

Children's Trust of Alachua County Gun Violence Prevention Program Funding

Alachua County Progress Report #2 – August 2025

Introduction

The Children's Trust of Alachua County (CTAC) Gun Violence Prevention Funding Proposal, as amended, was developed to support evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies aimed at reducing gun violence within Alachua County. This report provides an update on the County's progress toward implementation of the Gun Violence Prevention Program supported through CTAC funding.

As of the date of this report, CTAC funds have not yet been expended. The County anticipates utilizing the allocated funds in Fiscal Year 2025–2026. Program implementation has been delayed due to staffing shortages; however, the County continues to actively advance the initiative.

Grant Funding Projects

In alignment with CTAC's funding priorities, County staff have finalized and publicly released a Request for Applications (RFA) to support community-based violence prevention strategies.

Each grant awarded through this initiative will not exceed \$33,000 and must support evidence-based approaches to gun violence prevention. The total funding available for this cycle is \$222,850.

Key dates associated with the solicitation process include:

- **Pre-Solicitation Conference:** Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.
Location: Community Support Services, Conference Room A
- **Application Submission Deadline:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

An Evaluation Committee, consisting of representatives from both County and City governments, has been convened. Members of the Committee have received appropriate training to ensure an equitable, transparent, and timely review process.

All inquiries related to the procurement process may be directed to:

Precious Merriweather
Procurement Specialist
Phone: 352-374-5202

Of particular note, one proposed grant will support programming for youth engaged in the County's Youth Steering Committees, with a focus on mentorship and access to mental health services.

Youth Steering Committees

County staff have initiated coordination with the City of Gainesville's Youth Steering Committee, as well as with representatives from the Cities of Alachua and High Springs and local law enforcement partners. Additional outreach has been conducted in the Cities of Newberry and Hawthorne, both of which have expressed interest in supporting or participating in the development of Youth Steering Committees in their respective areas.

Staff will also expand engagement to include outreach to schools in conjunction with the start of the 2025–2026 academic year.

Two separate Youth Steering Committees are being established as part of this initiative. In preparation for their formation, County staff are actively developing a working model to guide initial engagement, committee operations, and youth participation. This model will help ensure consistency, structure, and clarity of purpose across both committees while remaining responsive to the unique needs of each participating community.

These committees are intended to complement the existing Gainesville model and serve as platforms for elevating youth voices in the development and implementation of the County's broader gun violence prevention strategies.

Conclusion

Alachua County remains firmly committed to the successful implementation of the Gun Violence Prevention Program, in collaboration with the Children's Trust of Alachua County. While early implementation has been impacted by staffing limitations, the County is actively progressing key elements of the initiative, including the competitive grant process, engagement with community partners, and the establishment of youth leadership structures.

Further updates will be provided as implementation advances and significant milestones are achieved.