



About the Community Action Team (CAT) Program

The CAT program is designed to enable youth facing challenges in Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Nassau, Suwannee, and Union counties the opportunity to receive the supports needed to succeed in their own community.

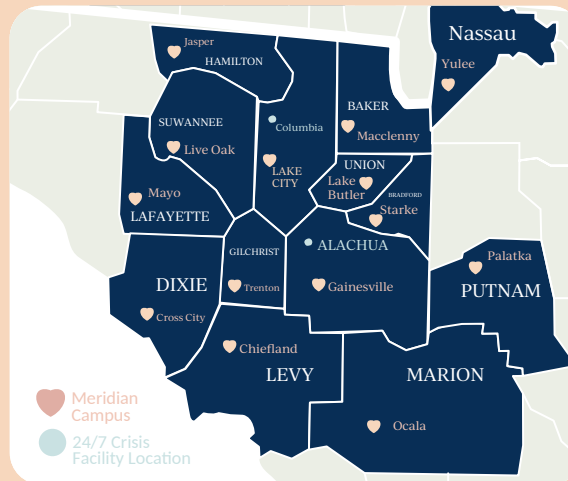
The program goal is to help youth to reach their fullest potential, while remaining in their home. Each client's family is provided with a team that includes a therapist, psychiatrist, nurse, care coordinator and a mentor to provide support through all facets of treatment.

During the treatment process, the client and family receives therapy; while the client receives additional, individualized support from a care coordinator and mentor.



Together, we'll transform *communities* from the inside out.

Headquartered in Alachua County, with 13 locations throughout North Central Florida, Meridian also offers telehealth appointments.



For more information please give us a call:
Toll Free (800) 330-5615
Gainesville (352) 374-5600

Caring for the whole person takes the whole *community.*



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CAT Program
Community Action Team



Who is eligible?

Youth/young adults ages 11* to 21, with a mental health diagnosis and/or co-occurring substance use diagnosis with accompanying characteristics such as:

- At-risk for out-of-home placement
- Two or more hospitalizations or repeated failures
- Involvement with the Department of Juvenile Justice or multiple encounters with law enforcement
- Poor academic performance and/or suspensions

(Children younger than 11 may be candidates if they meet two or more of the aforementioned items.*

The CAT team aims to:

- Improve school related outcomes such as attendance, grades, and graduation rates
- Decrease out-of-home placements
- Improve family and youth functioning
- Decrease substance use
- Decrease psychiatric hospitalizations
- Increase health and wellness
- Transition into age appropriate services

Frequently Asked Questions

How long can my child be in the program or how long does the program last?

Children typically remain in the program for 3 to 9 months.

What will I have to do?

Parents must be engaged in the process and meet regularly with the treatment team to discuss and implement family directed goals.

What services can CAT provide?

Our team can provide home service and school therapy. Our therapists and case managers/mentors work with the family, as well as the child, to optimize positive environments and help resolve issues while assisting the family to become stronger.

