



2021 SINGLE MOMS PROGRAM TALKING POINTS

SINGLE MOMS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

One More Child Single Moms program exists to serve courageous single moms who need support, stability, and encouragement as they fight to better their lives and provide their families a future filled with hope and possibility. This program provides a path to self-sufficiency. Assistance is provided to single mothers from all walks of life so they can focus on resolving their individual circumstance and temporary family instability. While the mother works towards setting goals with the guidance of dedicated and supportive staff, she lives in a comfortable residential setting with her children. The program is designed to accommodate women age 18 and older for approximately 9-12 months.

One More Child Single Moms is prevention centric and designed to keep families together to prevent children from entering into the state dependency system (foster care). The goal is for families to gain self-sufficiency and to gain the emotional, relational and practical skills to retain it. The program is intentional towards the promotion of the psycho-social skills, education/vocational support, financial education, physical needs and the overall health of families.

PROGRAM SERVICES

- **Develop psycho-social skills:** parenting skills; healthy relationships, good boundaries
- **Provide educational/vocational support:** assistance with education pursuits (GED, college degree or vocational training); school supplies; educational resources; job referrals; transportation; interviewing skills; and job applications
- **Financial education:** budgeting; establishing a savings account; and money management
- **Physical needs:** providing a fully furnished rent-free house or apartment for each mom and her children; assist with nutritional needs and cooking skills

PROGRAM KEY NUMBERS AND INFORMATION

- 376 mothers and children served in One More Child Single Moms Program over the last four years
- 77,357 days of care provided to single mothers and their children over the last four years
- 93% of the mothers successfully complete the program

(see reverse side for more information)

- Services are provided in the following counties: Alachua, Duval, Hillsborough, Leon, Manatee, Miami-Dade, and Polk.
- \$5,000 cost to care for one child (and their mother) for one year in the One More Child Single Moms Program
- \$25,000 cost for State of Florida to care for one child in foster care
(Source: Better Prospects, Lower Cost: The Case for Increasing Foster Care Adoption, Nicholas Zill, Ph.D., May 2011)
- In 2019, One More Child expanded its program by offering non-residential services in Alachua, Hillsborough, and Manatee counties, opening a new residential program in Leon County, and expanding its residential capacity in Polk County.
- In 2020, the program increased residential capacity in Duval, Leon, and Miami-Dade counties.
- In 2021, a new campus in Sarasota County is under construction. Once completed, it will serve 32 mothers and children annually.

REQUESTED APPROPRIATION = \$250,000

- \$950,000 operating budget will provide for a minimum of 190 mothers and their children annually
- \$7,000 annual cost per child and their mother

FUNDING SPONSORS

- Senator Ben Albritton (LFIR 1721)
- Representative Josie Tomkow (HB 3355)

PREVIOUS STATE FUNDING

- Senator Stargel and Representative Tomkow secured a \$250,000 appropriation for the One More Child Single Moms program in the 2020-2021 budget. This was a one-time appropriation used for operations.

ONE MORE CHILD IMPACT

One More Child has been providing life-changing services to vulnerable children since 1904. In 2020, 324,409 children and individuals were impacted domestically and globally at more than 50 locations worldwide through efforts in foster care, anti-trafficking, child hunger, single moms programs and family support services. However, it is not enough. We want to reach one more child who is disadvantaged, neglected or abused to give them hope for a bright future.