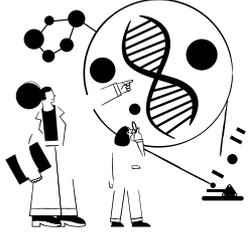


Annual Report FY2025

 Thompson Center for
Autism & Neurodevelopment
University of Missouri

At a Glance

Clinical	Research	Training	Strategic Planning	Financial Sustainability
				

Celebrating 20 Years at the Center





*“The mission of the Thompson Center is to support individuals & families impacted by autism and other neurodevelopmental diagnoses through world class programs that integrate **research, clinical service delivery, education, and public policy.**”*

This year marks a major milestone for the Thompson Center: **20 years of progress** toward our mission! Over the past two decades, we have provided **comprehensive clinical services, cutting-edge research, and innovative training programs** to communities across Missouri and beyond.

FY2025 was a year of transformation and growth. Construction of our **new facility** is nearing completion, with operations set to begin in **March 2026**. This state-of-the-art space will enhance our ability to deliver integrated services and foster collaboration across disciplines. A **grand opening celebration** is planned for **May**, when we will formally welcome our community into this exciting new chapter.



Below is a summary of key highlights from the past fiscal year, reflecting our continued commitment to our integrated mission of **clinical care, training, and research**.

Center Highlights



Clinical



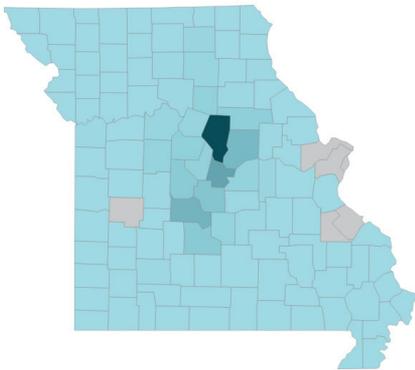
17,855 patient visits and **4,520 distinct patients** in FY25

Meeting the growing demand for diagnostic and therapeutic services remains a critical focus at the Thompson Center. To support this goal, provider recruitment continues to be a top strategic priority, ensuring we have the clinical capacity to serve our community effectively.

Below is a summary of new and replacement positions recruited, categorized by functional area to reflect the Thompson Center’s strategic staffing priorities:

Position Description	Sum of Number Recruited
Administrative Support	6
Outreach & Family Services	7
Providers & Nursing	32
Grand Total	45

Our family resource services team remains a vital part of our center, providing essential support to families as they navigate available resources and the referral process. We continue to see positive trends in family satisfaction and improvements in data collection efforts. Each new referral is contacted by a family navigator to provide guidance on the next steps.



2,347 arrived telehealth appointments and **582,995 miles avoided** in FY25

As part of our continued commitment to advancing autism services in Missouri, the Thompson Center is piloting its Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). The IOP is the first autism-specific program of its kind in the state, designed to provide comprehensive, multidisciplinary care for children and adolescents (ages 3-19) with autism or related developmental disabilities who exhibit severe behaviors that cannot be effectively managed in traditional outpatient settings.

Operating five days a week in half or full-day formats, the program offers therapeutic support focused on severe behavior reduction and medication management. Supplemental therapies are added before generalizing to outpatient/home settings. The pilot phase will inform future implementation in our new facility and fills a critical need in expanding access to intense behavioral treatments intended to prevent hospitalizations.



736 Autism evaluations in FY25

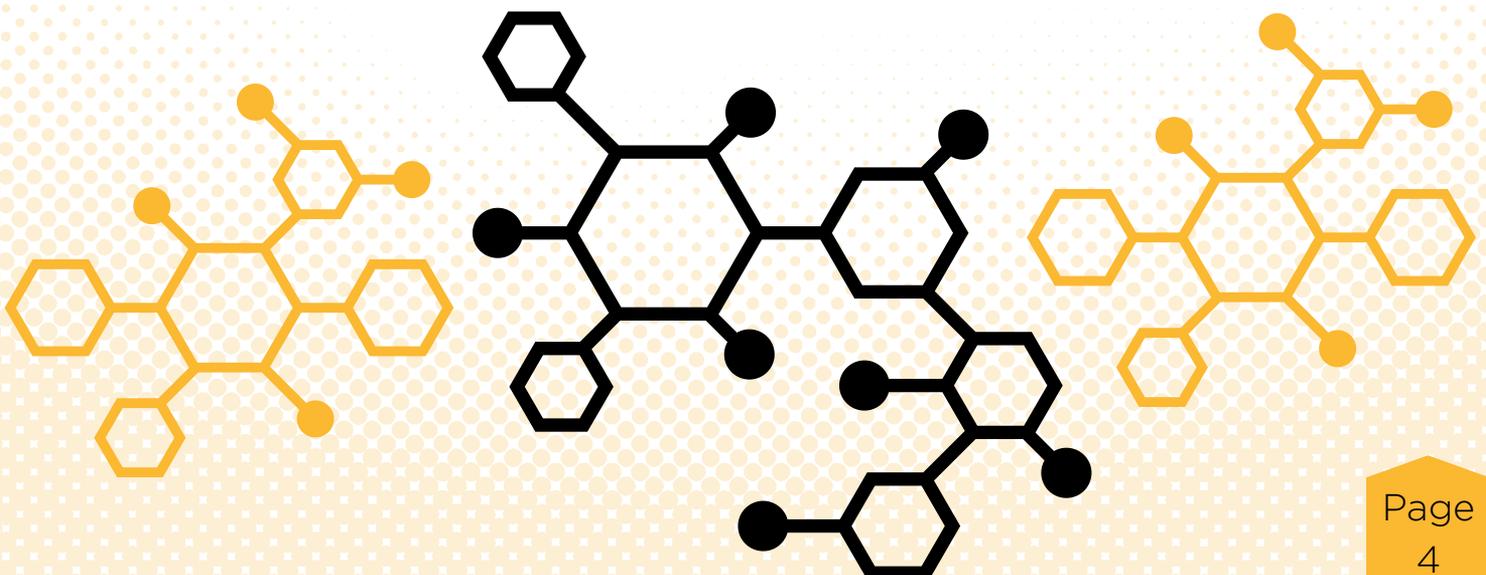
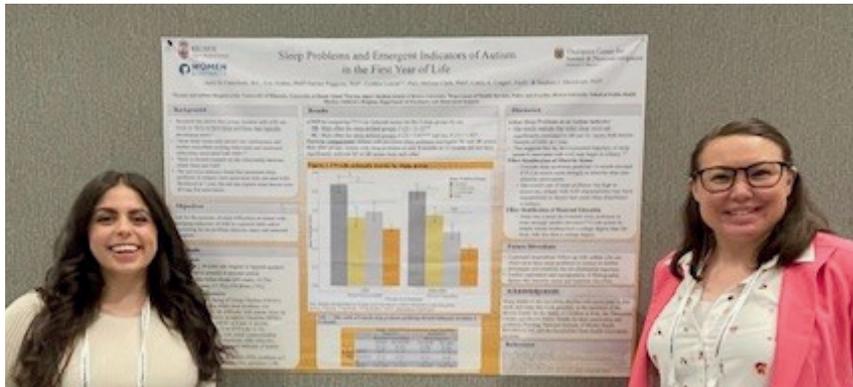
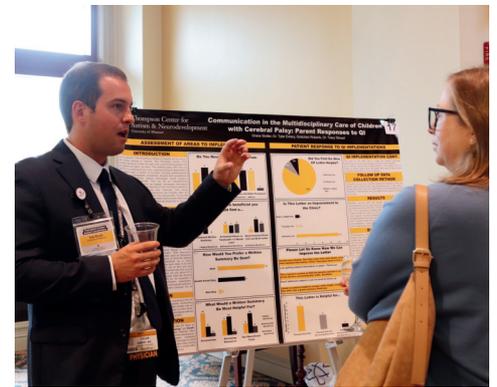
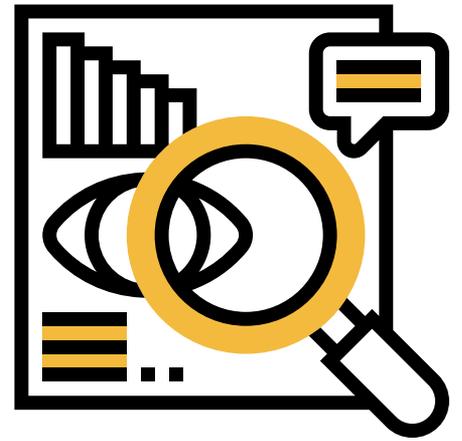
Expanding access to treatment and intervention services remains a central priority at the Thompson Center. Under the leadership of our Director of Therapy and Intervention Services, we continue to assess and respond to evolving community needs. We are significantly strengthening our capacity to deliver services across Missouri through the successful recruitment of a full-time psychotherapist, streamlined intervention referral coordination, and newly-created trainee pipelines to support individual, group, and caregiver-focused interventions.

Despite ongoing uncertainties in the research funding landscape, the Thompson Center remains actively engaged in a wide range of research initiatives—from genetics and neurodevelopmental studies to clinical trials and behavioral interventions. Supported by the Thompson Center’s dedicated research core, our faculty researchers continue to advance diverse scientific inquiries that reflect the breadth of our mission and the needs of the autism community. Recent milestones include:

- **Noted as one of the top 3** recruitment sites for EarliTec; a study tracking eye movements in response to stimuli
- **\$9.6M** in research funding
- **13 active projects**
- **Over 16 publications**
- Published Spring 2025 Research Newsletter highlighting autism and vaccine misperceptions
- **1,495 participants enrolled** in research
- Cumulative total of **8,285 patients enrolled** in **research database** since 2005

Thompson Center researchers shared their work through presentations and research posters at several prestigious national and regional conferences, including the International Society for Autism Research (INSAR) and the Society of Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics (SDBP), among others.

Research



Training



Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopment
University of Missouri

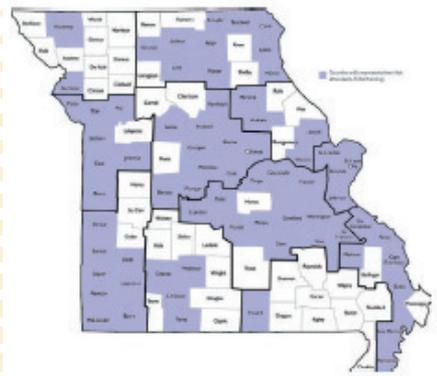
The Training Core plays a vital role in advancing outcomes for individuals with autism by developing and implementing high-quality training, educational services, and tools. Its mission centers on increasing awareness, building capacity, and promoting inclusive supports across communities.

In FY2025, the Training Core impacted **3,489 individuals** through a variety of training initiatives. These included:

- **1,927 educational providers** trained through targeted programs
- **2,476 participants** engaged via online autism training modules
- Over **689 professionals** trained through the Autism Friendly Business initiative
- More than **4,800 hours of supervision** provided to **394 undergraduate and graduate students**, supporting the next generation of autism professionals

Additional highlights include:

- The **annual autism conference**, a flagship event, welcomed **426 professionals** from education, healthcare, and research sectors.
- The associated **parent conference** sold out with **75 participants**, reflecting strong community engagement.
- Innovative offerings such as **post-secondary employment training for self-advocates**, the **Supporting the Spectrum podcast**, and **free online training modules** continue to expand the reach and impact of the Training Core’s work.



Counties with a representative that attended a TEAM training.

TEAM Strand	Quarter 1 July-Sept	Quarter 2 Oct-Dec	Quarter 3 Jan-March	Quarter 4 April-June	Totals
Applied Behavior Analysts	53	18	6	13	90
Community Care Providers	126	120	228	167	641
Educational Providers	292	351	927	357	1927
Health Professionals	256	162	118	202	738
Parents/Caregivers	23	22	25	19	89
Totals by Quarter	752	674	1305	758	3489
# workshops	21	16	18	23	78

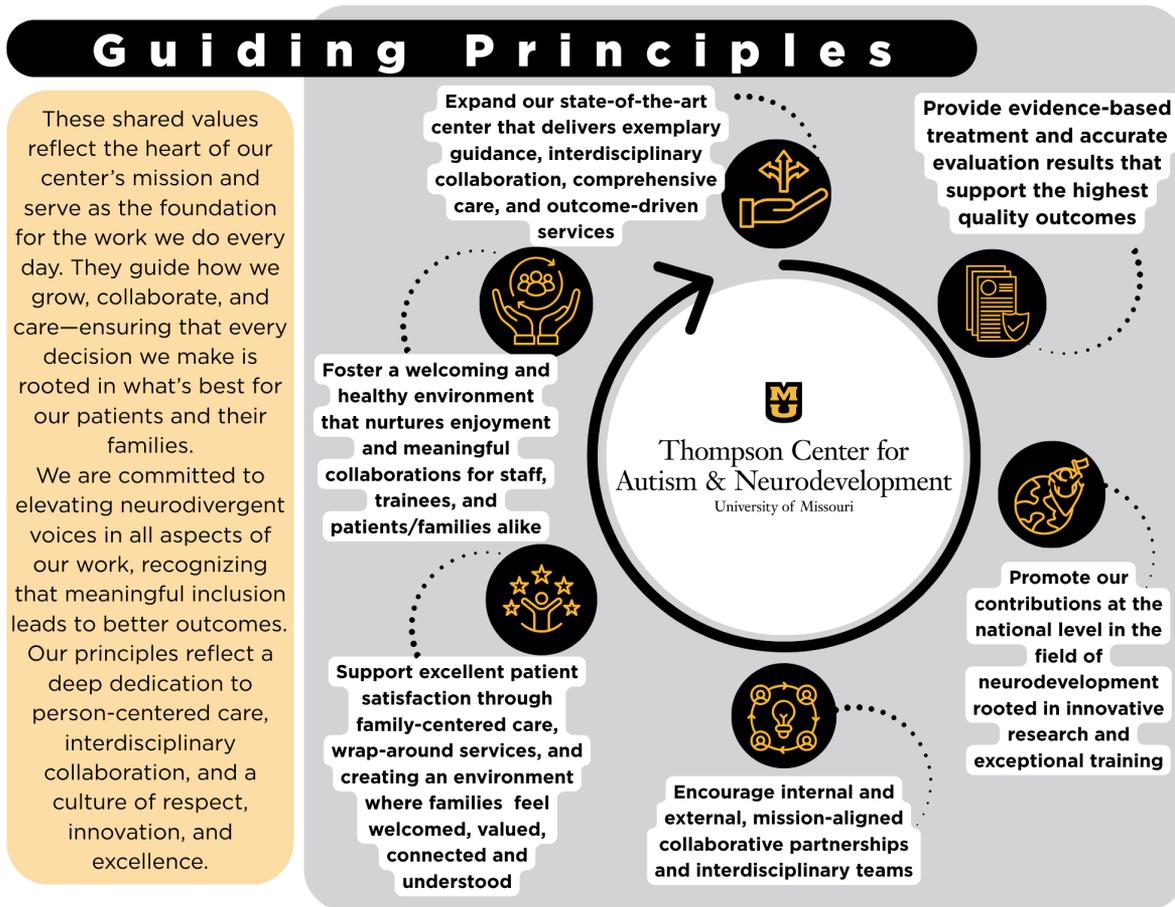
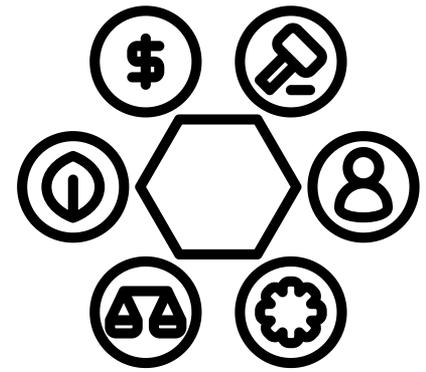
The table above represents the number of individuals who have participated in Training Experts in Autism for Missouri (TEAM) trainings across the five provider and caregiver groups. TEAM funding is awarded to the Thompson Center through a state contract.

TEAM provided significant impact, reaching participants in all 11 Department of Mental Health regions of the state.

Strategic Planning

The Thompson Center’s approach to strategic planning continues to evolve as we grow and expand capacity. This involves reviewing and updating the guiding principles that direct how we grow, collaborate, and care—ensuring every decision we make is the best option for our patients and their families

The Thompson Center continues to maintain a strong and valued partnership with the University of Missouri School of Medicine and MU Health Care, aligning strategic planning efforts to advance shared goals. Through this collaboration, a unified framework of strategies and key performance indicators has been developed—impacting not only the Thompson Center, but also contributing meaningfully to institutional priorities across the university. These efforts are centered around five pillars: quality, engagement, service, stewardship, and growth.



Our guiding principles reflect the Thompson Center’s shared values and serve as the foundation for everything we do. They embody our commitment to elevating neurodivergent voices across all aspects of our work—recognizing that meaningful inclusion drives better outcomes for individuals with neurodevelopmental differences and their families.

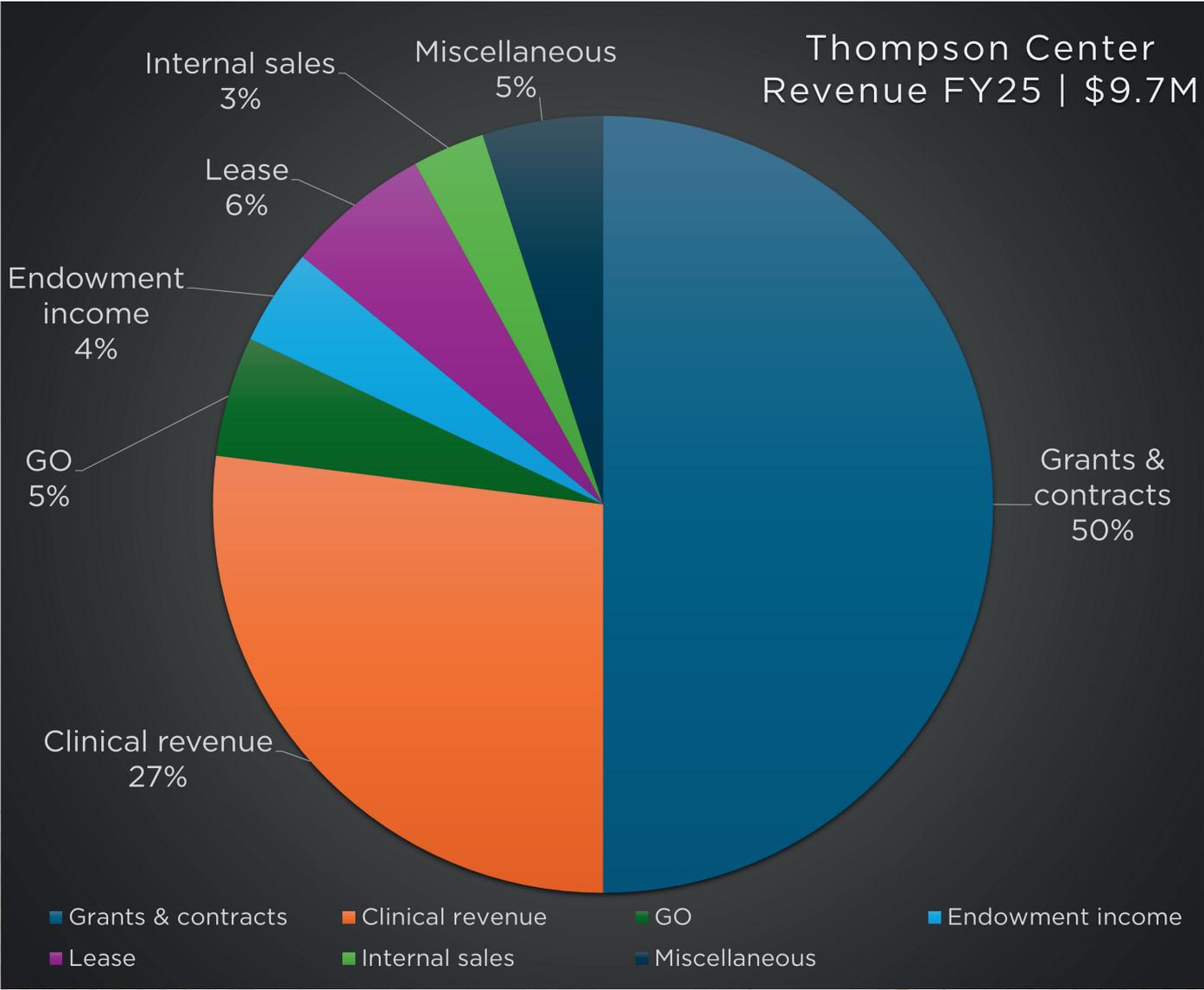
These principles guide our approach to clinical care, research, and training, ensuring our efforts remain inclusive, person-centered, and impactful.

Financial Sustainability

The center maintained a strong position of financial sustainability throughout FY25, supported by careful resource management and strategic investments in core operational areas.

Primary Expense Categories:

- Personnel
- Building Operations
- Clinic and Office Supplies





Helping families grow stronger. Together.



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