



## **Duval Youth Center Proposal- Kids Count in Alachua County**

### Organizational Background

Kids Count was founded as a 501(c)3 in 2007 with a focus on holistically supporting children at-risk of falling behind in their academics. The foundation of our programming lies in the delivery of an effective and sustainable after school program that not only addresses our children's academic success, but also empowers them in their personal and social-emotional growth. With this, our programming includes evidence-based one-on-one reading tutoring and other forms of academic support, social emotional learning, enrichment, and in-house mental health counseling services. Kids Count currently serves 70 students from low-income areas in East Gainesville who attend Rawlings, Metcalfe, and Williams elementary schools. The program is free of cost to all of our families as all of them are at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.

### Kids Count at Duval Youth Center

Kids Count is requesting funding to be able to house one of our site locations, serving 35 students from Metcalfe and Williams Elementary schools, at the Duval Youth Center. The past two years this site has been operating in three vacant classrooms at Metcalfe Elementary, however our capacity was reduced this past year due to the ongoing construction at Metcalfe. In January, we had to reduce our number of students to 25 students because one of the classrooms we were using was needed for administrative space due to the construction. When recently meeting with the principal at Metcalfe, we were told that it is likely that if we remain on Metcalfe campus this coming school year, we will be in a shared space which will again limit our capacity. The ability to be at Duval will give us the physical space we need to return to serving 35 students. This space can be utilized to fit the goals of the program, as opposed to a shared space that cannot be altered.

Space to operate our program is very urgent as the start of the school year is quickly approaching. Kids Count is able to operate programming at Duval if the CTAC is able to cover the cost of the immediate needs that must be met if occupying this space. We are requesting funding to cover immediate needs to be able to run our program at Duval. We would like to request funding in the near future to help us move beyond these immediate needs and allow us to optimally run the Kids Count program in this location. Please see our attached budget for our immediate needs and future request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Keri Neel*

Keri Neel  
Executive Director



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