



## Resilient Georgia Regional Grantee Annual Report 2022

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## About the Resilient Georgia Regional Grants

[Resilient Georgia](#) has been working with 16 regions across Georgia to provide an emphasis on trauma-informed awareness and care, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and child sexual abuse prevention training as a basis to transform systems and procedures crossing both public and private sectors.

- Resilient Georgia serves as a supportive and guiding resource during each region's planning and implementation process.
- These regional action plans each address the behavioral health needs of individuals birth through 26 years old and families in the community and surrounding counties using the Collective Impact framework (a diverse, robust, and well-planned public-private partnership).
- Trauma-informed Care, ACEs and child sexual abuse prevention can be the basis for systemic changes in a community. Each region has identified how one or more of these content areas are delivered to diverse community members through formal training, education, marketing, and communications.
- Round 1 grants were awarded in Nov 2019 to regional coalitions based out of Athens, Augusta, Macon, Savannah and surrounding areas. Round 2 grants were awarded in July 2020 to regional coalitions based out of Albany, Columbus, Rome, Thomasville, and surrounding areas. Round 3 grants were awarded in March 2021 to regional coalitions based out of Clayton, Cobb, Gwinnett, Valdosta, and surrounding areas. Round 4 funding was awarded in December 2021 to regional coalitions based out of Brunswick, Chattahoochee Valley, Northeast Georgia and Waycross and the surrounding areas.

## Coalition Mission

The Resilient Georgia coalition in Gwinnett County established *a vision of a resilient Gwinnett with systems and practices that promote child and adult well-being*. The *mission is to build resilient communities within Gwinnett by creating a shared understanding of adversity and resilience, promoting trauma-informed practices, and advocating for policy and system change*.

To learn more, visit the Resilient Gwinnett website at <https://www.resilientgwinnett.org>.



## Summary

Resilient Gwinnett goals are aligned with, and supportive of, the [Resilient Georgia Strategic Map](#). The initiative has three objectives:

- (1) **Build capacity** by creating a common understanding of positive and adverse childhood experiences (PACEs) by training a wide variety of practitioners, community leaders, and members of the community at large, including, but not limited to, those working for youth-serving organizations, faith-based institutions, school and after-school systems, juvenile court, and civic and fraternal organizations.
- (2) **Increase community awareness** by creating a common language related to trauma and resilience, by defining “trauma-informed” for both individuals and organizations, providing tool kits for organizational use, and utilizing communications tools to create public awareness for building a trauma-informed community.
- (3) **Influence systems change** by engaging key stakeholders and influencers that move Gwinnett County toward becoming a trauma-informed community.

## Leadership Team and Contributors

### **Amira Abdulhafid**

Program Director for Suicide Prevention, Gwinnett United in Drug Education (GUIDE)

### **Jessica Andrews-Wilson**

Executive Director, Gwinnett United in Drug Education

### **Renee Byrd-Lewis**

President and CEO, Gwinnett Coalition

### **Sandy Chavarria**

Hispanic Outreach Prevention Coordinator, Georgia Center for Child Advocacy

### **Steve Collins**

Regional Prevention Coordinator, Georgia Center for Child Advocacy

Founder and Executive Director, Adults Protecting Children

### **Paige Havens**

Marketing and Communications Consultant, Gwinnett Coalition



**Jennifer Hibbard**

Chief Executive Officer, View Point Health (VPH)

**Travis Moses**

Director, Gwinnett County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)

**Marina Peed**

Chief Executive Officer, Mosaic Georgia

**Dr. Teresa Raetz**

Chief Operating Officer, Gwinnett Coalition

**Randy Redner**

Chief Executive Officer, Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia

**Belisa Urbina**

Executive Director, Ser Familia

**Dr. Calvin Watts**

Superintendent, Gwinnett County Public Schools

## Coalition Partners

From the beginning, Resilient Gwinnett chose to target selected organizations as initiative partners. Rather than casting a wide net espousing a “come one, come all” approach, coalition leaders approached organizations whose missions were related to the safety and well-being of children. View Point Health CEO Jennifer Hibbard and Gwinnett Coalition CEO Renee Byrd-Lewis extended a personal invitation to targeted agency leaders, inviting them to join the Resilient Gwinnett initiative. The letter outlined expectations for participating and partners signed an agreement confirming their intent to invest time and effort. This approach laid the foundation for driving positive outcomes for the long-term.

Resilient Gwinnett currently has 37 agencies as coalition members and seeks to build its collaborative to include all sectors represented in the Resilient Georgia Collaborator and Cross-Sector Network framework (see image below).

COLLABORATION AND CROSS-SECTOR NETWORKS



Source: Trauma-Informed Philanthropy, a partnership between United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia, and the Scattergood Foundation.

Resilient Gwinnett partners are:

- Adults Protecting Children
- CASA
- Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
- Chris 180
- Families First
- Family Ties
- Freedom Church
- Georgia Cares
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation  
Cybersafety Initiative
- Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
- Gwinnett County Police Department
- Gwinnett County Public Schools
- Gwinnett DFCS
- Gwinnett District Attorney Office
- Gwinnett Newton Rockdale Health  
Department
- GUIDE
- Hearts for Families
- Hudgens Center for Art and Learning
- Lawrenceville Police Criminal  
Investigations
- Magdalene’s Gate
- Mosaic Georgia – Children’s Advocacy  
Center
- Partnership Against Domestic Violence
- Positive Impact International
- Rainbow Village
- Resilient Georgia
- Revolution Teen Center
- Revved Up Kids
- Ser Familia
- State DFCS Board
- Lilburn Women’s Club
- Still Waters International Academy
- Street Grace
- Tapestri
- The Starr Institute
- View Point Health
- Wellness and Trauma Recovery Center
- Wellroot Family Services



## Message from the Principal Investigator(s) (optional)

Gwinnett County is the second largest county in Georgia and remains one of the fastest growing in the country. A metro-Atlanta suburban community of 936,250 residents, Gwinnett remains the most diverse community in the southeastern United States, comprised of a population that is 13% Asian, 22% Hispanic, 30% Black, and 35% Caucasian. Gwinnett's foreign-born population is 26%, a majority of whom hail from the Americas and Asia, including residents from Mexico, Korea, India, Vietnam, El Salvador, and China. Researchers refer to Gwinnett County as the prototype community of the future because Gwinnett County is today what the United States will be in 2040.

This beautiful mosaic of cultures, however, presents significant challenges. Language and culture barriers abound with 35% of residents speaking a language other than English at home. Additionally, 16.5% of Gwinnett residents do not have health insurance. This rate is double the nationwide average of 8.8% of citizens without coverage. Many adults in communities of color are employed in low-wage, unstable jobs with minimal education, and 15.1% of children 18 years of age and younger live in poverty. Under the best of circumstances, these factors make it difficult for residents to thrive. Add COVID-19 challenges to the mix, and the stressors on individuals, families, and health and human services delivery systems are exacerbated.

Over the past two years, the community dealt with the devastating impacts of a world-wide pandemic and witnessed the death of George Floyd which sparked renewed conversations about the effects of systemic racism. The county also experienced a sea-change in political leadership. The historically Republican-dominated Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners and Board of Education are now led mostly by Democrats and by persons of color. Diversity, equity, and inclusion is a top agenda item for many institutions, regardless of sector. Simply stated, Gwinnett County is the perfect environment for anti-racist efforts and cultural competency improvements.

The opportunity for the Gwinnett Coalition to lead a local consortium of like-minded organizations and to engage in the Resilient Georgia statewide effort comes at a perfect time. I, along with my esteemed colleagues across multiple sectors, are committed to pursuing a more equitable and just community. At the heart of this objective is preventing and healing adverse childhood experiences and aligning public and private resources so Gwinnett County residents can thrive. Together, we will drive collective impact in Gwinnett County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renee Byrd-Lewis".

Renee Byrd-Lewis  
President and CEO



## Key Impacts/Accomplishments

Resilient Gwinnett lead partners are committed to optimizing the Resilient Georgia Cohort #3 experience and maximizing the Pittulloch Foundation’s seed investment. A strong foundation that supports the engagement of key stakeholders and community leaders will promote resiliency and healing and reduce childhood adverse experiences over the long term.

Top accomplishments include the recruitment of 37 initiative partners, the training of 1,100 individuals, the creation of the PACEs Roundtable to influence systems change, and the creation of the Resilient Gwinnett brand and logo that complements the Resilient Georgia state-wide initiative.



## Description of Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)- Related Efforts

### TIC/ACES Services – General (optional)

Resilient Georgia’s mission involves “[leading] a state-wide coalition to develop a closely aligned trauma-informed public and private network working toward a united vision to create a birth through 26-year-old integrated behavioral health system. **Key components to the overall vision, to be implemented by a variety of partners** include advocacy, policy, prevention and intervention, research, and system-of-care implementation and coordination” (emphasis added). Implementation must occur with a variety of partners working together, so what follows is a description of TIC/ACEs services engaged in by Resilient Gwinnett key stakeholders.

### **Mosaic Georgia**

Mosaic Georgia is the Children’s Advocacy Center serving Gwinnett County, responsible for coordinating a 24/7 multidisciplinary response to disclosures or reports of suspected child sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, or other significant harms. Working with law enforcement, DFCS, and other child welfare agencies, Mosaic Georgia’s team of specialists provide forensic services (such as interviews and medical exams), child and family advocacy, and mental health supports in a central, safe location.

- All staff are trained in understanding the dynamics of sexualized abuse, poly-victimization, and the neurobiological effects of trauma.



- In addition, Mosaic Georgia upholds the principles and practices of trauma-informed care throughout the agency.

### **View Point Health**

VPH is a local community service board providing a comprehensive array of behavioral health services and supports in Gwinnett, Rockdale, and Newton counties. It is the policy of VPH that all staff from direct care to administration will be trained in trauma-informed care. VPH teaches staff to provide a safe and compassionate environment for clients that have been traumatized, prevent re-traumatizing clients, build on client strengths and resilience, and support trauma-informed principles at VPH. Specifically, VPH:

- Utilizes Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to teach staff to educate children and caregivers on the impact of trauma. They teach how to cope with emotions, develop stress management skills, share trauma experiences, modify inaccurate thoughts, and optimize the caregiver's support of child that has experienced trauma.
- Utilizes evidence-based practices webinars for professional staff, on-site training, and foundational training for all staff
- Utilizes Trauma-Informed Care skills in all interactions with clients.

### **Gwinnett Coalition**

The Gwinnett Coalition manages Resilient Gwinnett, providing leadership, oversight, and administrative support. Along with our partners, we are changing the conversation about ACEs in Gwinnett County. While our efforts have just begun, we have supported our key partners who have trained over 1,000 individuals in ACEs and resilience, giving participants a language and a lens with which to discuss these issues in their own circles of influence and to use as they directly impact others. Further, we are aligning to make that change exponential, by continuing to train individuals but giving special emphasis to training organizations. This year has been about organizing as a coalition and laying the groundwork by forming relationships, creating a vision, mission, and goals for the Resilient Gwinnett initiative, and recruiting participants in these efforts. A house can't be built without a solid foundation. While laying that foundation has been difficult due to all the ways COVID has affected our organizations, we have taken action to set ourselves up for success for the second year of our grant. Finally, we have created our Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (PACEs) Roundtable and we have leaders of significant county organizations at the table and ready to take action.

## [Prevention/Intervention](#)

### **View Point Health**

VPH has been awarded a grant through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to help meet the needs of community members who are struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the ongoing and intensive needs is around



mental health and well-being. This need is exacerbated by increased anxiety due to the uncertainty of the virus and depression related to social separation that diminishes interpersonal connections. VPH clinicians offer free virtual support groups to anyone in the community struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic. Each group is held via Zoom once a week for 4 sessions and is facilitated by a trained clinician.

### **Mosaic Georgia**

Mosaic Georgia actively works to reflect the rich diversity of Gwinnett County. One-third of their team can deliver services in more than one language, and they represent many cultures, faiths, and life experiences. Over the last two years, the complexity and severity of the harms to children are notable compared to pre-COVID times. Mosaic Georgia's child cases increased 20% and services provided increased 61% from 2019 levels. The strain on services is largely attributed to the economic and psychosocial strains from the pandemic.

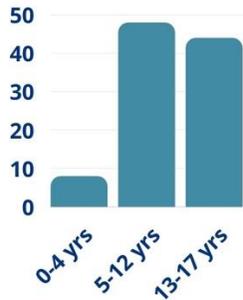
**MOSAIC GEORGIA**  
**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**  
**2021 SERVICES**

- Forensic Interviews: 609
- Forensic Medical Exams: 200
- CSEC Response : 20 Youth
- Multi-Disciplinary Coordination: 750 cases
- Victim & Family Advocacy: 11,000 services
- Counseling Services: 302

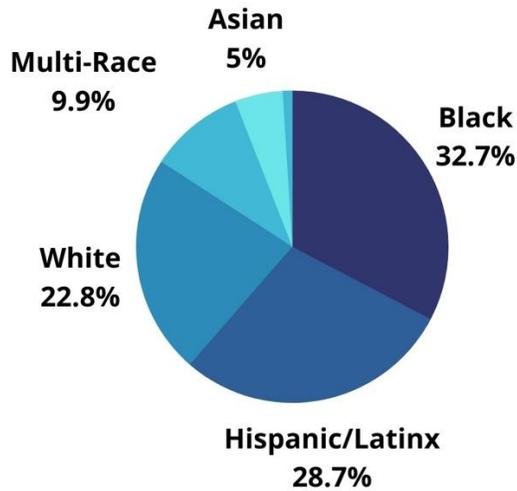
*photos courtesy of Canva*

The infographic is a blue and green graphic. On the left, a blue background contains the Mosaic Georgia logo (a blue and green geometric shape) and the text "MOSAIC GEORGIA CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER 2021 SERVICES" in white. Below this is a list of services with their respective counts. On the right, a green background features two photographs: a close-up of a child's eye and two women sitting on a couch in conversation. At the bottom right of the green area, it says "photos courtesy of Canva".

**Child & Youth Served - Demographics 2021**



source: Mosaic Georgia 2021 Client data



**Gwinnett United in Drug Education**

GUIDE, Inc. is a local nonprofit whose mission is to improve community conditions, which includes delivering training and resources and working to prevent substance use and abuse. GUIDE was awarded a grant through DBHDD to promote mental health and increase awareness and resources for suicide prevention, including evidence-based trainings such as Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) and Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) to the Gwinnett community at large. GUIDE hosts a virtual QPR training every month and a virtual YMHFA training once a quarter. GUIDE also offers customized trainings to various partners such as the Gwinnett Fire Departments, who were trained in QPR to help prevent suicides among our first responders.

**Advocacy and Policy**

GUIDE has partnered with Voices 4 Prevention to participate in Substance Abuse Prevention Advocacy Day and Suicide Prevention Advocacy Day.

The Resilient Gwinnett PACEs Roundtable was conceived as a tool to harness the power of collective impact on ACEs in Gwinnett County. By inviting people in significant roles with children – the Superintendent of Gwinnett County schools, the director of the Gwinnett DFCS, and so on – we hope to educate them about PACEs, help them educate their large and influential teams, and give them the tools to change their policies to become trauma-informed. While this isn't direct advocacy with legislators, it has the potential to impact the lives of tens of thousands of children and families in Gwinnett County directly. Planned next steps include involving additional participants so that the group reflects the diversity of the county and inviting members of the judiciary and law enforcement sectors to participate in the Roundtable.



## Training

Capacity building is a primary goal of the Resilient Gwinnett initiative, and the training approach was intended to build upon existing training efforts in Gwinnett County. At the start of the project, lead partners surveyed local organizations and identified five core offerings that could be scaled across the community. These evidence-based trainings include:

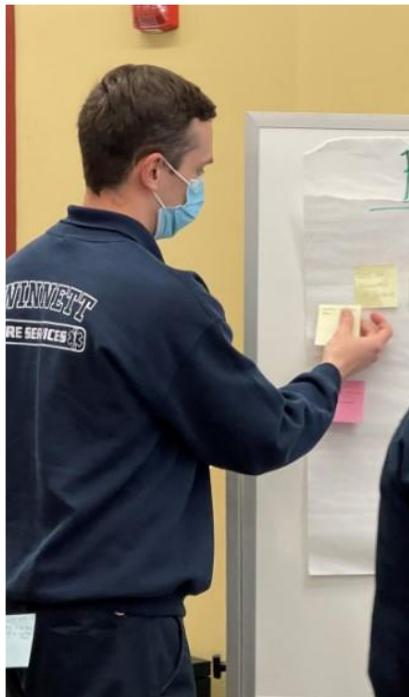


Throughout 2021, Resilient Gwinnett partners offered multiple sessions of these trainings in Gwinnett County. In late 2021, Resilient Gwinnett launched both community-based trainings (open to anyone in Gwinnett) and partnership trainings (directly provided to partner organizations) and this work is continuing into 2022. Supporting data follows:



March 2021 – February 2022 Trainings

Training Organization	Name of Training/Curriculum	Sessions Offered	Total Hours	Total Participants
GUIDE, Inc.	Question Persuade Refer (QPR)	30	60	513
GUIDE, Inc.	Youth Mental Health First Aid	5	30	37
View Point Health	QPR	19	38	357
View Point Health	Crisis Intervention Training – Suicide Prevention and Intervention	6	6	104
View Point Health	Mental Health First Aid	2	16	16
View Point Health	Youth Mental Health First Aid	1	6	7
View Point Health	CALM (Counseling on Access to Lethal Means)	1	3	9
Georgia Center for Child Advocacy	Connections Matter	1	4	18
Georgia Center for Child Advocacy	Mandated Reporter	1	2	12
Georgia Center for Child Advocacy	Stewards of Children	2	4	12
Mosaic Georgia	Stewards of Children	1	2	15
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7 evidence-based curricula</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>1,100</b>





In terms of impact, 93% of participants in the Stewards of Children training rated the training as excellent and 100% of participants in Connections Matter training said that they would be changing the way they work or interact with others because of the training. These comments from Stewards of Children and Connections Matter training typify the participant feedback:

**Stewards of Children:** “I have been through this training previously (years ago) but being in a different stage of life as a parent and youth professional, I still found it helpful to be reminded of the ways we need to be stewards. We can become lax. I love that the training was interactive, from the handouts to the presentations.”

**Connections Matter:** “Great content, examples, and guidance on how to apply in real life. Videos were very impactful. Becoming comfortable expressing feelings.”

[Other efforts that do not fall into the categories listed above? \(optional\)](#)

**Mosaic Georgia facilitated a wide range of professional training for community partners and youth-serving organizations:**

- Sexual Assault Awareness on College Campuses Training: 150+ college faculty and students
- Delayed Forensic Medical Exams: 42 Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) members (including law enforcement)
- Hymen 101: 37 MDT members (including law enforcement)
- Trauma-Informed Response to Human Trafficking: 28 MDT members (including law enforcement)
- Acute vs. Delayed Forensic Medical Exams: 38 MDT members (including law enforcement)
- How to Handle a Disclosure of Sexual Assault at Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) Resident Assistant Training: 20 participants
- Best Practices to Handle Disclosures of Sexual Assault and Mosaic Georgia services for GGC Police: 21 participants
- Best practices in Caring for Victims of Sexual Assault for Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine: 24 medical students



source: Mosaic Georgia Professional Education, Training & Outreach - 2021

## Innovative Partnerships

- **View Point Health** offers a new service line called Intensive Outpatient Services (IOS). This new service line is comprised of several programs designed to provide outpatient care with select partners within our community. The goal is to meet individuals, who might not be able to come to one of the clinics, where they are located. The community partnerships in Gwinnett include:

- Local police departments
- Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office
- Gwinnett Technical College
- Rainbow Village
- Nspire Outreach
- HomeFirst Gwinnett

The partnership with local police departments utilizes a Co-Responder Model where a licensed behavioral health clinician “co-responds” with a law enforcement officer for certain situations the officer identifies as needing a behavioral health intervention and/or social services resources such as psychiatric treatment, housing, etc.

- A formal partnership between the Gwinnett Coalition and GUIDE enables efficient use of investor funding by leveraging existing infrastructure and resources related to training. Since GUIDE routinely conducts training as part of their mission-based work, GUIDE and the Gwinnett Coalition have partnered to utilize staff and technology systems to facilitate Resilient Gwinnett trainings. Interested parties access the [calendar of events](#) on the Resilient Gwinnett website. Registrants are automatically redirected to GUIDE’s registration system and a designated staff member who oversees the planning and



execution of specified training sessions. This enables a seamless registration process and high-quality training experience for community members.

## Collaborations

- **Mosaic Georgia cultivates relationships with private therapists** who have the trauma-focused training, experience, and interest in working with their special populations. They provide “warm referrals” to reduce the stress on the clients looking for quality support.
- **Mosaic Georgia’s Crisis Support and Resilience Fund**, supported by local foundations, offers scholarships for clients to access quality care that they otherwise could not receive. In 2021, counseling scholarships supported 23 youth with 144 sessions by private therapists experienced with childhood and adolescent trauma.
- **Mosaic Georgia’s legal services team assists clients to access the Crime Victims Compensation Fund** for reimbursement of expenses they have incurred, including counseling, which resulted from the abuse/assault.
- **Gwinnett Coalition team members met with the Gwinnett County Sheriff’s Mental Health Task Force** in September 2021. Members of each party learned about the others’ work. The Sheriff’s Department is investing resources to help citizens in mental health crisis receive the help they need rather than being arrested and jailed, or worse. Mental Health Task Force learned about Resilient Gwinnett and other community resources to aid their endeavors. This meeting laid the foundation of future partnerships with local law enforcement.

## Spotlight

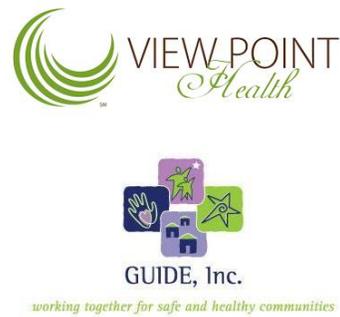
**On January 28, 2022, Resilient Gwinnett launched its PACEs Roundtable.** The PACEs Roundtable convenes public and private institutional stakeholders responsible for the health, safety, and education of children and youth in Gwinnett County to explore community response at the systems level. Communication and policy change are the force multipliers that can move an entire system toward protecting the most vulnerable children in the most effective way. The PACEs Roundtable will inform future plans and programs and is specifically designed to advance Resilient Gwinnett goal #3 related to systems change.

Dr. Emily Ann Vall joined the inaugural meeting of the Roundtable as a guest speaker to provide information on Resilient Georgia and context regarding the need for Gwinnett to participate in Cohort #3.

Members of the PACEs Roundtable include the following leaders:



- Dr. Calvin Watts, Superintendent of Gwinnett County Public Schools
- Travis Moses, Director of Gwinnett DFCS
- Dr. Audrey Arona, CEO of Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale Public Health Department
- Jennifer Hibbard, CEO of View Point Health (Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale Community Service Board)
- Marina Peed, CEO of Mosaic Georgia (Gwinnett Child Advocacy Center)
- Jessica Andrews-Wilson, Executive Director of Gwinnett United in Drug Education
- Belisa Urbana, Executive Director of Ser Familia



The PACEs Roundtable is just beginning its work, but among the group’s initial objectives are the following:

1. Assess the current condition of children and youth relative to key resiliency factors.
2. Identify strengths and gaps in ACEs prevention.
3. Identify strengths and gaps in response to ACEs disclosures.
4. Explore opportunities for service enhancement through policy changes, interagency communication, and new approaches.

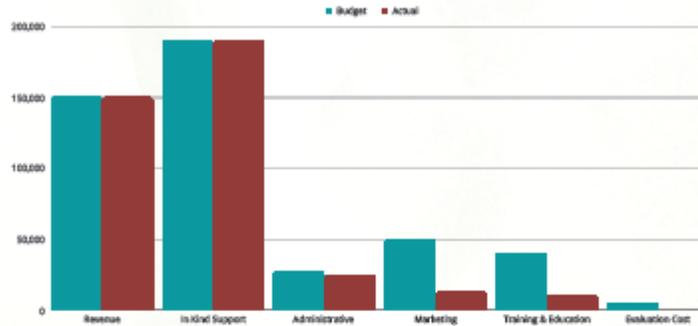
## Inspired Action

- On November 11, 2021, [Gwinnett Business Radio X hosted a live podcast](#) about the Resilient Gwinnett initiative and featured subject matter experts Dr. Emily Anne Vall, Executive Director of Resilient Georgia; Dr. Tinisha Parker, Executive Director of Gwinnett County Public Schools Student Services; and Jessica Andrews-Wilson, Executive Director of GUIDE.

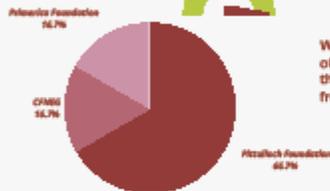


- The Gwinnett Coalition featured Resilient Gwinnett in its inaugural edition of [The Impact Zone newsletter](#). Periodic updates about collaborative accomplishments will be featured in future editions of this publication.
- [The Exchange](#), the Gwinnett Coalition’s weekly digest of community news, features information about training and resources related to positive and adverse childhood experiences. Resilient Gwinnett content was shared in 26 editions of *The Exchange* to a distribution list of more than 650 community-based organizations.
- The [Resilient Gwinnett webpage](#) features opportunities for individuals and organizations to learn about resilience, Resilient Gwinnett, and register as a partner. Each partnership request is addressed on an individual basis so that the response is tailored to the individual or organization. It also acts as a sign-up for *The Exchange*, so that partners can stay in touch with training and other opportunities.

### BUDGET VS ACTUAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES

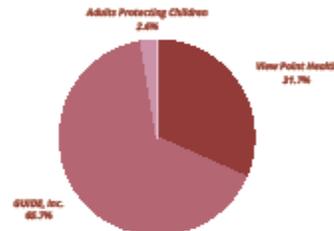


### REVENUES



We received donations of \$ 150,000 as of December 31, 2021, which is 100% of the projected donations. All donations are from private foundations.

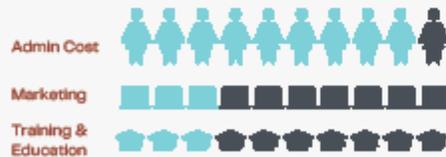
### IN-KIND SUPPORT



#### In Kind Support Providers:

- **View Point Health** - Received SAMSHA funding for Stewards of Children program. Funds are earmarked for training and materials.
- **GUIDE, Inc.** - Received SAMSHA funding for mental health awareness training. The grant is \$ 125,000 for five years.
- **Adults Protecting Children** - Received funding from Jackson EMC for Stewards of Children program. Funds are earmarked for training and materials.

### EXPENSES



### EXPENSES

#### For 2022

A Memorandum of Agreement is currently in place with GUIDE, Inc. to manage the lunch and maintenance of Resilient Gwinnett trainings offered from March 2021 through February 2023.