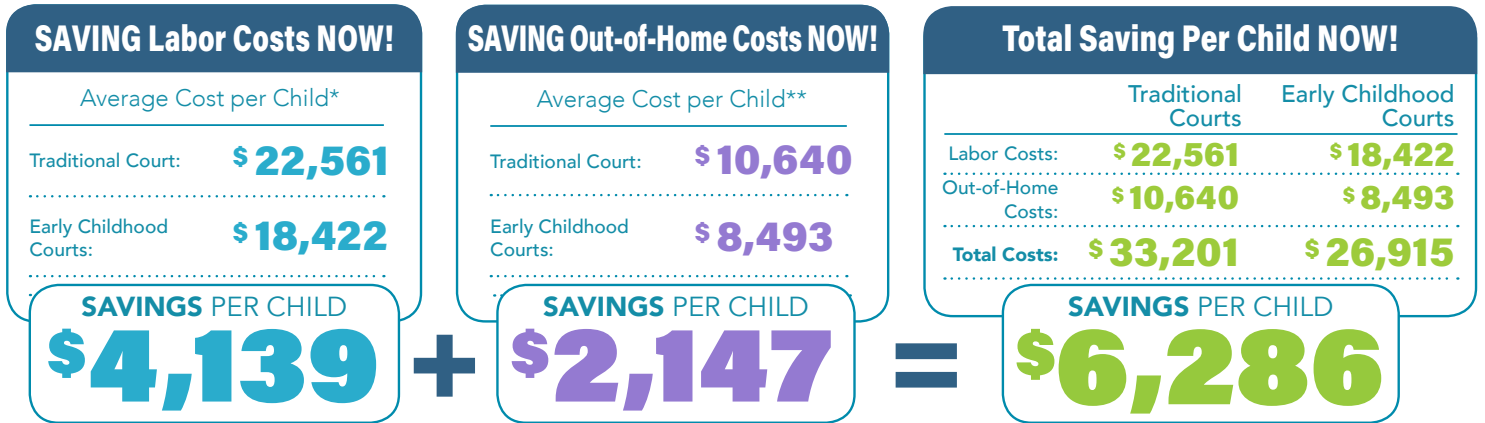




## Florida's Early Childhood Courts: Return on Investment



## Potential Savings Per Year

If the ECC model was used for all children ages 0-3 in dependency court



\* Estimated \$54.5 million savings in labor costs if all Out-of-Home Care (OHC) 0-3 children were served in ECC (\$4,139 savings x 13,175 children = \$54,531,325). Calculations based on Florida Dependency Court Information System 1/9/19 of 13,175 children ages 0-3 in out-of-home care multiplied by the average labor cost per case provided by Florida Institute for Child Welfare in 2018-2019 Early Childhood Court Evaluation (2019). Average Labor Costs Per Case: Traditional versus ECC, p. 31. These initial numbers will continue to be refined. [https://fiew.fsu.edu/sites/g/files/upcbnu1106/files/Final Reports/FR 2018019 Early Childhood Court Evaluation Final Report to the Office of Court Improvement 081519-.pdf](https://fiew.fsu.edu/sites/g/files/upcbnu1106/files/Final%20Reports/FR%2018019%20Early%20Childhood%20Court%20Evaluation%20Final%20Report%20to%20the%20Office%20of%20Court%20Improvement%20081519-.pdf)

\*\* Estimated \$28.3 million savings in OHC costs if all OHC 0-3 children were served in ECC (\$2,147 savings x 13,175 children = \$28.3 million). Calculations based on Florida Office of Child Welfare monthly \$466.65 cost of out-of-home care for ages 0-3. Early Childhood Court Data Analysis Report (2018). Florida Dependency Court Information System. (Average time to permanency ECC 552 days (18.2 months) vs 695 Non ECC days (22.8 months)). <https://www.flcourts.org/content/download/426426/4628486/file/early-childhood-court-data-analysis-report.pdf>

\*\*\* Currently, Florida's traditional courts are estimated to be spending \$33,201 per child for 13,175 children 0-3=\$437million. If ECC, 13,175 x \$26,915 per child = \$354.6 million. Savings: \$82.8 million

\*\*\*\* Fewer re-removals according to Florida Office of Child Welfare recidivism report at 12.8% Non ECC compared to ECC at 7.1% from August 2014-August 2019. With 13,175 children 0-3 in care as of 1/9/19, NonECC 12.8% recidivism would total 1686 children at case cost of \$33,201 for total \$55.9 million compared to ECC at 7.1% (935 children at case cost of \$26,915 for a total of \$25.2 million); saving \$30.8 million annually.

\*\*\*\*\* Total annual savings would be \$113 million, the combination of \$82.8 million labor and out-of-home savings at (13,175 children at \$6286) + recidivism savings of \$30.8 million (\$55.9 million NonECC less \$15.1 million ECC savings).

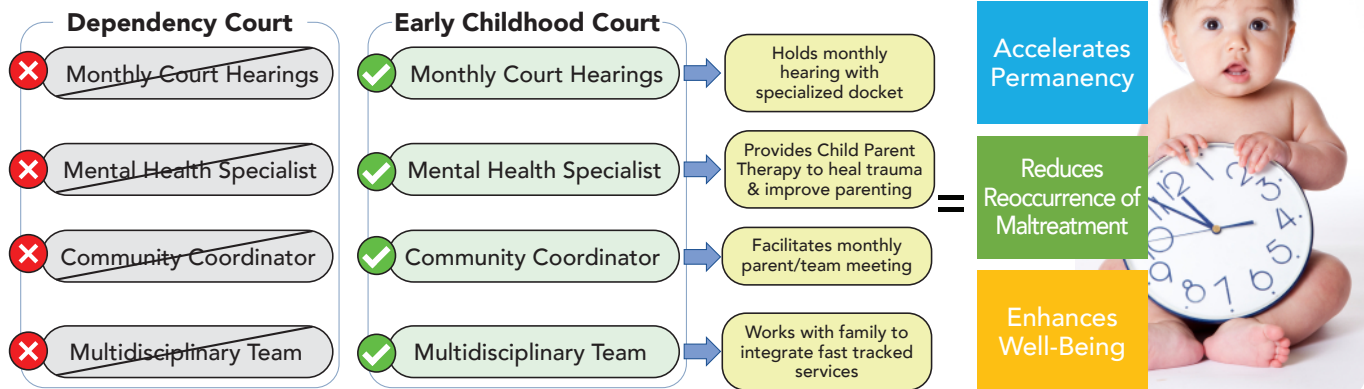
# Return on Investment Later Too!

Early Childhood Court reduces costs and improves outcomes. Optimizing each child's development with stable nurturing relationships lays the foundation for a life-long trajectory of well-being, preventing many adult issues including substance dependency, mental health issues and court involvement which are now understood as disorders that began with childhood adversity. The lifetime cost of child abuse has been estimated at \$1.8 million per victim. Baby courts "go upstream" to stop the increasing multigenerational cycle of maltreatment.

## How Do Florida's Early Childhood Courts Save Taxpayer Dollars?

**Early Childhood Court is different process from traditional dependency court.** It is an evidence-based, therapeutic, two-generational approach to ensure children have a permanent stable family faster and heals underlying trauma to prevent repeat maltreatment. Families reported that ECC has a more respectful culture and emphasis on teamwork and relationships building. *"It's very different, just the way you're spoken to, the way you're treated."* *"It's night and day from traditional court."* Parents reported that the support and encouragement changed their lives for the better.

### What Makes Early Childhood Court Different?



### Early Childhood Court: An Effective Intervention in the Opioid Crisis

Florida's Early Childhood Courts have been nationally recognized on ABC News and in national journals as an effective two-generational response to the opioid epidemic. In August 2019 alone, 1,263 Florida children were removed from their homes due to maltreatment, 41% of whom were 0- to 3-years of age three; 21% before their first birthday. Parental substance involvement was the most common reason for removal according to Florida DCF.\* Early Childhood Courts' therapeutic team approach addresses underlying trauma and fast tracks services to support recovery. Many parent child reunifications have been celebrated due to ECC.

### Florida's Early Childhood Court achieves better outcomes than traditional dependency court. \*

- Faster permanency – 8.5 months quicker for reunification and 4.75 months faster average for all types of permanency (adoption, reunification & guardianship)
- Higher rates of reunification with parents
- More stable reunifications so fewer children re-enter the system (7.1% vs 12.8%)
- More developmental screenings and early intervention services, mental health treatment, and dental and health care visits
- Less future court involvement by breaking the multigenerational cycle of abuse

**Florida's Early Childhood Court is a national model for better outcomes. It's better for children and families, better for the courts and child welfare system, and better for society. Florida can stop the revolving door of repeat maltreatment and be a leader in child welfare innovation by supporting and expanding Early Childhood Courts.**

\* Early Childhood Court Data Analysis Report (2018). ECC children reached permanency (reunification, placement with relatives, or placement with non-relatives) on average 143 days (4.75 months) sooner (696 Non ECC vs 477 ECC days). ECC children who were reunified with parents, were 8.5 months quicker on average than Non-ECC children (259 days faster: 736 Non ECC vs 477 days ECC). Higher rates of reunification (ECC: 48.6%; Non ECC: 46.2% reunified). Fewer re-removals according to Florida Office of Child Welfare recidivism report at 12.8% compared to ECC at 7.1% from August 2014-August 2019. <https://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Court-Improvement/Problem-Solving-Courts/Early-Childhood-Courts>