



Innovation for Impact Funding Request Report

Reporting Period: April 2026

Date: April 13, 2026

Strong- Minded Mentoring. Inc

Program Name: Handy Youth in ACTION

Date of Request: February 18, 2026

Requested Amount: \$20,000

Status: Approved

Program Overview: Handy Youth in ACTION is a 7-month intergenerational workforce development and service-learning program for youth ages 12–18. Participants gain paid, hands-on experience while completing supervised, age-appropriate community service projects that support local seniors, such as yard clean-ups, minor home assistance, light maintenance, weatherization support, and neighborhood beautification. All activities are safety-screened and overseen by adult supervisors.

Youth also participate in structured workforce development training focused on professionalism, communication, teamwork, time management, leadership, financial literacy, and job-readiness skills. Each participant earns a stipend and receives ongoing mentorship centered on education, career exploration, and personal growth.

Service is delivered in seniors' homes and at partner community sites. The program operates quarterly, engaging 5–6 youth for 8–12 weeks, during which they complete 2–3 service projects and attend regular workforce sessions.

Staff Actions: Staff facilitated the scope review and contract negotiations with Strong-Minded Mentoring leadership. In addition, staff completed the review and finalization of deliverables and performance measures to ensure all parties were aligned on the intended impact of the Impact for Innovation award.



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Play and Wellness Center of Gainesville, LLC

Date of Request: February 4, 2026

Requested Amount: \$17,633

Status: Approved

Program Overview: Harmony & Her is a therapeutic group for middle school girls (approximately ages 11–14) in Alachua County who may be experiencing low self-esteem, social stress, peer conflict, or early signs of anxiety or depression. The program utilizes music, lyrics, and creative collaboration to help participants build confidence, strengthen self-esteem, and foster healthy peer relationships. Licensed mental health professionals facilitate music-centered activities such as lyric exploration, playlist storytelling, rhythm-based emotional regulation, songwriting, and guided group discussions focused on identity, boundaries, and supportive friendships.

The group serves adolescents who may be at increased risk for challenges such as social comparison, bullying or exclusion, emotional dysregulation, academic pressure, or difficulty forming healthy friendships. Participants are identified through school counselor and teacher referrals, pediatricians and adolescent health providers, community youth organizations, internal referrals from therapists, and outreach through social media, parent groups, and community networks. Families may also inquire directly when seeking support for confidence, identity development, and positive peer connections.

Services include weekly group therapy sessions, music-based self-expression activities, peer-guided discussion, and take-home reflection exercises. Sessions are planned at the Play and Wellness Center of Gainesville with the option to partner with community sites for increased accessibility. Each cycle runs 10–12 weeks, meeting once weekly for 60 minutes and serving 8–12 middle school girls.

Staff Actions: Staff facilitated the scope of services review and completed contract negotiations with leadership from the Play and Wellness Center of Gainesville. Additionally, staff finalized all deliverables and performance measures to ensure all parties were aligned with the intended impact of the Impact for Innovation award.