



Item:

Innovation for Impact Grant Policy 6.80 (D) (formerly known as the Mini Grant)

Requested Action:

The Board is asked to approve policies and procedures for a Special Funding opportunity—Innovation for Impact Grant (Policy 6.80), to be included in the FY 2025–2026 budget.

Background:

In FY 2024–2025, the Board authorized staff to allocate \$200,000 to pilot a Mini Grant initiative designed to support local organizations proposing creative and impactful projects that benefit children and families in Alachua County.

To date, the Children's Trust has awarded a total of \$50,000 to three organizations:

1. Swampbots Robotics Program
2. Dance Alive – *Let's Dance* (Classes for children with special needs)
3. Mirror Image Leadership Academy – *Evolving Leaders Academy*

Based on the pilot's initial success and community interest, staff recommends the Board approve continued support for this initiative under the newly named Innovation Grant. This funding will broaden the range of programs supported by the Children's Trust and encourage innovation in service delivery.

The total allocation for FY 2025–2026 will be presented to the Board during the upcoming budget planning process. Staff will also provide a performance review of currently funded providers before the close of the current fiscal year.

Attachments:

Innovation for Impact Grant - Policy 6.80 (D)

Programmatic Impact:

Goal 1: Children and youth are healthy and have nurturing caregivers and relationships.

Goal 2: Children and youth learn what they need to be successful.

Goal 3: Children and youth live in a safe community.

Fiscal Impact:

To be determined – Proposed funding will be included in the FY 2025–2026 budget proposal.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Board approval of the Innovation for Impact Grant policies and procedures for inclusion in the FY 2025–2026 budget.