



# BROWARD CHILDREN'S STRATEGIC PLAN

"PARTNERING FOR CHILD & FAMILY WELL-BEING"

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**Children's Services Council**  
 of Broward County  
*Our Focus is Our Children*

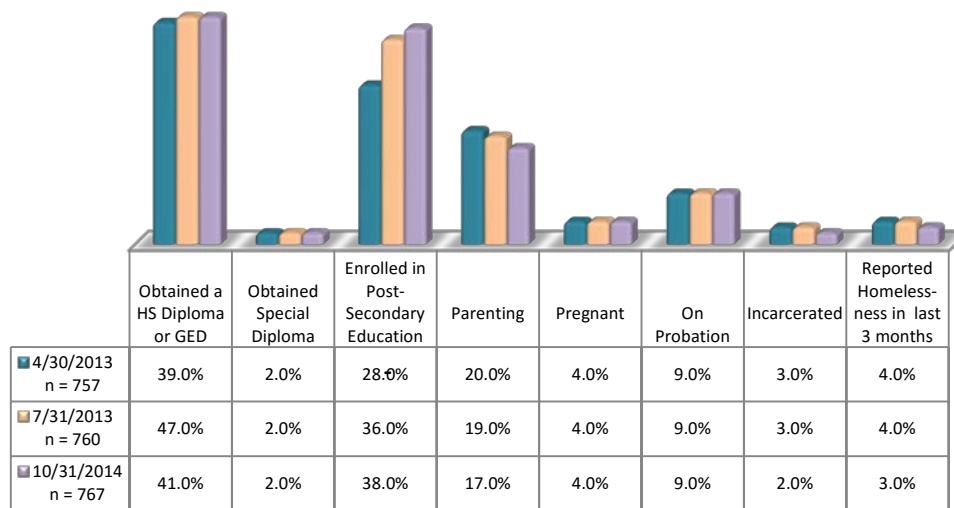
## TURN THE CURVE REPORT TRANSITIONAL INDEPENDENT LIVING COMMITTEE

**POPULATION RESULT:** Young people successfully transition to adulthood

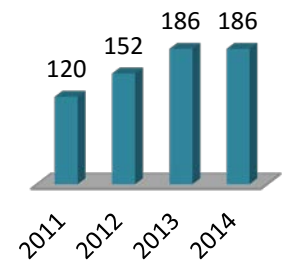
**Service System Result:** Transitional Independent Living (youth ages 18-23) youth will have obtained higher levels of education, the ability to access affordable housing, employment, and have no interaction with the criminal justice system.

### INDICATOR

Broward TIL Youth Ages 18-23



Number of TIL Housing Units Available



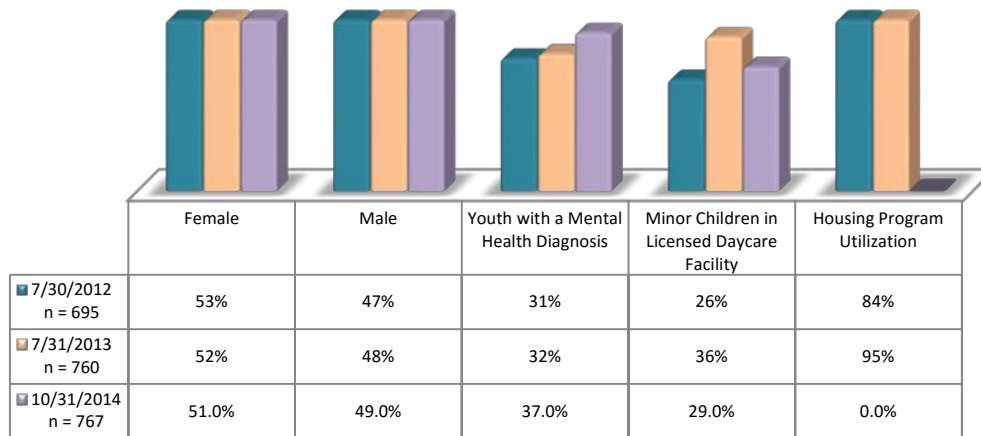
### SECONDARY MEASURES



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## STORY BEHIND THE CURVE

- While the official age range of TIL youth is 13-23, data is being collected on 15-23 years old documenting the effectiveness of the TIL System on the youths' transition into adulthood.
- When youth “age out” of licensed foster care, they are living on their own in the community. Even though extended foster care provides supports beyond 18 years of age, youth who are 23 year of age and older are still in need of supports and services.
- 18 year olds with a history of abuse, abandonment and neglect are expected to go out in the community and become productive members of our society. These are the youth for which no permanent family was able to be found. They are alone, but for the services and supports put in place by the TIL System.
- Having basic needs met, an opportunity to increase educational levels and core skills leads to successful transition.
- According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, available housing is “out of reach” even by people earning triple minimum wage: nationally, in 2009, one would need to earn \$18.46 per hour or \$38,400 per year to afford a fair market rent one bedroom apartment. Locally, one would need to earn at minimum, \$19.58 per hour to afford a fair market rent one bedroom apartment.
- There is a tendency for youth in the foster care system to have a higher rate of involvement in the Criminal Justice system by nature of being “system involved.”
- Support is needed for young adult TIL Parents to prevent their children from entering system.
- Within the entire Broward population, 18-23-year-olds have the highest rate of homelessness.
- Unemployment rates are higher for youth, and even higher for TIL.



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## PARTNERS

### Actual

- 211 Broward
- 4Kids of South Florida
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Broward College
- Broward County Human Services Department
- Broward County Housing Authority
- Broward Housing Solutions
- Broward Legislative Delegation
- Broward School Board
- Camelot Community Care
- ChildNet
- Children's Services Council
- City Of Pembroke Pines
- Community Foundation of Broward
- Covenant House
- Dept. Children & Families Family Central
- Florida Children's First
- Florida Youth SHINE
- GAL Program
- Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services
- Hands on Broward
- HANDY
- Children's Harbor
- Chrysalis Health

- Henderson Behavioral Health HOMES, Inc.
- Legal Aid
- Lutheran Services Florida
- Memorial Health Systems
- SOS Children's Village
- The FLITE Center
- The Jim Moran Foundation
- United Way of Broward
- CareerSource Broward
- SunServe
- PACE Center for Girls
- Homeless Helpline
- OIC
- BBHC/OCP2

### Potential

- Broward Sheriff's Office
- Dept. Juvenile Justice
- Family Success
- JAFCO
- Urban League
- Broward Regional Health Planning Council

## BEST IDEAS – WHAT WORKS

- Provide youth with caring and supportive adult figures outside of the System for lifelong connections
- Provide youth with educational supports and services
- Provide youth with exposure to various career fields and job shadowing opportunities
- Increase access to childcare options for children of TIL youth.
- Provide more employment opportunities and internships to TIL youth
- Provide access to transitional housing opportunities
- Building partnerships with the business community to increase opportunities for employment for TIL youth
- Increase funding for youth employment year-round, not just the Summer Youth Employment Program
- Extended Foster Care

## ACTION STEPS

- Support the System of Care to continue to build an effective and affordable infrastructure for TIL youth.
- Coordinate with the Juvenile Justice Committee to assess services for prevention as well as recidivism.
- Enhance the TIL data collection and data integrity while bringing in additional partners.
- More child care slots for vulnerable population



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- More sustainable relationships with Post-Secondary Education institutions
- More subsidized housing slots
- Consistent use of integrated data system by all TIL Providers

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed an integrated data system for TIL Service Providers, funded in partnership by FLITE, CSC, and ChildNet.
- Youth educational accomplishments have been celebrated for the past 11 years during the annual TIL Graduation Celebration.
- EFC and Community Resources have improved TIL Youth outcomes
- Higher graduation rates than the state rates
- Summer Youth Employment Program that prioritizes slots for TIL youth
- PAAYS Predictive Analytics Grant that provided data on TIL youth risk factors for homelessness
- Continuous recruitment of housing slots designated for TIL youth and managed by the FLITE Center's Housing Coordinator.
- FLITE Center was founded Sept. 1, 2009, as a hub for all of Broward County's TIL youth and to support, rather than duplicate efforts of Life Coaching services provided by TIL serving agencies.
- Expansion of Life Coaches to serve youth with behavioral health conditions.
- CSC funded TIL Programs, Healthy Youth Transitions (HYT) added Therapists to provide trauma informed mental health support to youth as an expansion of Life Coaching services.
- Statewide recognition of FLITE TIL Housing model
- Youth involvement at legislative level influenced legislation
  
- Ebony is an amazing young woman who is more than prepared for her transition out of the Aftercare program. She is able to look back at her past and admit that she has come a long way. When she started Broward College, she was not serious about her education and had no thoughts of what she was going to do in her future. During a recent review of her transcripts, she admits that she is no longer that person who started Broward College those years ago. In the beginning, Ebony's grades were F's and NC (No credit). In the classes that she attempted to do well, she would earn C's. During her second year in college she decided to make some changes in her academics. Her grades of F's turned into C's then to B's until she started earning A's and B's. Ebony occasionally get C's now and then but she strives to maintain an A and B average most times. At the end of this term, she will receive her Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. This past term, Ebony served as Broward College Student Government Senator and Ambassador. As the SGA Senator and Ambassador, she had the pleasure of meeting the Mayor of Ft. Lauderdale who she also worked alongside. Due to Ebony's dedication and achievements at Broward College, she was offered a position with the Ft. Lauderdale Police Department upon her graduation from Broward College. In addition to the position that she has been offered, she was accepted to the University of Florida where she plans on completing her Bachelor's degree in Criminal justice. I definitely believe the sky is the limit for Ebony.