



CHILDREN'S TRUST

OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Neighborhood Innovation Grant

In Partnership with Gainesville Empowerment Zone Family Learning Center

November 4, 2024



Today's Presentation

1. Background
2. Criteria
3. Funding Investment
4. Pilot Requirements
5. Grant Selection
6. Recommendation



Background

The neighborhood innovation grant is built on the foundation of partnering strong neighborhoods, community partners, and quality early learning businesses as a path to addressing school readiness and achievement gaps in school.

Research has indicated the importance of early childhood education, predicting not only later school outcomes but also career and work options, economic stability, health, and social opportunities.

Defining Strong Neighborhoods:

- Encourage cooperation,
- Nurture a sense of security and belonging,
- Promote skills and standards that help residents thrive,
- Attach social networks that help residents access opportunities and resources locally and externally as needed



Minimum Criteria

- Is an early learning business for children 0-5
- Has been in business for at least one year.
- In a neighborhood whose residents and community partners have started the work of building a strong neighborhood by investing in projects and programs that address residents' social determinants of health, physical health, and economic stability.
- The neighborhood could use early learning educational supports to address access, literacy achievement, kindergarten readiness, and attendance.
- Has completed the V'Locity Master Class with the Business Institute for Early Learning.
- Has an active Family Engagement/Empowerment Program in place.
- Willing to convene and/or partner with community partners, schools, and other early learning businesses within the neighborhood.



Investment Impact

Total Funding Investment

\$125,000.00

Per Child/Day Subsidy Rate

\$11.50

The average cost of care per month for one child is \$770

Could impact approximately 40-128 children in a year.

GEZ is licensed to serve a maximum of 128 children.





Pilot Requirements

School Credentials	Staff Supports	Learning Supports	Neighborhood Collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracted with ELC • Licensed by DCF or determined exempt. • Certified to offer school readiness and VPK • Obtain Accreditation and Gold Seal within 12 months. • Pass DCF's Health and Safety Inspection. • Maintain a CLASS Score of 4.5 or higher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer professional development opportunities 4-5 times a year • Support staff participating in T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood Scholarship Program. • Participate in ELC meetings and • Participate in ELC professional development and support opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize UFLI curriculum and resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with the Parent Resource Center at Howard Bishop, Parent Academy with the school district, and Library Partnership to build robust resources and opportunities for parents and caregivers. • Collaborate with other neighborhood early learning centers and local elementary schools to prepare for kindergarten and/or visit for children zoned for Metcalfe.



Why GEZ?

GEZ Mission

- Seeks to empower children and families from six weeks to age five and with tools that will enhance their lives by providing them with a high-quality educational foundation and connections to vital social and community services.
- The mission is to reduce disparities in English Language Arts Achievements and close the achievement gap among black and white students in Alachua County.
- Rising Kindergarteners from GEZ are most likely zoned for two elementary schools working towards improving kindergarten readiness rates and third grade level reading scores, Metcalf and Rawlings Elementary Schools.

Neighborhood Community Partners

- Library Partnership Resource Center
- W.A. MetCalf Elementary
- Catholic Charities
- Community Partnership Family Resource Center
- DCF
- Charter Schools
- Howard Bishop
- Other Early Learning Businesses



Recommendation



The Trust is asked to:

- Approve the recommendation to pilot the Neighborhood Innovation Grant with Gainesville for All d/b/a Gainesville Empowerment Zone Family Learning Center and
- Provide \$125,000.00 in investment funds for the project.



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Thank you!