



2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

Over the past 33 years, PACE Center for Girls has transformed the lives of more than 40,000 at-risk girls providing them with opportunities for a brighter future through trauma-informed education, counseling, training and advocacy. With 21 PACE Centers located across Florida, and 10 DJJ funded outreach programs, PACE is a vocal and respected advocate for girls with histories of trauma, mental health challenges, family conflict, and academic instability, factors that place girls at risk for delinquency.

Involvement in the juvenile justice system has a significant impact on the future success of girls and imposes tremendous long-term costs to society¹. Since inception, PACE has partnered with the Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice to provide a holistic delinquency prevention and early intervention model that diverts girls from the juvenile justice system and ensures their success at home, in school and in their communities.

By investing in prevention and early intervention, girls avoid the delinquency system, escape sexual exploitation, and break generational cycles of poverty and long-term economic dependence. Further, the safety of our society and the returns to taxpayers are significantly enhanced.



During the 2019 Legislative Session PACE Center for Girls will advocate for:

PACE Center for Girls advocates for legislation that develops comprehensive systems of care for girls at risk of delinquency and sexual exploitation; provides access to comprehensive wrap-around services, including well-being and mental health; and removes barriers to education and employment for girls.

Comprehensive Systems of Care

- PACE Center for Girls supports legislation to stop sex trafficking and provide resources to survivors of sex trafficking.
- PACE Center for Girls advocates for civil citations to be adopted and consistently implemented across all counties.
- PACE Center for Girls supports efforts to decrease the practice of direct filing of children into the adult corrections system².

Education

- PACE Center for Girls supports education reform giving girls the option to utilize alternative high school graduation requirements.
- PACE Center for Girls supports the addition of financial literacy coursework for youth obtaining their high school diploma.
- PACE Center for Girls supports an increase in per pupil FEFP funding for students in grades K-12 and ensuring all categorical funds follow the student regardless of school placement.
- PACE Center for Girls advocates for legislative intent of the DJJ supplemental to be followed by school districts by providing funding, rather than goods or services, to all juvenile justice education programs. PACE supports the inclusion of annual adjustments to the DJJ supplemental that align with increases to the base student allocation for public school funding.

Resources

- Transfer \$4.5 million in nonrecurring funding from FY19 to recurring in FY20 for PACE Center for Girls to maintain the current level of services. Investment in prevention has resulted in a 52% decline in girls being arrested, and a 47% decline in the number of girls incarcerated in Florida, since 2011.
- Support PACE Center for Girls request of \$340,000 to further our impact and allow us to serve 20 additional girls in FY20³.
- Support PACE Center for Girls request of \$300,000 to further our impact by expanding PACE Reach to Clay and Putnam Counties.

1 The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Juvenile Incarceration, Human Capital and Future Crime: Evidence from Randomly Assigned Judges, 2015. 2 "Branded for Life: Florida's Prosecution of Children as Adults under its 'Direct File' Statute." Human Rights Watch, 10 April 2014. 3 \$68/day (DJJ slot allocation) x 250 days x 20 slots = \$340,000

