



COACHING FOR LIFE BEYOND THE COURT

Aces In Motion (AIM) After School at Duval Youth Center Building Capacity

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Funding Request Summary

This proposal requests that the Children's Trust of Alachua County (CTAC) provide funding for Aces In Motion to build its capacity by funding:

- 1)** classroom space rental and internet services for AIM after-school programming for high school students at the Duval Youth Resource Center, and
- 2)** funding for additional staff, transportation of students, and other expenses related to establishing an additional site for AIM programming.

**With the 2021-2022 school year quickly approaching, we are requesting that the 1) item(above) be awarded ASAP so that Aces In Motion can sign contracts and move in the Duval Early Learning Academy starting the week of August 9th. The 2) item is important but without the 1) funded first, we are unable to move forward with the 2) request. We can provide separate budget requests to delineate these requests if needed.*

Funding Request Narrative

Originally, Aces in Motion's intent was to provide programming for high school students at the Oakview Park Teen Center. The City of Gainesville awarded the center's management contract to AIM in 2020, & AIM conducted a successful fundraising campaign to furnish & equip the building with a state-of-the-art computer lab, eSports area, music production studio, HIPPA-compliant mental health room, kitchen, staff offices, & a community room. In addition to providing 1:1 tutoring to our participants, partnerships with individual providers & other non-profits were to provide classes in music, coding, cooking/nutrition, etc., at Oakview starting in summer 2021.

Unfortunately, a kitchen fire in the early hours of June 13th, 2021, rendered the Oakview building uninhabitable. Six weeks later, the City of Gainesville has not begun rehabilitating the center. Thus, Aces in Motion is requesting that the Alachua County Public Schools provide space at Duval Early Learning Academy to carry out our youth after-school programming for at least the fall semester 2021. In addition, this pilot program at Duval, carried out while the Duval Early Learning Academy is on "pause" during the 2021-22 school year, should be beneficial in exploring the feasibility of converting the Duval Elementary School to a Community and Youth Resource Center in the future.

Who Does AIM Serve?



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AIM serves female & male students between the ages of 11-18 years old. Most AIM students enter the program in 6th grade & remain through high school graduation; AIM has an annual retention rate of over 90%. Approximately 95% of the students served are black; the remainder are Hispanic or biracial. The great majority are from families whose annual household income falls under 150% of FPL. Most reside in low-income neighborhoods in east Gainesville. Currently AIM has approximately 55 students enrolled in its after-school program (approximately 10 students in each grade between 6th-12th)

Using a positive youth development framework, AIM is longitudinal in nature & focuses on providing holistic support to low-income youth to help them achieve post-secondary success. Until the COVID-19 pandemic closed UF & K-12 schools in mid-March, our program was based on the UF campus, where our students benefited greatly from the rich college environment.

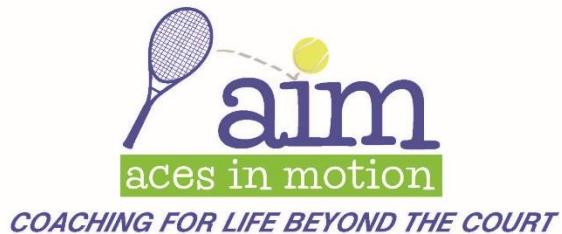
AIM staff and the administrators at Howard Bishop Middle School (HBMS) are working on the details (MOU) of locating the AIM Middle School Academy on the HBMS campus starting in fall, 2021. AIM students who attend other middle schools will be transported to HBMS during the after-school hours (3:30-6:00). At that location, primarily 1:1 tutoring, tennis and pickleball instruction, and enrichment activities, such as field trips, will be provided. We anticipate serving approximately 30 students at this (HBMS) site.

AIM at Duval

Duval will be the after-school home for AIM's high school students. High school students who graduate from our AIM Middle School Academy Program are eligible for our Teen Center program. We anticipate serving approximately 40 AIM high school students 5 days/week, Monday-Friday, from 2:30-6:30, with transportation & a healthy snack provided. AIM will offer all programming at no cost to the students as long as they qualify financially. AIM students receive 1:1 tutoring, mentorship, ACT/SAT prep, social-emotional support, an enrichment curriculum (healthy cooking/nutrition, exposure to the arts, etc.). They will be transported to nearby city or University of Florida tennis court facilities for tennis clinics. We hope to provide similar enrichment opportunities at Duval that we were planning to provide at Oakview. We would like to set up our eSports area, music production studio, and provide a space for mental health counseling (a counselor will be shared with Kids Count). In addition, we will seek permission from the school district to create pickleball courts by lining the courts in the covered basketball area (nets are portable).

Why AIM?

Many of AIM's students have multiple risk factors that make success in school a significant challenge. Unfortunately, high-quality & accessible after-school programs for students between the ages of 11-18 remain in short supply in Alachua County. The challenges of distance learning during COVID have only made the situation worse. Until the pandemic hit, we felt that AIM was making good progress in positively impacting youth outcomes. From evaluation of AIM students grades & formative assessments for the 2020-21 School Year, it is very clear that the pandemic has taken its toll; many of our students, who were already below grade level before the pandemic, are struggling both academically & emotionally. Experts predict that the negative K-12 impacts of the pandemic will persist for years,



particularly in students of color from lower SES households. We feel that it is imperative to provide more intensive educational and social-emotional support to our students. Therefore, the opportunities and services that the Duval Teen Center offers are greatly needed for students to re-connect and remain in school, excel academically, graduate on time, & develop skills that will help them become college- and/or career-ready. Starting in 9th grade, AIM students begin a Coaches in Training (CIT) curriculum, which includes an emphasis on leadership, ACT/SAT prep, community service & workforce readiness skill development. As our students progress in the CIT program, they become eligible to be hired AIM employees, coaches, & tutors for younger students in other programs.

Partnerships and Collaboration

One of AIMs strengths has been and continues to be our emphasis on working collaboratively with community partners. Aces in Motion's framework centers on community building, and this design makes partnerships imperative. AIM partners with community organizations to maximize program impact both for our participants and for our community. Over the past years, we have established many productive partnerships with schools, other non-profits, the City of Gainesville, law enforcement, and UF. Currently, our most important partners include (For a complete list of our strategic partners, please see our Annual Report)

1. City of Gainesville Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs
 - a. Oakview Park Resource Center: Contracted to manage newly renovated facility and provide teen programming with a STEM focus for youth.
 - b. T.B. McPherson Recreation Center: Contracted to utilize Rec Center for AIM offices & after-school programming.
 - c. The city provides AIM with in-kind provision of T.B. McPherson tennis facility for tennis instruction & team tennis competitions
2. School District of Alachua County:
 - a. Research Department: Provides AIM staff with data on AIM student academic performance & student behavior/attendance, with parental permission
 - b. Curriculum Department: Works with AIM staff to address academic needs of AIM students
 - c. Middle and high schools, guidance counselors, individual teachers, administration, etc.: Work closely with AIM staff on how to better meet the needs of AIM students, they also refer students to the AIM program.
 - d. Community School at Howard Bishop: potential site for Fall 2021 for AIM's Middle School Academy
3. University of Florida
 - a. College of Health & Human Performance: Dept. of Tourism, Recreation, & Sports Management: IRB-approved research agreement to conduct assessments and programs.
 - b. AIM Volunteer Coordinator: Responsible for recruitment and relationship of UF students and groups
 - c. UF Interns: multiple colleges and programs partner with AIM After School programs



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- d. UF College of Education UF TEACH program: Small group math and science instruction by supervised student teachers
- e. UF Student Organizations and Clubs: Provide volunteer tutors and exposure to college extracurricular activities and sport sampling opportunities.
- f. UAA and UF Tennis: Through a contract with UAA, AIM students practice tennis at Varsity Tennis Facility weekly.

4. Other OST providers, including Girls Place, Kids Count, I AM STEM, & Reichert House

AIM staff provides tennis/life-skills instruction to elementary children participating in other Out of School Time Programming

- a. Employment opportunities for AIM High School students
- b. Share academic staff with I AM STEM summer program and refer students between programs.
- c. We have been in partnership with Girls Place in providing mental health services to our participants and their families. This partnership is part of a collaborative effort between Girls Place, Kids Count, and Aces in Motion to provide more access to mental health services to communities that typically do not have access to free mental health services.

5. USTA Foundation:

- a. Program funding: 2014-present
- b. Capacity Building Program 2014-2017
- c. National Junior Tennis Learning (NJTL) Network: AIM is part of a national network of 200 similar tennis and education programs. Best practices, educational opportunities, and resources are shared among programs. AIM achieved 4-star status as an NJTL chapter, the highest designation possible, one of only 25 chapters to earn this distinction.

6. Weikart Center:

- a. AIM has partnered with the David A. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality to improve the quality of our staff training & program evaluation. The Weikart Center works closely with its out-of-school time clients to design, pilot & effectively scale up quality improvement & accountability systems. They have designed a youth development training for all staff and volunteers for Aces In Motion and it is a requirement for our onboarding process.

7. Motiv8U:

- a. Aces In Motion and Motiv8U have partnered for several years now. Motiv8U provides character development classes for our youth.

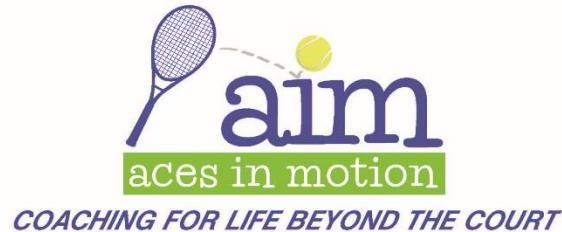
8. The Wellness Network:

- a. Ms. Pamela Marshall of The WELLness Network provides group yoga and affirmation classes that focus on physical and mental health.

9. TMushell:

- a. AIM has partnered with TMushell to provide assistance and services for our Esports program. This consists of Esport instruction on PC gaming devices, curriculum and game selection, and maintenance on all electronics.

10. ArtSpeaks:



- a. ArtSpeaks provides services around poetry with Alachua County's Poet Laureate, Mr. Stanley Richardson. Aces In Motion uses this intervention to motivate students to engage more in reading and writing. We also use this art form to build their social emotional skills.

Other:

- 1. UF Campaign for Charities (UFCC) participant organization
- 2. Member of Community Foundation of North Central Florida Philanthropy Hub
- 3. United Way Community Impact Partner (funded)
- 4. Alachua County CAPP funded
- 5. Amazing Give: finished in top 10 of organizations in terms of dollars raised every year