



# For Times Such as These

Lutheran Family & Children's Services  
2021 Annual Report



Lutheran Family and  
Children's Services of Missouri  
One Promise. One Family.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIRMAN

In 1868, the founder of LFCS, Rev. Johann Buenger, made a choice that would save, sustain and fundamentally change the lives of children and families for generations. He acted during a time of great need and uncertainty in our nation's history. The Civil War left countless families broken and children destitute. Rev. Buenger recognized the need and called members of his congregation and community to help. It was for times such as these that the community came forward to help fulfill his mission of care.

Today, that mission continues in another tumultuous time in history. The pandemic and resulting social challenges have greatly impacted children of all ages and their families. The landscape for the need of social services has changed. And, just like when the children in Rev. Buenger's community were struggling, it is during times such as these that LFCS answers the call to help.

As we look across this new landscape, this is what we observe related to the children and families we served in 2021. The needs in the community have increased exponentially with the onset of COVID-19. Our adult clients who were already struggling are being asked to face larger obstacles, with increased concerns about unstable housing, employment, income, childcare, and access to basic human needs.

Many of the children we serve experienced extreme stress and trauma, leading to increased symptoms of mental health issues. Due to decreased in-classroom learning, many kids had less opportunity to learn social skills and experienced struggles with academic success. Less time in the classroom also meant less time in front of mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect.

Reverend Buenger saw the need, answered the call and mobilized resources to do good work on behalf of children and families in Missouri. Today is no different. Each of us are in a position to ease the burden of those in need. The demand for hope, help, and healing continues to increase but we cannot do our work without you.

Thank you to our corporate partners and the many foundations and local businesses that support the agency. Thank you to our donors, partner organizations, and state and government leaders who support our mission. We are grateful for the caring support of the many individuals who generously give of their time, talent and treasure in order to empower children and families to overcome obstacles today so they can build a better tomorrow.

**Mike Duggar, President and CEO**

**Matthew Brickler, Chairman of the Board**

## Our Mission:

Through Christ's Love, we empower children and families to overcome challenges today so they can build a better tomorrow.

## Our Vision:

Generations of children and families across Missouri are safer and stronger together.

## Our Core Values:

- Courageous Faith
- Impeccable Integrity
- Service Excellence
- Strong Teams
- Innovative Ideas

## Our Services:

- Pregnancy Support Services
- Foster Care and Respite Care
- Adoption
- Early Childhood Education
- Mental Health Counseling
- Parenting Support and Education
- Prevention Education for At Risk Youth

## Service Locations

- St. Louis Office
- Southeast Missouri Office in Cape Girardeau
- Southwest Missouri Office in Springfield
- Mid-Missouri Office in Columbia
- Franklin County Office in Union
- St. Charles Office
- Hilltop Child and Family Development Center in North St. Louis
- Joplin Office
- 60 Missouri schools and churches

## 2021 Board of Directors:

- |                              |                  |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| • Laura Hollingsworth, Chair | • Dion Garrett   | • Sarah Maguffee |
| • Matt Brickler, Vice Chair  | • Tom Hohenstein | • Matthew Masiel |
| • Travis Scholl, Secretary   | • Louis Johnson  | • Lynell Peebles |
| • Jim Haertling, Treasurer   | • Thomas Kapp    | • Steven Pozaric |
| • Lauren Baker               | • Annie Kowert   | • Aaron Telle    |
| • Eric Breuer                |                  |                  |

## Accreditations

- Council on Accreditation
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Licensed by the State of Missouri as a Child Placing Agency for Adoption & Foster Care



## Answering the Call

We understand the long-term effects of life challenges for children and families, and how these challenges impact the community at large. By continuing to adapt to meet the unique needs of those we serve, we are seeking to create generational change. Our wraparound approach provides support to our children and families holistically so they can thrive.

“LFCS has servant hearts, and they go above and beyond to serve their clients. They have joy in their hearts when providing service.”

-Stephanie Chipman, Springfield Mission Outreach Board Member

## Caring for Children

Serving children has been and always will be at the heart of the LFCS mission.

In 2021 a total of **6,308** children's lives were saved, sustained and fundamentally altered as a result of our work.

On October 19, 2021, The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Children's Hospital Association declared a national emergency in child and adolescent mental health.



LFCS responded to the need. We provided 26,315 sessions of professional mental health counseling and psychiatric care to over 2,400 children. Services were provided in more than 60 schools and community locations, including underserved neighborhoods, ensuring access to care.

An increase in the severity of mental health symptoms in the children we served resulted in an increase in the average number of sessions from 9 to 16.







Prevention education for at-risk youth helped 1,235 children, grades 3-8, learn essential social skills like proper communication, conflict resolution and anger management in group settings. One-on-one follow up sessions also offered students additional support.

In 2021, there were over 13,000 children in foster care in the state of Missouri. These children have been placed in state care due to abuse and neglect and are suffering from trauma, uncertainty, confusion and fear.



LFCS responded to the need. We provided 145 children with a safe, stable home through foster care case management. Our dedicated case managers worked with kids in care along with their parents and foster parents to make sure that each child was safe and received the care they deserve.

“There’s such a big reward to helping disadvantaged kids. We’re transforming lives through our work. We can have a positive impact and intervene during really hard situations. And we can help them be successful and a positive influence on others.”

-Vernon Kasten, Long-time Ambassador, Supporter, and Volunteer



Keeping kids safe remained a top priority in 2021. By helping parents be the best they can be through parenting support services, more than 1,000 children are free from the risk of abuse and neglect.



Adoption and foster care case management provided permanent, safe and loving homes for 88 children.

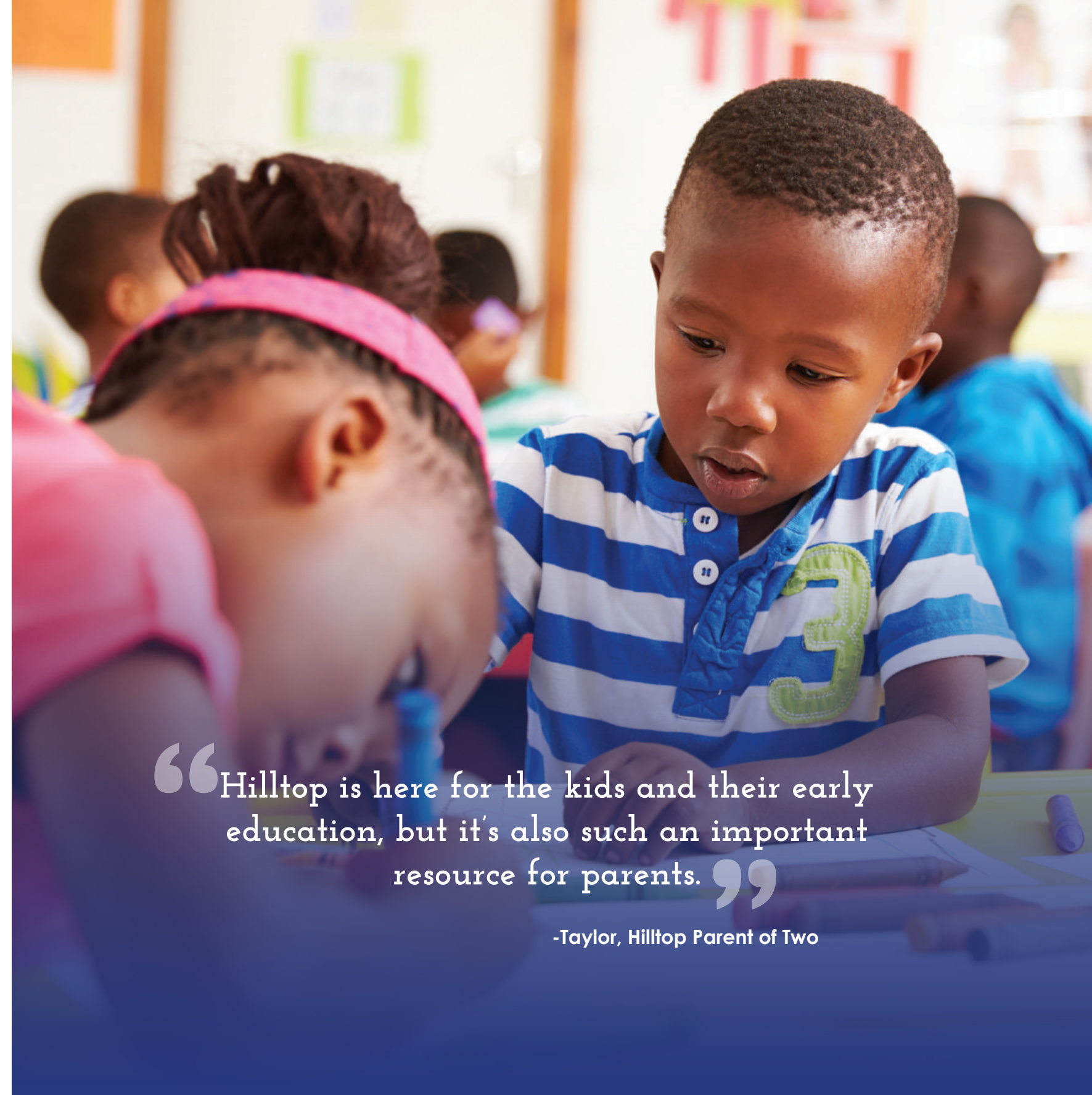


Hilltop Child and Family Development Center provided early childhood education, professional counseling, health screenings, parenting support services and care to 127 children aged 0-5 years and their families. Follow-up services including mental health counseling, working with school personnel to ensure academic success and case management services were provided to 23 students who graduated from Hilltop. But LFCS did not stop there in answering the call for need.



“Hilltop is here for the kids and their early education, but it’s also such an important resource for parents.”

-Taylor, Hilltop Parent of Two





## Strengthening Families

According to the International Federation for Family Development (IFFD), strong families lead to strong communities. In addition, members of stable families have a higher life expectancy and a lower risk of mental illness, alcoholism, domestic violence and involvement in criminal activity.

LFCS strengthens families through services including mental health counseling, adoption, pregnancy support, and foster care. We work to identify risk factors most commonly associated with abuse and neglect in an effort to end the cycle for good.

LFCS responded to the need. Over 500 individual family members of children enrolled at Hilltop also received case management services, professional mental health services and in-home visitation to ensure that the entire family unit was healthy, safe and stable.



Risk factors for abuse and neglect, identified through individual client assessments, include lack of parenting education, mental health concerns, and unsafe and unstable living situations. Parenting education and support services provided 18,268 hours of service to parents facing challenges with the education and skills needed to cope with those challenges and ensure the safety of their children.

Respite care provides temporary care for children of parents needing time to make necessary adjustments in order to better care for themselves and their children. A total of 195 days of care were provided for 24 children.







Facing an unplanned pregnancy can be scary and filled with uncertainty. Over 300 women were guided through this difficult time with professional care and understanding in order to make the best decisions for themselves and their unborn child.

LFCS answered the call for mental health services, providing more than 530 adults with 6,361 sessions of professional therapy. Clients are taught to develop coping skills to navigate through life's difficult challenges, and in 2021 their symptoms decreased by 80%.



LFCS Adoption services provided comprehensive support to over 100 families hoping to adopt. Adoption services include home assessment, education, identifying match possibilities with LFCS birth parents, planning for placement and support throughout the process and beyond.



“My case manager changed my life. She helped me up when I was at my lowest point and never judged me. She is a part of my family now, and I am so grateful to her. LFCS is the best thing that ever happened to me.”

-Janine, Parenting Program client





Thank you to our partners, our Board leadership, and all of our individual donors, who have contributed so much and allowed us to continue to provide support to children and families in need.

## Funders

- Arnold Strickert Foundation
- Boeing
- Boone County Children's Services Fund
- Cape County Senior Citizens Services Fund
- Cape Girardeau Mental Health Tax Board
- Central States Synod
- Dana Brown Charitable Trust
- Emerson Charitable Trust
- Enterprise
- Franklin County Area United Way
- Franklin County Community and Children's Resource Board
- Harmon Foundation
- Heart of Missouri United Way
- Jefferson County Community Mental Health Fund Board
- Jefferson Foundation
- Kolpin Foundation
- Missouri Department of Economic Development
- Missouri Early Care and Connections
- Nuessli Fund
- O'Reilly AutoParts
- Ozark Health Advocacy Foundation
- Perry County Youth Tax Board
- Pott Foundation
- Rushing Family Trust
- St. Charles Community and Children's Resource Board
- St. Louis County Children's Services Fund
- St. Louis Mental Health Board
- State of Missouri Children's Division
- United Way of Greater St. Louis
- United Way of Southeast Missouri
- United Way of the Ozarks
- Veteran's United Foundation

## Partnerships

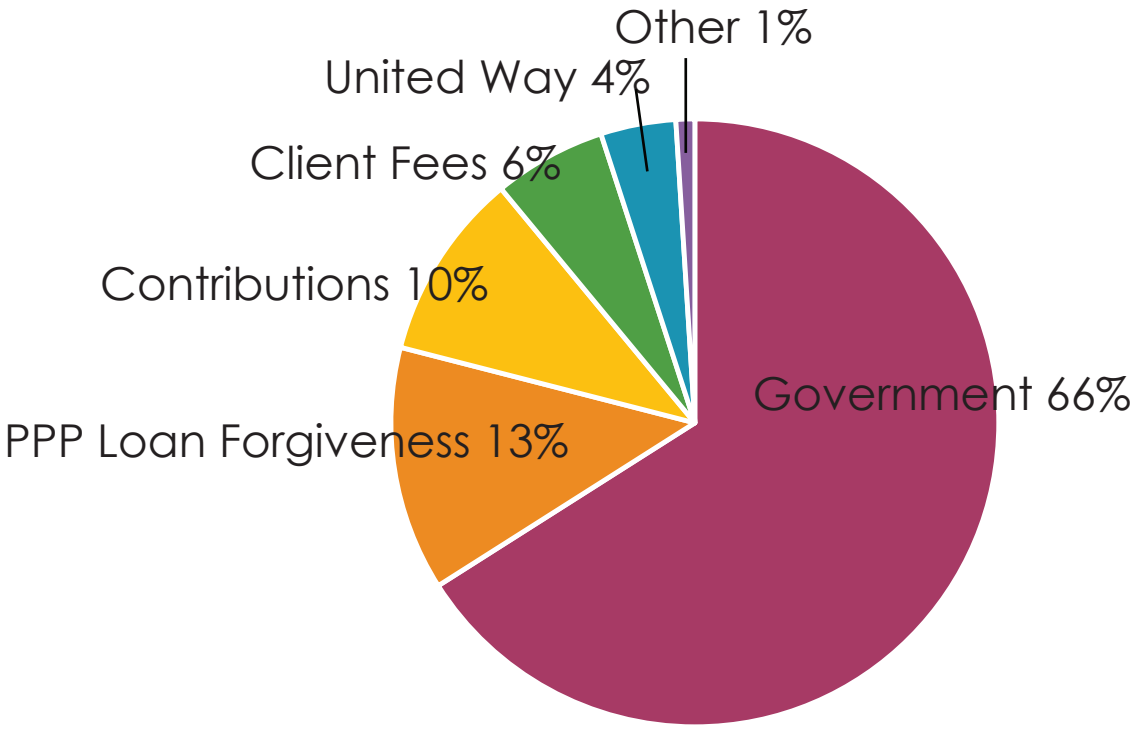
- Bringing Families Together
- Catholic Charities of Kansas City
- Family Forward
- Good Samaritan Boys Ranch
- Good Shepherd
- Missouri Baptist
- Our Little Haven
- Saint Joachim and Ann
- Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Youth In Need



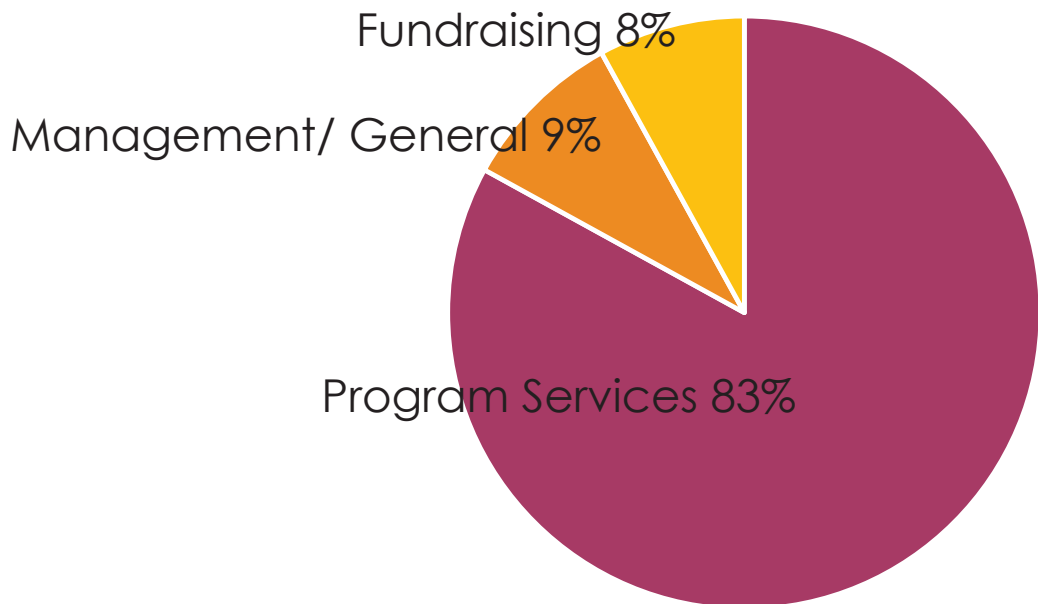
# Financial Overview

For Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2021

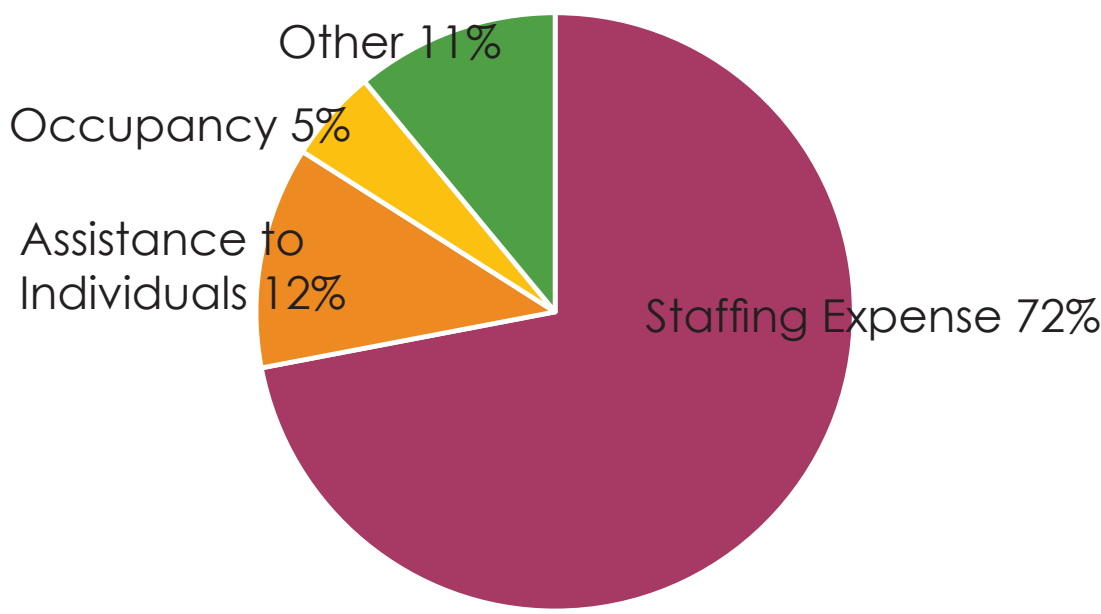
## 2021 Revenues



## 2021 Expenses



## 2021 Operational Spending Summary





Dear LFCS,

In reflecting back on my story and how I came to be the person I am today, I began to realize that my life is full of moving parts and incredible people that I would like to express my gratitude to. So thank you. Thank you for being the beginning of my story. You have given me and so many others a chance on life that would not have been possible without you. I have been blessed with a wonderful family, loving parents, an incredible education, and an overwhelming & unwavering faith. Without you, none of this would have been possible. You have inspired me to live life to its fullest potential, and in doing so, helping others in ways similar to how you have helped me. Thank you for giving me my best chance in life. Your hard work and dedication has impacted more lives than you know and has brought this family more love and joy than words could ever begin to describe.

**Sincerely,  
A Forever-Grateful Adopted Daughter**



[lfcsmo.org](http://lfcsmo.org) | 866-326-LFCS (5327) |  