



A Rhythm That Reaches Further

MORE ACCESS. DEEPER IMPACT. STRONGER FAMILIES.

ANNUAL REPORT

Families Are Navigating Disconnected Systems

Children across Ohio are facing increasingly complex behavioral health, developmental, and family challenges. At the same time, many families are trying to navigate schools, healthcare providers, behavioral health services, foster care, juvenile justice systems, and community programs while searching for the support their children need.

When services are difficult to access or disconnected across systems, children can miss important opportunities for early support, stability, and long-term success. Families are often left trying to manage challenges across multiple areas of life without clear coordination or support.

A Growing Network of Care

What began in 1990 as *Homes For Kids*, a mission-driven effort to provide a higher level of treatment and support for children involved with the child welfare system, has grown into a comprehensive network of programs designed to support, uplift, and empower thousands of children and families each year. Today, **Cadence Care Network** works alongside families, schools, healthcare providers, courts, and community partners to help children receive the right support, at the right time, in the right place.

Through coordinated, community-based care, we help children and families access behavioral health treatment, prevention, foster care, and support services earlier, closer to home, and where children live, learn, and grow. From early childhood through young adulthood, Cadence helps children and their families navigate challenges, strengthen relationships, and *find their rhythm*.

The stories shared throughout this report reflect real experiences of the children and families we've served. To protect privacy, some names and identifying details have been changed.



41%

Reduction in emergency department visits among youth enrolled in OhioRISE statewide.*

Cadence serves as the Mahoning-Trumbull OhioRISE Care Management Entity. Read more on page 10

*Source: [Ohio Dept. of Medicaid](#)

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Friends of Cadence,

Since joining Cadence Care Network in 1993, I have had the opportunity to witness not only how much our organization has evolved and grown, but how much the needs of kids and families have changed over time. What started as *Homes For Kids*, an organization that intended to provide treatment foster care to children in the custody of counties through Northeast Ohio, has morphed into a provider of numerous essential services for kids and families across Ohio. Today, as I reflect on 33 years in the field and 16 years as CEO, I continue to be inspired by the resilience of the families we serve and the dedication and compassion of the people who provide services on behalf of our organization.

In 2025, we continued building on our mission of providing innovative treatment services that support kids and families in pursuing their best possible life. We expanded behavioral health access in schools, strengthened OhioRISE care coordination services across the Mahoning Valley, and grew our Intensive Home Based Treatment and Multisystemic Therapy programs across the regions we serve. We also increased foster parent recruitment efforts, built out a robust behavioral health respite program, and continued growing other services that help children receive support earlier and closer to home.

This year also marked an important milestone as Youth Advocate Services officially joined Cadence Care Network, expanding our reach into Central Ohio. Through this integration, Cadence added Franklin County Early Intervention service coordination, connecting infants and young children ages 0–3 with critical developmental support during important years of growth.

One of the things I am most proud of is the way our organization continues to grow without losing the human connection. I see staff members going above and beyond to help families navigate difficult moments, foster parents who open their homes and hearts to children in need, and community members who show support to our organization via their time, talent, or treasure. I also see that impact every day I walk into the Cadence Coffeehouse & Creperie. The effort our team brings to developing the kids working in the shop and the growth I see in each employee over the course of their employment brings nothing but joy to my heart!

Being named the 2025 Tribune Chronicle Readers' Choice Gold Winner for Best Mental Health Provider was a meaningful reminder that the work we do matters to the communities we serve.

Collaboration has been one of our organizational core values since I was named CEO. I find the spirit of collaboration more important today than it ever has been. We firmly believe that as an organization, we will best achieve our vision by continuing that collaboration with our local and state partners along with the communities we serve. Collaborations help us effectively support families, build stronger communities, and future generations that are equipped to succeed.

Thank you to anyone who has supported us this year, or in the past. Your belief in our mission and services has allowed us to expand across the state, creating impact and building a more resilient Ohio.



Matt Kresic, MPA
Chief Executive Officer

OUR MISSION



Cadence Care Network provides
innovative treatment services
supporting kids and families
in pursuing their best possible life.

OUR MISSION

Meeting Families Where They Are

This year, Cadence Care Network proudly celebrated 35 years of serving children and families across Ohio. What began as a treatment foster care agency has grown into a community impact organization providing behavioral health treatment, prevention, foster care, care coordination, and community-based support for children and families at many stages of life.

In 2025, more than 8,000 children, youth, and families turned to Cadence for help. Help with struggles at school. Help coping with big emotions and difficult behaviors. Help navigating out-of-home placement, developmental delays, complex care needs, and the uncertainty that can come with not knowing where to turn next.

Across Ohio, Cadence teams met children and families in the places where support could make the greatest difference.

Counselors and prevention staff worked with students during the school day. Care coordinators helped families move through referrals, providers, and service systems. Foster care staff supported caregivers opening their homes to children in need. Early Intervention service coordinators helped families access developmental support early, while Bridges liaisons helped young adults who aged out of foster care find safe, stable housing and plan for independence. Through Transition Age Youth groups and the Cadence Coffeehouse & Creperie, young people built life skills, confidence, and supportive relationships for what comes next.

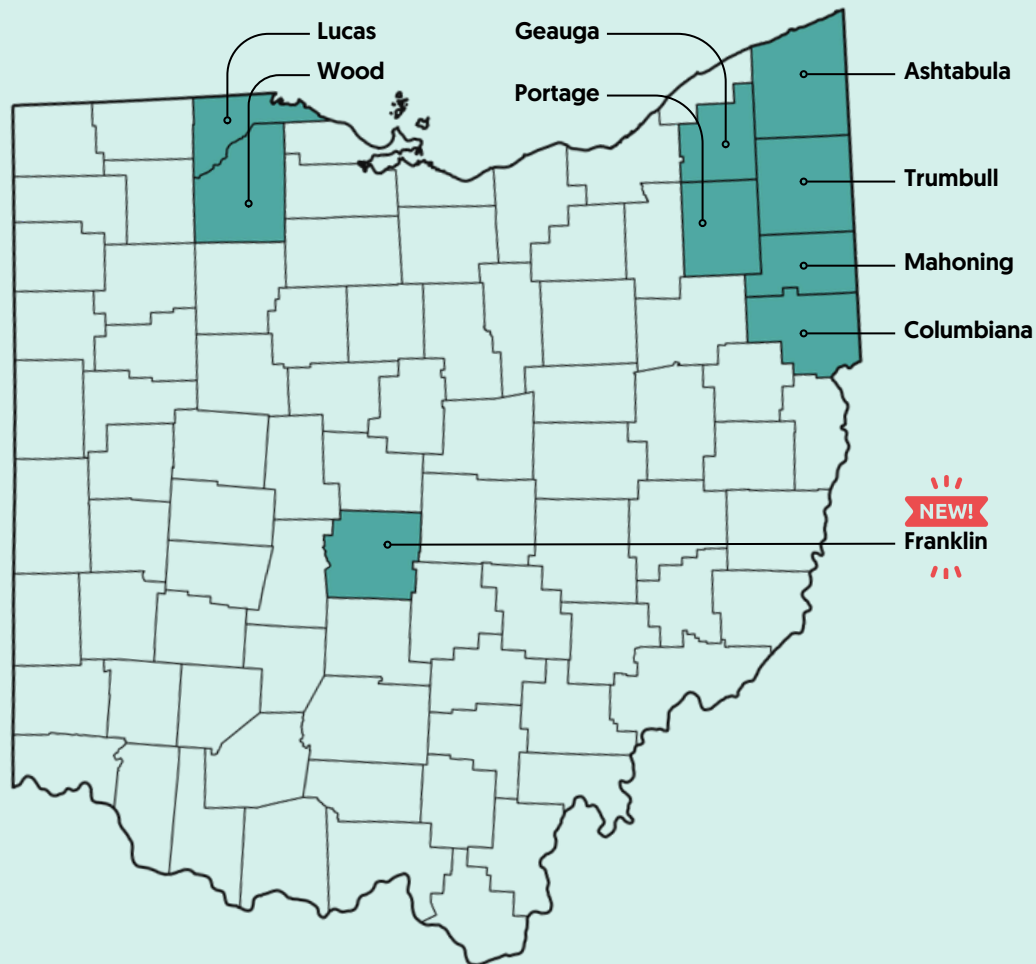
This growing network reflects a practical belief that has shaped Cadence from the beginning: children and families do better when care is easier to reach, easier to understand, and built around the realities of everyday life.



8,115

Children, youth,
and families served
across Ohio in 2025.

31% increase from 2024



Service availability varies by region. For current locations and service questions, visit cadencecare.org or contact info@cadencecare.org.

Medicaid and most major insurances accepted.

More Access

Our vision is to meet the needs of every child, family, and individual referred to us by evolving with quality services that reflect the realities of the communities we serve. Meeting those needs means growing beyond one region, one program, or one point of care.

In 2025, our reach grew through new partnerships, expanded access points, and a broader network of care. With the integration of Youth Advocate Services — a longstanding and respected Columbus agency with deep roots in serving children and families — Cadence expanded its statewide presence and added Franklin County Early Intervention services for children ages 0–3 with developmental delays or disabilities.

Opening More Doors for More Kids

Across Northeast, Northwest, and now Central Ohio, Cadence is helping more children and families access support closer to home, from early childhood through young adulthood.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Counseling, Psychiatry, Behavior Support, School-Based Services, Early Childhood, Teens & Young Adults, Groups, Art Therapy (w/Helms Foundation), Sexual Behavior Support

FOSTER CARE

Treatment Foster Care, Placement Services, Foster Parent Support, Permanency Support, Foster Parent Recruitment

OhioRISE

Respite, Care Coordination, In-Home Therapy (IHBT), Multisystemic Therapy (MST)

SUPPORT SERVICES

Bridges, Franklin County Early Intervention, Prevention, Cadence Coffeehouse & Creperie

Access in Action

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

765

Children served through Franklin County Early Intervention.

23% of children served countywide

2,756

Students supported through school-based services across **16** school districts.

229

Youth were welcomed into caring foster homes.

71% increase from 2024

254

Young adults were supported through Bridges as they started adult life after foster care.





Above: CEO Matt Kresic breaks ground at TCTC with Joe DeSalvo of [DeSalvo Construction](#).

Right: Chief Clinical Supervisor Heather Craver and School Programs Director Davina McPherson with Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel at the MCCTC Health & Wellness Center groundbreaking.

Creating New Pathways to Care

No single organization can meet every need of every child and family. Children are better served when schools, healthcare providers, behavioral health agencies, community organizations, and local leaders work together to make care easier to reach.

In 2025, Cadence continued building partnerships that brought support into more familiar places for young people and their families. We've seen how communities become stronger when they find new and creative ways to support children.



Breaking Ground on Student Wellness

Schools are the primary access point for youth mental health services, especially for youth from low-income households and racial and ethnic groups that have historically faced greater barriers to care.⁺

In 2025, two major career and technical center projects broke ground, creating new spaces for students and community. At Trumbull Career & Technical Center, where Cadence has provided services for eight years, a 15,000-square-foot expansion will add behavioral health support, case management, telehealth prescribing, career exploration, and hands-on training. Cadence serves just under 200 students during the school year at TCTC, and the expansion will open access after school hours.

At Mahoning County Career and Technical Center and Valley STEM + ME2 Academy, Cadence will partner with Mercy Health in the new Health and Wellness Center, expected to open in 2026. Together, these projects bring behavioral health support into spaces where students are already learning and preparing for their futures.

Expanding Care Through Creativity

For some young people, healing begins through conversation. For others, it may begin through creativity, trust, expression, and choice. In January 2025, Cadence and The Ryan Giambattista HELMS Foundation of the Mahoning Valley began a partnership to make art therapy more accessible across Northeast Ohio, bringing master's-level art therapists into Cadence's broader network and creating another way for children and families to engage in behavioral health support.

⁺ Based on [CDC school mental health data](#)

Deeper Impact

Access is only the beginning. For many children and families, meaningful progress depends on what happens next: how quickly needs are understood, how services work together, and whether the people surrounding a child are moving in the same direction.

OhioRISE helps children and youth with complex behavioral health needs receive coordinated support across the systems involved in their care. As the Mahoning-Trumbull OhioRISE Care Management Entity, Cadence works with families, schools, providers, courts, child welfare agencies, hospitals, and community partners to build support around each child's needs, goals, and strengths.

That coordination can reduce the need for more restrictive care. Statewide, OhioRISE has helped reduce emergency department visits by 41%, psychiatric hospital stays by 28%, average hospital stays by 40%, and psychiatric residential treatment stays by 60%.⁺

For families facing more intensive needs, Cadence also provides services such as Multisystemic Therapy, Intensive Home-Based Treatment, and Behavioral Health Respite — services designed to support daily life, strengthen family stability, and keep children connected to home, school, and community whenever possible.

Quality During Growth

Cadence achieved another four-year reaccreditation through the Council on Accreditation, with no out-of-compliance ratings in any fundamental practice standards.

“ **Accreditation ensures that Cadence Care Network meets the best practice standards in our field in both service delivery and program administration.** ”

— Matt Kresic, CEO

⁺ Based on Ohio Dept. of Medicaid data

1,256

Youth and families served
through OhioRISE care
coordination

23% increase from 2024



Impact in Action

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

93%

Of youth receiving MST stayed connected to school or work.

100%

Of youth served through MST remained safely at home.

89%

Of youth engaged in MST had no new arrests.

94%

Of survey respondents felt heard and understood by their provider.⁺

92%

Of survey respondents would recommend Cadence to others.⁺

⁺ Based on 2025 Cadence Care Network survey responses across programs.

Deeper Support in 2025

131

Intensive Home-Based Treatment participants.

86

Served through Multisystemic Therapy.

320

Youth supported through Behavioral Health Respite.



A Better Future

When Malik first became connected to OhioRISE through Cadence in 2024, his family was facing a painful reality: a child they loved was moving deeper into crisis.

He was incarcerated, involved with juvenile court, and carrying serious concerns related to anger, safety, and decision-making. His history included property damage and threats involving weapons toward peers and neighbors. For his family, the worry of what could happen next was overwhelming.

At that point, Malik's needs were not simple. His family needed support that could bring people together, clarify next steps, and help make sure the adults and systems around him were working from the same understanding.

Hope in a Hard Place

Malik's future was beginning to narrow before it had even fully started. Even then, his family was still hoping for something better: fewer crises, stronger coping skills, better choices, and a clearer path forward.

His care plan gave that hope a shared direction. Together, Malik and the people supporting him focused on helping him stay on track in school, build healthier coping skills, and avoid further legal involvement. The work was about addressing the crisis in front of him while helping Malik move toward the future his family believed was still possible.

A Different Path Forward

As the people around Malik began working from the same plan, he began making steady progress. He participated in counseling to work on anger management, chose to spend more time at home, focused more intentionally on his education, and began taking steps toward the future he wanted.

By 2025, Malik was making meaningful progress toward his care plan goals. He was staying focused on school, maintaining steady employment, and continuing to work toward stability. Although he remains on probation, he is expected to successfully complete the program. His team describes a young person whose whole demeanor has changed for the better.

“ In a better future, Malik will make better decisions and have a clear plan for the future. ”

— From the *Family Vision* in Malik's first Care Plan

Malik is now on track to graduate in 2026. He has a steady job, a stronger support system, and a clearer sense of what comes next.

A future that once felt like it was closing in now has room for stability, purpose, and possibility.

Name and identifying details have been changed to protect privacy.

YOU CAN HELP

Every child needs people and places that help make healing possible. Foster families are one way the community helps close the gap between crisis and stability.

“Fostering can be more accommodating and flexible than people realize. There are so many kids who need a safe place to heal while their parents work toward stability.”

— Carrie Markusic, Cadence Foster Parent

Find out if fostering is right for you:

cadencecare.org/foster-care

YOU CAN HELP

Stronger Families

In 2025, Cadence helped children and families move toward permanency, connection, and the kind of support that changes what feels possible. For 51% of Cadence foster youth, permanency meant adoption, reunification, or a family connection they could count on.

1,874 Days in Foster Care

In March 2025, Samuel and Andre were adopted after spending 1,874 days in foster care. That number represents birthdays, school years, holidays, routines, and everyday moments spent waiting for permanency. Their adoption marked the beginning of something every child deserves: a family committed for the long term.

A Forever Family from the Start

Carrie and Caleb Markusic began fostering Carsen when he was a newborn. Over time, the daily care, consistency, and connection they offered became something permanent. In 2025, they officially became his forever family through adoption.

A Home That Kept Growing

In November 2025, Owen found his forever home with Christina and Burl Queen after being in foster care since birth. Owen became the 10th child adopted by the Queens, who have fostered for more than 20 years and have been connected to Cadence since 2013. Their story reflects the lasting commitment of foster and adoptive families who continue showing up for children, year after year.

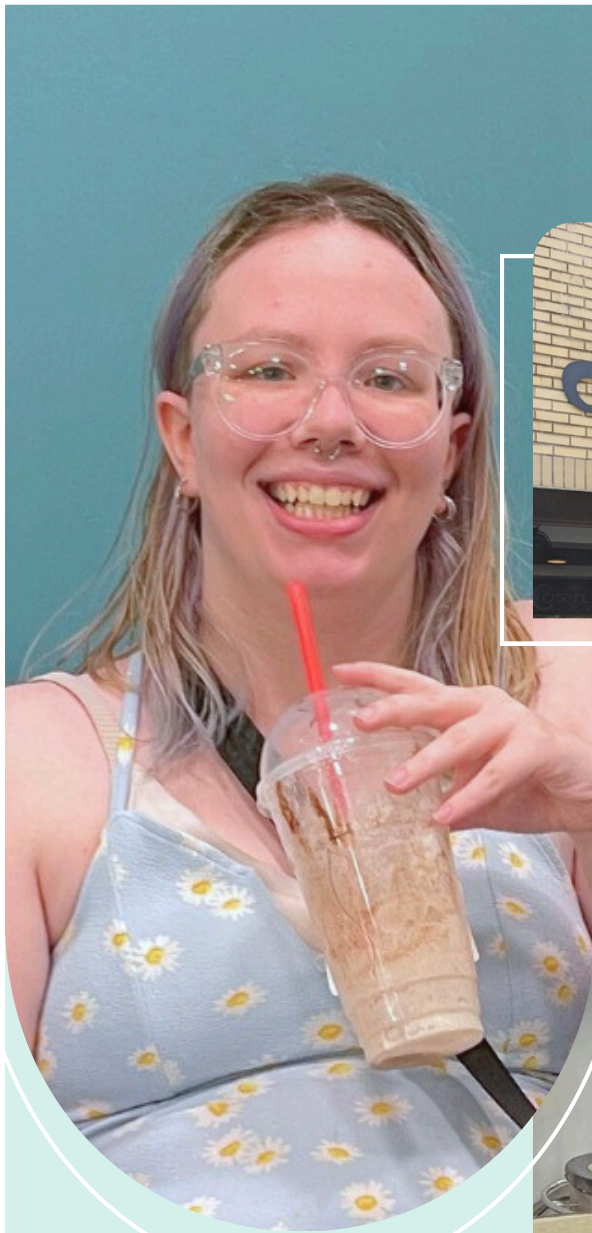
Thinking about opening your home to kids in your community? [Start the conversation here](#), or by contacting Valerie Flanigan at valerie.flanigan@cadencecare.org.



Top: Samuel and Andre on their adoption day.

Right: Caleb Markusic holding his son, Carsen.

Left: Owen and his parents, Burl and Christina.



Above: Isabelle today, continuing to grow in confidence and independence.

Right: Isabelle building hands-on skills at the Cadence Coffeehouse & Creperie.

Brewing Opportunity

Cadence's work does not stop at treatment, care coordination, or foster care. Supporting young people also means helping them build confidence, stability, relationships, and the skills they need for what comes next.

The Cadence Coffeehouse & Creperie was created as a social enterprise to provide young people with hands-on work experience in a supportive environment. For youth who have experienced instability, loss, foster care, or other difficult life circumstances, a first job can become much more than a paycheck. It can become a place to learn, connect, and begin seeing a different future.

A Safe Place to Start

When Isabelle came to the Coffeehouse, her family was going through an incredibly difficult season. Her mom had passed away. Her dad had lost his job. Transportation, stability, and even access to meals had become daily stressors.

At the Coffeehouse, she found encouragement, mentorship, consistency, and a safe place to rebuild confidence in herself and her future.

“ Cadence really helped me. I didn't live paycheck to paycheck, I lived meal to meal, and now I'm doing so much better. ”

— Isabelle, former Coffeehouse Employee

Over time, Isabelle grew into someone almost unrecognizable from the young woman who first walked through our doors. Today, she's thriving in a career she loves and building a more stable future for herself.

Stop by or order online: cadencecoffeehouse.com.

THANK YOU

Further With Community

Community support helps Cadence bridge the gap between what children and families need and what is possible. It allows us to grow services, expand our reach, respond to emerging needs, and provide care and support that helps more individuals and families move forward.



It Suits You

Cadence partnered with [Trumbull County Family and Children First Council](#) for the fifth installment of [It Suits You](#), where 62 youth received free dress clothing, shoes, accessories, and hygiene kits.

Cadence [TAY](#) youth helped measure, style, organize, and support their peers, turning the event into both a resource and a leadership opportunity.



Ha Ha Gala

The second annual [Ha Ha Gala](#) brought record-breaking attendance and financial support to [Penguin City Brewing](#) in Youngstown. With sponsors, attendees, and performances from [Tammy Pescatelli](#), [Bill Squire](#), and [Mike Polk Jr.](#), the event turned a night of comedy into meaningful support for children and their families.



Top Choice

Cadence was named the Tribune Chronicle Readers' Choice Gold Winner for [Best Mental Health Provider](#) and Bronze Winner for [Charitable Organization](#).

This recognition is especially meaningful because it comes directly from the community. It helps more people learn about the services, support, and opportunities available for local children, teens, and families.



Game Day Giving

Cadence once again partnered with the [Mahoning Valley Scrappers](#) and [Trumbull County Tourism Bureau](#) for Peppers in Oil Night, the Scrappers' longest-running specialty jersey night.

The on-field jerseys were auctioned online and in stadium, with all [proceeds benefiting the children and families](#) engaged in our programs.

THANK YOU

Support that Sustains Care

We are grateful for the donors, funders, and partners who make this work possible, helping Cadence sustain core programs, grow services, respond to emerging needs, and reach more children and families.

2025 GRANT FUNDERS

Cadence Board of Directors • Cadence Employees • Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley • Community Foundation of Western PA & Eastern OH • Ohio Children's Alliance • Safelite Foundation • Strimbu Foundation • Ticket to Dream Foundation • Triumph Foundation • Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation

2025 PROGRAMS FUNDED BY OR IN COORDINATION WITH

Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Board • Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board • Ohio Children's Trust Fund • Ohio Department of Behavioral Health • Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities • Ohio Department of Education and Workforce • Ohio Department of Medicaid • Ohio Department of Youth Services • OneOhio Recovery Foundation • Trumbull County Board of Developmental Disabilities • Trumbull County Juvenile Court • Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board

To give or learn more, visit givebutter.com/donate-cadence

\$2.18M

Grant funds supporting programs and services.

\$134K

Donations and other contributions.



Financials

2025 OVERVIEW

At Cadence, we prioritize transparency and accountability to ensure every dollar supports our mission and helps provide high-quality services to children, families, and communities across Ohio.

The snapshot presented on this page is from Fiscal Year 7/1/2024-6/30/2025.

TOTAL FUNDING

\$28.4M⁺

Key funding sources:

\$18.3M	Care Coordination & Behavioral Health Services
\$2.6M	Bridges
\$2.2M	Grants
\$2.1M	Foster Care Placements
\$1.6M	Program Services
\$1.4M	School-Based Services & Prevention

⁺ Reflects total revenue, gains, and other support

IN 2025, FUNDS SUPPORTED

\$26.5M

in total expenses and mission-related investments

\$20.1M	Core Program Services
\$4.7M	Management & General Operations
\$1.7M	Mission & Community Initiatives Through Charitable Foundations

NET ASSETS

2025: **\$9.0M**

2024: **\$7.2M**

Change in Net Assets: **+\$1.8M**

Platinum
Transparency
2025

Candid.

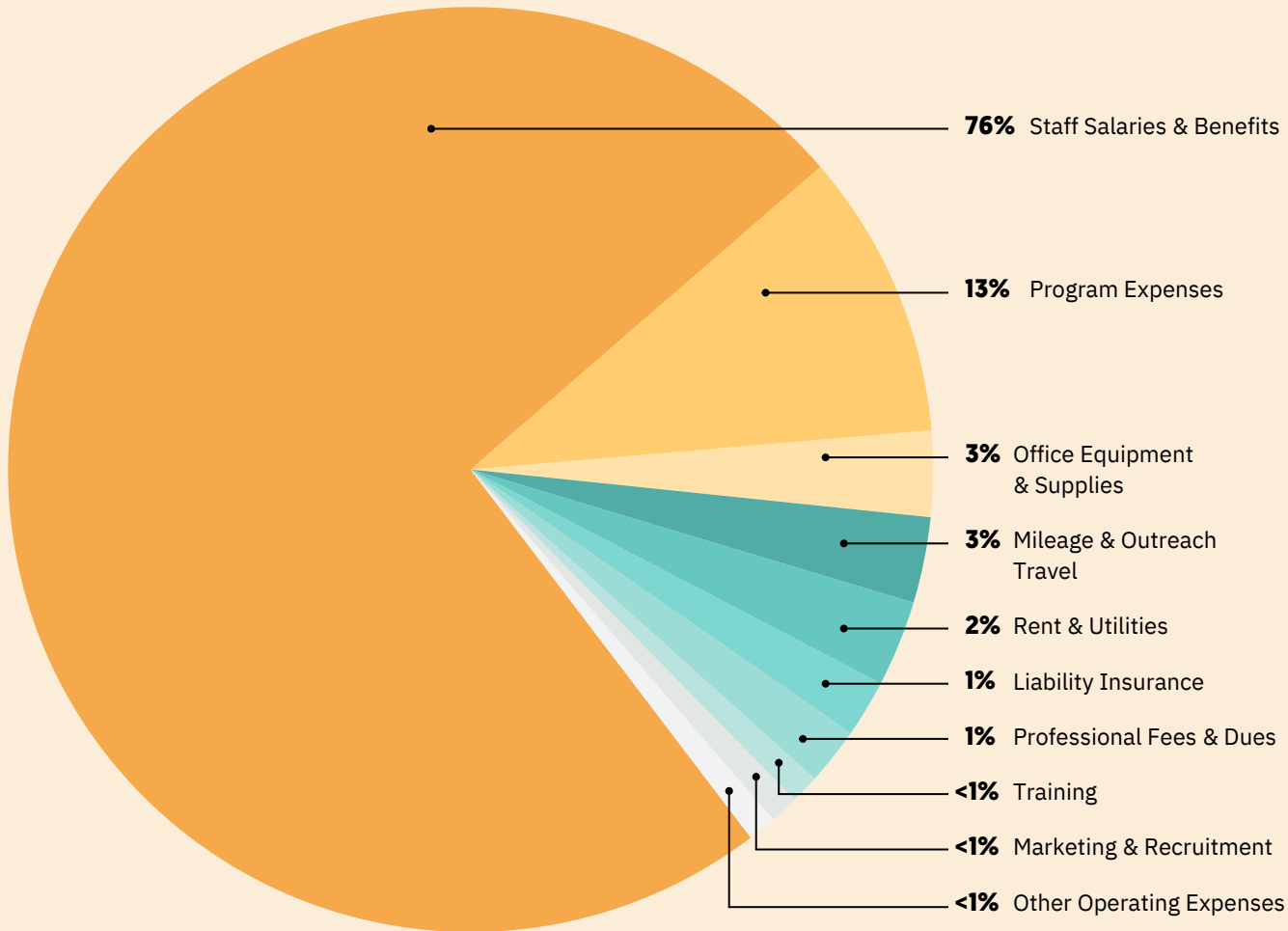
Financials

2025 ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

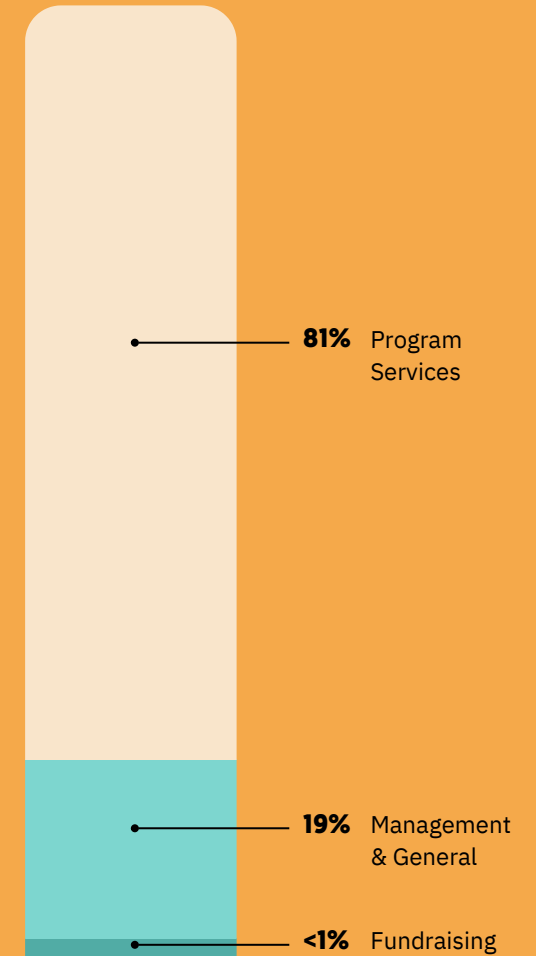
The selected financial information presented on this page is from Fiscal Year 7/1/2024-6/30/2025.

[View our 990 and public nonprofit profile.](#)

Operational Spending Summary



Expenses in Program, Fundraising, and Administrative Categories



Looking Ahead

Cadence Care Network is growing because the needs of children and families are growing. And as those needs change, our commitment remains the same. We will continue providing care that is easier to access, rooted in quality, and built around the realities families face every day.

We know the path forward will not always be simple. Families are navigating increasingly complex systems, and the organizations built to support them are doing more with limited resources, rising costs, workforce challenges, and shifting state and federal funding. Even in that reality, Cadence will keep showing up.

We will continue holding ourselves to high ethical and quality standards while refining services and building partnerships that help children receive support earlier. Collaboration strengthens our ability to meet real needs, connect families to treatment and resources, and help young people build stability, confidence, and connection.

This work only moves forward because of the people who believe in it — our dedicated team, our Board of Directors, and the many partners, schools, donors, and community advocates we've met along the way. We value and invest in these relationships because they help create **a rhythm that reaches further**: across more communities, into more moments of need, and toward better outcomes for children and families.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on the reason this work began and the reason it continues: *helping kids and families pursue their best possible life.*



EXECUTIVE TEAM

Matt Kresic, MPA

Chief Executive Officer

Shannon Harnichar, MHHS, LSW

Chief Compliance Officer

Nikunj Patel, LPCC-S

Chief Operating Officer

Sarah Steuer, MSSA, LSW

Chief Operations Officer - Columbus

Heather Craver, Ed.S, LPCC-S

Chief Clinical Officer

Mark Baynes, MAcc, BSBA

Chief Financial Officer

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2025-2026

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Shea MacMillan *Secretary*

Dean Bagnola

Patricia Dreher

Joyce Lee

Mike Vaughan

Susan Yoon

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Anita Godfrey, MPA, LSW *Dir. of Foster Care*

Ashley Harmon, MS *Dir. of Early Intervention*

Danelle Bryant, MSW, LISW-S *Dir. of Operations – Toledo*

Davina McPheron, MSW, LISW-S *Dir. of School Based Services*

Dominic Venetti, M.S.Ed, LPCC-S *Dir. of Family Preservation Services*

Jack Breegle, M.S.Ed, LPCC-S *CME Program Director*

Jeff Orbin, M.S.Ed, LPC *Dir. of Bridges*

Jenna Kifer, BBA *Human Resources Dir.*

Joshua Mickels, M.S.Ed, LPCC-S *Dir. of Operations – Ashtabula*

Katie Donofrio, M.Ed, LPCC-S *Dir. of Assessments/Early Childhood*

Lakeya Lee, MAE, LPCC-S *Dir. of Operations – Mahoning County*

Lori Shelby, MSW, LISW *CME Program Dir.*

Rob Carter, MSIT *Director of Information Technology*

Ryan McNaughton, MA, M.Ed *Dir. of Marketing & Development*

Tammy Esposito, BS, RHIA *Dir. of Revenue Cycle Management*



cadencecare.org



info@cadencecare.org

Foster Care Placements: kids@cadencecare.org



**Serving families across Northeast,
Northwest, and Central Ohio**

*Visit our website to see all locations
and the services available in your area.*



PROUD MEMBER OF



*Cadence Care Network is a nationally accredited,
state-certified, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

***We value the diversity, strength, and shared
humanity of the people and communities we serve.***