



**Lutheran
Family Services**
for the well-being of all people

**Emerging Stronger:
A Year of Hope
and Perseverance**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT





A Letter from Chris Tonniges, President and CEO of Lutheran Family Services

As I reflect on 2025, one word rises above the rest: perseverance. From navigating unexpected funding cuts in our Refugee and Immigration programs to expanding Behavioral Health services, this year tested our resilience and our commitment to those we serve. Thanks to the steadfast support of our community, we didn't just withstand these challenges—we emerged stronger.

To everyone who stepped up with funding, thank you. Your generosity made a real, immediate difference. The Refugee Response Fund, in particular, allowed us to pivot swiftly during a critical moment for our organization.

Change remained constant throughout 2025. Our growth in Behavioral Health programs required operational shifts fueled by our Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) certification of two hubs in Fremont and Lincoln.

Employees have been central to this progress. Last year, we welcomed talented professionals whose innovation and dedication are helping LFS reclaim its leadership in regional social services.

And the road ahead is promising. With the launch of the CCBHC model of care in Nebraska, we are positioned to deliver measurable, sustainable impact—strengthening our ability to provide the **Safety, Hope, and Well-Being** at the core of our mission.

LFS enters 2026 with gratitude, momentum, and purpose. Together—with your support and the commitment of our remarkable staff—we will continue to change lives, strengthen families, and uplift communities across Nebraska and Iowa.

Chris Tonniges
President and CEO



OUR MISSION

Lutheran Family Services expresses God's love for all people by providing quality human care services that build and strengthen individual, family, and community life.

OUR PROMISE

We promise to walk alongside every person we serve, offering hope, healing, and guidance on the path to strength and self-sufficiency. Our work includes the following umbrellas:

Behavioral Health – Trusted Care for Mental Well-Being.

Children and Families – Helping Every Child Feel Safe, Supported, and Loved.

Immigrant and Refugee Services – Guiding Every Journey with Dignity and Hope.

A YEAR OF IMPACT

In 2025, LFS served

15,662
INDIVIDUALS

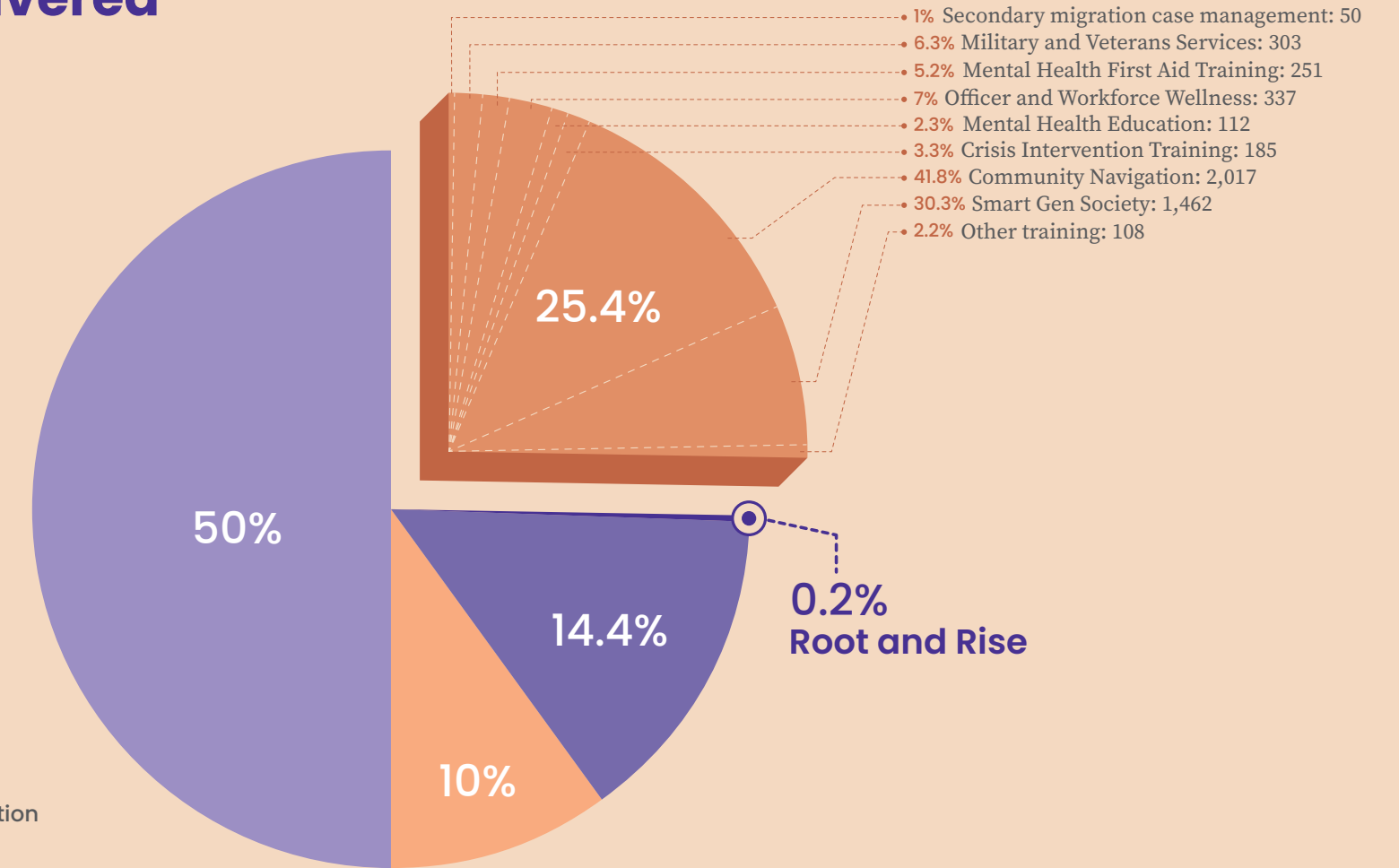
Many participants accessed more than one program, resulting in a total of **19,026** services delivered.



19,026 Services Delivered

SERVICE AREA

- Behavioral Health
9,505
- Children and Family
1,910
- Refugee and Immigration
(Community-Based)
2,743
- Root and Rise (Dana Village)
43
- Others Served
4,825



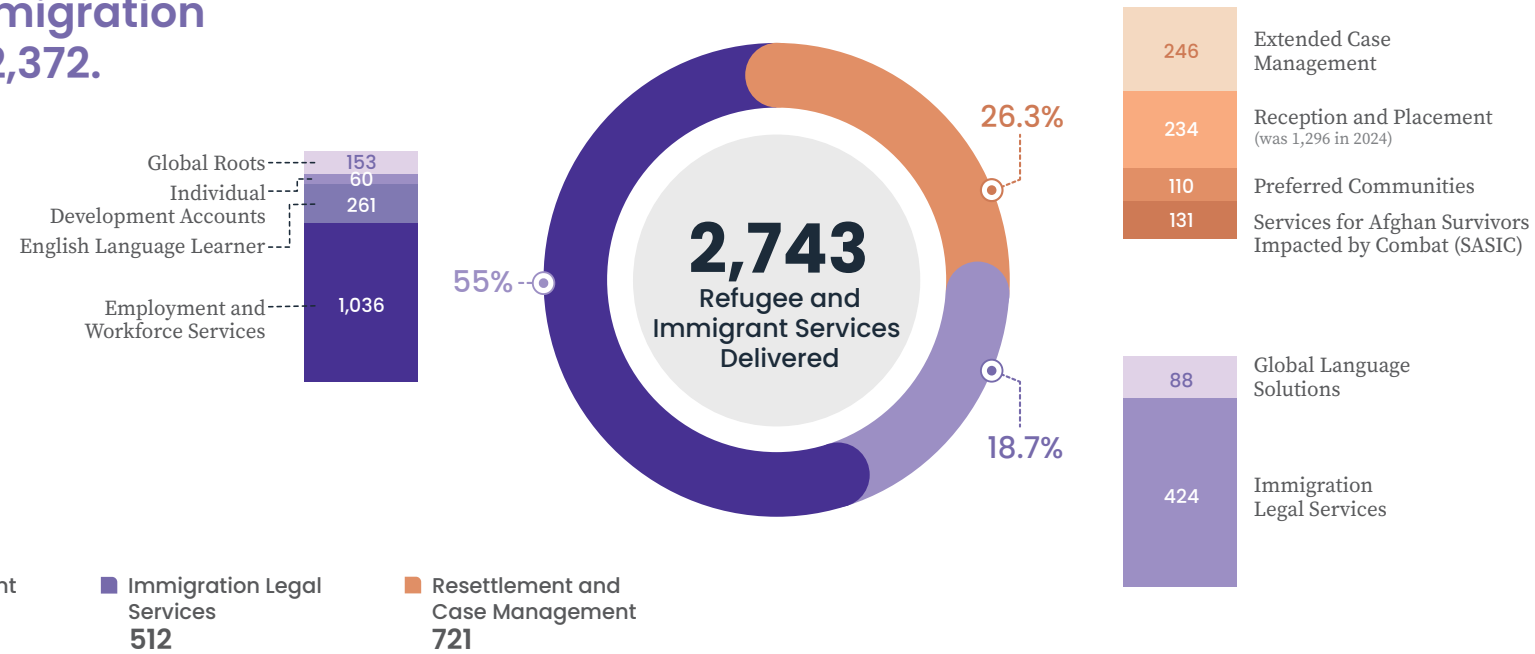
A Year of Perseverance

The year 2025 brought significant changes for our Refugee and Immigration Services. Following shifts in federal policy under the new presidential administration, the volume of work available through our Reception and Placement program decreased sharply. **After placing 1,296 individuals in 2024, our team welcomed only 110 refugees in 2025.**

This abrupt reduction in arrivals created both operational and financial challenges. Thanks to the generosity of many donors—most notably the Smith Family—LFS received a combined **\$1.1 million** in support, allowing us to maintain essential services despite the disruption.

Even amid a dramatically altered landscape, our team continued to walk alongside newcomers, offering a range of high impact programs throughout 2025:

Refugee and Immigration Clients Served: 2,372.

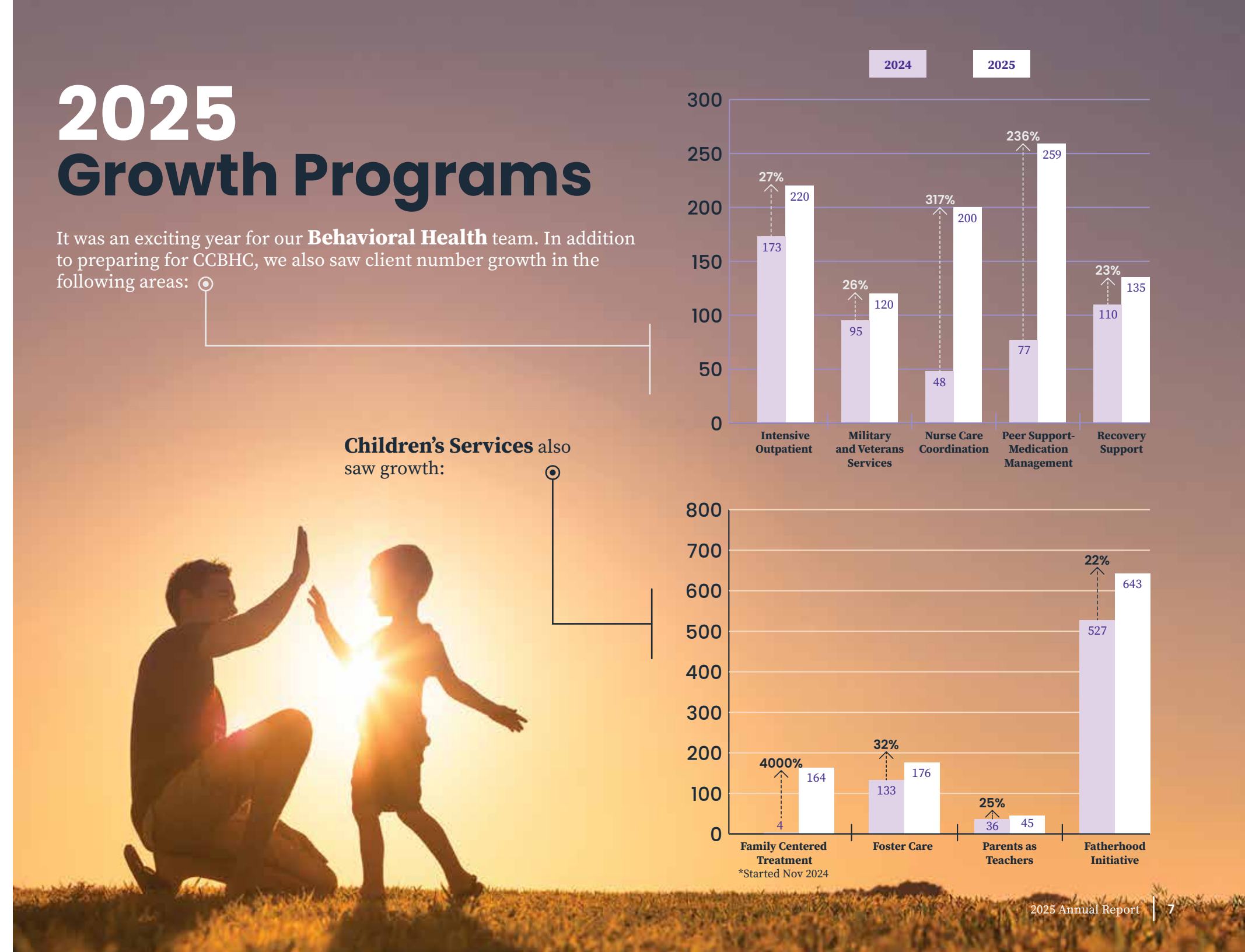
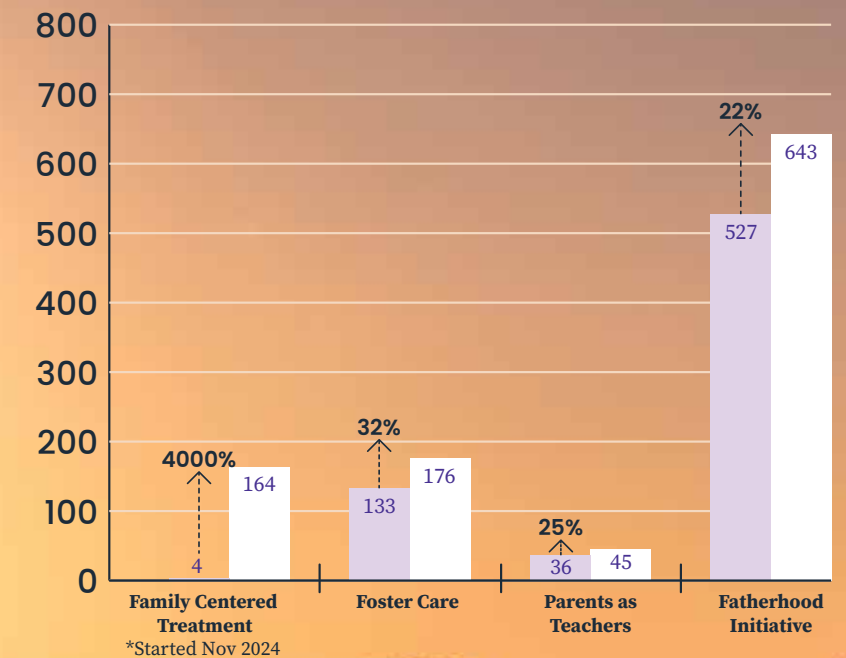
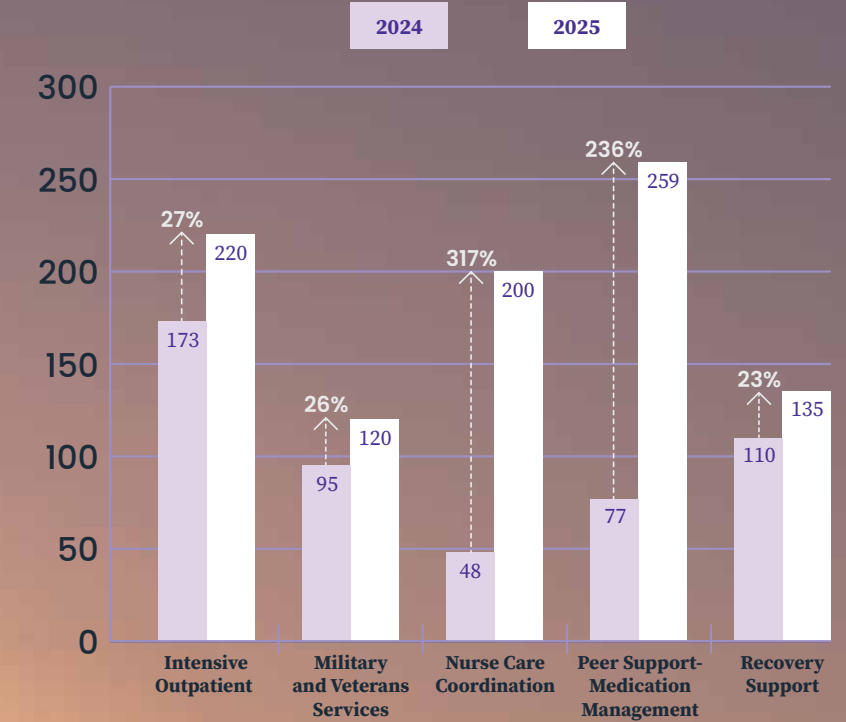


In 2026 we will lean into our employment, legal, and education programs for this service umbrella.

2025 Growth Programs

It was an exciting year for our **Behavioral Health** team. In addition to preparing for CCBHC, we also saw client number growth in the following areas:

Children's Services also saw growth:



Family-Centered Treatment

Keeping Families Together When It Matters Most

Lutheran Family Services experienced extraordinary growth and impact in Family-Centered Treatment (FCT) during 2025, reflecting both rising community needs and the strength of this evidence-based, trauma-informed model. **FCT is a nationally recognized, home-based family therapy designed to stabilize families in crisis, prevent unnecessary out-of-home placements, and support safe reunification when separation has occurred.** Unlike traditional clinic-based models, FCT works with families using intensive engagement, practical skill-building, and around-the-clock crisis support. The approach focuses on restoring safety, strengthening attachment, and addressing the underlying causes of family disruption rather than simply responding to symptoms.

Strong Outcomes for Children and Families

In 2025, LFS's FCT program delivered results that clearly demonstrate the model's effectiveness:

86% of children experienced positive placement outcomes.

- 75% maintained placement safely in their current home.
- 7% were reunified with family.
- 4% remained in their original care setting.

Only 14% required out-of-home placement, reflecting the program's strong preventive impact.

Families reported meaningful and lasting change:

- 80% reported significant improvement in family functioning.
- 20% reported moderate improvement.
- When asked whether "What we learned in Family-Centered Treatment has improved our family life," 33% strongly agreed and 58% agreed.

These outcomes align with national research demonstrating that FCT reduces the need for foster care and stabilizes families facing complex challenges across child welfare, behavioral health, and juvenile justice systems.

Growth in Response to Community Need

The impact of FCT at LFS was matched by remarkable growth in program reach. Since its start in November of 2024:

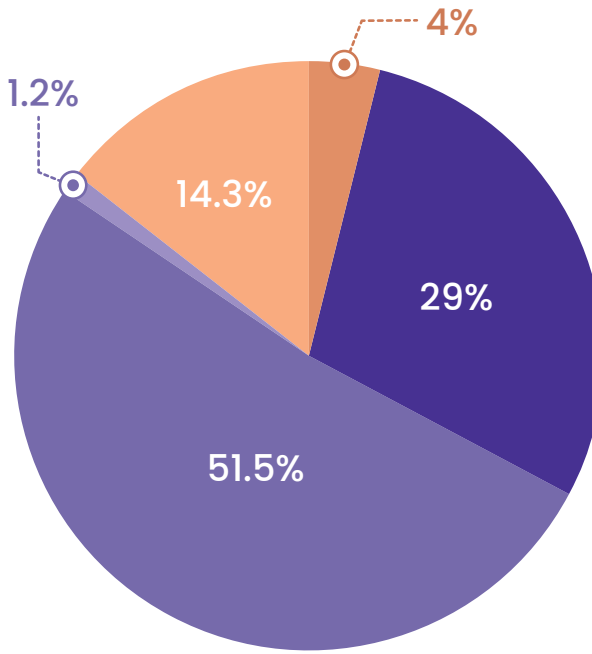
The program grew from serving just **4 families** at the end of 2024 to serving **164 families** by the end of 2025.

This expansion reflects increased referrals, strong system partnerships, and LFS's commitment to scaling services that keep families together whenever it is safe to do so. FCT's flexible, home-based design allows services to reach families who might otherwise struggle to access traditional treatment, particularly in times of crisis.

Family-Centered Treatment embodies LFS's mission to build and strengthen families during their most vulnerable moments. By meeting families where they are, FCT helps parents and caregivers rediscover their capacity to create safety, connection, and stability for their children. As demand continues to grow, **LFS remains committed to expanding access to this proven model, so more families can stay together, health together, and move forward together.**



Where Do Your Dollars Go?



Revenue by Source

\$30,179,733

- Contributions/Private Donations
\$4,306,458
- United Way
\$368,684
- Government Grants
\$15,550,407
- Private Grants & Payors
\$8,748,993
- Investments/Other
\$1,205,191

Operating Expenditures

\$31,104,729



Partners in Perseverance

To our incredible donors and partners—thank you. Whether you've served on a board, sponsored, volunteered, participated in events, or contributed in-kind gifts, your dedication makes our mission possible. We are truly grateful for your unwavering support.

*** Funders listed contributed \$5,000 or more.**

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Dedication of the Coyner and Donna Smith Center



Angel's Share Vintners Dinner



Just Serve Volunteer Clean-up Event - Dana Village



OneLFS.org

7929 West Center Road | Omaha NE, 68124 | (402) 342-7038