

Section 1. Organizational Information

Organization Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Authorized Officer for this Grant

Individual's Email Address

Individual's Title

Individual's Phone Number

Have the grant funds been fully expended?

Yes

No

If "No," stop here and contact The Joanna Foundation for consultation.

*Section 2. Grant Summary*Start Date *(date on p.1 - mm/dd/yyyy)*

Grant Amount

Project Title

Overall Purpose *(select one)*

Operating support

Matching funds

Administrative/technical support

Capital campaign

Seed money/startup funds

Facilities/equipment

Specific project/program *(insert title or one sentence summary below)*

Were major changes made to the project after the grant was received?

Yes

No

If "Yes," please explain why and summarize the changes as part of your Summary of Impact.

Section 3. Summary of Impact

Separately, using software of your choice, write a concise summary of how the grant helped achieve the objective of the request. For example, you may mention activities to date, progress toward milestones, participation by volunteers, partners or audience members, and/or significant achievements. You may use metrics to show change or anecdotal examples to illustrate impact. You may use bullets or lists. Describe the difference that The Joanna Foundation grant made to your organization in this time frame. We recommend one page of text or less. You may add items that showcase your work, such as a photo, graphic, chart, media article, testimonial, or link to a short video.

When you are satisfied with your draft, save your Summary of Impact in pdf format, attach any additions, insert your material after this page, and submit the combined file (consisting of this 2-pg form + your materials) as a single pdf file.

Lifeline Children's Services Grant Update:

We addressed three needs in child and family welfare in South Carolina:

Reducing the Number of Children Entering or Re-Entering Foster Care: Many parents referred to Families Count™ are affected by addiction and/or poverty, and all have child(ren) who have experienced numerous disruptions and/or separations. The Families Count™ program uniquely addresses their emotional and tangible needs (food, clothing, etc.) while mentoring them to serve their communities eventually. Families Count™ is an equipping (teaching/mentorship), not enabling, charity effort, so service to the community raises personal accountability through training and mentorships. Families Count™ is a program that mobilizes churches to teach parenting through classes that meet state standards for the parenting education mandated as part of a foster care case plan for a family seeking to avoid separation or seeking reunification in cases in which separation has already occurred. Churches offer Families Count™ classes for free in a six-week term and assist participants with transportation, a childcare program for children called Kids Count™, family-style meals during the classes, and an opportunity to be mentored personally through the class. We saw 83 families graduate Families Count in 2023. We also saw two new churches trained to present classes to families in their local communities.

Retaining Foster Families for Longer Service: This support of foster parents is essential because nationwide, the median length of service for foster parents is only 8 to 14 months. Research shows that a support system for foster families is crucial for families that serve longer than the median timeframe. After licensing, we remain involved as a support piece to equip foster families to love children from traumatic backgrounds, have appropriate relationships with birth families, and other ongoing educational opportunities. These ongoing educational opportunities include Continuing Education Units (CEU's) that foster families must complete during the year to remain licensed. Through these components of our foster care and family restoration ministry, the outcomes we anticipate are that broken families are reconciled. The cycle of family breakdown is broken in South Carolina. We evaluate our program's effectiveness based on meeting these goals and on review with the local DSS offices. We had 12 informational meetings in 2023 for foster families in addition to our CEU's offered.

Increasing the Number of Available Foster Families: We partner locally with churches who are willing to educate their congregation about the need for foster parents, host orientation meetings and training, and are eager to support foster families from within their church with meals, foster family nights out, yard work or other needs. Our licensed staff leads the state-mandated foster parent training held at these churches. We walk families through this process until they are ready to be licensed. Once these families begin caring for children, the local DSS offices are then responsible for case management. We served 39 children in care with 25 foster homes. We also have 10 families in the process of starting the licensing process.