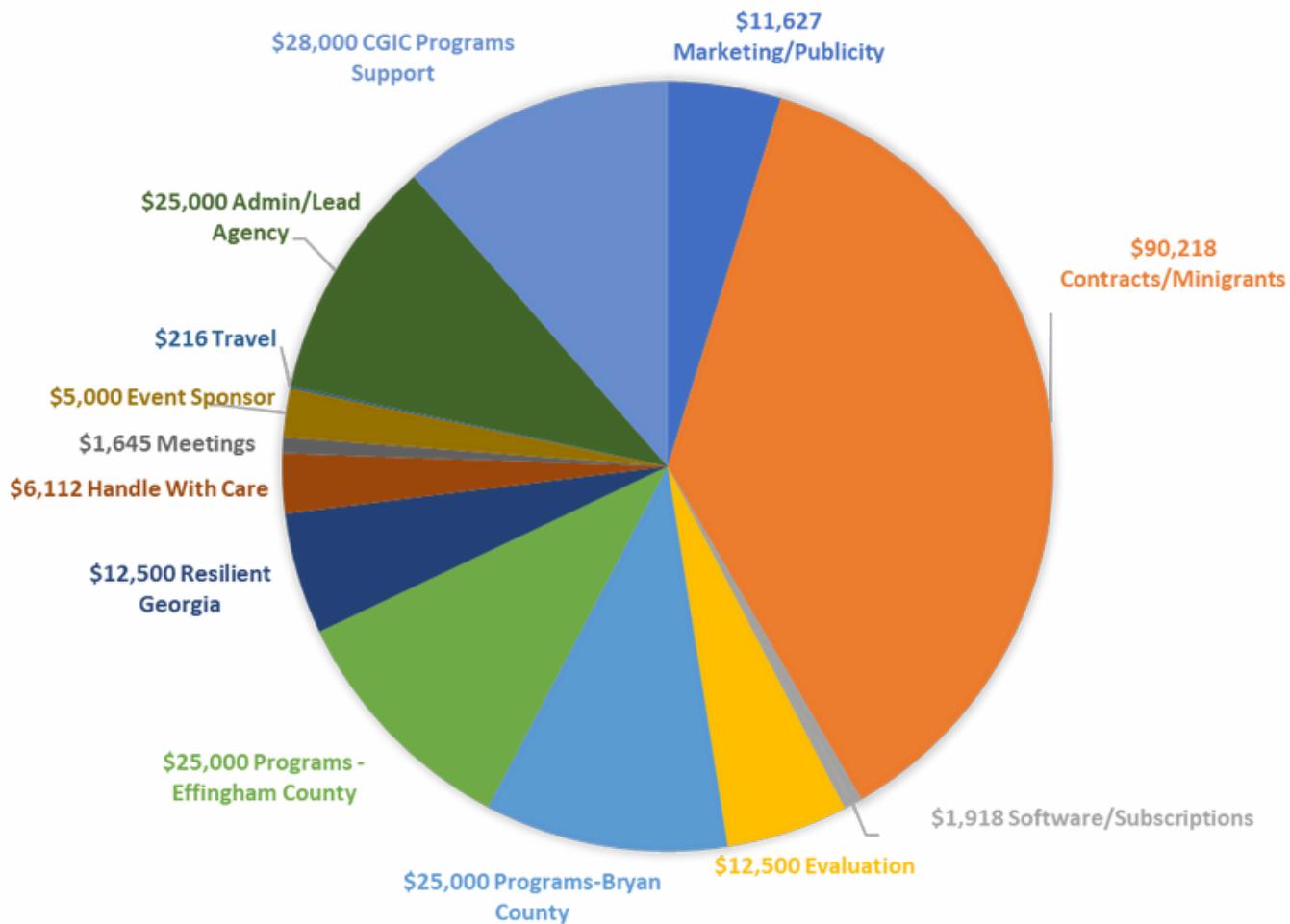
[https://www.wtoc.com/2025/07/25/cgic-address-georgias-low-national-ranking-child-well-being/?fbclid=IwY2xjawN3JdpleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHrtW4SamZyhBT4ipU7Eg\\_MLTWngcMuhXC1Ox5\\_fbLVr1zSnYB PW4KyyN9hzF\\_aem\\_kqsTSKGdkS2DL46HuMHog](https://www.wtoc.com/2025/07/25/cgic-address-georgias-low-national-ranking-child-well-being/?fbclid=IwY2xjawN3JdpleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHrtW4SamZyhBT4ipU7Eg_MLTWngcMuhXC1Ox5_fbLVr1zSnYB PW4KyyN9hzF_aem_kqsTSKGdkS2DL46HuMHog)

# Income and Expenses/Financial

## Year 5 Budget Plan



## YEAR 6 EXPENSES



# Other Donors/Funding Sources

## **Loop It Up Savannah - Mindfulness Programming Match \$73,611**

- City of Savannah Community Partnership Program (Government) \$15,000
- Gulfstream (Corporate) \$8,000
- United Way of the Coastal Empire (Community) \$7,699.50
- Frueauff Foundation (Foundation) \$7,000
- Chatham County Blueprint (Government) \$10,000
- Susan Thompson Foundation Grant (Foundation) \$2,325
- Georgia Council for the Arts (Government) \$5,000
- Reddick Foundation (Foundation) \$5,000
- Chatham County Juvenile Court (Government Contract) \$1,000
- SAFE Shelter (Contract) \$6,000
- In-Kind Goods \$1,050
- Volunteer Services \$5,566

## **The Mediation Center - Additional Funding Match \$483,000**

- Chatham County Blueprint / City of Savannah for Safety and Resiliency Programs \$135,000
- SCCPSS / Chatham County Blueprint / Chatham-Savannah Narcotics Team for Youth Programs & Services (Peer Mediation, Positive Peer Influencers, Building Resilient Schools, Youth Mentoring) \$348,000

## **Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition - Funding Match \$80,000**

- Resilient Communities of East Georgia for Resilient Teens \$15,000
- Healthy Savannah \$25,000
- Sustainable Cities \$40,000