

Children's Trust of Alachua County

Gun Violence Prevention Grants

September 17, 2026

On behalf of Alachua County, staff is recommending an extension of the grant funds until the end of the calendar year, December 31, 2026. This request is based on the ongoing work by the community grant recipients and staff time needed to complete processing of requests for reimbursements.

We are pleased to report that all grantees completed execution of contracts and received Purchase Orders allowing them to go forward with their projects. One hundred percent of the grant funds for community groups has been allocated. The total amount of \$222,850 was allocated to nine community groups; eight at \$26,606.25 each and one for \$10,000. One organization, Infinite Dream Builders, has decided to withdraw from the program resulting in termination of the contract. All other contracts remain in active status with projects still in progress.

The projects are in various stages of progress. Some organizations were able to begin their project expeditiously while others needed more time to begin. Some programs were just implemented in the summer months while others were designed for year-round activities. An example is the Dream on Purpose organization, which conducted summer program for youth, called Filming on Purpose. We anticipate their requests for reimbursement soon.

We have experienced some delays in the community grants program due to inconsistencies in submission of requests for reimbursement. Community groups are sometimes limited in their capacity for bookkeeping and accounting for financial transactions. Accurate documentation is required before reimbursements are approved and checks are distributed. We see the need for training in basic financial management for many of the organizations which would help the processes flow more smoothly, efficiently and effectively.

Additionally, there has been a staffing shortage in the grant management section of the department. More staff is needed to ensure more monitoring, site visits and processing of submissions from the community groups.

Staff is generally pleased with the organizations that were selected to receive the grants from the Children's Trust of Alachua County. The grantees are a variety of groups doing work that either directly or indirectly contribute greatly to the prevention of gun violence in our county. The commitment that they have made and the quality of the work they perform are to be commended.

Staff is also working on a partnership with the Alachua County and City of Gainesville Parks and Recreation staff to set up two additional committees in the rural areas of the county. County staff has met with interested officials in Alachua, High Springs, Newberry and Hawthorne and are prepared to launch these additional youth steering committees. The Alachua County Sheriff has provided gun violence data showing crime stats and areas of concentration.

These committees will engage youth impacted by gun violence in a trauma-informed way to inform the efforts around gun violence intervention and prevention. Funding will be utilized for staff and facilitator time, stipends for the youths' time, food and drink at meetings, transportation stipends for the youth to access meetings, additional payment for attending community engagement and associated events, professional and personal development experiences for the youth, and materials and supplies for the facilitation of the meetings. The Children's Trust has provided \$42,000 for the funding of this effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Smart

Alachua County

Executive Liaison for Public Safety and Community Relations