

ECCAC

Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center

Rise to the challenge.

End child abuse. End child neglect.

Annual Capital Campaign

July 2023 - June 2026



Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center's four-million dollar capital campaign will invest in two projects to enhance and grow the mission of the organization to serve more children across Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

Our campaign mission
 We aim to empower the communities of Okaloosa and Walton counties to address child abuse through collaborative intervention, prevention education and awareness. Together with child protective, legal entities, and community partners, ECCAC identifies and provides critical services for child abuse victims and their families while working toward holding offenders accountable.

Phase 1: Niceville Center Expansion

In late 2021, a needs assessment was conducted to address the need to renovate Niceville facility and to add additional space to the existing property. A number of factors attributed to the need for additional space to ensure quality services for child abuse victims in Okaloosa County.

1 - Organizational Growth

- a. Since opening in 2000, there has been a **226% increase** in the number of child abuse cases managed by ECCAC and its agency partners.
- b. In 2000 ECCAC had one staffed advocate managing around 300 cases and now, four employees manage **over 800 cases.**
- c. ECCAC grew from a team of three in 2000 to now a **team of 32** in 2023, with growth in the services: advocate, prevention and therapy programs, along with adding staff to the development /marketing and administrative departments.

2 - Added Services

- a. In 2017, the Prevention Team was added and now serves **over 18,000 safety lessons** to children in Okaloosa and Walton County School Districts each year.

3 - Agency Partners

- a. Space was added for Office of State Attorney and CPT.



\$1.2MM

estimated cost

\$1MM for the building
 \$200K for the furnishings & equipment

timeline

06/23 - 01/24

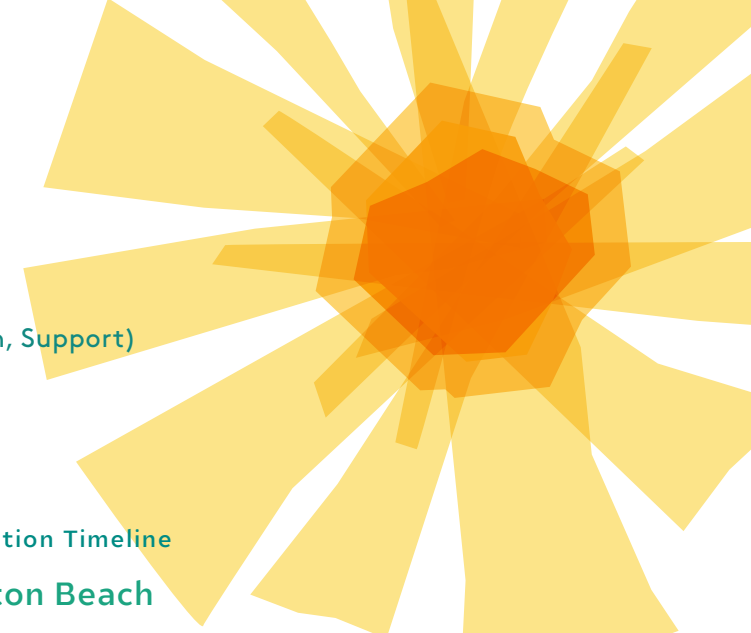
With the needs listed, the expansion of the 2,600-square-foot additional building helps our mission to serve more children and their families.

Phase 2: CARES

(Community Awareness, Advocacy, Resources, Education, Support)

In March of 2021, the Board of Directors approved the "CARES" (Community Awareness, Advocacy, Resources, Education and Support) initiative. The new initiative expands the population of children and their families to include cases of neglect. The core approach will be implementing **prevention strategies to keep children from entering and/or remaining in the child welfare system.**

Strategies include community-wide prevention campaigns, individualized education and information for families, providing resources to address neglect, and providing support. Our goal is to build and implement program operations in Fort Walton Beach in 2023 with additional CARES programs being implemented in DeFuniak Springs, Crestview, Niceville and South Walton by years 2025 and 2026.



Implementation Timeline

Fort Walton Beach

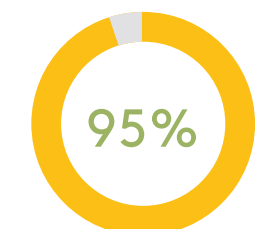
- a. Hire CARES program manager (Currently building team) 01/23
- b. Identify Fort Walton Beach location 06/23
- c. Hire key staff
- d. Operational

DeFuniak Springs/Crestview

- a. Identify location Q2 2024-DeFuniak
Q2 2025-Crestview
- b. Hire key staff
- c. Operational

Freeport/South Walton

- a. Identify Freeport/South Walton location Q1 2026
- b. Hire key staff
- c. Operational



of child abuse is preventable through education



\$2.8MM

estimated cost

100 families/mo.
 served by CARES

Based on the data collected in the first year of opening the CARES center, we will be able to provide awareness, resources, education and support to approximately 100 families per month.

Our History

The nationally accredited Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center, Inc. was incorporated in June of 1997.

The first facility opened its doors on October 27, 2000, in Niceville, Florida, serving both Okaloosa and Walton Counties. Critical services provided at no cost include advocacy, mental health therapy, medical exams and evaluations, and forensic interviews.

The second facility, the Pierce Family Center, located in DeFuniak Springs, opened its door on April 8, 2016, to serve children residing in Walton County.

In November of 2017, ECCAC expanded its mission to address the need to provide child abuse prevention education to Okaloosa and Walton county students and adults. The premise is to empower children to protect themselves by providing safe places to communicate. In addition, to equip adults with the knowledge to react responsibly if they know or suspect that a child may have been abused.

In 2020, due to the age of the building, ECCAC needed security and safety updates, cosmetic updates, structural changes to maximize space to meet the needs of the

children served, the Board of Directors began discussions regarding renovation of the Niceville Center. In 2021, the pandemic delayed further discussions as the Center faced organization challenges during those uncertain times.

In July of 2022, a fire/flood extensively damaged the Niceville Center. Due to the damage, all services and personnel were temporary relocated to multiple sites. As a result of the damage, restoration efforts began in September 2022. The unexpected fire/flood presented an opportunity to expand renovation beyond the damage to address facility update needs discussed in 2020. As mentioned previously, with the age of the building updates included security and safety systems, cosmetic updates, and structural changes to maximize space to meet the needs of the children served.

Renovation and restoration efforts began in September of 2022. The renovation was completed in April of 2023. All services were relocated back to the Niceville facility.

OKALOOSA COUNTY

Julie Sacco Porterfield Children's Advocacy Center
PO Box 1237, Niceville, FL 32588
850.400.3488

WALTON COUNTY

Pierce Family Children's Advocacy Center
336 College Ave., DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435
850.892.0280



ECCAC.ORG

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