

Children's Week 2020

Talking Points for Legislative Visits
in support of
Healthy Families Florida

Primary message: Healthy Families Florida is proven to prevent child abuse and neglect. Please maintain base funding for Healthy Families Florida in 2020-2021. (F.S. § 409.153 [1998]).

Thank you for agreeing to see me today. I'm here to advocate for the children in my community and ask for your continued support for Healthy Families Florida, the program that is proven to keep kids safe.

Last year, Healthy Families Florida served 9,700 families and 18,000 children from Pensacola to Key West. It's proven that 98% of children in Healthy Families Florida are free of verified abuse and neglect.

Kiwanis partners with Healthy Families Florida because we have seen families in our community thrive when they participate in the program. Kiwanis clubs across the state hold diaper drives, provide portable cribs for families and advocate for the program during Children's Week. Healthy Families Florida is a hand up, not a hand out.

Healthy Families works with families to stop abuse before it ever begins. When families volunteer to participate, Healthy Families supports families by:

- providing education on healthy child development and positive parenting skills.
- connecting families to substance abuse and mental health treatment.
- helping parents overcome significant challenges that place their children at risk.
- helping families set and reach goals to become self-sufficient.
- working with families who have gone through trauma to help them be the best parents they can be.

Healthy Families saves lives and money. It costs Florida more than \$105,000 to care for an abused child. It costs only \$2,100 to prevent a child from being abused.

Nothing is more important than our children. Thank you for continuing to support this life-saving program.

Please support maintained base funding for Healthy Families Florida.