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IMPACT REPORT



**DEAR FRIENDS
 OF CRT,**

Looking back over the past year, we think warmly of friends like you whose consistent generosity has provided a stable foundation on which to grow our services in youth mental health and at Camp SOAR. **Your support has made a true impact on the scope of our work,** and we are deeply grateful to count you as partners in CRT's mission.

However, as we enter 2025, we are facing significant challenges in sustaining funding in the coming months, perhaps years. In general, we are seeing a substantial decrease in government funding opportunities, and much uncertainty for organizations like ours that rely on this funding. About 30% of CRT's funding is from large government grants (see chart).

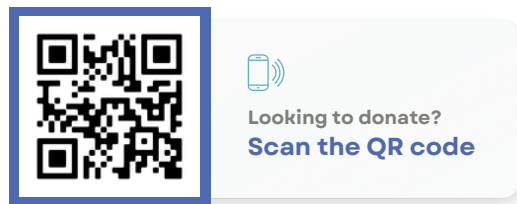
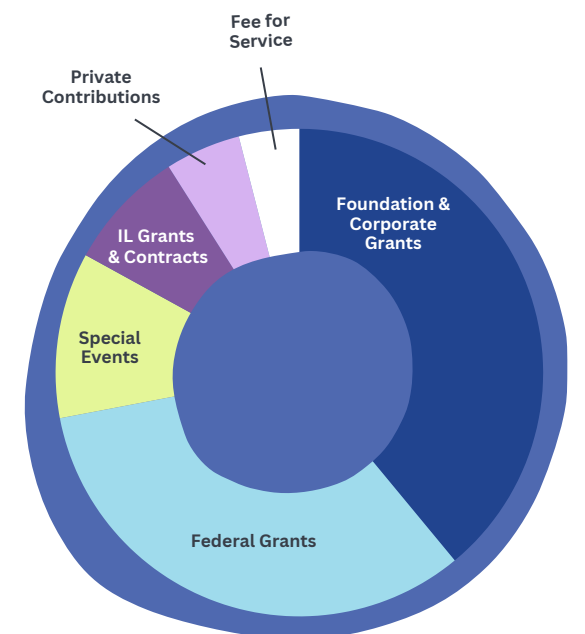
This year, two of our large federal grants will end: a five-year \$500,000 Early Childhood Mental Health Program grant ends in May and a three-year \$500,000 Violence Prevention and Intervention grant ends in September. Typically, renewal opportunities would be posted by now, but there is nothing on the horizon.

This lack of potential new and renewal funding is unprecedented in my 27 years at CRT, and we are actively exploring additional funding streams. However, without new federal grants or new or increased giving from individuals, private foundations, and corporations, we will be forced to reduce the number of children we serve. We will make every effort to avoid this scenario because **we remain firmly committed to serving under resourced communities,** particularly people of color, traumatized populations, youth with disabilities, and other marginalized groups from all backgrounds and identities.

That's why we are reaching out to you, our donors. **It is our hope that you will help us meet the challenges of the current times and stand with us as we support Chicagoland children and families.** We ask you to consider increasing your giving to CRT this year, and we welcome conversations about new potential funding and partnerships.

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PROVIDING CHILDREN AND TEENS WITH EXCEPTIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND CAMP SOAR



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Children’s Research Triangle (CRT) provides equitable access to research-driven behavioral health services to support the development and well-being of underserved children and youth, partnering with their families and communities to help them reach their full potential. CRT’s programs are designed for children and families with high unmet mental health needs and barriers to receiving services. We celebrate our reach over the past year:



CRT is one of few Illinois clinics specializing in assessment and mental health treatment for youth with complex histories of prenatal and environmental trauma, providing the following services:

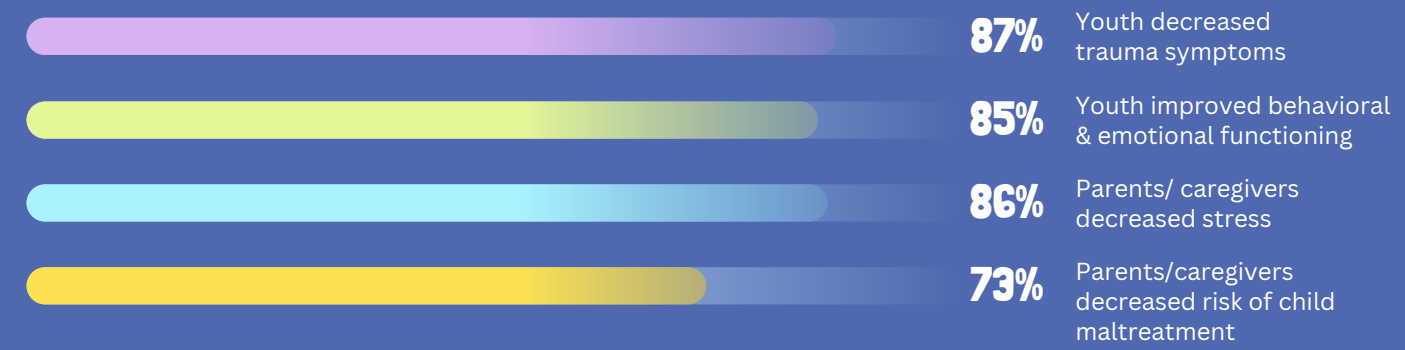
- trauma screening and assessment
- evidence-based individual, family, and group therapy
- comprehensive medical, developmental, and psychological evaluations
- trainings for parents/caregivers and child-serving professionals

THE CHILDREN CRT SERVES ARE



CRT'S IMPACT

Last year’s evaluation data continues to demonstrate the impact of CRT’s programs on the children and families served. We are honored to be a part of our clients’ journeys to healing and hope.



THE BEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER!



Camp SOAR’s anniversary year was full of joy as we celebrated 25 years of offering this amazing overnight camp for children and youth with developmental disabilities. In June we invited campers and counselors past and present to a Camp SOAR reunion, generously sponsored by North Star Investment Management Corp. In July, we welcomed 85 campers supported by 120 volunteer counselors and staff for two weeks of summer camp fun. And in November, we culminated the celebrations at the annual Heroes of Our Hearts Gala, where nearly 400 guests gathered to support Camp SOAR and CRT.

Few summer camp opportunities exist for children with significant disabilities requiring full-time support, and those that do are expensive and can be out of reach for families grappling with the many extra costs of raising a child with disabilities. Camp SOAR tuition is kept low, and CRT raises an additional \$1,500 for every camper who attends.

Simply put, your donations make Camp SOAR happen. We remain extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors, and deeply appreciate your ongoing support of this program that means so much to our campers, counselors, and families.

“Being at Camp SOAR shows me that inclusion is not as difficult as it is often portrayed... It is easy to hang out with, enjoy the company of, and have fun with people with disabilities. Camp shows me the beauty of neurodiversity through the myriad of interests and personalities of our campers.”
CAMP SOAR COUNSELOR

“Camp has been such an important part of our lives for so many years that it is impossible to sum up what it has meant to us and our son. He looks forward to it each year, and he will constantly ask when he is going to return. It has always been his ‘special thing’ that he tells everyone about.”
CAMP SOAR PARENT

