

FY 2025-2026 Family Preservation Impact

Strengthening Ties and Empowering Parents (STEPS)

STEPS provides intensive family preservation services to families experiencing elevated safety and risk concerns, helping families remain safely together while addressing barriers that may increase the likelihood of child welfare involvement.

STEPS Referral & Engagement Highlights

- **658 referrals received** involving **1,624 children**
- **545 referrals (83%)** involved families assessed as **High or Very High Risk**
- **303 families successfully engaged in services** (165 Pasco; 138 Pinellas)
- **46% overall engagement rate**, exceeding the program goal of 40%

STEPS Family Outcomes

- **74% of engaged families achieved success or measurable progress** upon completion of services
 - Only **4 cases involving 10 children experienced removal while receiving services**, resulting in a **96% family stabilization rate**
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Family Assessment & Stabilization Team (FAST)

FAST provides intensive family preservation and in-home stabilization services designed to prevent abuse, neglect, and unnecessary entry into out-of-home care for children who have received an investigation, and been determined “Unsafe” but able to remain in the home under safety plan.

Connecting Families Path (CFP): LSF Pinellas

Referral Activity

- 222 family referrals
- 401 children served

Total Served

- 318 family referrals
- 584 children served

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Child Safety Outcomes

- **96%** of children were **not abused or neglected while receiving services** (560 of 584 children)

Safe at Home (SAH)

New Referral Activity

- 239 family referrals
- 493 children served

Total Served

- 380 family referrals
- 801 children served

Child Safety Outcomes

- **91%** of children were **not abused or neglected while receiving services** (451 of 493 children)

Together, STEPS and FAST programs provided intensive safety-focused interventions to more than 1,000 families and nearly 2,000 children, helping families remain safely together while achieving exceptional child safety outcomes and reducing the need for more intrusive child welfare involvement.