



Children's Trust of Alachua County
Innovation for Impact Grant
Policy 6.80 (D)

1. **Conditions for use.** The Innovation for Impact Grant (formerly known as the Mini Grant) provides funding for local organizations to launch creative and impactful initiatives that benefit children and families in Alachua County. Grant funds can be used to create, enhance, or expand direct services within the identified areas of focus. Prospective applicants must have an annual operating budget of less than \$1 million. Grants of up to \$20,000 will be awarded to help expand the range of programs supported by the Children's Trust. This funding is limited and competitive, awarded on a one-time basis per fiscal year, and subject to availability. The denial of any request shall in no way be construed as a reflection of the project submitted or the agency involved.
 - a. Applicants must receive approval from the Executive Director or designee before gaining access to the Innovation for Impact Grant application.
 - b. Applicants must submit and complete an application, scope of work, and budget form on the Children's Trust Services and Activities Management Information System (SAMIS). Additional documentation, as outlined in SAMIS, may also be required.
 - c. Innovation for Impact Grant funds may not be used to correct prior contractual or service errors, nor make the applicant financially whole.
 - d. The maximum award amount is \$20,000.
2. **Review.** Applications and all supporting materials will be reviewed by the Executive Director or designee.
 - a. Applicants cannot request funding for active Requests for Proposal (RFP) or currently funded initiatives.
 - b. Proposed services must align with the Children's Trust [2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#) goals.
 - i. Children and youth are healthy and have nurturing caregivers and relationships.

- ii. Children and youth learn what they need to be successful.
 - iii. Children and youth live in a safe community.
 - c. Projects must be innovative and creative, offering new approaches or solutions.
 - d. Applicants should be prepared to present their proposal and budget in a joint meeting with the Children's Trust's Program Department and Fiscal Department.
 - e. Current or past funding from the Children's Trust of Alachua County is not a determining factor for this special funding category.
 - f. Applicants must have support from both their board of directors and senior leadership.
 - g. Applicants must be qualified to conduct business in the state of Florida for the duration of their service period.
- 3. Evaluation.** The Executive Director or designee will determine whether the proposal meets all eligibility and application requirements. The Executive Director may consider other criteria in making a recommendation for funding so long as the criteria are explicitly stated.
 - a. Evaluation considerations may include:
 - i. Urgency and significance of the issue within Alachua County
 - ii. Existing services or providers addressing the issue or providing the service.
 - iii. Availability of other funding sources
- 4. Recommendations.** The Executive Director or designee has the authority to approve or deny all requests. All applicants will be notified in writing of the funding decision. Approved grants will be reported monthly to the Children's Trust Board via the consent agenda.
- 5. Contracts.** Approved applicants must use the Children's Trust standard contract for services.
 - a. Applicants will be required to have current liability coverage prior to contract execution.
 - b. Applicants must register with and use the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the work authorization status of all new employees prior to contract execution.