



Safe & Sound  
HILLSBOROUGH

# Annual Report 2023

*Working together to build strong families,  
safe schools and healthy neighborhoods.*



## Message from Executive Director Freddy Barton

Our community certainly had its challenges in the past year as it relates to violence, specifically gun violence. In 2022, there were over 300 shootings, (fatal and non-fatal) throughout our community. In the first part of 2023, we began to outpace those numbers. While we did see a decrease in shootings, we also saw the ages of young people getting their hands on firearms decrease, some as young as 11. Juvenile detention hearings were often filled with at least 5-7 young people every day. While we as a community have felt the pain from these numbers, we also have seen how resilient we are. Neighborhood associations, churches, and community organizations began to work together to address this and other issues. Our judiciary and law enforcement agencies continue to be committed to focusing on ways to address and prevent violence. Safe & Sound Hillsborough has led and continues to lead efforts to bring people together not just to keep our youth positively engaged, but to also address mental health, place and space, equity and opportunity and academic achievement for families throughout Hillsborough County.

We continued and even expanded programming at our Reporting Center to include our new Youth Gun Offender Program. Through the support of Hillsborough County, the Department of Juvenile Justice and other agencies, we were able to serve nearly 400 youth through our various programs, with lower than 30% recidivism rate. While we are happy that we were able to help so many young people, we recognize that so much more work has to be done.

We commissioned our short film “Blink: A Gun Violence Prevention Short Film” and have shown it to more than 3,000 individuals, as well as combined it with community conversations in several counties in Florida. We are looking forward to premiering our second film “Blink Twice: Aftermath and Consequences” in June of 2024 and hope to see you there.

We also continue to thrust mental health and wellness to the forefront of every conversation and are proud to have trained nearly 500 individuals in Mental Health First Aid. We look to provide more tools and resources to address healing, mental health and grief support throughout the next year.

This report will highlight our current efforts and give a glimpse of what’s to come in the new year. As we look to FY 2024, we are excited about growth opportunities and new programs being offered. We are launching a Mentoring Program for at risk male students through a partnership with the Department of Children and Families. Working alongside the Tampa Police Department, we will co-lead a Community Violence Intervention program, working with youth and community partners throughout the city of Tampa. Through a partnership with the University of South Florida we will work on focused deterrence, which is part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods suite of community-and policing-based violence prevention initiatives. With these new initiatives and our current ones, we will expand case management, support services and data collection all in an effort to better our community.

We know that we can’t do it alone, and we continue to ask the community for its support and partnership. We will be creating a community advisory panel to work alongside our staff and leadership council on best practices and programming guidance as part of the work within the city of Tampa. Please, get involved, volunteer, mentor or simply give us feedback.



Together, the Village WILL Win!





# Leadership Council



**Julianne M. Holt**  
Leadership Council Chair  
Hillsborough County Public Defender



**Chief Kenneth Albano**  
Leadership Council Vice Chair  
City of Temple Terrace  
Temple Terrace Police Department



**Commissioner Gwendolyn  
"Gwen" Myers**  
Hillsborough County Board of County  
Commissioners



**Susan Lopez**  
State Attorney  
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit



**Deputy Chief Calvin Johnson**  
City of Tampa  
Tampa Police Department



**Captain Marvin Johnson**  
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office



**Captain Alfred Van Duyne**  
City of Plant City  
Plant City Police Department



**Kelley Parris**  
Former Executive Director  
Children's Board of Hillsborough  
County



**Rebecca Bacon**  
Executive Director  
Children's Board of Hillsborough  
County



**Gina Justice**  
SSH Policy & Governance  
Committee Chair  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit



**Cindy Stuart**  
Clerk of Court & Comptroller



**Karen Perez**  
School Board Member  
Hillsborough County Public Schools



**Kathleen Heide, Ph.D**  
Youth & Gun Violence Committee  
Chair  
Professor of Criminology, College of  
Behavioral & Community Sciences  
Center for Mental Health  
University of South Florida



**Attorney Marie Marino**  
Family, Health & Well-Being  
Committee Chair  
Hillsborough County  
Public Defender's Office



**Ernest M. Coney, Jr.**  
Safe & Sound Hillsborough Ex-Officio  
President & CEO  
CDC of Tampa



I WORK FOR  
Safe & Sound  
HILLSBOROUGH



Thaddeus Wright  
Reporting Center  
Manager

Of course I learn  
new things and even new  
phrases every day  
working with our youth  
NO CAP!



Pedro Rodriguez  
Case Manager

Of course I'm willing to  
listen as long as it  
takes to help a family..  
And NO, I'm NOT  
FREDDY's BROTHER!

Of course I'm up  
for this work...I'm a  
MARINE!



Samuel Meeks  
Youth Specialist

Of course I love being  
able to help our young  
people succeed..I'm only  
a few years ahead of  
them!



Jaylissa Golden  
Reporting Center  
Administrative Specialist



Martha Ocasio  
Administrative Specialist

Of course I'm  
happy to be here..I  
eat financial  
statements for  
breakfast!



Rosalie Smith  
Administrative  
Services Manager

I'm just here to see  
what the staff are  
saying!



Of course I get emails at  
3am.  
Oh great! Another "Let's  
meet right away...I have a  
new idea about...?????"



# Our Vision & Values



## Vision

Working together to build strong families, safe schools and healthy neighborhoods.

## Core Values



Safe & Sound Hillsborough leads with its core values. The values guide and direct our work:

Violence is preventable.

Address the gaps to ensure all children and youth have nurturing and supportive families and communities.

Build on strengths of youth, families, professionals and community.

Promote the value of equity.

Ensure equal opportunities by investing resources where they will have the greatest impact.

Focus on those most at risk.



# Our Goals & Strategic Plan

## Improving the Health & Well-Being of Families

- Mental Health Support
- Successful Re-Entry
- Family Support Services

## Improving Neighborhood Conditions

- Neighborhood Enrichment
- Utilize place and space
- Focus on Out of school time opportunities for youth
- Foster positive dialog and discussion between community and law enforcement
- Reduction of recidivism amongst juvenile offenders



## Creating Cultivated Communities

- Quality Education & School Climate
- Social Connections in Neighborhoods
- Technical assistance and programming support for neighborhoods and community organizations

## Maximizing Impact

- Coordinated Approach
- Determining and address gaps in systems for most at-risk



# Improving the Health & Well-Being of Families





# Mental Health First Aid

Identify. Understand. Respond.



BayCare Advent Health



## Mental Health FIRST AID

from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
MENTAL WELLBEING

Thanks to partnerships with BayCare and AdventHealth, Safe & Sound Hillsborough has been able to expand our community of care in mental wellness by certifying nearly **500** individuals in Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid through the National Council for Behavioral Health's public education program that helps individuals across the country to understand mental illnesses, support timely intervention, and save lives.



Safe & Sound Hillsborough offers free Adult, Youth, and Teen Mental Health First Aid throughout the following counties: Hillsborough, Hardee, Highland, Marion, North Pinellas, Pasco, and Polk.

By the end of 2025, Safe & Sound Hillsborough will have trained an additional **500 individuals** in Mental Health First Aid through partnerships with BayCare and AdventHealth.



# Focusing on Families

## Family Health & Well Being Committee



Marie Marino, Chairperson  
Family Health & Well-Being Committee

The Family Health & Well-Being Committee of Safe & Sound Hillsborough has been committed to address:

- Reducing Stigma and Negative Perception of Mental Illness
- Support for Families of At-Risk Youth
- Fostering dialogue throughout Hillsborough County on best practices to address gaps in our juvenile justice system
- Combining clinical and faith based engines to address community needs



Through their work, the committee has been a strong partner in the launch of Safe & Sound Schools initiatives, Juvenile Mental Health Court, Parent/Family Focus Groups and more!!!



# Focusing on Families

## Family Health & Well Being Committee



Marie Marino, Chairperson  
Family Health & Well-Being Committee



### Caretaker Survey

Qualtrics Survey | Qualtrics Experience Management

Please help us do a better job serving the youth in our community! If your youth is at risk of entering the Juvenile Justice System or of being truant, please complete this survey. If you do so, you will receive a \$20 gift card! We will share the results of this USF project with agencies in our community that provide resources to children and families so they may tailor their programs to best serve you!

To be eligible for participation, you must confirm that you:

- Are 18 years of age or older
- Are the parent or guardian of a child who has been involved with criminal justice, social service or community services for delinquency or truancy in the last three (3) years
- Can read and write in English
- Have no visual or functional limitations that would not allow you to use a computer or smartphone
- Are not currently incarcerated, an inpatient at a psychiatric facility, or resident of a long-term care or rehabilitation facility

If eligible, you will be asked to complete a one-time survey including items on your emotional and physical health, experience with local agencies, availability of support, and other potential barriers to use of services for you and your family. Participation in this project is completely voluntary and you are free to skip any question or questions that you do not wish to answer. You can stop participating at any time. You will not be asked to provide any identifying information as part of the survey, and you will not be identified in any report or other product resulting from this project. Your individual survey data will not be shared with anyone outside of the USF research or administrative team. It will take 10-15 minutes to complete this survey.

Participation in this project is limited to one person per household.



# Creating Cultivated Communities & Improving Neighborhood Conditions







## Academic Credit Recovery Program

High school graduation rates for Black and Hispanic students are 12 and 16 percentage points lower than white students, respectively. Many school districts see 50% graduation rates or worse for boys of color.

As an affiliate of the **My Brother's Keeper** network established by the Obama Foundation to address the quality of life for boys and young men of color, Safe & Sound Hillsborough works to address the 6 major goals of the initiative. The academic recovery program focuses on 2 of the primary goals:

1. Ensuring all children enter school cognitively, physically, and emotionally ready
2. **Ensuring all children read at grade level by 3rd grade**
3. Ensuring all youth graduated from high-school
4. Ensuring all youth complete post-secondary education or training
5. **Ensuring all youth out of school are employed**
6. Ensuring all youth remain safe from violent crime

Through the program, marginalized male high school students are paired with mentors and tutors to work towards gaining academic credits not earned in prior years. The goal was simple, to better prepare youth to meet graduation requirements. Safe & Sound Hillsborough works to ensure that over 75% of youth enrolled completed the program and achieved a 25% increase in credit attainment.

**In the 2022-2023 FY, Safe & Sound Hillsborough worked with 22 high school youth to advance through credit recovery, with a total of 28 credits gained**

**We Are Our Brother's Keeper.**





# REPORTING CENTER

Initially designed to address pre-adjudicatory youth in need of supervised release, the Reporting Center served (and still does) as a stop gap for youth awaiting arraignment. While immediately successful at reducing recidivism by providing daily supervision, we realized 21 days would not be enough to make a difference. In 2022, we continued our Juvenile Holistic Advocacy Program, a 90-day program to help youth complete probation requirements.

Also, during the end of 2022, we launched the Youth Gun Offender Program, working with youth that are arrested on gun or weapons related charges. Through case management, wrap around supports, mentoring, academic support and constant monitoring, we have been able to work with some of the most deep-end youth. We will continue to stay vigilant in our efforts to change our youth's trajectories.

	Duration of Supervision	# of Youth	Successful Completion	Discharged	Recidivism Rate
Supervised Release	21	244	183	61	25%
JHAP (Probation)	90	101	72	29	29%
Youth Gun Offender Program	180	54	45	9	17%



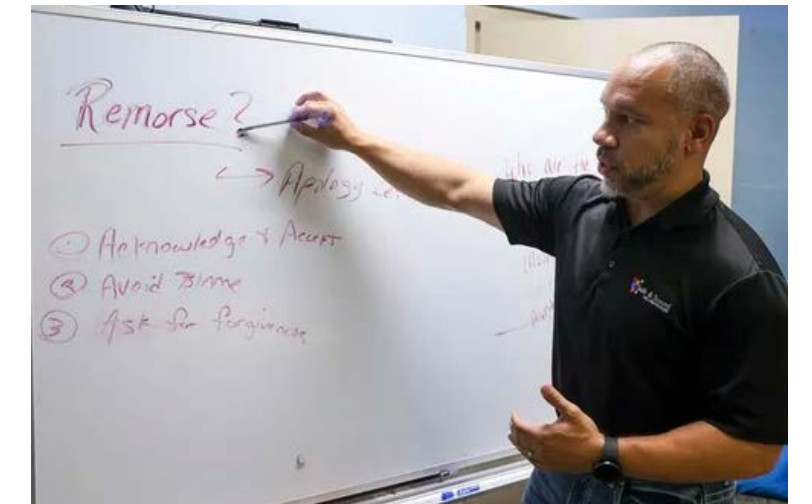
Mentorship



Case Management



Academic Support



Community Service

Transportation

Life Skills

Peer & Group Counseling

Anger Management

Career Exploration



As part of our effort to address the rising gun violence in Hillsborough County, specifically amongst youth, Safe & Sound Hillsborough commissioned and produced the short film . “Blink: A Gun Violence Prevention Short Film”

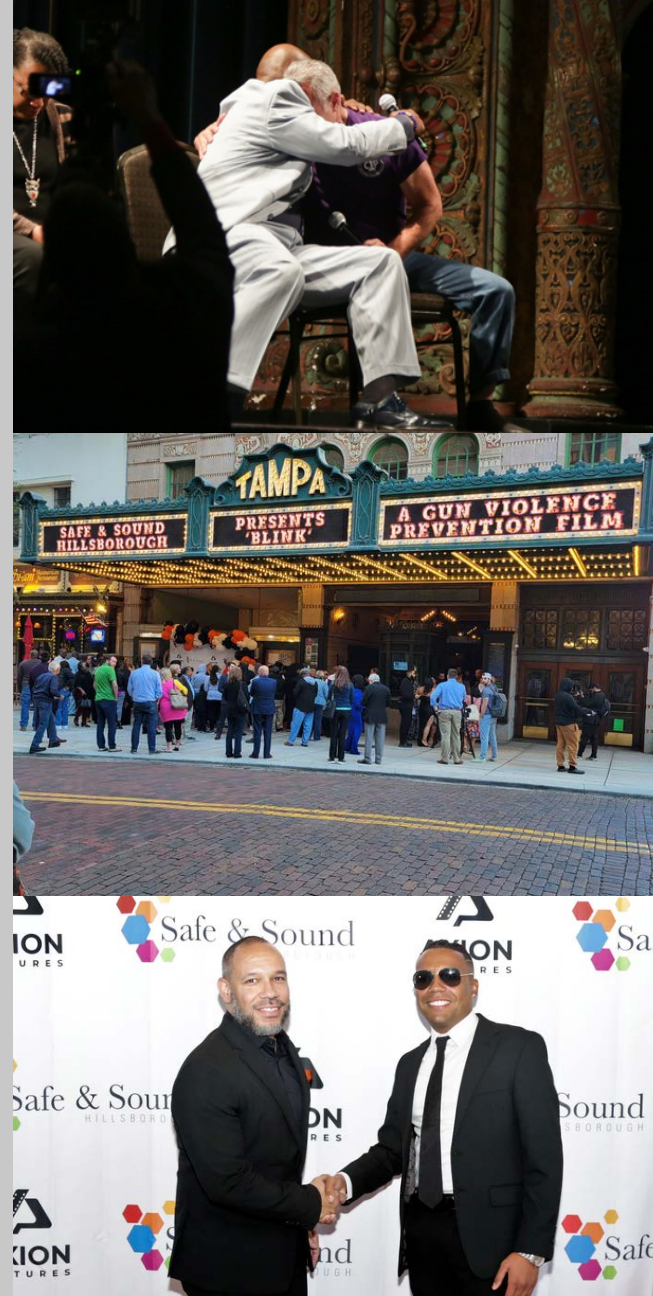
The film addresses several issues surrounding gun violence including:

- Accessibility of guns and gunowner responsibilities
- The need to address anger management and coping skills
- Consequences of decisions
- Community responsibility

The film premiered in March of 2023 at the Tampa Theatre to an audience of over 700 individuals.

Since its release, “Blink” has been shown throughout Hillsborough, Pinellas and Sarasota counties to an audience of over 3,000.

It is now being used as a part of community discussions surrounding gun violence and also as a teaching tool for youth in middle and high school.



The first of a three part gun violence short film series, “Blink” follows a young man as he deals with anger and faces the decision whether or not to pick up a firearm in response to a temporary situation, without understanding the consequences of such actions.

Special thanks to Derrick Perez and Axion Films for helping to bring this concept to reality!

To watch “Blink: A Gun Violence Prevention Short Film, go to:  
[www.safeandsoundhillsborough.org/blink-the-short-film](http://www.safeandsoundhillsborough.org/blink-the-short-film)





# Connecting with Community

WHETHER HOSTING COMMUNITY SAFETY CENTERED EVENTS, PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC FORUMS AND DISCUSSION PANELS, OR ENGAGING WITH HILLSBOROUGH YOUTH AND FAMILIES, SAFE & SOUND HILLSBOROUGH REMAINS VIGILANT IN THE EFFORT TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE AND CONNECTED







# Maximizing Impact 2022–2023 FY

400

**Youth directly  
served  
through  
Reporting  
Center**

<30%

**Recidivism  
rate across all  
programs**

>20

**Sponsored  
organizations &  
events outside of  
Safe & Sound  
Hillsborough  
direct  
programming**

11

**Media stories  
covering the  
work of Safe &  
Sound  
Hillsborough**

>3000

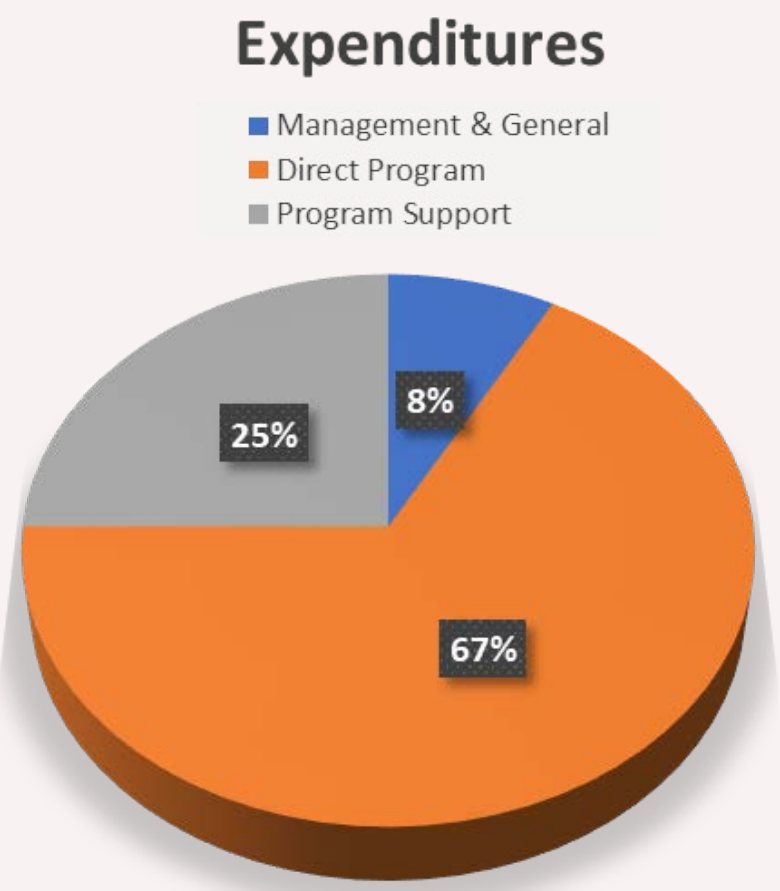
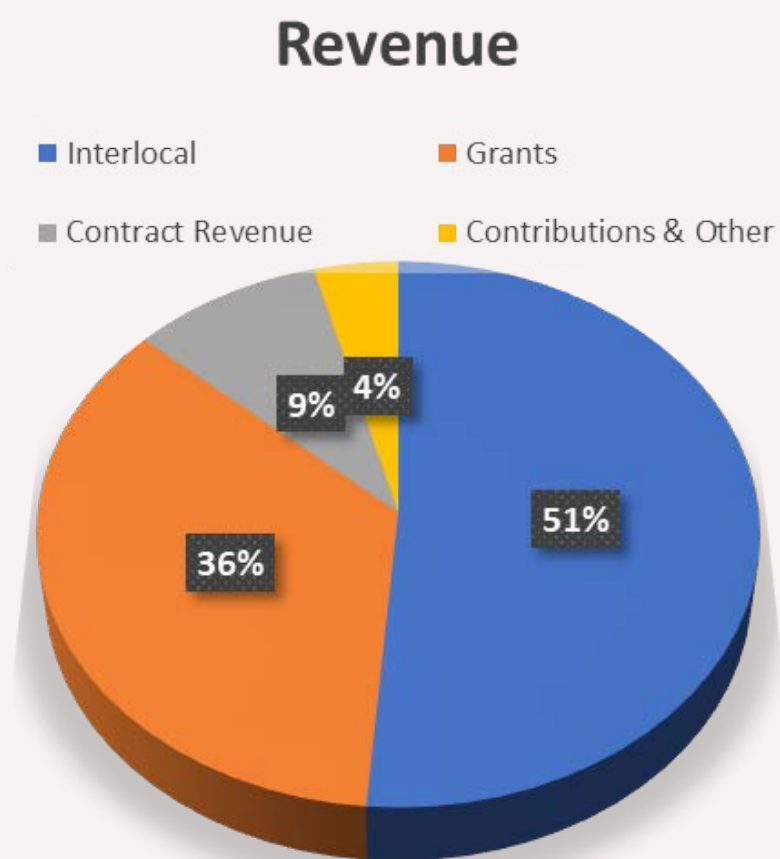
**Youth and  
families  
impacted  
through  
programming**

3

**Awards for  
Community  
Impact**



# FINANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY



Fiscal Year October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

## Statement of Activities

### REVENUE

693,993

Interlocal

\$356,040

Grants

\$245,520

Contract Revenue

\$64,111

Contributions & Other

\$28,321

### EXPENSES

\$572,620

Direct Program Expenses

\$383,320

Program Support

\$143,125

Management & Compliance

\$46,176

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Safe & Sound Hillsborough's Finance Committee performs monthly reviews of the revenue and expense statement as well as cash balances. The committee also reviews the detailed payroll records and supporting documentation for each expense every month.

Summary financial reports including year end financials, cash balances and reviews/audits are prepared and presented to Leadership Council for approval.

Safe & Sound Hillsborough, through its fiscal agent, CDC of Tampa, Inc. continues to have zero findings in annual audit, performed by Rivero, Gordimer & Company, P.A.

Below is a Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs from the most recent audit available. Please note there were no findings or questioned costs. A summary audit report for 2023 FY will be available by June 2024 and can be furnished upon request. A full copy of the audit is available upon request.

Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, Inc. and Subsidiaries

## SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

December 31, 2022

### Section I - Summary of Auditors' Results

#### Financial Statements

Type of auditors' report issued on whether the financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting

Material weakness(es) identified?

yes no

Significant deficiency(ies) identified?

yes none reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?

yes no

#### Federal Awards

Internal control over major federal programs:

Material weakness(es) identified?

yes no

Significant deficiency(ies) identified?

yes none reported

Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major federal programs:

Unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with section 2 CFR 200.516(a)?

yes no

Identification of major federal programs:

CFDA Number

21.027

Name of Federal Program

U.S. Department of Treasury  
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B federal programs

\$ 750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

X yes no

### Section II - Financial Statement Findings

No matters were reported for the year ended December 31, 2022 and there were no prior year audit findings to be reported.

### Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs

No matters were reported for the year ended December 31, 2022 and there were no prior year audit findings to be reported.



# THANK YOU!

## Our Funders & Partners

Safe & Sound Hillsborough was founded and continues to be supported through an Interlocal Agreement that is the first of its kind. Ten agencies came together in 2015 to answer the call to keep our youth safe and bring our communities together.



Safe & Sound Hillsborough support has also been provided through outside grants, sponsorships, and in-kind services through a host of agencies and businesses. Our growth and success would not be possible without all of you!



### Interlocal Agencies

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners  
City of Tampa  
City of Plant City  
City of Temple Terrace  
Office of the Public Defender, 13th Judicial Circuit  
Office of the State Attorney, 13th Judicial Circuit  
Hillsborough County Public Schools  
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office  
Administrative Office of the Courts, 13th Judicial Circuit  
Children's Board of Hillsborough County  
Hillsborough County Clerk of Court

### Funding Partners

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice  
Advent Health  
Baycare  
Tampa Bay Buccaneers Foundation  
Lightning Foundation

### In-Kind & Community Partners

Tampa Police Department  
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office  
CDC of Tampa  
University of South Florida





Safe & Sound  
HILLSBOROUGH

## What's Next?

A Glimpse into the 2023-2024 FY

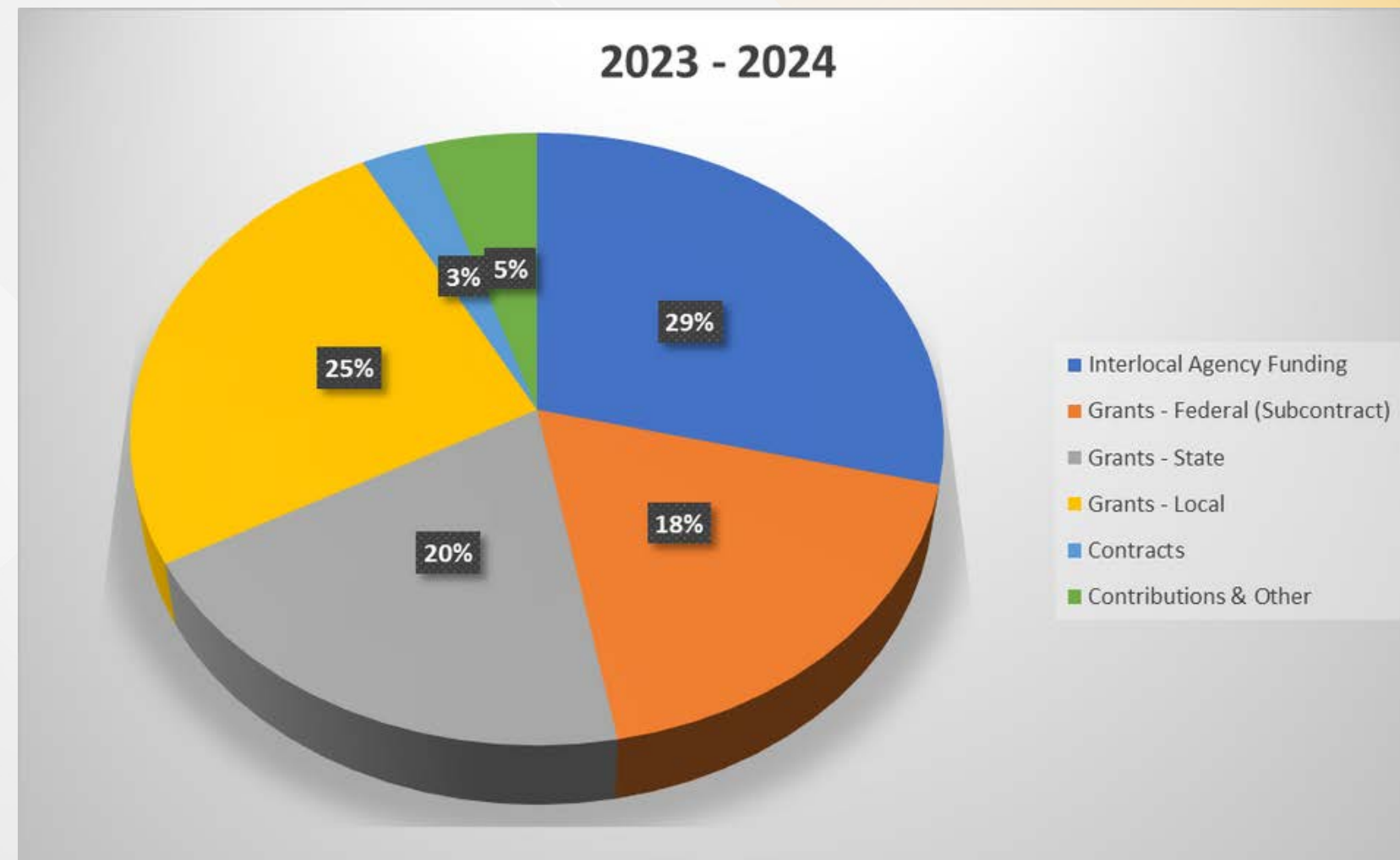


# Funding



## Budget 2023-2024

	Budget 2023-2024
<b>FUNDING</b>	
Interlocal Agency Funding	\$356,040
Grants - Federal (Subcontract)	\$224,621
Grants - State	\$244,656
Grants - Local	\$312,000
Contracts	\$34,726
Contributions & Other	\$60,624
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>\$1,232,666</b>



- Grant funding increased in FY2024, along with an increase in committed (actual not pledged) funds/awards for FY2024.
- Less financial load (percentage) on Interlocal, with effort to diversify funding and increase sustainability.
- Exec. Director to continue to establish relationships in private sector/other funding sources in FY2024.



# 2023-2024 NEW Initiatives & Projects





## Juvenile Holistic & Mentoring Program

3 Year Grant  
Total \$733,610

### Proposed Structure

- Program Manager
- Case Manager (1.5 FTE)
- Administrative Specialist (Part time .5 FTE)
- Cost Share for RC Manager & Program Admin

### Year 1 Primary Goals

# of Mentors to work with young males	50
# of youth to be enrolled	50
# of youth to complete program successfully	40
# increase in attitude, values and soft skills and movement towards employment or secondary education	40
# increase in positive, supportive adult connections in their life	40

The Mentorship Programs for At-Risk Male Students grant will assist at-risk male students who are in middle school or high school in developing economic, social, emotional, and cognitive skills to prepare them for future success





# Tampa Community Violence Initiative

## Building a Safer Community Together - TPD Grant (CVPI)



Safe & Sound Hillsborough will partner with the Tampa Police Department to provide care coordination and navigation services to participants randomized to the treatment groups served by this grant.

### Key Program Components

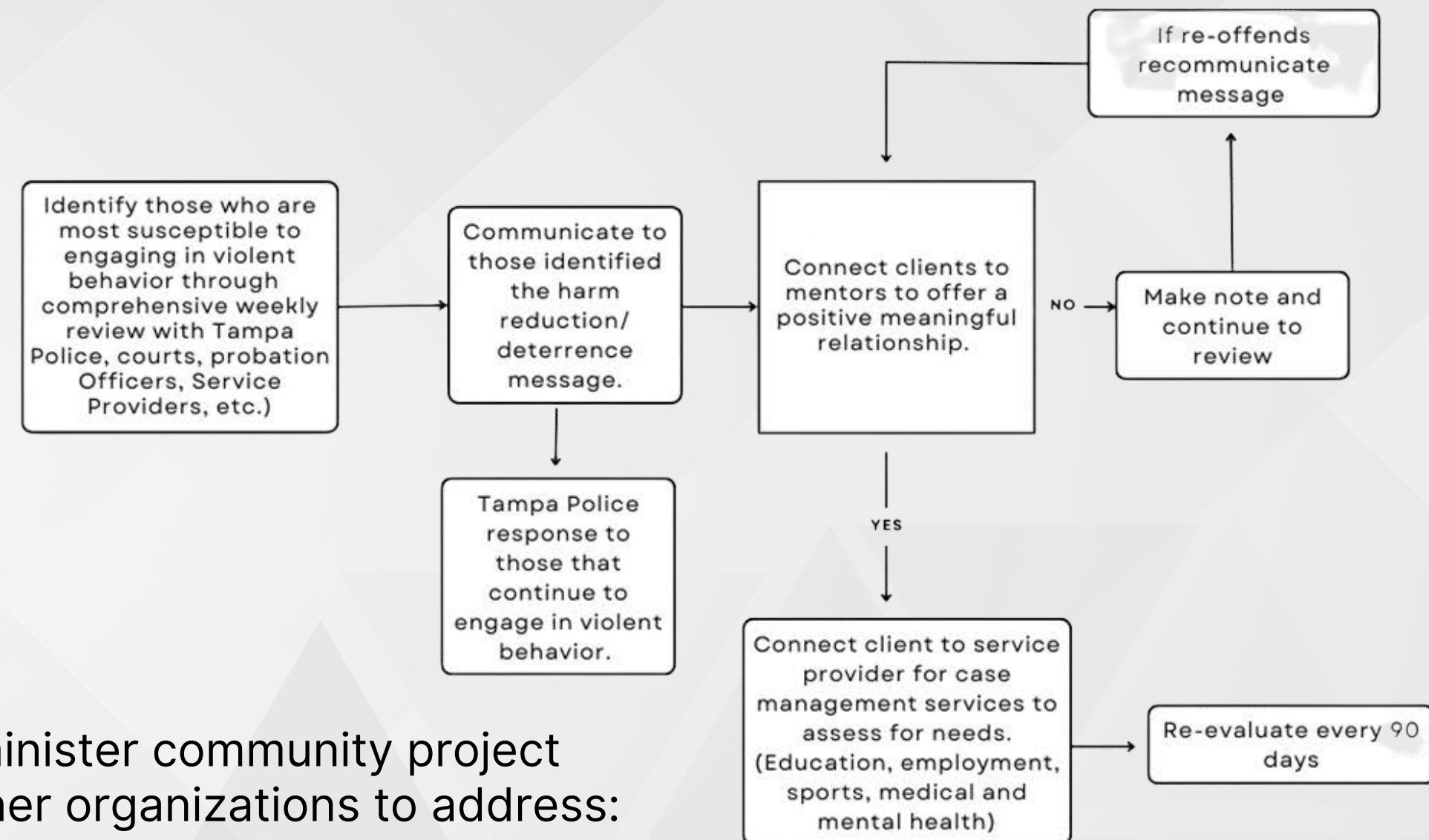
- Intake
- Individual Case Plan Development
- Case Management
- Provider/Project Fund Management

# of Youth Served: 50/year

- Funding Support
  - 2 Case Managers
  - 1 Outreach & Support Service Manager
  - 1 Administrative Specialist

S&SH to also administer community project funds through other organizations to address:

- Blight removal
- Community connectedness
- Violence prevention awareness campaign, etc.





# Projects, Numbers & Impact

## Key Program

"Blink Twice" Premiere & Discussion Forum	1500
Reporting Center - Supervised Release	150
Reporting Center - Probation/JHAP	200
Reporting Center - Youth Gun Offender	50
Mentoring Program for At-Risk Males	50
Community Violence Intervention Program	50
Mental Health First Aid Training	440
Community Discussion Forums	350
Summer Programming	300
Youth Town Hall Forums	250
Other family programming	600

<b>Total Direct Participants</b>	<b>3940</b>
----------------------------------	-------------

Community Projects	1200
Community Events	2000
Sponsored Programs	3000

<b>Extended Reach</b>	<b>6200</b>
-----------------------	-------------

## Expected # of Participants





# TikTok Challenge



## Bi-Weekly Theme

- Submissions posted on S&SH TikTok



## Up to \$3,500 Awarded to Youth

- \$100 winners
- Based on # of likes each week leading up to month of June



## \$1500 Grand Prize Winner Announced in June

- Bi-weekly winners reposted in May for revote
- Videos will be displayed during "Blink Twice" Premiere
- Winning video presented before "Blink Twice" and youth recognized on stage and presented with check.



# Stay Connected

 Twitter @SafeSoundHills  Instagram @SafeSoundHills  YouTube Safe & Sound Hillsborough  Facebook @SafeandSoundHillsborough



813-327-8317



[www.SafeandSoundHillsborough.org](http://www.SafeandSoundHillsborough.org)



[info@safeandsoundhillsborough.org](mailto:info@safeandsoundhillsborough.org)



1002 East Palm Ave, Suite 200  
Tampa, FL 33605





Safe & Sound  
HILLSBOROUGH

**Working together to  
build strong families,  
safe schools, and  
healthy neighborhoods.**

[SafeandSoundHillsborough.org](http://SafeandSoundHillsborough.org)







# **Safe & Sound Hillsborough 2022–2023 Annual Report**