



Item:

Recommendation to apply and accept a Pritzker Children's Initiative Mini Grant (Mia Jones)

Requested Action:

- 1) The Trust is asked to approve the recommendation to apply and accept a Pritzker Children's Initiative mini grant not to exceed \$100,000.

Background:

The Pritzker Children's Initiative is offering small grants to its community and state grantees ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 focused on specific priority areas of work within the Prenatal to age three activities. The hope is that these funds can better support and strengthen targeted strategies. The mini grant from the Trust will focus on the development and implementation of a Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) community doula alliance and training program.

Strategy 1.1 of the Community Innovation grant is to increase outreach and engagement of families in children living < 200% federal poverty level.

Severe maternal morbidity is defined as complications during pregnancy or delivery which lead to negative outcomes for the woman and the infant. In 2020, the severe maternal morbidity rate for Alachua County was 13.5 compared to Florida at 20.4 (per 1,000 births). When grouped by race in Alachua County the 2019 rate for BIPOC pregnant Individuals increased from 9.1 in 2019 to 21.1 in 2020. This increase is in contrast to white pregnant and birth Individuals who had a rate increase from 5.8 in 2019 to a rate of 7.0 in 2020.

Doulas are trained professionals whose role is to provide consistent physical, emotional, informational, and advocacy support to families throughout their pregnancy, birth, and postpartum experiences. They are not medical staff. Most community-based doulas are members of the community they serve, sharing the same background, culture, lived experiences, and/or language and have additional training that supplements the traditional doula education curriculum. Additionally, they typically provide more home visits and a wide array of services and referrals for individuals who need more comprehensive support.

Numerous studies have found when pregnant, birthing, and postpartum individuals have doula services, there are better outcomes. These outcomes include lowered rates of severe maternal morbidity, lowered rates of preterm birth, lowered rates of low-birth-weight infants, lowered rates of cesarean sections, and higher rates of breastfeeding. In addition, doula support is linked to reducing rates of postpartum depression and anxiety.

The community doula alliance and training program is intended to build community capacity and collaboration to support BIPOC and teen pregnant, birthing, and postpartum individuals. In

collaboration with the Community Fellow, Valaria Hamilton with Sage and Thyme Birthworks, other community stakeholders and BIPOC doulas, and families the Trust will utilize the mini grant to co-design an alliance and adopt a training model that utilizes an equity lens tailored to Alachua County. The group will consider the needs of an alliance and will be reviewing and considering training models like the work of National Black Doula Association (NBDA), Childbirth Sense (JJ Way), GROW Doula, and/or a local doula curriculum model. To increase participation in the co-design sessions from BIPOC doulas, other expert stakeholders, and/or birth, pregnant, postpartum individuals the mini grant will include funding for space, food, stipends, cost of train the trainer, the cost of training which will include certification. The hope is the alliance will not only be co-designed by stakeholders but also led and sustained by community stakeholders and the Trust.

Programmatic Impact:

Goal 1- All children are born healthy and remain healthy

Strategy 1.1- Support maternal and child health

Fiscal Impact:

\$0 for FY2021-2022

Account number 001.15.1500.569.82.00

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval