

# Children's Trust of Alachua County

## Listening Project

### Youth/Teen Focus Group

Date of Focus Group:

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Location:

Focus Group Moderator's Name:

Number of participants:

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Time of Focus Group:

Start |\_\_|\_\_:\_\_|\_\_|

End |\_\_|\_\_:\_\_|\_\_|

#### Preparation:

Take photos of each gift card, showing the serial number.

Purchase snacks and bottled water sufficient for a group of 13.

Arrange room seating in a circle, if possible.

Print copy of contact sheet (last page).

#### Introduction:

Thank you for participating in this discussion. We are meeting today to get your feedback on your community in Alachua County and your experiences growing up here.

This focus group is part of a Listening Project run by the Children's Trust of Alachua County. The goals of the Listening Project are to hear from a diverse group of parents and youth about how the Children's Trust can better facilitate access and opportunities for all youth in the county. We want to hear about your experiences here and where the Children's Trust can be of support.

Have you ever participated in a focus group? A focus group is a group discussion led by a moderator around a set of questions. I have the set of questions here in front of me to help guide the conversation. I'm going to ask you questions and I want to hear your perceptions, experiences, and thoughts – there are no right or wrong answers. We will not be using your names or any other identifiers that you share today. As we go through the questions, please be



honest in your feedback – it’s the only way we can figure out where we need to improve access and opportunities for all youth in the county.

### Ground Rules:

- Only one person speaks at a time
- We respect all opinions (it’s unlikely we will all agree on everything)
- There are no right or wrong answers or opinions – we don’t all have to agree
- We ask that you please respect everyone’s privacy – don’t identify anyone who participated outside of this session and don’t repeat information shared with the group outside of this discussion.
- I will be recording, but that is only so that I can be sure that I wrote everything in my notes correctly. We won’t share the recording with anyone outside of the research team.

Any questions or comments before we begin? Okay, let’s get started! [begin audio recording]

1. Let’s get some background information first. I need to know what grade you are in, how long have you lived in Alachua County, and what is your home zip code?

Grade	Years in County	Home Zip Code

### Neighborhood:

2. Let’s talk about your neighborhood, which includes where you live and the places nearby where your children often hang out. A great neighborhood is safe, has outdoor places where children can exercise or meet with friends, has healthy food options, and has interesting things to do, like a library or recreational sports. There can be other things I haven’t included that also make a neighborhood great. What’s great about your neighborhood?

●

3. Still thinking about your neighborhood, what’s not so great about it? What is it lacking?

●



4. How about outdoor spaces in your neighborhood where you can exercise or just hang out with friends? Do you have access to spaces like that? Do you use them? Why/Why not?  
●
5. How about safety? Do you generally feel safe in your neighborhood? Why/Why not?  
●
6. How about public transportation? Is there plenty of public transportation in your neighborhood? Do you use it? Why/Why not?  
●
7. For you and your friends, what is most challenging about growing up in your neighborhood?  
●
8. Still thinking about your neighborhood, do you have friends and/or adult mentors who live nearby?  
●
9. If you could improve your neighborhood by adding just one thing, what would it be?  
●

**School:**

10. Let's talk about your school now. What's the best thing about your school?  
●
11. What's the worst thing about your school?  
●
12. Do you feel like most of your teachers care about you and your education?  
●
13. What about your parents, do you feel like your parents care about your education? Are they highly involved in helping you get a great education?  
●
14. Do you like most of your classes? Do you think that your classes are preparing you for life? Is school important for your future plans? Why/why not?  
●



15. If you could improve your school by adding just one thing, what would it be?

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**Afterschool [Not required. Only complete if there is time.]**

16. Do you attend some kind of afterschool club, such as Boys and Girls? For those who say yes, what do you like about it?

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17. For those who attend afterschool, how could it be improved? What does it need more of and what does it need less of?

•

18. If you don't attend an afterschool program, why not?

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**Wrap up:**

Thank you all for participating today. Three last things:

1. I'm giving you my business card [alternative: provide email address]. If you think of anything else you would to say or if there are some things you didn't feel comfortable sharing in this group but that I should know about, please drop me an email.
2. There are also additional opportunities for youth to give feedback through surveys and participation in community meetings to be held in November/December 2022. The Children's Trust will be sharing back the results of the Listening Project in May/June 2023. You can stay updated on the Listening Project by visiting the Children's Trust website at <https://www.childrenstrustofalachuacounty.us/>.
3. Each of you will receive a \$25 gift card for participating. I need to record your name and a photo of the gift card for CTAC's accounting records. I've got a sheet to record that information and a few other pieces of data we need, including your preferred gender and race/ethnic background, so that we can make sure we are getting input from a diverse group. I'll pass around the gift cards and the form for all that information. [print copy of next page prior to hosting group]



Date of Focus Group:

Name	Email Address (optional)	Gender	Race/Ethnic Background	Last 4 Digits of Gift Card

1.