



# You Thrive FL

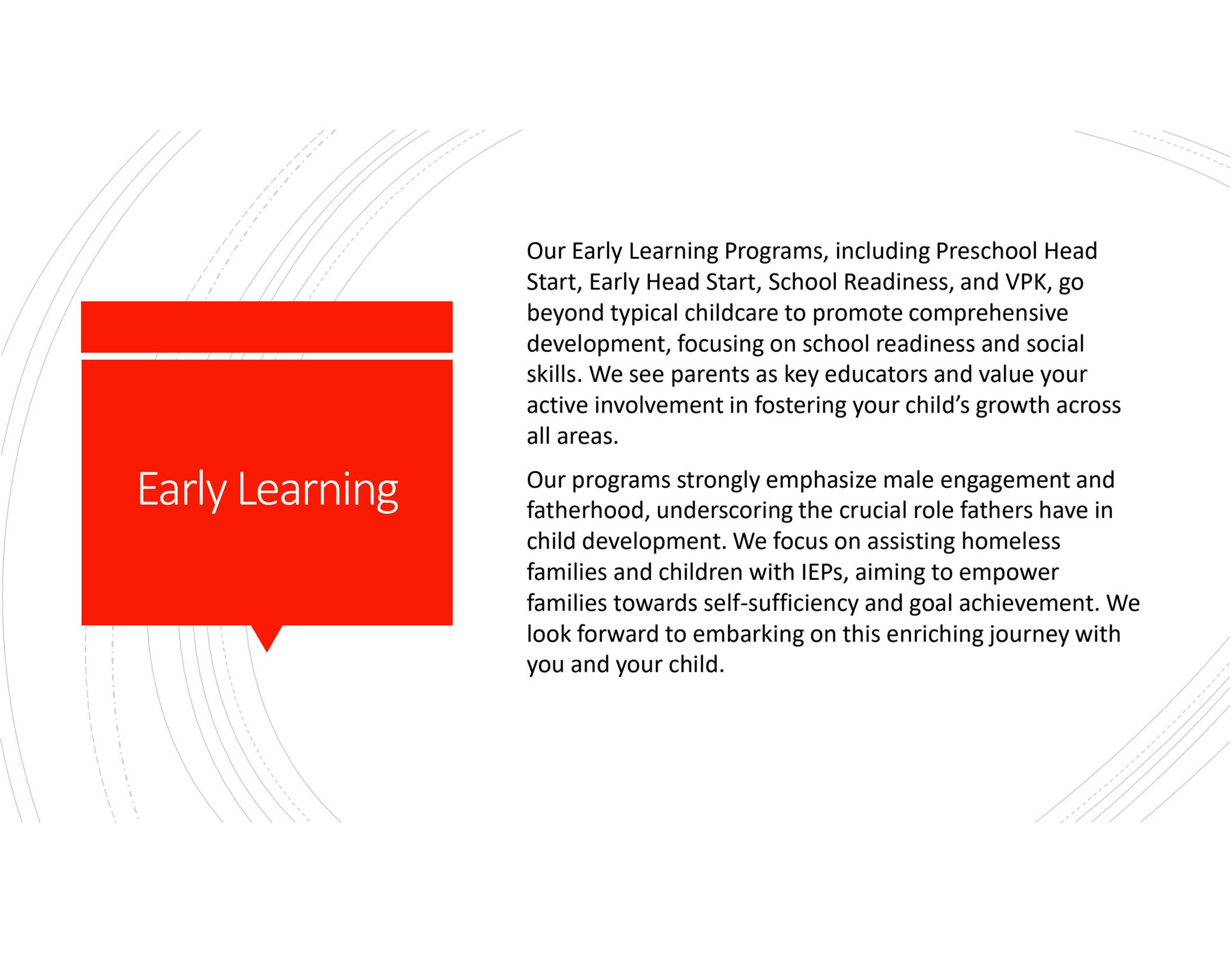
Our Mission

Program Summaries

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## Our Mission

- You Thrive Florida provides life changing services and opportunities to individuals and families, in an effort to improve their ability to thrive.
- You Thrive Florida envisions a future where communities are working together to solve local challenges; where all individuals and families are empowered and equipped with the tools and resources to improve their overall quality of life, well-being, and opportunities to thrive.

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## Early Learning

Our Early Learning Programs, including Preschool Head Start, Early Head Start, School Readiness, and VPK, go beyond typical childcare to promote comprehensive development, focusing on school readiness and social skills. We see parents as key educators and value your active involvement in fostering your child's growth across all areas.

Our programs strongly emphasize male engagement and fatherhood, underscoring the crucial role fathers have in child development. We focus on assisting homeless families and children with IEPs, aiming to empower families towards self-sufficiency and goal achievement. We look forward to embarking on this enriching journey with you and your child.

# Early Learning

- **Quality Learning:** Promotes school readiness with a focus on language, cognitive, and pre-literacy skills.
- **No Cost Care:** Includes free diapers, wipes, formula, and meals.
- **Health Screenings:** Comprehensive health and development assessments provided.
- **Mental Wellness Support:** For both children and families.
- **Family Support:** Access to family services and educational resources.
- **Kindergarten Readiness:** Ensures children are prepared for the next step in their education.
- **Better Social Skills:** Improves social and emotional skills, leading to better impulse control and fewer behavior issues.
- **Higher Education Success:** Alumni are more likely to graduate high school, attend college, and have longer, healthier lives.
- **Funding Sources**
  - **The Early Learning programs are funded by majority Federal and State grants, but also by fundraising events and local charity.**

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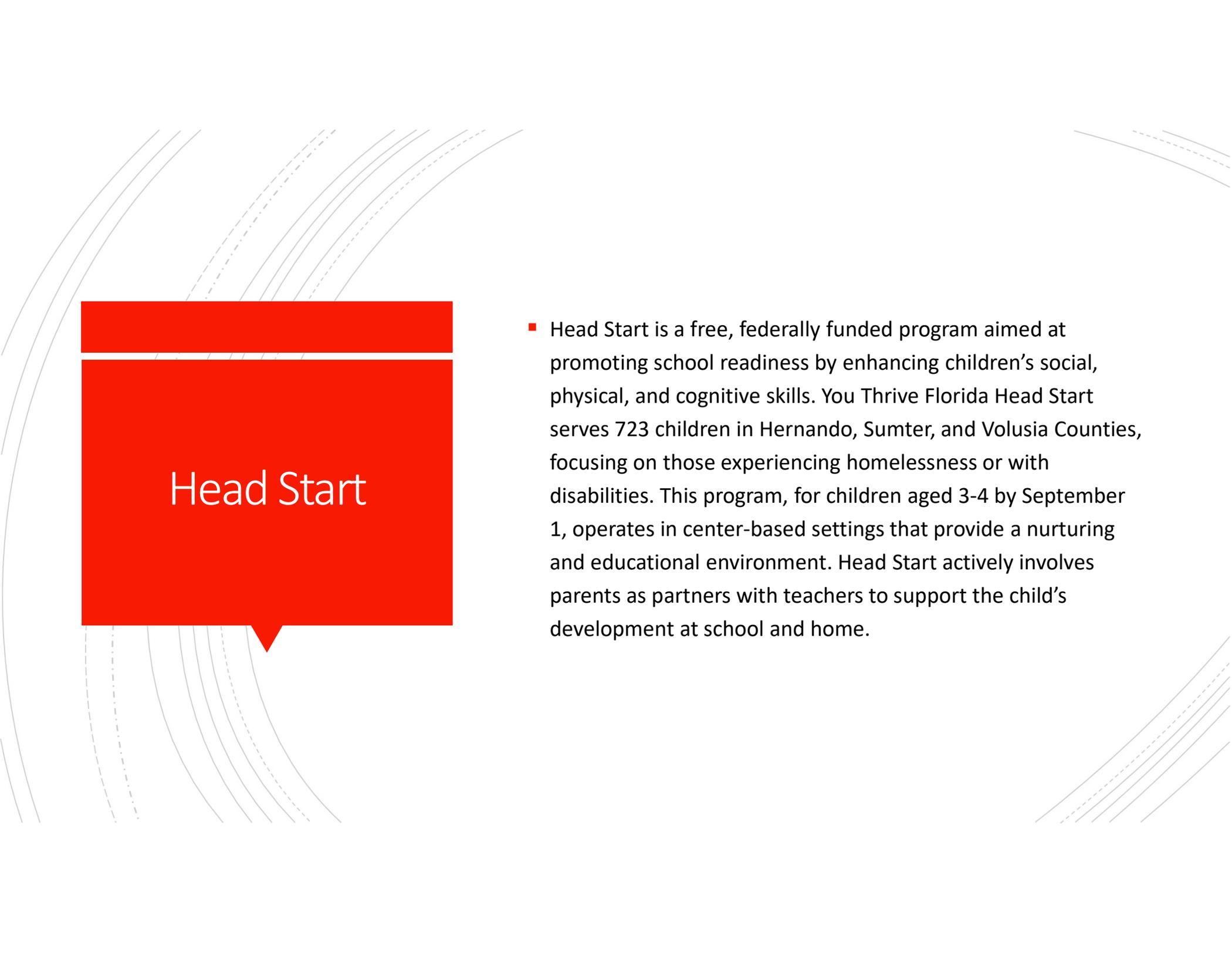
## Early Head Start

- Early Head Start offers extensive development and support services to low-income infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. You Thrive Florida Early Head Start serves 264 children in Hernando and Volusia Counties through a year-round, center-based program that provides enriched early learning and care. Additionally, our staff conduct home visits at least twice annually. In Volusia County, our Home-Based Program supports 24 children by extending these comprehensive services directly into family homes, offering weekly guidance and development support right where families live.

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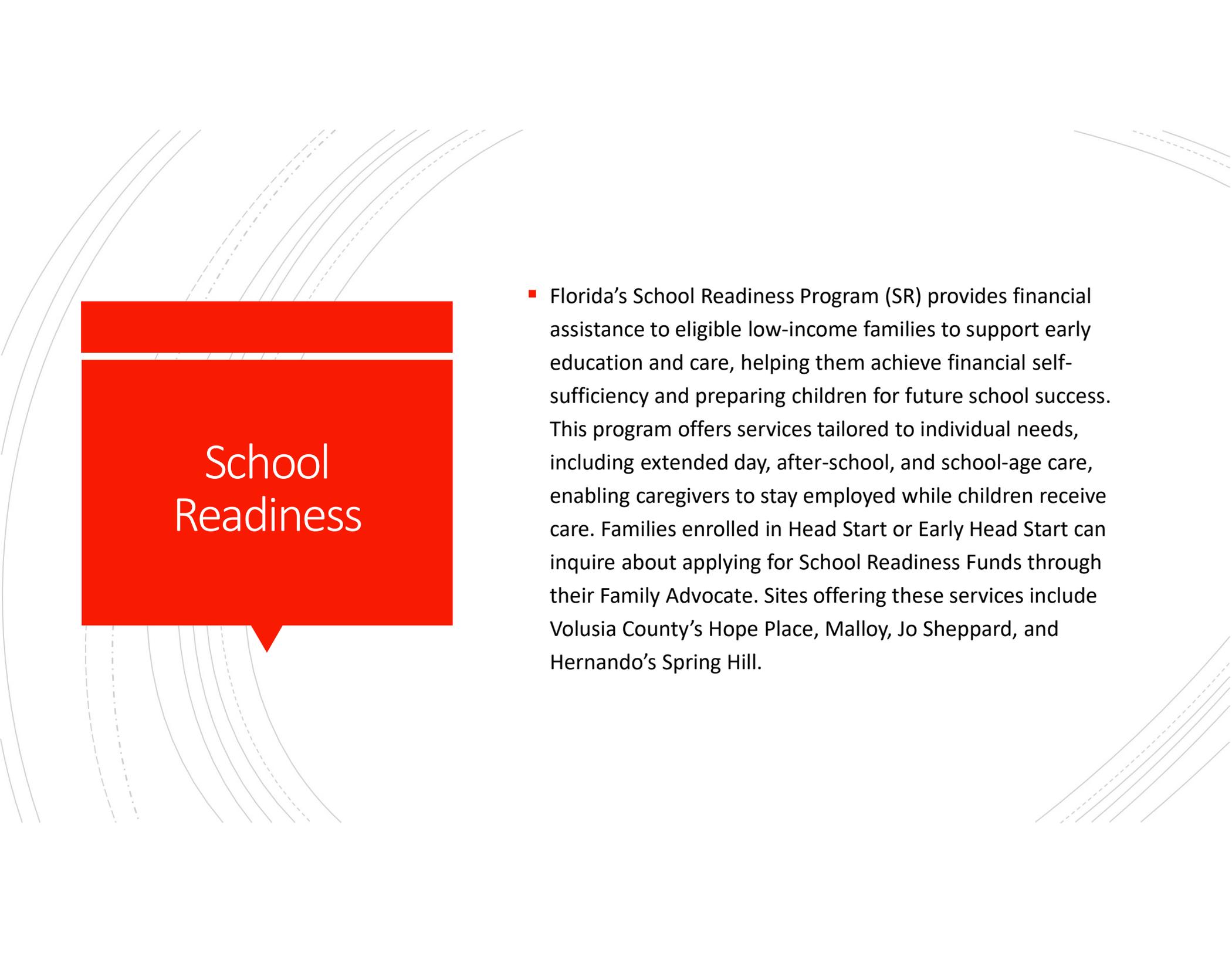
## VPK Program

- The Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) is a free program for 4-year-olds in Florida, designed to prepare them for kindergarten and lay the groundwork for educational success. By enhancing early literacy, executive functioning, and social-emotional skills, VPK complements the comprehensive Head Start Program. Benefits of completing both programs include improved kindergarten readiness, enhanced school attendance, development of lifelong social skills, increased likelihood of advancing grades, and higher chances of high school graduation.

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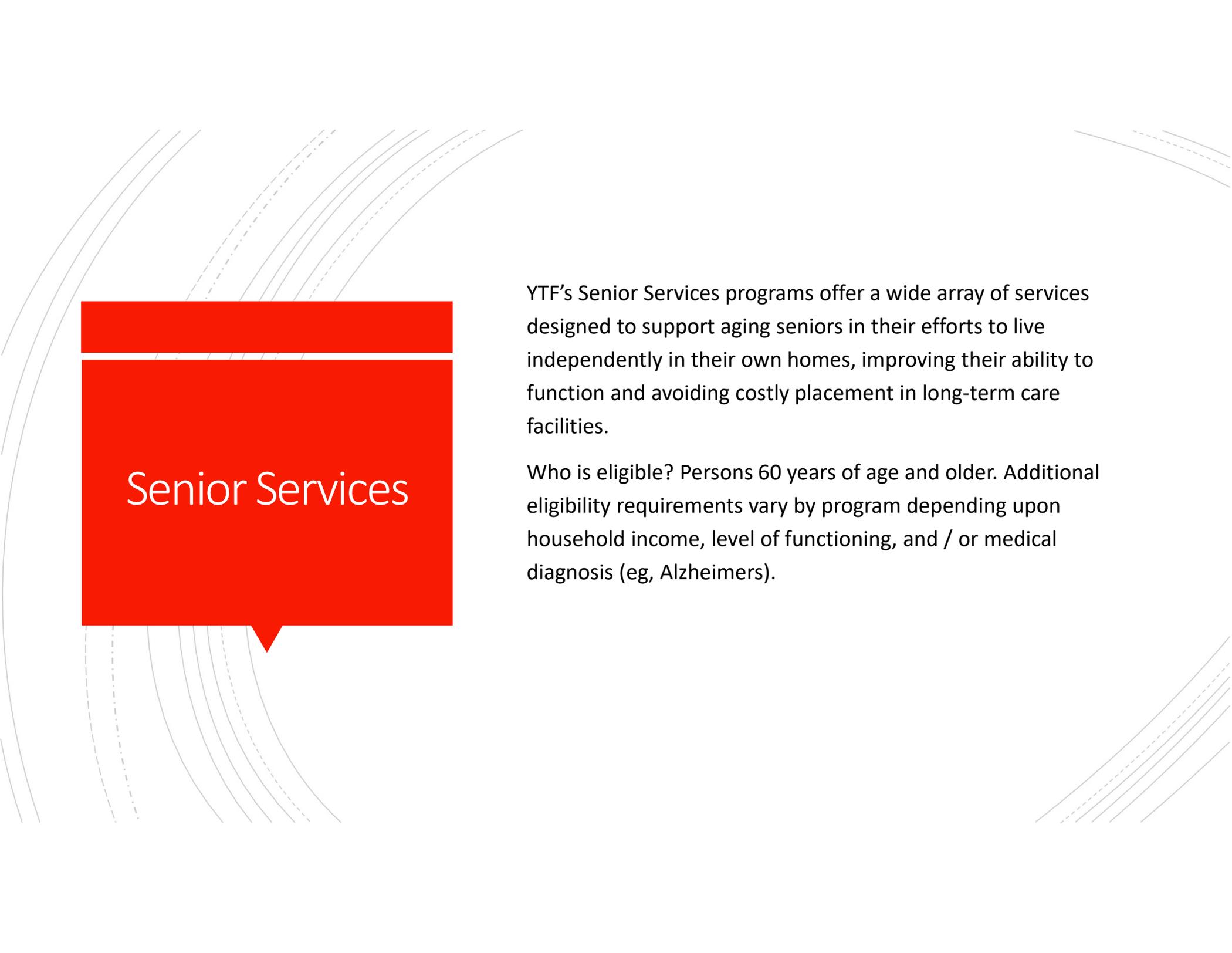
# Head Start

- Head Start is a free, federally funded program aimed at promoting school readiness by enhancing children’s social, physical, and cognitive skills. You Thrive Florida Head Start serves 723 children in Hernando, Sumter, and Volusia Counties, focusing on those experiencing homelessness or with disabilities. This program, for children aged 3-4 by September 1, operates in center-based settings that provide a nurturing and educational environment. Head Start actively involves parents as partners with teachers to support the child’s development at school and home.

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## School Readiness

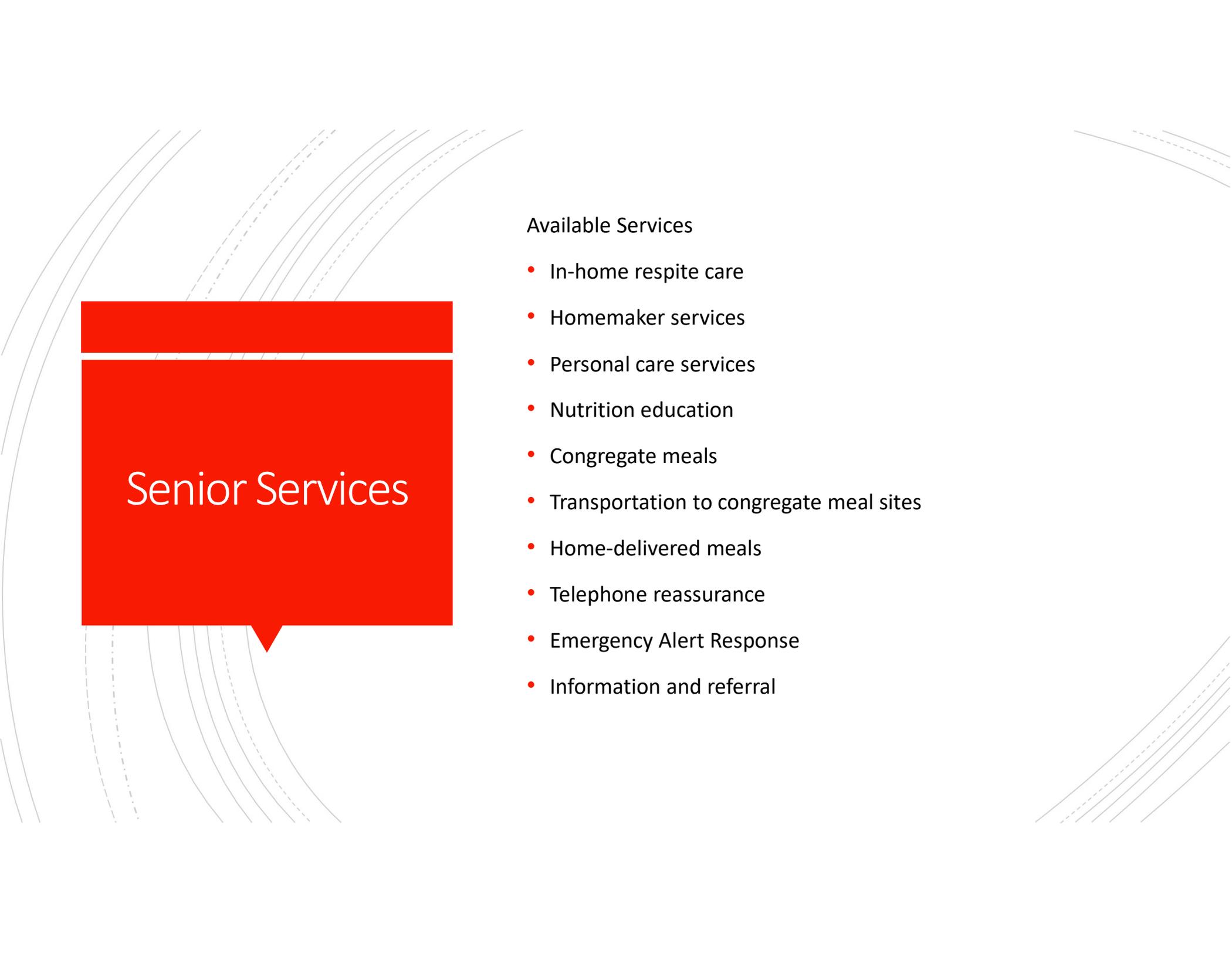
- Florida's School Readiness Program (SR) provides financial assistance to eligible low-income families to support early education and care, helping them achieve financial self-sufficiency and preparing children for future school success. This program offers services tailored to individual needs, including extended day, after-school, and school-age care, enabling caregivers to stay employed while children receive care. Families enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start can inquire about applying for School Readiness Funds through their Family Advocate. Sites offering these services include Volusia County's Hope Place, Malloy, Jo Sheppard, and Hernando's Spring Hill.

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## Senior Services

YTF's Senior Services programs offer a wide array of services designed to support aging seniors in their efforts to live independently in their own homes, improving their ability to function and avoiding costly placement in long-term care facilities.

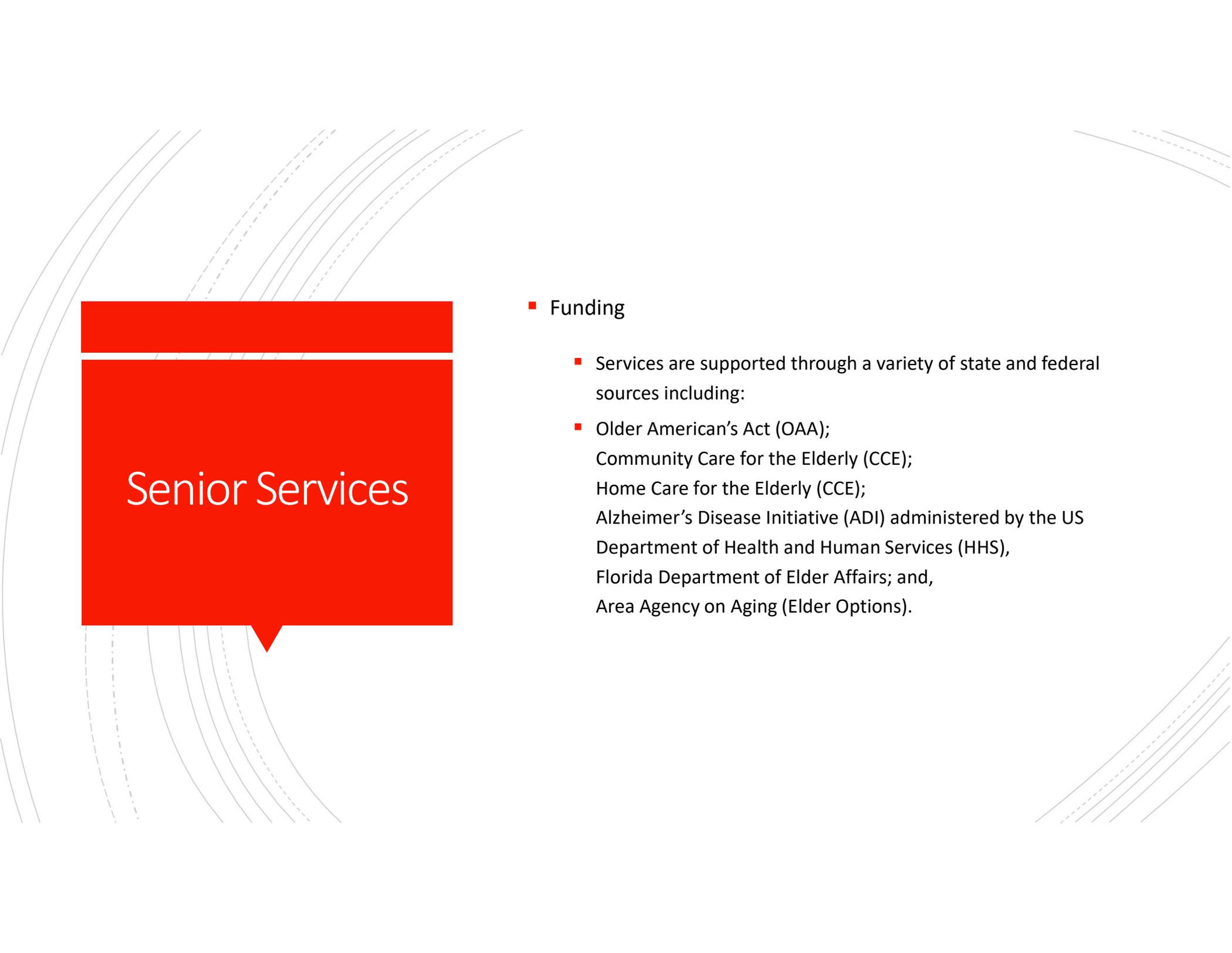
Who is eligible? Persons 60 years of age and older. Additional eligibility requirements vary by program depending upon household income, level of functioning, and / or medical diagnosis (eg, Alheimers).

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# Senior Services

## Available Services

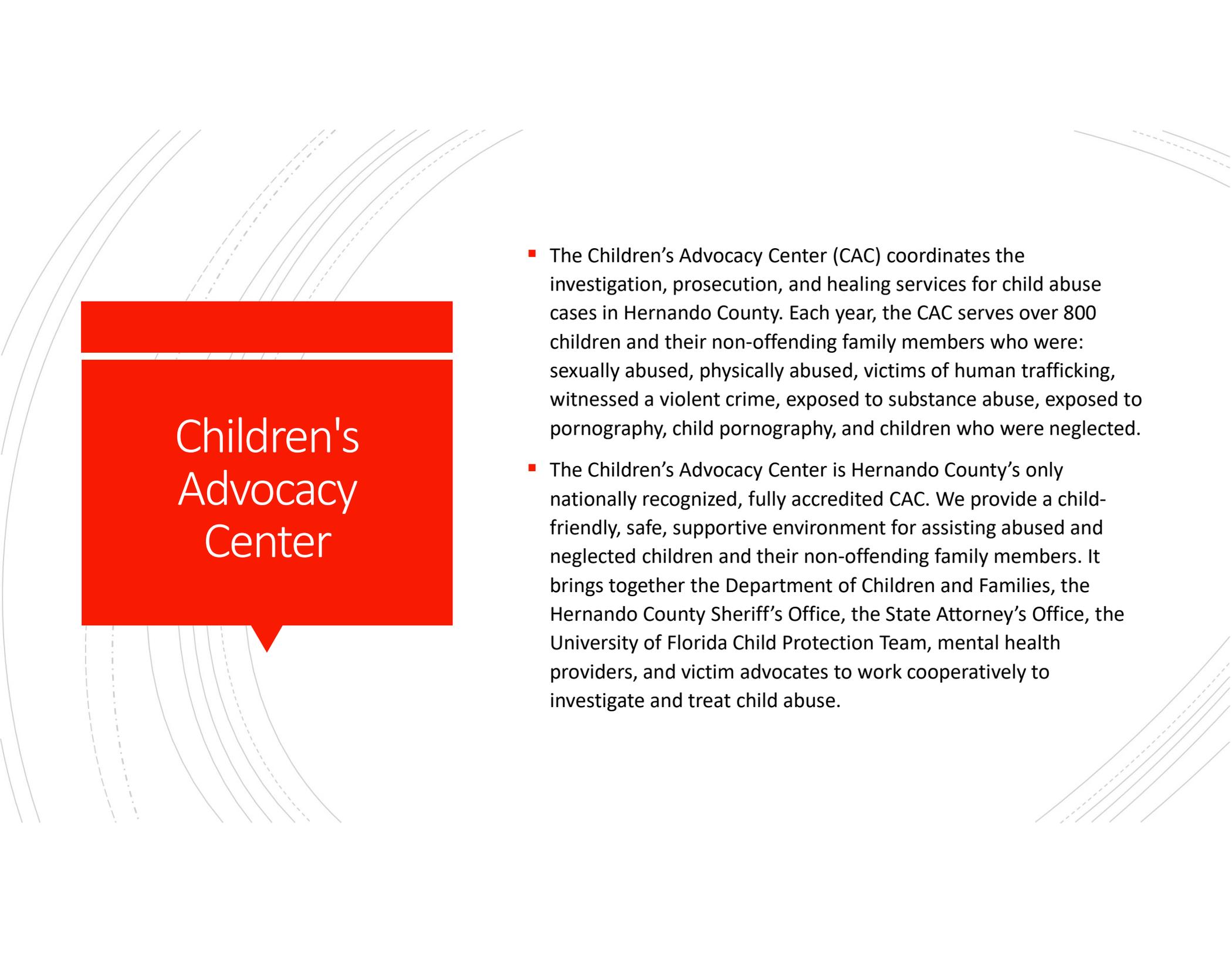
- In-home respite care
- Homemaker services
- Personal care services
- Nutrition education
- Congregate meals
- Transportation to congregate meal sites
- Home-delivered meals
- Telephone reassurance
- Emergency Alert Response
- Information and referral

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# Senior Services

## ■ Funding

- Services are supported through a variety of state and federal sources including:
- Older American's Act (OAA);  
Community Care for the Elderly (CCE);  
Home Care for the Elderly (CCE);  
Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI) administered by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS),  
Florida Department of Elder Affairs; and,  
Area Agency on Aging (Elder Options).

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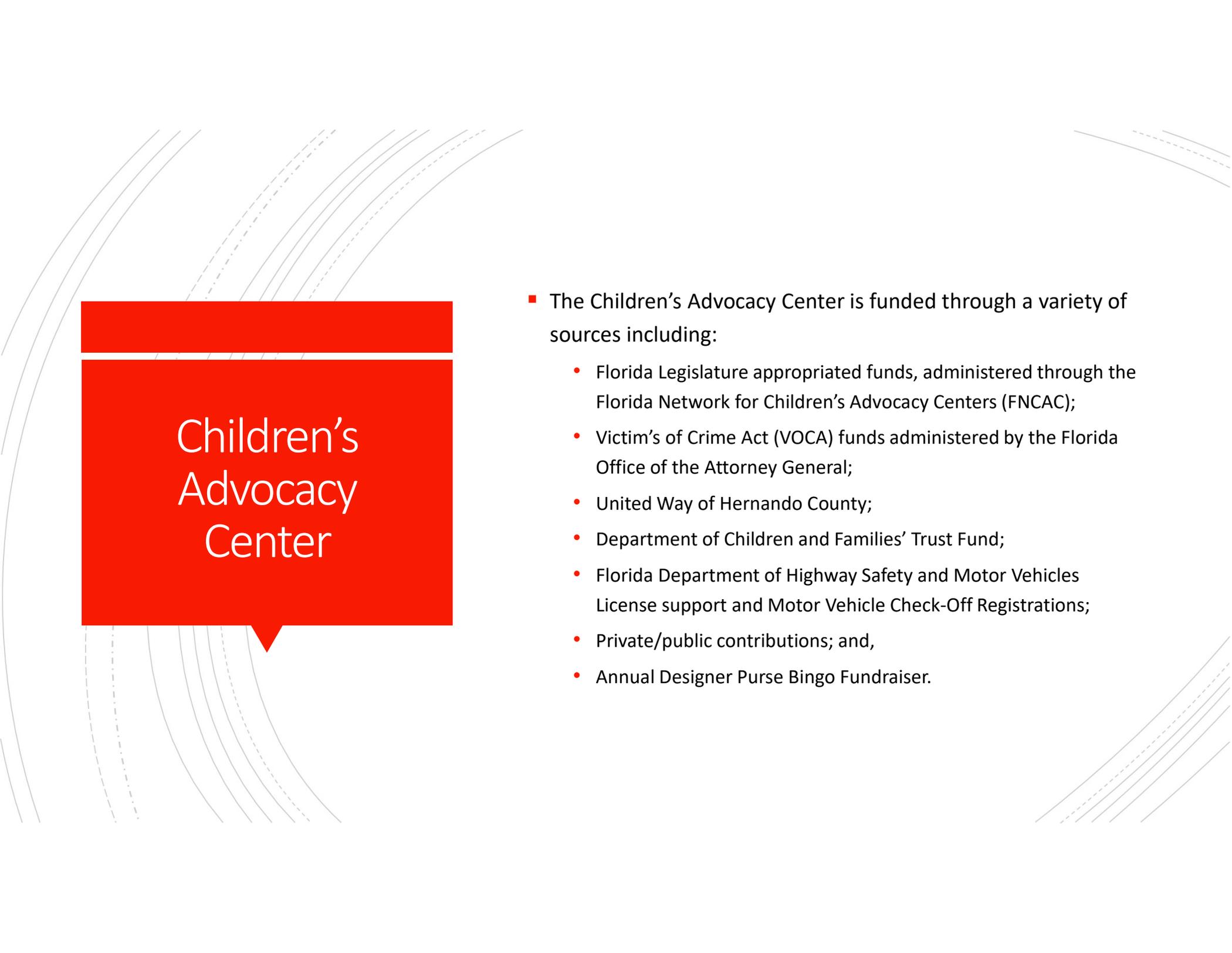
## Children's Advocacy Center

- The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) coordinates the investigation, prosecution, and healing services for child abuse cases in Hernando County. Each year, the CAC serves over 800 children and their non-offending family members who were: sexually abused, physically abused, victims of human trafficking, witnessed a violent crime, exposed to substance abuse, exposed to pornography, child pornography, and children who were neglected.
- The Children's Advocacy Center is Hernando County's only nationally recognized, fully accredited CAC. We provide a child-friendly, safe, supportive environment for assisting abused and neglected children and their non-offending family members. It brings together the Department of Children and Families, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, the State Attorney's Office, the University of Florida Child Protection Team, mental health providers, and victim advocates to work cooperatively to investigate and treat child abuse.

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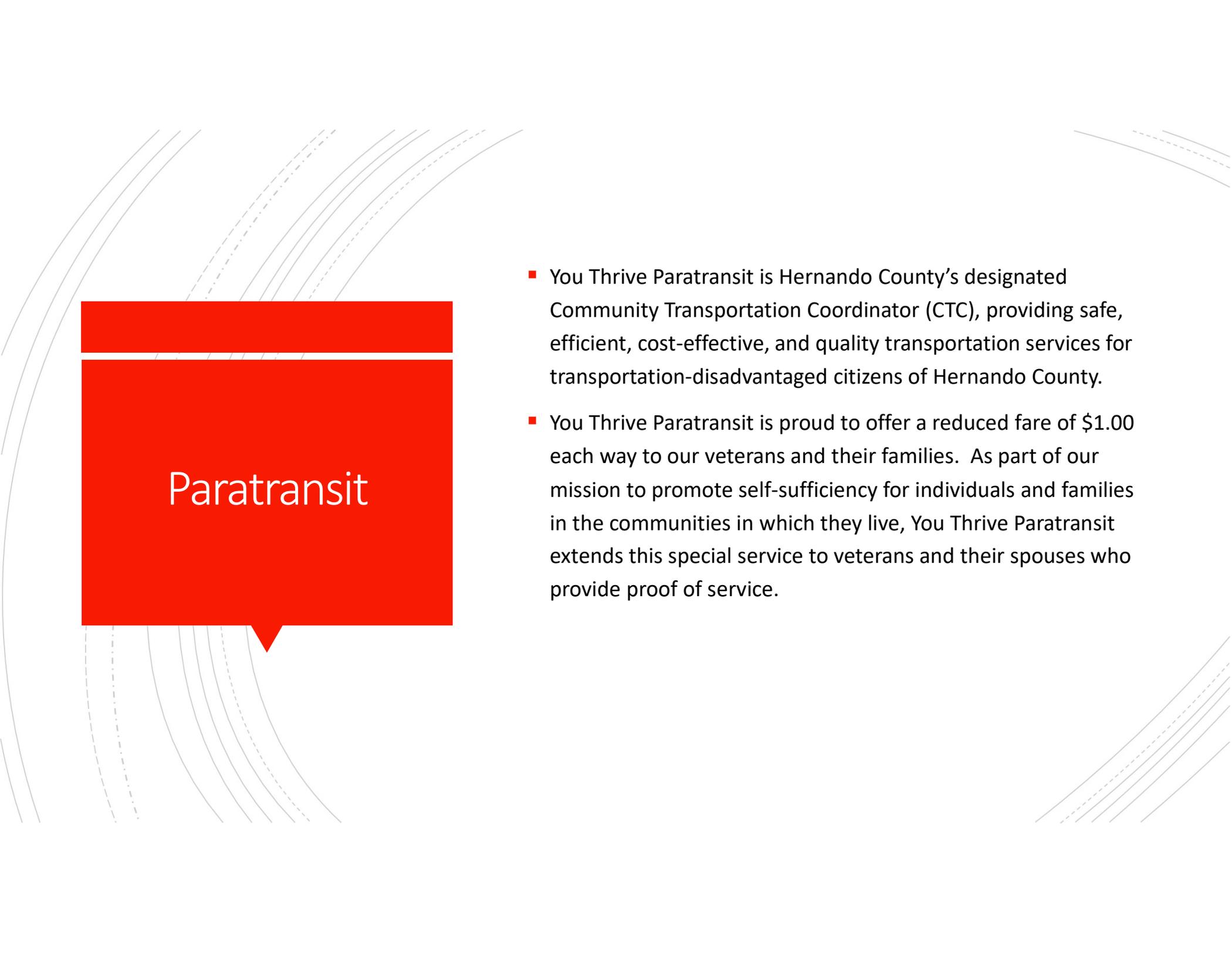
# Children's Advocacy Center

- Who is Eligible? Children ages 0-17 who are victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, human trafficking, mental injury, drug endangered, who witness domestic violence, as well as adults who were sexually abused as children are eligible for services. Non-offending family members such as siblings, parents, or grandparents are also eligible for services.
- Available services
  - Multi-Disciplinary Team Response
  - Advocacy and Case Management
  - Forensic Interviews
  - Forensic Medical Exams
  - Trauma Therapy

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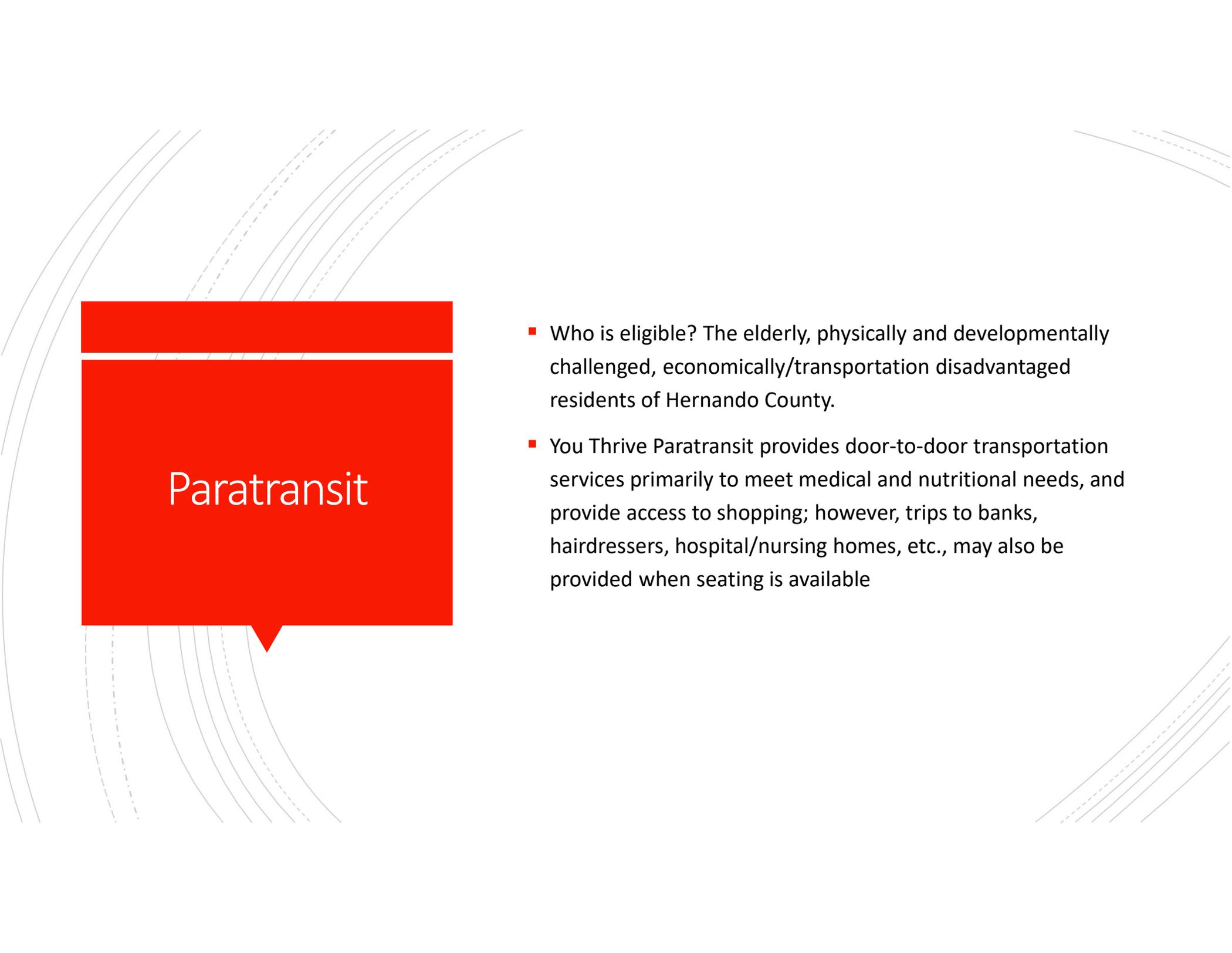
# Children's Advocacy Center

- The Children's Advocacy Center is funded through a variety of sources including:
  - Florida Legislature appropriated funds, administered through the Florida Network for Children's Advocacy Centers (FNCAC);
  - Victim's of Crime Act (VOCA) funds administered by the Florida Office of the Attorney General;
  - United Way of Hernando County;
  - Department of Children and Families' Trust Fund;
  - Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles License support and Motor Vehicle Check-Off Registrations;
  - Private/public contributions; and,
  - Annual Designer Purse Bingo Fundraiser.

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# Paratransit

- You Thrive Paratransit is Hernando County's designated Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), providing safe, efficient, cost-effective, and quality transportation services for transportation-disadvantaged citizens of Hernando County.
- You Thrive Paratransit is proud to offer a reduced fare of \$1.00 each way to our veterans and their families. As part of our mission to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families in the communities in which they live, You Thrive Paratransit extends this special service to veterans and their spouses who provide proof of service.

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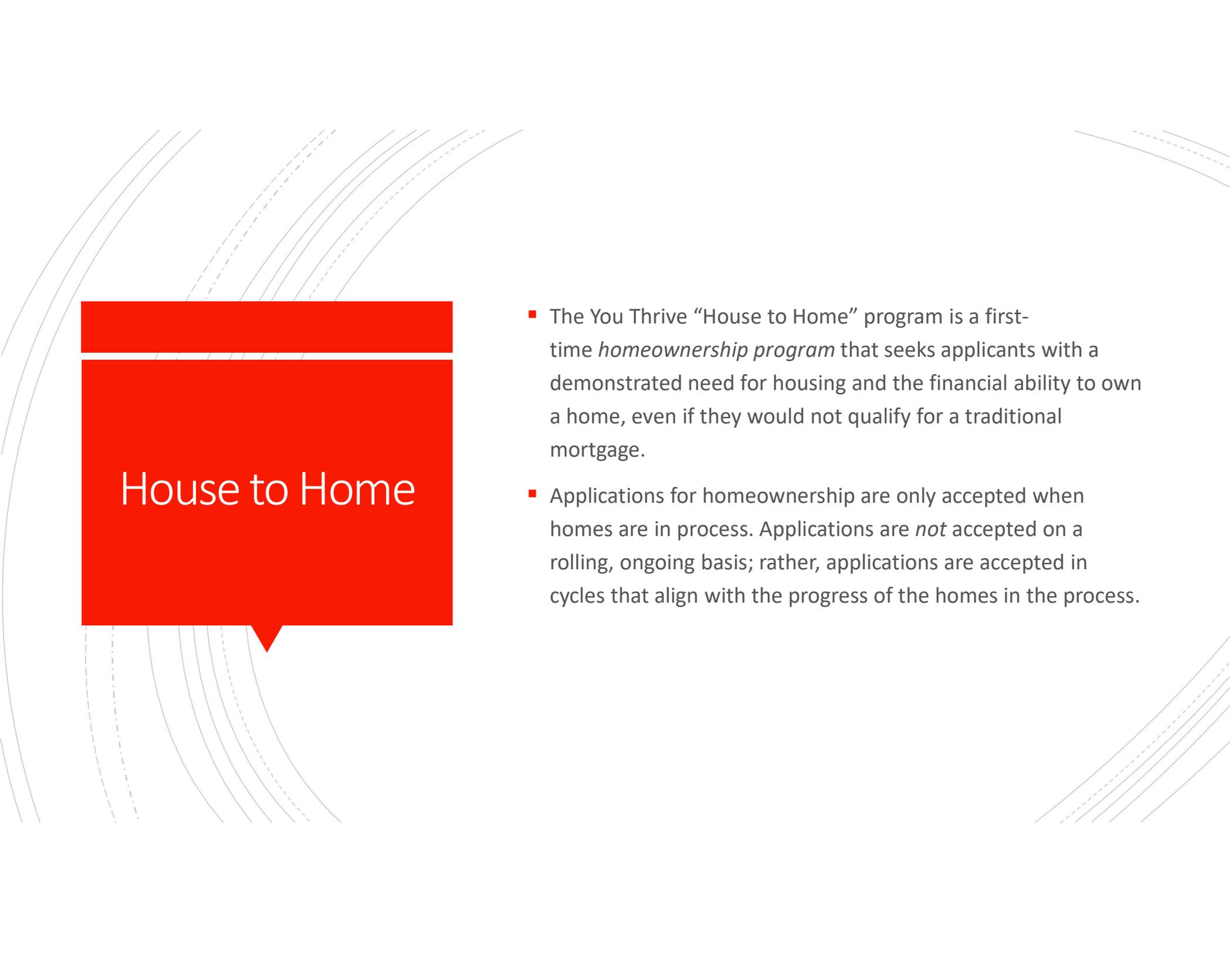
# Paratransit

- Who is eligible? The elderly, physically and developmentally challenged, economically/transportation disadvantaged residents of Hernando County.
- You Thrive Paratransit provides door-to-door transportation services primarily to meet medical and nutritional needs, and provide access to shopping; however, trips to banks, hairdressers, hospital/nursing homes, etc., may also be provided when seating is available

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# Paratransit

- You Thrive Paratransit is supported with funding provided by the Florida Department of Transportation, Section 5310/5311 Federal funds, the State of Florida Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged, and private donations.

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## House to Home

- The You Thrive “House to Home” program is a first-time *homeownership program* that seeks applicants with a demonstrated need for housing and the financial ability to own a home, even if they would not qualify for a traditional mortgage.
- Applications for homeownership are only accepted when homes are in process. Applications are *not* accepted on a rolling, ongoing basis; rather, applications are accepted in cycles that align with the progress of the homes in the process.

# House to Home

- Who is eligible?
  - Ability to pass a background check
    - Must have at **least** a 600 credit score
    - Must be a resident of Hernando County for at least 12 months
    - Must be a first-time home buyer
    - Must be over 21
    - Must be a legal resident of the U.S.
    - Must have 2 years of verifiable income

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# House to Home

## ■ Funding

- Sadowski Grants
- Ship Program
- Non-Profit construction
- Collaboration and fostering partnerships within the community we serve
- Land Grants and donations
- Clothing donation drop boxes at various locations
- Private and corporates donors
- Fundraising events

# Weatherization

- The goal of the Weatherization Assistance Program is to reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly the elderly, disabled and those with children under age 12, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety. *This program is not a window replacement program.*
- Over 7 million families served since inception in 1976.
- Low-income families pay an average of 16.3% of their annual income for energy, compared with 5% for other households.
- The average energy expenditure in low-income households is \$1,267 annually.
- The Weatherization Assistance Program saves program participants an average of \$283 annually and returns an average of \$2.78 in energy and non-energy related benefits for every dollar invested.

# Weatherization

- Who is Eligible?
  - Low-income homeowners whose total gross household income is no more than 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Preference is given to the elderly (60 years plus), physically disabled residents, families with children under 12, and households with a high energy burden (repeated high utility bills), including those participating in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Applicants must be Hillsborough, Hernando, Pasco, Polk, Sumter, Citrus, or Volusia Counties residents.
- Based on pre-inspection diagnostic testing of your home, and available funding, your home *may* be eligible for a variety of energy saving measures which may include the following, in order of priority:

# Weatherization

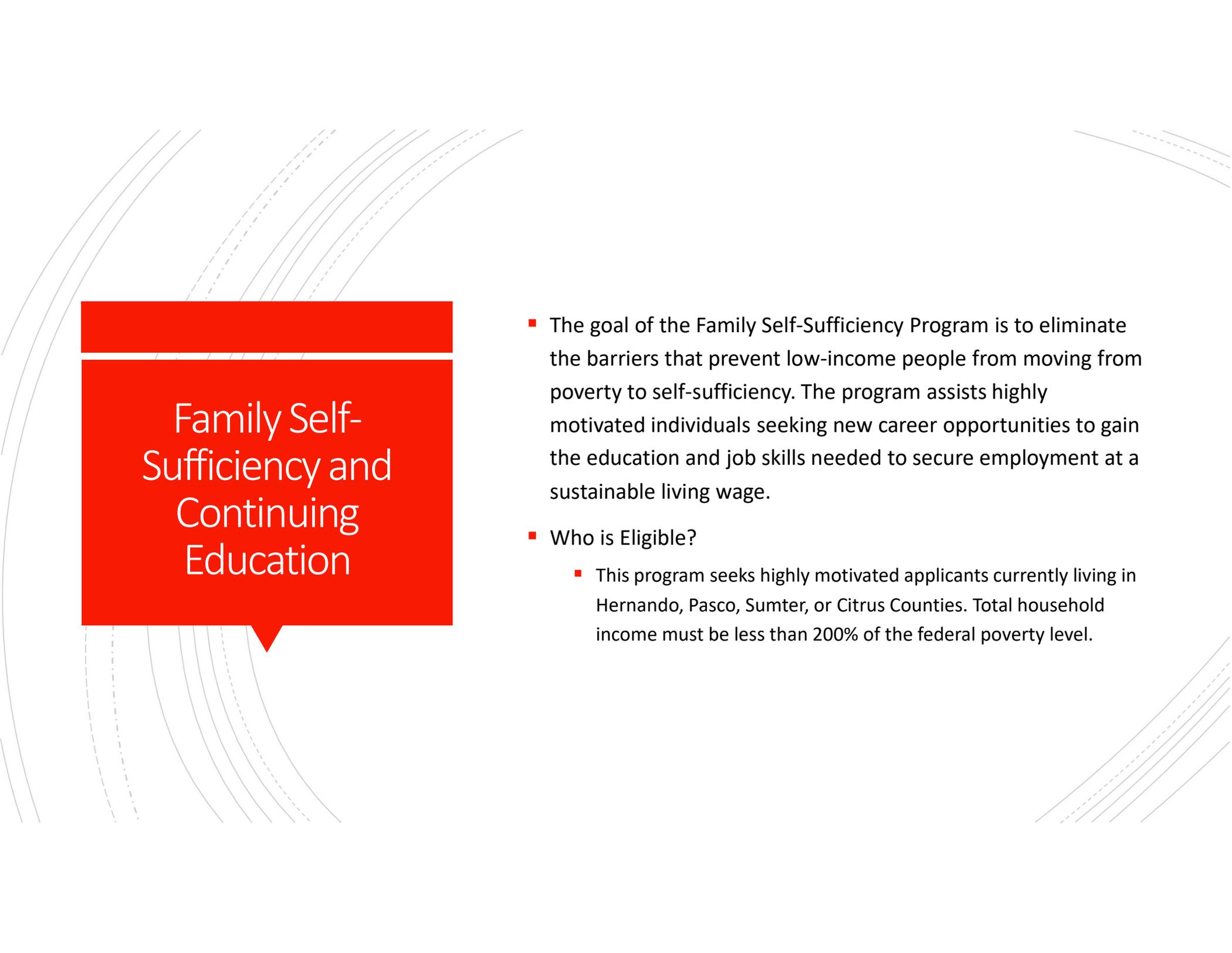
- What are the services?
  - **Health and safety measures** may include the installation of smoke detectors, carbon dioxide detectors, and/or kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans.
  - **Pre-approved measures** could include installation of water heater pipe insulation, water heater tank insulation, faucet aerators, lighting retrofits, and low flow shower heads.
  - **Infiltration reduction measures** may include weatherstripping, duct sealing, attic and floor insulation, repair or replacement of inefficient exterior doors, thresholds; and, minor wall, floor, and ceiling repair.
  - **Installation of solar window screens.**
  - **Refrigerator replacement** *\*only if audit and diagnostic testing recommends replacement.*
  - **HVAC system replacement** *\*only if audit and diagnostic testing recommends replacement.*
- **Weatherization is not a window replacement program.**

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# Weatherization

- Funding

- The Weatherization Assistance Program is funded by the Department of Energy (DOE) with supplemental funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Funds are administered by the State of Florida's Department of Commerce (DOC).

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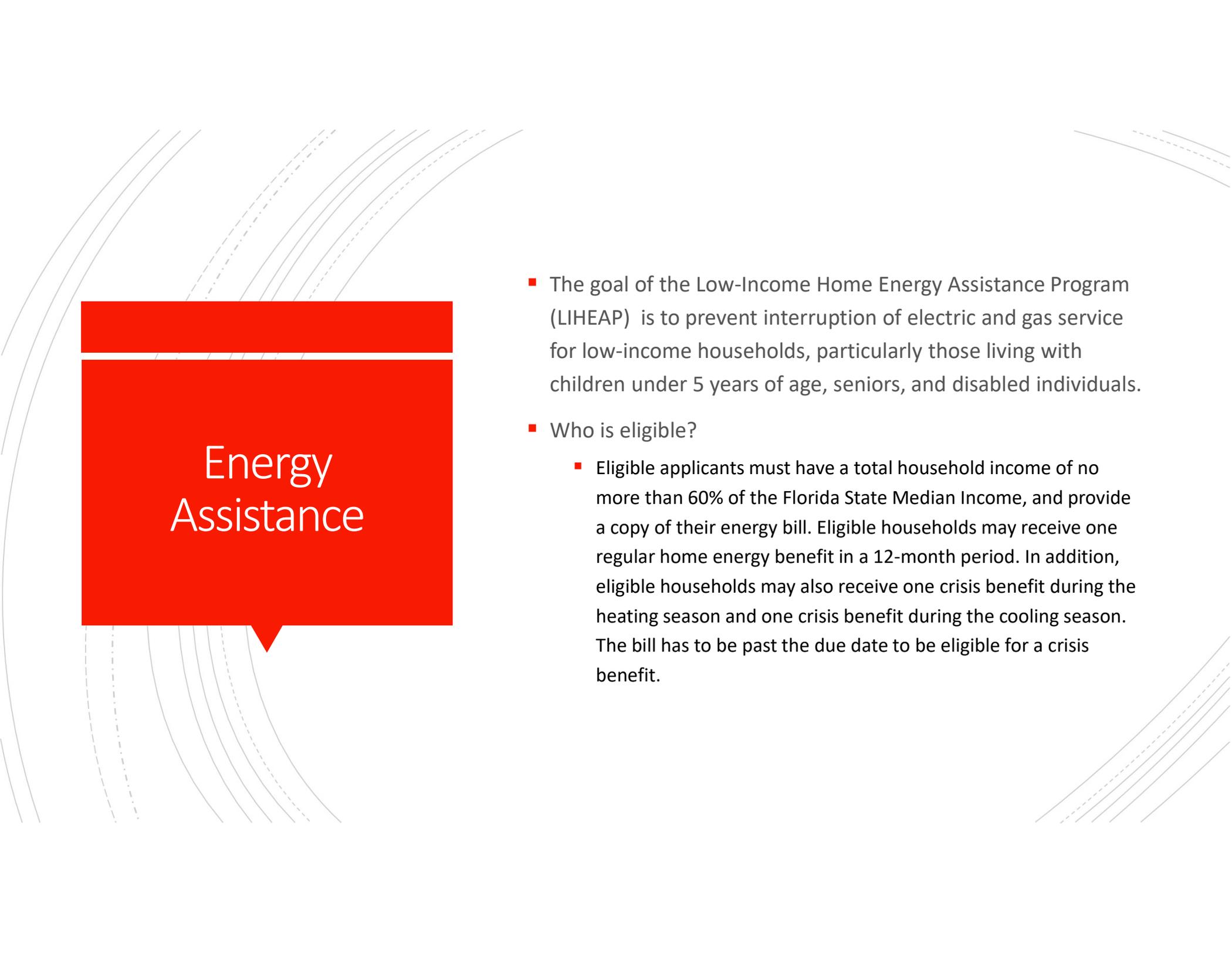
## Family Self-Sufficiency and Continuing Education

- The goal of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program is to eliminate the barriers that prevent low-income people from moving from poverty to self-sufficiency. The program assists highly motivated individuals seeking new career opportunities to gain the education and job skills needed to secure employment at a sustainable living wage.
- Who is Eligible?
  - This program seeks highly motivated applicants currently living in Hernando, Pasco, Sumter, or Citrus Counties. Total household income must be less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

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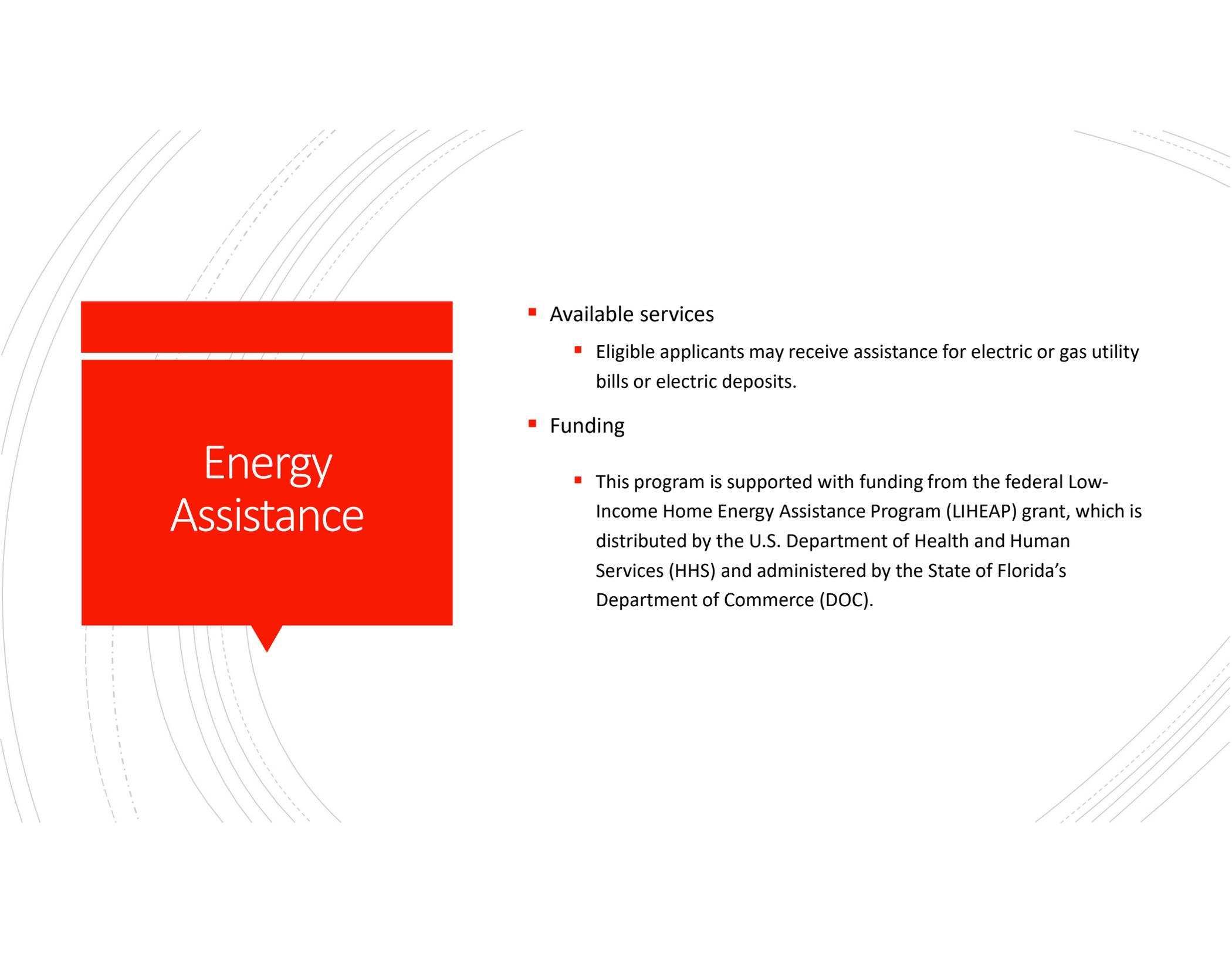
## Family Self-Sufficiency/Continuing Education

- Available services
  - The Family Self-Sufficiency Programs provides assistance with tuition, job training, books, and other educational supplies. Other supportive services may also be available to assist individuals with rent/mortgage, child care, utility bills, and/or other basic needs that create barriers to successfully completing an educational program.
- Funding
  - The Family Self-Sufficiency Program is supported with funding from the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which is distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and administered by the State of Florida's Department of Commerce (DOC).

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## Energy Assistance

- The goal of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is to prevent interruption of electric and gas service for low-income households, particularly those living with children under 5 years of age, seniors, and disabled individuals.
- Who is eligible?
  - Eligible applicants must have a total household income of no more than 60% of the Florida State Median Income, and provide a copy of their energy bill. Eligible households may receive one regular home energy benefit in a 12-month period. In addition, eligible households may also receive one crisis benefit during the heating season and one crisis benefit during the cooling season. The bill has to be past the due date to be eligible for a crisis benefit.

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# Energy Assistance

- Available services
  - Eligible applicants may receive assistance for electric or gas utility bills or electric deposits.
- Funding
  - This program is supported with funding from the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) grant, which is distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and administered by the State of Florida's Department of Commerce (DOC).

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## Emergency/Support services

- Emergency/Support Services for rent or electric assistance is available to low-income individuals and families facing a crisis situation due to a recent job loss or other unexpected circumstances that have negatively impacted the family's financial stability.
- Who is eligible?
  - Low-income households whose income falls 200% or below on the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

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## Emergency/Support Services

- Available services
  - Emergency/Support Services are available to assist low-income households in financial crisis with rent/mortgage payments, and past due utility bills.
- Funding
  - Emergency/Support Services is supported with funding from the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) , which is distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and administered by the State of Florida's Department of Commerce

How to reach us

Agency Locations and Telephone Numbers

**Corporate Offices**

820 Kennedy Blvd.  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
Phone: (888) 802-7483  
Fax: (352) 796-9952

CHILDRENS ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)

711 Benton Ave.  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
Phone: (352) 754-8809  
Fax: (352) 251-3304

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

**Hernando County**

820 Kennedy Blvd.  
Brooksville, FL 34601

**Low Income Home Energy Assistance**

Phone: (352) 796-1425  
Fax: (352) 796-1214

**Weatherization**

Phone: (352) 796-1427  
Fax: (352) 796-9952

**Pasco County**

**East Pasco County**

14446 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Dade City, FL 33523  
Phone: (352) 567-0533  
Fax: (352) 567-0545

**West Pasco County**

5705 Gulf Drive.  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
Phone: (727) 857-5495  
Fax: (727) 857-6158

## EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM CENTERS

### Volusia County

#### **Blue Lake**

282 N Blue Lake Ave.  
Deland, FL 32724  
Phone: (386) 626-0066

#### **Chisholm**

531 Mary Ave.  
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168  
Phone: (386) 427-8131  
Fax: (386) 427-7829

#### **Coleman**

200 E. Blue Springs Ave.  
Orange City, FL 32763  
Phone: (386) 774-0730  
Fax: (386) 774-4135

#### **Deland**

726 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720  
Phone: (386) 873-4804  
Fax: (386) 873-4841

#### **Deltona Lakes**

2022 Adelia Blvd.  
Deltona, FL 32725  
Phone: (386) 575-4115  
Fax: (386) 789-7018

#### **Highland**

124 Highland Ave.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32117  
Phone: (386) 281-3600

#### **Holly Hill**

719 Walker St.  
Holly Hill, FL 32117  
Phone: (386) 238-5333  
Fax: (386) 238-8468

#### **Holly Hill School**

1500 Center Ave.  
Holly Hill, FL 32117  
Phone: (386) 258-4662  
Fax: (386) 506-5073

#### **Home Base-East Satellite Office**

1360 Mason Ave.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32117  
Phone: (386) 256-3400

#### **Hope Place**

1340 Wright St.  
Holly Hill, FL 32117  
Phone: (386) 281-3314  
Fax: (386) 256-6921

#### **Jo Sheppard**

592 S. Volusia Ave.  
Pierson, FL 32180  
Phone: (386) 749-0300  
Fax: (386) 749-0008

#### **Keech Street**

461 S. Keech St.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
Phone: (386) 323-7113  
Fax: (386) 323-7105

#### **Malloy**

330 Retta St.  
DeLeon Springs, FL 32130  
Phone: (386) 985-0803  
Fax: (386) 985-0805

#### **Oakridge**

233 Oakridge St.  
Daytona Beach, FL 32117  
Phone: (386) 366-8242  
Fax: (386) 366-8234

#### **Osteen**

506 Doyle Road  
Osteen, FL 32764  
Phone: (407) 324-3865

#### **Woodland**

803 S. Woodland Blvd.  
Deland, FL 32720  
Phone: (386) 736-1325  
Fax: (386) 736-1485

#### **Woodward Elementary**

1201 S. Woodward Ave.  
Deland, FL 32720  
Phone: (386) 740-7910  
Ext: 21542  
Fax: (386) 626-0063

How to reach us

How to reach us

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM CENTERS

**Hernando County**

**Brooksville**  
835 School Street  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
Phone: (352) 754-2464  
Fax: (352) 799-5252

**Spring Hill**  
11245 Spring Hill Dr.  
Spring Hill, FL 34609  
Phone: (352) 556-4801  
Fax: (352) 556-5287

**Sumter County**

**Bushnell**  
403 S. Lincoln St.  
Bushnell, FL 33513  
Phone: (352) 568-0821  
Fax: (352) 793-6714

HOUSE TO HOME

820 Kennedy Blvd.  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
Phone: (888) 802-7483

PARATRANSIT SERVICES

1122 Ponce De Leon Blvd.  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
Phone: (352) 799-1510

SENIOR SERVICES

**Hernando County**  
880 Kennedy Blvd.  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
Phone: (352) 796-1426  
Fax: (352) 797-2298

**Lake County**  
1211 Penn Street  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
Phone: (352) 326-3540  
Fax: (352) 326-2164

**Polk County**  
1290 Golfview Ave.  
Bartow, FL 33830  
Phone: (863) 534-5320  
Fax: (863) 534-0314