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Advocate

May 2019

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May Is Foster Care Month and a Time to Focus on Mental Health

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Be Aware, It's May

As the [KIDS COUNT data snapshot](#) released last month by the Annie E. Casey Foundation reminds us, children are best in families. Foster parents are the core of our community's efforts to keep children safe and secure, caring for children until they can achieve a permanent home. May has been

selected as Foster Care Awareness Month. The Tennessee Foster Adoptive Care Association's [Walk Me Home](#) events across the state raise awareness about foster care and support the [Walk Me Home Enrichment Fund](#), which helps foster youth participate in meaningful activities

US HHS, Administration for Children and Families, **National Foster Care Month 2019: Foster Care as a Support to Families, Not a Substitute for Parents**, <http://bit.ly/2KQcOtF>.

Mental Health America, **Mental Health Month**, <http://bit.ly/24kSGPz>.

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Children's Mental Health

May is also Mental Health Awareness Month, which is being celebrated by the [System of Care Across Tennessee](#) (SOCAT) sites and [Tennessee Voices for Children](#). TCCY is a partner in SOCAT.

As we work to build understanding of the importance of building brain architecture to assure healthy growth, we remember the mental health of our children contributes to the prosperity of our communities. The World Health Organization says neuropsychiatric disorders are among the leading causes of disability in young people. "Globally, mental disorders are the largest contributor to the burden of disease in young people ages 10-24 (mental disorder, 45 percent)," according to the International Medical Corps.

The Tennessee Healthy Transitions program continues to organize **Young Adult Leadership Councils** of youth ages 16 to 30 who have lived experience with mental illness, substance abuse, co-occurring disorders or child-serving systems, such as juvenile justice, homelessness and foster care. More [information](#) is available online.

Lukens, J., *The Rural Monitor*, **Rising from the Ashes: How Trauma-Informed Care Nurtures Healing in Rural America**, <http://bit.ly/2KQdejJ>.

Mental Health America, **What Every Child Needs for Good Mental Health**, <http://bit.ly/2L2Bqzx>.

International Medical Corps, **Child and Youth Activities That Promote Mental Health and Well-Being: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support**, <http://bit.ly/2KKmVQn>.

Cicero, K., Child Mind Institute, **Best Children's Books About Mental Health**, <http://bit.ly/2KPlaBP>.

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Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, May 9

Twenty-two events to raise awareness on May 9, Children's Mental Health Awareness day are scheduled across Tennessee. Information is available at <http://tnvoices.org> or Info@tnvoices.org.

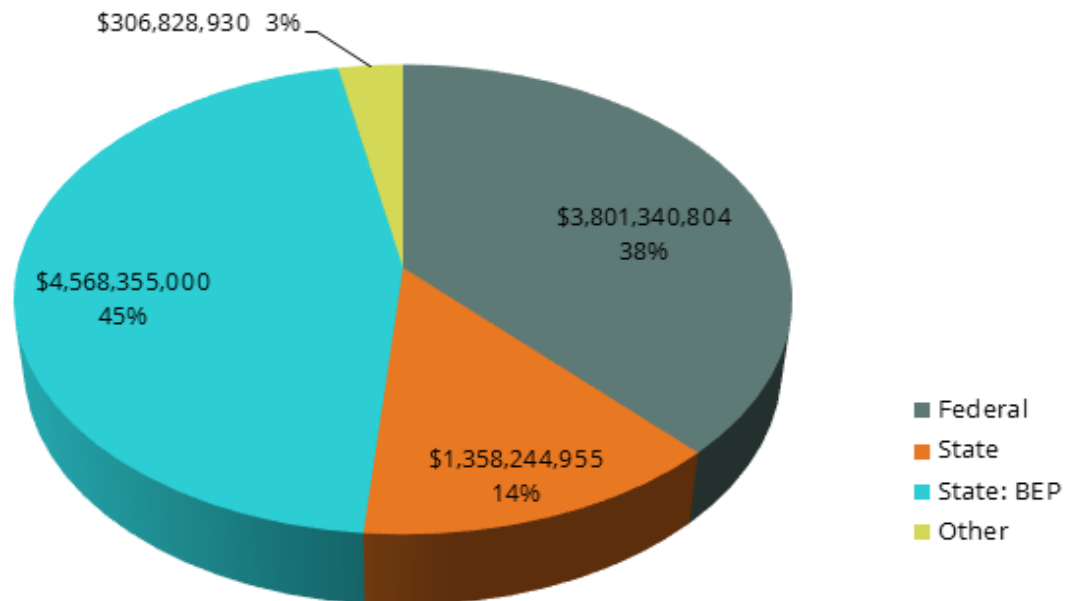
U.S Department of Health and Human Services, **National Children's Mental Health Awareness Live Streaming Event, "Suicide Prevention: Strategies That Work,"** May 6, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CDT, <http://bit.ly/2GMlwCN>.

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What Is Tennessee Doing for Its Children

Total Expenditures by Source

FY 2017-18



More than 10 years ago, TCCY was given the responsibility of working with state agencies to document state spending (including federal funds funneled through the state budget).

Over the 11 years of reported resource mapping data, total expenditures for children in Tennessee have increased each year, largely on the strength of steady Basic Education Program (BEP) increases. Tennessee's BEP distributes funding to local education agencies and is the largest single category of expenditures for children. It is entirely funded by state dollars. The importance of educational funding cannot be overstated; however, it is equally true that children who are NOT safe, healthy, supported and nurtured, and engaged in productive activities will have more difficulty learning.

After the BEP, TennCare is the largest funding category, followed by the Departments of Education (non-BEP dollars), Human Services and Children's Services. Expenditures by departments of Health and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for services for children are lower because most health spending comes through TennCare, including \$223 million in FY 2017-18 funding for mental/behavioral health services.

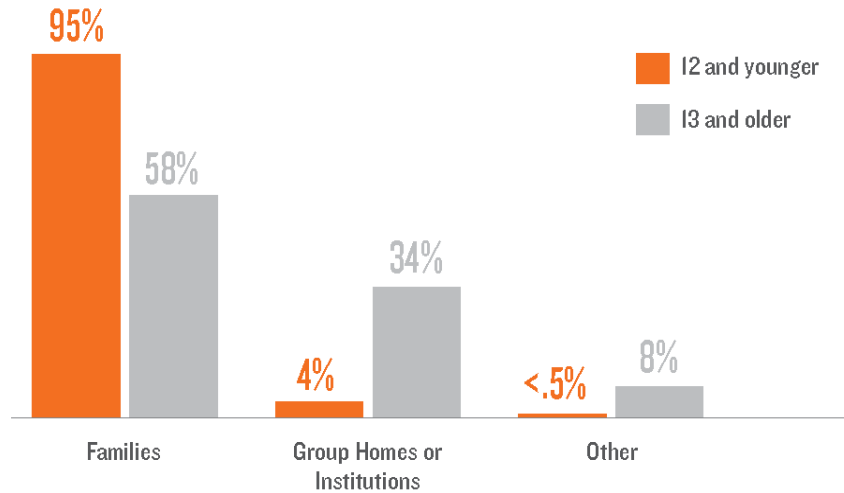
Almost 40 percent of all expenditures for children in FY 2017-18 were federal dollars. When required matching and maintenance of effort (MOE) dollars for agencies that provide the major federally funded services to children and youth are considered, reliance on federal funding is even more apparent. *Excluding* the BEP, seven of every 10 dollars spent on services for Tennessee children and families in FY 2017-18 were from federal funding sources. State funding accounted for 25 percent of all non-BEP expenditures in FY 2017-18. *Excluding* the BEP, almost nine of every 10 dollars in the state budget for children—88 percent—in FY 2017-18 were either federal or required as match/MOE for federal funding.

TCCY, [Resource Map of Expenditure for Tennessee Children](#).

Keeping Kids in Families Report Released

Systems Less Likely to Place Older Youth in Families

Percentage of Children in Foster Care by Placement Type and Age: 2017



SOURCE: Child Trends' analysis of 2017 Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System data.

DEFINITION: Children in families include children in relative and nonrelative foster homes, children in pre-adoptive homes and children in trial home visits.

Other includes children who have run away or are in supervised independent living arrangements.

NOTE: Courts include children in care at the end of the fiscal year. Children missing date of birth are excluded.

Due to rounding, percentages might total 100 percent.

kids count data snapshot

Although Tennessee's efforts to prevent children from entering into its custody and to achieve permanency through adoption for those who cannot return to their families have been successful, it has work to do to assure children are placed in foster care and kinship families, according to **"Keeping Kids in Families: Trends in U.S. Foster Care Placement."** The data snapshot released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as part of its KIDS COUNT® project uses data from the child welfare systems across all 50 states and the District of Columbia over a 10-year period to look at how placements for young people in foster care have changed.

The report finds that Tennessee has lagged behind other states, placing 77 percent of these young people in families in 2017, compared with 86 percent nationally. While most states have increased the percent of children in care placed in families since 2007, Tennessee's rate dropped slightly from 79 percent. Just under half of teens in Tennessee custody were with families in 2017, a drop from 58 percent in 2007. The Tennessee Department of Children's Services includes juvenile justice as well as child welfare programs, contributing to the state's lower ranking in placing teens in families.

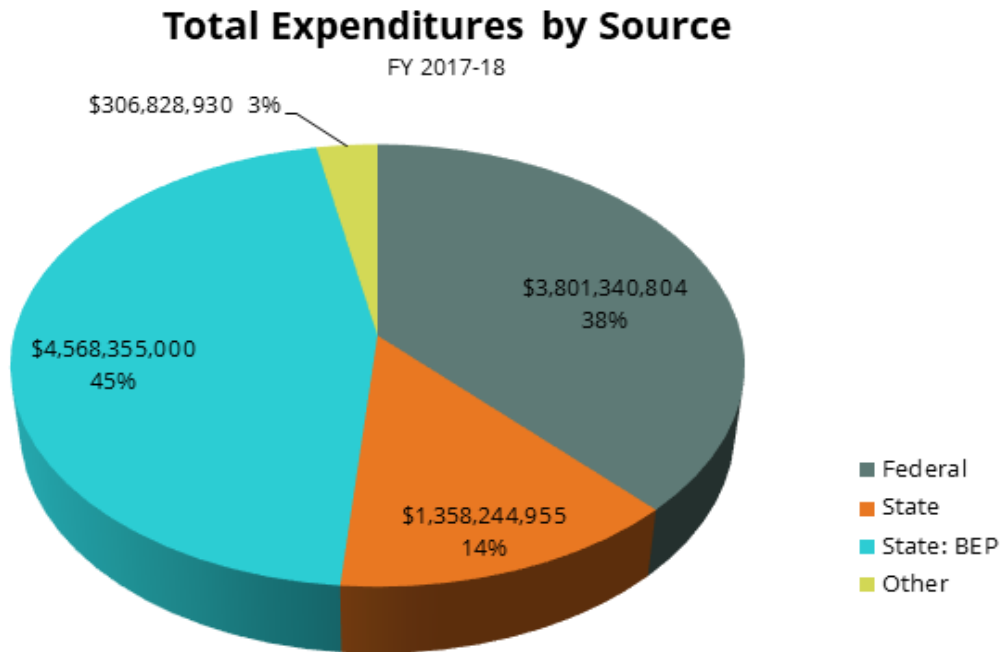
Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT, **Keeping Kids in Families: Trends in U.S. Foster Care Placement**, April 2, 2019.

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TCCY, [Resource Map of Expenditure for Tennessee Children](#).

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We Want to Know

TCCY is always seeking to improve. Please help us make this newsletter more useful by telling us what we can do to make it more beneficial. Please help us by filling out a short survey at <http://bit.ly/2VbFG43>.

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TCCY Legislative Information is Available

The legislative session is winding down, but TCCY still has information.

Tennessee General Assembly tool: **Find Your Legislator:** <http://bit.ly/2Qm77WM>.

The **TCCY Legislative Report** is available at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/legislat.pdf>.

Sign up to receive TCCY Tennessee **legislative updates** and the **Advocate** at <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html>.

Sign up to receive TCCY **federal policy information** by following the instructions at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/tccy/advocacy-policy/federal-advocacy-issues/leg-listserv.html>.

TCCY's **Budget Recommendations** are also available.

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Funding Information

The **U.S. Department of Justice** will make 10 awards of up to \$1 million each to address public safety concerns, intervention, prevention, and diversion services for children, youth, and families directly affected by opioid abuse. Eligible applicants are state and local governments, including federally recognized tribal governments which can develop partnerships with local justice systems, as well as health, education and social service organizations. Information. Applications due 11:59 p.m., May 7, 2019.

Tennessee Afterschool Network reports **First Book** is accepting applications from classrooms serving children living in low-income communities. Information is available. Applications are due May 15.

The **Healing Trust** is holding a Grant Application Process workshop required for new applicants for its funding on June 10 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at The Center for Nonprofit Management (37 Peabody Street, Suite 201, Nashville). Required advance registration and eligibility criteria are found at the Trust's website.

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Update



Russette Sloan

The TCCY is celebrating graduation season. **Russette Sloan**, TCCY administrative services assistant and the first person many people who contact TCCY see and hear, is graduating from the University of Tennessee School of Social Work with a master's degree. Her son, **Marc**, is graduating from the UT Knoxville College of Social Work with an honors bachelor of science in social work.



Marc Sloan



Claire Rust

Claire, the daughter of **John Rust**, director of field operations, is graduating from White County High School, 17th in her class with a 3.9 GPA. She plans to attend Tennessee Technological University in the fall, majoring in chemistry.

Congratulations to the many Tennessean young people graduating and ready to contribute to our shared prosperity.

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Mark Your Calendar

May 3, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., **Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth and Building Strong Brains Tennessee** present "**Trauma-Informed Approach: Key Principles: A New Understanding of Trauma**," a Building Strong Brains Knowledge Mobilization event, Madison Police Precinct, 400 Myatt Dr., Madison. Register: <http://bit.ly/2V3jsx4>.

May 3, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, **Northeast Tennessee Council on Children and Youth** presents "**Negative Mental Health and Developmental Effects of Excessive Use of Technology on Children and Teens**," Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union Community Room, 5034 Bobby Hicks Hwy., Gray. Register at <http://bit.ly/2KI6yUu>.

May 3, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth** and Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network present "**Safeguarding Our Children & Youth**," Cookeville Higher Education Campus. Fees: \$20, non-UCCCY members; \$15, UCCCY members. Register: <http://bit.ly/2JnHnGf>.

May 3, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., **Southwest Council on Children and Youth** and the University of Memphis Lambuth Center for Community Criminology and Research present the **2019 RED (Racial and Ethnic Disparities) Conference, "Cutting the Bureaucratic RED Tape: Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities,"** May 3, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Hamilton Ball Rm., Wilder Student Union, University of Memphis Lambuth Campus, 705 Lambuth Blvd, Jackson, TN 38301.

May 3, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 10th Annual **Chattanooga Autism Conference**, Chattanooga Convention Center. Information: <http://bit.ly/2KRg4EP>. Registration ends April 28. Fees.

May 9, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., **Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Meeting**, Tennessee Tower, 3rd Fl., Conference Room D, Nashville. Contact: Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov. May 10, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tennessee Tower, Nashville Rm., 312 Rosa L Parks Blvd, Nashville. Contact: Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov.

May 11, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., **Lifting the Darkness on Mental Health**, South Cleveland Church of God, 1946 Volunteer Drive, Cleveland, TN. This a one-day conference on how to break the stigma of mental health within the church. Register at <http://bit.ly/2KSwtEc>.

May 11, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., **Embracing Hope-Mental Health Awareness Month** event, Chattanooga Choo Choo, 1400 Market St., Chattanooga. Tickets: Children 7 and over, \$15; advanced, \$25; on site, \$30; and on site student ID, \$15. Register at <http://bit.ly/2Vt0RQM>.

May 22, 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., **South Central Council on Children and Youth** presents a screening of **"Paper Tigers,"** Shady Brook Cinemas, 1907 Shady Brook St., Columbia. "Paper Tigers" is a documentary about how one school in Washington used trauma-informed practices to change the culture. A presentation on Adverse Childhood Experiences will precede the film. Each participant will be given a free medium combo of popcorn and a drink. Register at <http://bit.ly/2UNwkdN>.

May 23-24, **Tennessee Disability Megaconference: "All Is Possible,"** Nashville Airport Marriott, 600 Marriott Dr., Nashville. On-site registration will be available. [Information](#) is available online.

May 24, 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET, **Southeast Knowledge Mobilization Summit**, Cleveland State Community College, George R. Johnson Cultural Heritage Theater, 3535 Adkisson Dr., Cleveland. Guest speakers include Becky Haas, Ballad Health; Judge Robert Philyaw; Chief David Roddy, Chattanooga Police. [Registration](#) required by May 17.

May 25, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, **Kid Power 2019** celebration of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Month, Johnson City Farmer's Market, 100 E. Market St., Johnson City. Music, dance, open mic, art, yoga, karate demonstrations, photo booths and more. Information: lwright2@frontierhealth.org or (423) 571-5439.

May 31, **East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth** presents: **"Racism and its Impact as an ACE,"** 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Bridgewater Place (Henley Hall), 205 Bridgewater Place, Knoxville. The program, sponsored by City of Knoxville "Save Our Sons," includes guest speaker **Donna Mitchell, LMSW**, and a showing of the film "Resilience" and is approved for 3 CEUs by NASW Tennessee. [Registration](#) is required.

March 10-11, 2020, **Children's Advocacy Days**. Contact: John.Rust@tn.gov.

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In the News

Asser, L., *The Daily Helmsman*, **Instant Families Do Not Happen Very Often in the State of Tennessee**, <http://bit.ly/2Vjagbr>.

Ramlagan, N., Public News Service, **Amid Opioid Crisis, TN Focuses on Keeping Kids Out of Foster Care**, <http://bit.ly/2Vksedw>.

Weakley County Press/NWTN Today, **Child Advocates Recognize Weakley County Press**, <http://bit.ly/2KSvQnf>.

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Research Information

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, **A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty**, <http://bit.ly/2Vjt0az>. Tennessee Reductions, <http://bit.ly/2VfvSFH>.

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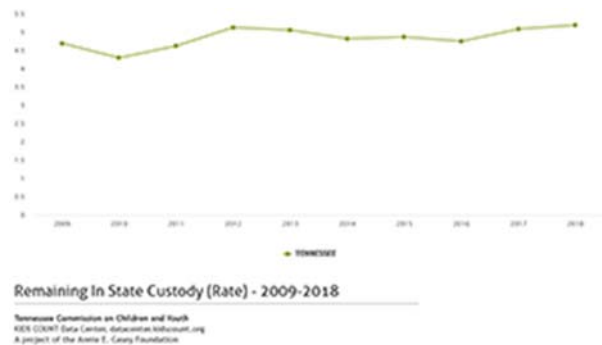
Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

Percent of Children with One Mental Health Condition



<http://bit.ly/2VcEixr>

Children in Foster Care



<http://bit.ly/2VdyQdv>

URLs below graphics link to larger versions of each. More data on Tennessee child well-being are available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or ability to pay, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity operated, funded or overseen by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). It is the intent of TCCY to bind all agencies, organizations or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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