



July 21, 2026

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Department of

Children and Families

Marsha Kiner

Executive Director

The Honorable Harvey L. Ward
Mayor, City of Gainesville

Members of the Gainesville City Commission
200 E. University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Re: Partnership to Strengthen Supports for Families with
Children Experiencing Housing Instability

Dear Mayor Ward and Members of the Gainesville City
Commission,

On behalf of the Children's Trust of Alachua County (CTAC)
Board, I am writing to request the City of Gainesville's
partnership in expanding critical services for families with
children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

At our June 8, 2026, meeting, the CTAC Board unanimously
recognized the urgent need to strengthen our community's
response to family homelessness by investing in services that
prioritize children and help families remain safely housed. To
that end, the Board approved funding for two (2) Family
Promise of Gainesville case manager positions, totaling
\$118,000 annually for two years, dedicated exclusively to
serving families with children. In taking this action, the Board
also directed that the City of Gainesville and Alachua County be
invited to partner by providing matching support for additional
positions.

We are pleased that, at the June 11, 2026 joint meeting
between the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
and the CTAC Board, the County unanimously approved a
motion to match CTAC's investment in these two case manager
positions. The County also joined CTAC in encouraging
municipalities that host Family Resource Centers to invest in
expanding emergency

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assistance resources, including Emergency Rental Assistance for eviction prevention.

As the largest municipality in Alachua County and a vital partner in addressing housing instability, we respectfully ask the City of Gainesville to join this collaborative effort by:

- Prioritizing families with children in local homelessness prevention and housing stabilization efforts;
- Providing matching funding to support two additional case manager positions at Family Promise of Gainesville dedicated exclusively to families with children; and
- Considering additional investments in Family Resource Centers to expand emergency assistance, including Emergency Rental Assistance, to help prevent evictions before families enter homelessness.

The Trust believes that preventing homelessness is both more effective and more cost-efficient than responding after a family has lost stable housing. Dedicated case management can help families navigate available resources, connect to employment and supportive services, stabilize their housing, and reduce the trauma that housing instability creates for children. Likewise, flexible emergency assistance can often prevent a temporary financial crisis from becoming a long-term hardship.

We recognize and appreciate the City's ongoing commitment to addressing affordable housing and homelessness. We believe this request represents an opportunity to build upon that work through a coordinated, community-wide partnership that places the needs of children and families at the center of our collective efforts.

Thank you for your continued leadership and your commitment to improving the lives of Gainesville's children and families. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further and look forward to continuing our partnership in creating a stronger, more resilient community.

Sincerely,

Mary Chance (Jul 23, 2026 13:46:21 EDT)

Mary Chance

Chair

Children's Trust of Alachua County Board

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