



GEZFLC PROGRESS REPORT

A report to the Children's Trust of Alachua County on the operations of the GAINESVILLE EMPOWERMENT ZONE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

SUBMITTED BY: GAINESVILLE FOR ALL:
We Are Growing Greatness!

20
24

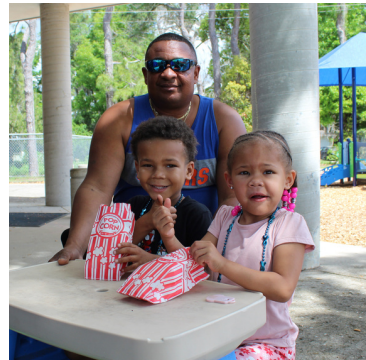


TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Summary	-----	1
• Renovations	-----	3
• Staffing	-----	4
• DCF Licensing	-----	5
• ELC Approval	-----	6
• Playground Opened	-----	7
• Family Engagement	-----	8
• Volunteers	-----	10
• Challenges	-----	11
• Relevant Data	-----	12
• GEZFLC 2024 Budget Overview	-----	24
• Photos of the Center	-----	26

Summary

It has been nearly 18 months since Gainesville for All appeared before this illustrious panel to discuss our plans for the Gainesville Empowerment Zone Family Learning Center on the campus of Metcalfe Elementary School in East Gainesville.

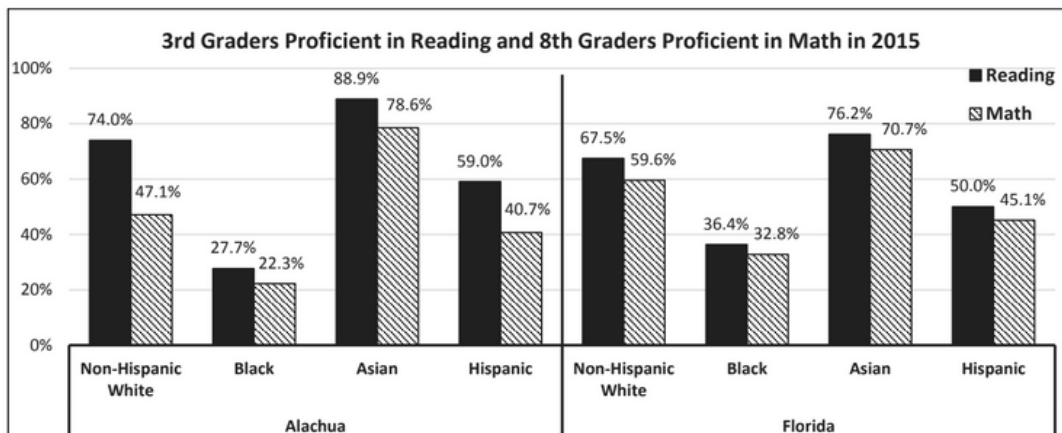
As president of GNV4ALL, sponsor of the family learning center, today I bring you a progress report that far exceeds where we were in October 2023. With the help of major partners such as Alachua County Public Schools, Alachua County, and the City of Gainesville, along with gifts from local and national foundations, institutions, and private donors, we were able to open the doors to the family learning center last August as promised. We're 'growing greatness' year-round, 5 days a week, 11 hours a day!

What started out as an idea floated at an early GNV4ALL meeting has been realized. An item for a community vision board is now a reality! Recent assessments of our GEZFLC students show that 28.57% are currently above average and 42.8% are average. Of the students who were below average and did not experience growth these children's families were experiencing turmoil and students had poor attendance. Our first VPK Assessment Observation Classroom Report was completed in the last week of March and we fared well. (We scored on the high end of the mid range with a 5.53. Six and seven are considered excellent.)

We set out in 2016 to help close this community's appalling academic achievement gap between black and white students--- the worst in Florida and among the worst in the nation. And I'm here to report that the train has left the station and we're already seeing gains.

Take our 4 year- olds. Assessments taken at the start of the school year and mid- year are already showing they're performing above average.

Remember the Beber Report of 2018? It laid out for this community, in great detail, the gross inequities and c



Source: Florida Department of Education.

Six years after the Beber report, the school district in particular has made some notable improvements. But sadly, there have not been enough improvements to significantly move the needle. Huge inequities and disparities continue to exist locally in education and other areas such as criminal justice, housing, healthcare and economic well- being.

Summary

GNV4ALL is tackling these problems systematically. Because poor classroom performance is at the core of most social and economic problems, we decided to put our stake in the ground here. We're focusing on children from low-income households ages six weeks to 4 years old in efforts to prepare them for kindergarten. Assessments taken at the start of the school year and mid-year are already showing our children are performing above average.

At the FLC, our children are beneficiaries of a curriculum taught by college trained and state certified professionals. And as a side benefit, they are receiving high-quality child-care services provided by both staff and community volunteers. A new report commissioned by the Bob Graham Center for Public Service evaluated our program and found that staff and families agreed we are in step with our mission of narrowing the achievement gap long term and preparing kindergarten-ready children in the short term. Currently we have 41 children enrolled and 22 of them or 40.3% percent are receiving scholarship assistance from us or discounts, representing a considerable loss of revenue to our bottom line. Because of this situation, we have reduced our rates for the ensuing school year, which begins in August 2024.

Nevertheless, with equal zeal and professionalism, we're also focusing on the families of these children. It should not be a surprise to anyone that most of the children who are not doing well in school are from low-income households that are struggling. Yet not enough attention has been given to their needs for myriad reasons. For one thing, school districts across the country are being spread too thin. They simply can't be everything to everybody.

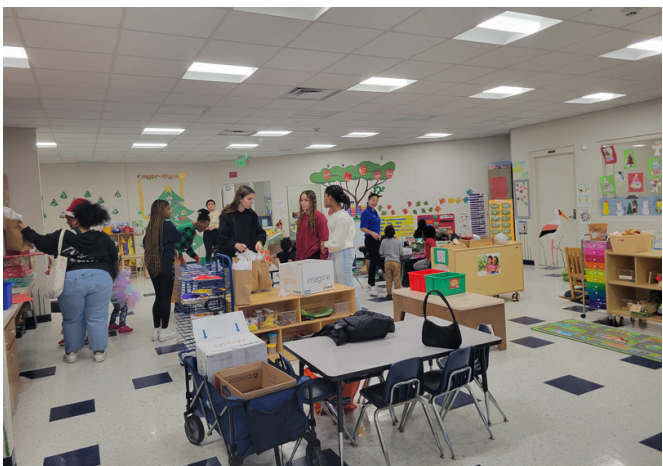
At the FLC we're mobilizing all facets of the community—volunteers, non-profits, higher education, and the private sector. We have a professional whose sole job is family engagement. She does everything from finding out the needs of our families and connecting them to vital community services, to holding monthly parent gatherings and scheduling field trips to places like the Harn Museum.

I hope you all can see, we're truly growing greatness!

Renovations

After the Alachua County School Board voted unanimously in early 2022 to allow GNV4ALL usage of its 8,000 sq feet Building 11 at Metcalfe Elementary to house the GEZFLC, we immediately began our search for a reputable contractor to renovate the building to meet Florida Department of Children and Families and state health and safety requirements. Fortunately, we found the Gainesville-based Robert Kelly Construction Co., which commenced work in the fall of 2022 under a contract that required \$127,000 in compensation. The work, which included installation of kitchen, laundry and bathroom equipment, electrical wiring, sidewalks, fencing, new doors and cabinets was completed in early summer of 2023. The work was fully funded with contributions received from private donors and grants. At the end of March a security gate will be coming up around the center as well.

The photos below show the inside of the GEZFLC with updates by Robert Kelly Construction, Co.



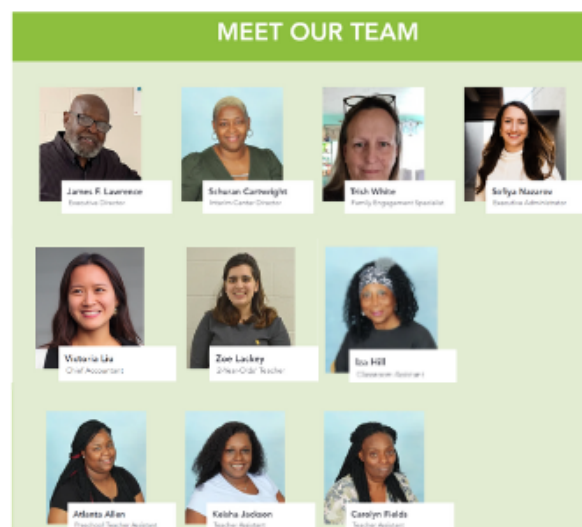
Staffing

Schuran Cartwright, a native of South Florida, is our current Center Director. Cartwright, who came to Gainesville from the West Palm Beach area nearly two years ago to work in child care, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services and an associate degree in early childhood education. She has 20 years of experience in child care.

About Our Diverse Staff

- James F. Lawrence is serving as acting executive director of the GEZFLC. He is a founder of Gainesville for All, which created the GEZFLC as a major part of its social justice advocacy. Lawrence is the retired editorial page editor of upstate New York's second largest newspaper.
- Schuran Cartwright is our Center Director
- Sofiya Nazarov is Executive Administrator. Sofiya has seven years of non profit administrative experience. She completed her Bachelors Degree at the University of Washington.
- Victoria Liu is Internal accountant.
- Michael Solomon is external accountant
- Trish White is our Family Engagement Specialist
- Takeshia Jackson is our Toddler 1 yr old Assistant Teacher
- Kathleen Reid is our Toddler 1 yr old Assistant Teacher
- Zoe Lackey is our VPK/ 2 yr old -Lead Teacher. She has completed a B.A in Liberal Arts and is a Certified teacher
- TaKeshia Jackson is our 1 year old Teacher Assistant is currently working to obtain her 45 hours certificate and has 1 year experience in Early Childhood Education.
- Atlanta Allen is our Infant Teacher Assistant and is currently working on her 45 hours and has worked in Early Childhood education for 1 year.
- Iza Hill is our Assistant Teacher who has worked in Early Childhood Education for 50 years, owned her own home center for 10 years, and completed her 45 hours certificate. She works Part time.
- Carolyn Fields is our Infant Teacher who has worked in Early Childhood Education for over 10 years and has completed her 45 hours Certificate.
- Samantha Belmore is our Preschool 3 yr old Teacher who holds an Associate Degree
- Alicia Mego is our Assistant Teacher/ Floater
- Dericashia Myers is our VPK - Assistant Teacher
- Phelesha Mattis is our VPK/Preschool-Floater. She holds a BA in Early Childhood Education

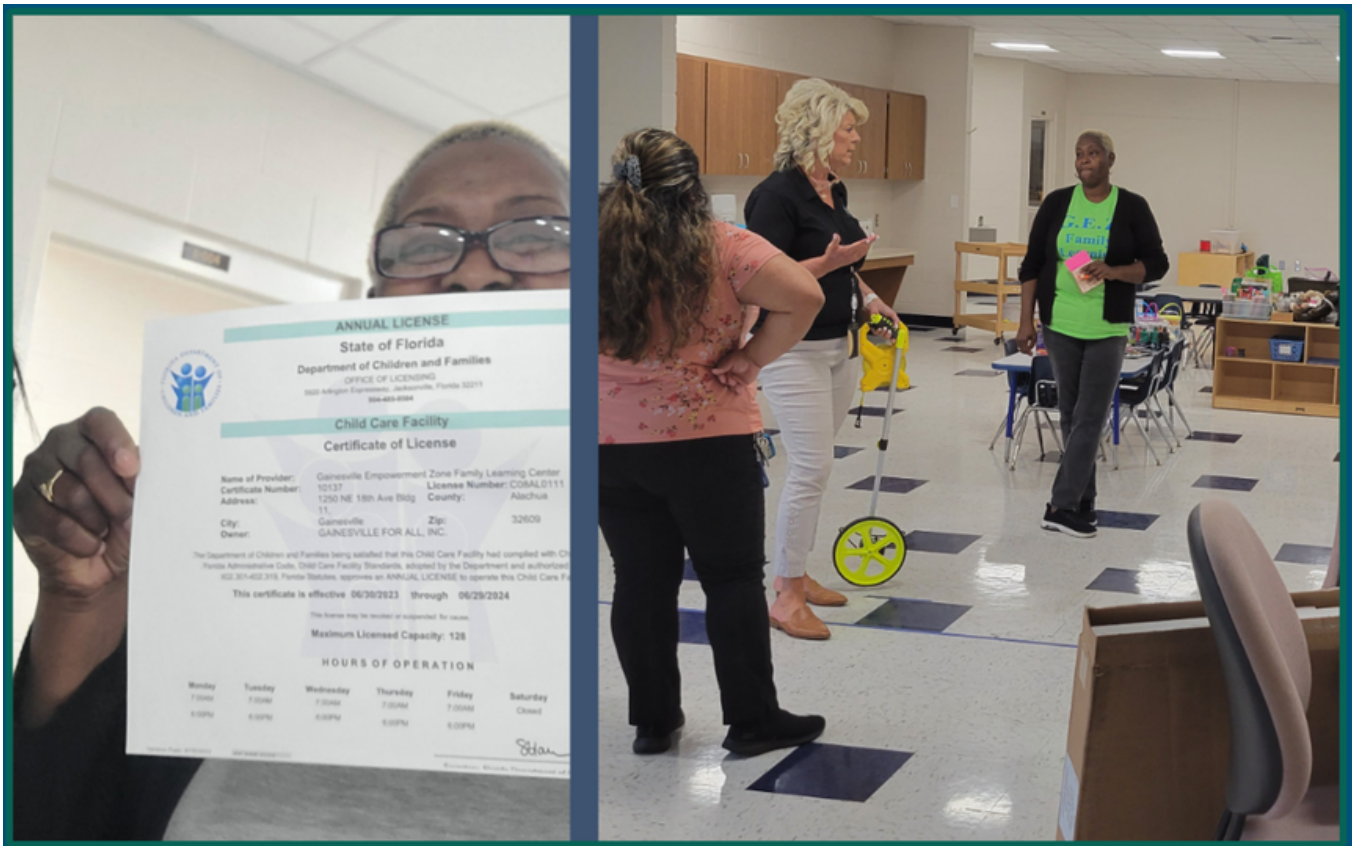
All teachers and the director are currently enrolled in Infant /Toddler CLASS Group Training sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition.



Department of Children and Families (DCF) Licensing

Our staff seemingly worked around the clock to meet rigid DCF requirements for opening a childcare facility. They performed a wide range of tasks such as helping prepare bids for furniture and playground equipment, purchased books, researched local tuition rates and developed policy manuals. Our DCF license was granted on June 6, 2023.

The photo below on the left is of Schuran Cartwright, our Center Director, holding up our DCF license. The photo on the right is our DCF Inspection.



ELC Approval

With our state license in hand, we quickly pivoted to obtaining certification from the Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County, which would provide the bulk of operations funding. This was no easy task given the paperwork, which included background investigations for each employee and meeting staffing and curriculum requirements.

After assessing two ELC-recommended curriculums, High Scope and Creative Curriculum/Teaching Strategies Gold, we decided to go with Creative. We found it to be highly recommended and cost effective. Creative/Teaching Strategies offer support to staff via virtual training and one-on-one phone calls. We are currently assessing the highly touted UFLI curriculum as a supplement to Creative Curriculum.

The Heart of Everything We Do

The Teaching Strategies objectives for development and learning are at the heart of everything we do. They define the path teachers take with the children in their classrooms. Our 38 research-based objectives for development and learning cover all areas that research has shown to be ultimately critical for children's success: social-emotional, physical, language, literacy, cognitive, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, and the arts. Two dedicated objectives also help teachers support and measure the expressive and receptive language learning of English-language learners.



Integrate Language and Literacy Throughout Your Day

With *The Creative Curriculum[®] for Preschool*, teachers nurture language and literacy development throughout the day, every day. Adults and children use language and literacy skills all day, so language and literacy development learning should occur throughout the classroom day, too, without being limited to a specific time slot. The curriculum incorporates the latest best practices that support children's language and vocabulary, phonological awareness, knowledge of the alphabet, concepts of print, emergent writing skills, and more through various engaging activities that happen throughout each day. This guide will illustrate how language and literacy skills are nurtured throughout the day, every day, with *The Creative Curriculum[®] for Preschool*.



Individualize learning with one platform, resources of the highest quality, and connected workstreams.

Through the leading early learning platform, our ecosystem brings together essential content, tools, data, and support aligned to research-based objectives, empowering teachers to easily identify and respond to each child's needs.

[Explore Our Platform](#) → [View Our 38 Objectives](#) →



Whole-child curriculum connected to assessment to individualize learning

Data and reporting to inform instruction and drive program efficacy

Incorporates all essentials for transformative family engagement

Intentional support for every professional development need, from beginner to expert



Playground Opened

Our state-of-the-art playground serving toddlers to 4 year-olds opened in early November 2023 after more than a year of preparation that included an extensive bidding process to find the right fit for a vendor. We settled on the vendor used by ACPs, TopLine Recreation, and were pleased with the result. More important, our children are thrilled. We invested more than \$100,000 in playground equipment that will benefit children in our community for decades to come.



Family Engagement

We work closely with community resource organizations such as Catholic Charities to meet the needs of our hard-pressed families. Catholic Charities will bring the Weekend Hunger Backpack Program to families who may have food insecurity and not be receiving assistance via siblings enrolled in public school. In the past few months alone, we've assisted families experiencing homelessness, eviction and suicidal thoughts.

One struggling mother talked of committing suicide as she dropped off her child. Staff members quickly alerted the director who along with other staff members talked her down and encouraged her to seek professional counseling. The mother and her children are now in family therapy.

Our Family Engagement Specialist, Trish White, is a staff member dedicated to supporting the GEZFLC families. Here are ways she has supported families since starting her position in January 2024:

- Completed 28 Interview Meetings & Assessments
- Spoken with 4 parents in the community about our services
- Two referrals to Gainesville Community Counseling
- Four referrals and assistance to ELC
- Two referrals to Community Action for financial assistance
- One referral to USCIS for immigration follow up
- Two referrals for legal services
- One referral for USPS confidential address
- Regularly share information regarding community programs and resources with all parents
- One parent signed up for Dolly Parton Library for 2 kids

Below are family activities that our Family Engagement Specialist helped organize:

- Held the Growing Greatness Spring Celebration on March 23rd, many GEZFLC families attended along with more than one hundred community members and leaders
- Held a Family Spaghetti Dinner on Feb. 28th at the GEZFLC. The next one will be on April 30th
- We have a Family Day @ the Harn planned for May 25th
- There will be a Graduation ceremony on May 15th
- We will be having a Mother's & Father's Day activity
- Working with volunteers to do a 1:1 reading and mentoring program. The 1st meeting is Thursday, 3/28/2024
- Spoke with 2 volunteers who will provide books from the Friends of the Library sale for children
- Reached out to the Library about their reading program to see if it enhances or builds on what the current library volunteer provides
- Working to develop an insightful series of parenting workshops aimed at fostering effective parenting strategies and enhancing family dynamics
- Provide a monthly newsletter with a variety of information and resources for parents to build connection and community
- Contacted Thrift stores to inquire about a possible MOU for providing clothing vouchers to families who may have a need

We believe that by integrating parent engagement activities into our Family Learning Center programs this fosters community support for literacy development through conversations and storytelling, thereby enriching vocabulary and ultimately enhancing literacy outcomes, crucial for narrowing the academic achievement gap.

Family Engagement

Below are photos of some of the GEZFLC parents with their children.



Volunteers

We're blessed to have many volunteers who regularly give their time and hearts to GEZFLC children. We have volunteers from Alachua County Library, for instance, who provide storytime, music and other fun activities for our children.

This Spring Semester we have six interns from the University of Florida who have been serving at the Center. We have interns who will be joining us for Summer Semester as well. We also have many dedicated volunteers from the Gainesville for All University of Florida Chapter who put in many volunteer hours.

Meanwhile, businesses such as Vystar Credit Union make their financial literacy program available to our parents free of charge.

Below are photos of long time volunteer Naomi Williams (on the top left) and photos of our mural painted by volunteers. Bottom right shows some of our interns and the GNV4ALL UF Chapter.



Challenges

- The biggest hurdle we've faced so far has been making our services affordable for our struggling families.

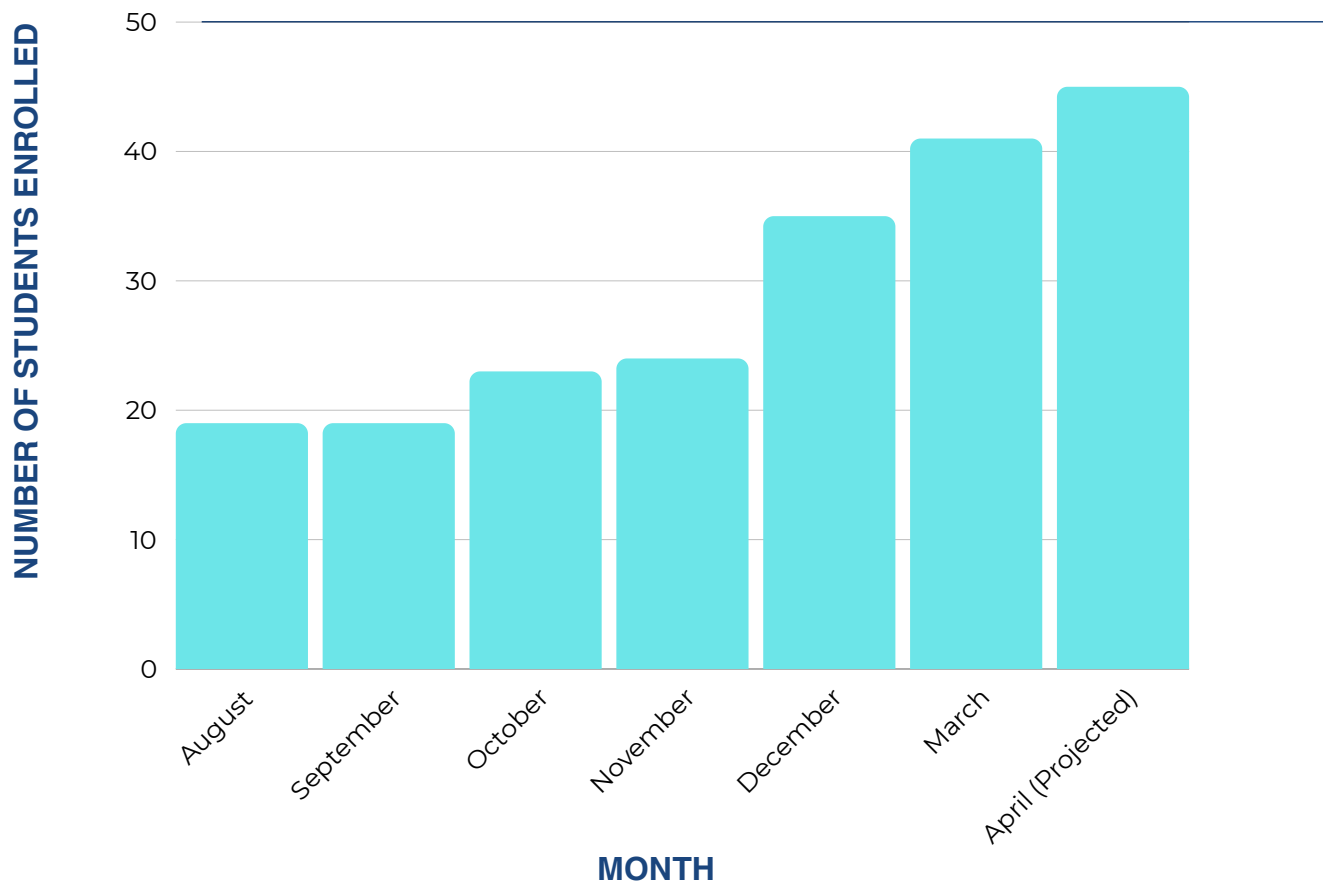
It should be remembered that our family learning center not only provides a highly rated curriculum and family services, but we pay competitive salaries to our staff, which includes college- educated professionals. We also provide health insurance and retirement benefits, in our efforts to raise the bar to attract top-quality employees. It's shameful that many zoo workers are paid more than childcare industry employees.

The point here is that to run a facility of our caliber, the costs simply are considerably higher. Because low- income families are our target audience, we felt compelled to make our services as affordable as possible. Less than two months after opening, we began making available scholarship assistance of up to 50 percent off parent contributions and beyond reimbursement rates paid by ELC. We're reducing our rates at a significant loss in revenue but with the hope that we can find private and public monies to make up for the deficit. (Please see attached links about childcare costs in Florida and their impact on black families in Alachua County)

- We had hoped to open our doors with 50 children but last- minute obstacles such as delays in getting our ELC contract approved left families with no choice but to enroll their children elsewhere to utilize their vouchers. Consequently, we opened with three infants, five one-year old's, two 2-year-olds, three 3-year-olds, and six VPK children totaling 19 children and five staff. As of December 1, we had 38 enrolled children and 8 teachers.
- We had planned on utilizing the federally funded Childcare Food Program starting on opening day but were notified just weeks before opening that the certification process would take longer than expected. We were told that we had to be open for at least three months to qualify. As a result, we had to find an alternative and sought assistance from Alachua County Public Schools Food Service, which agreed to supply our meals at a cost of about \$2,000 per month for our 30 plus children. These unexpected costs had not been budgeted.

Relevant Data- GEZFLC Student Enrollment

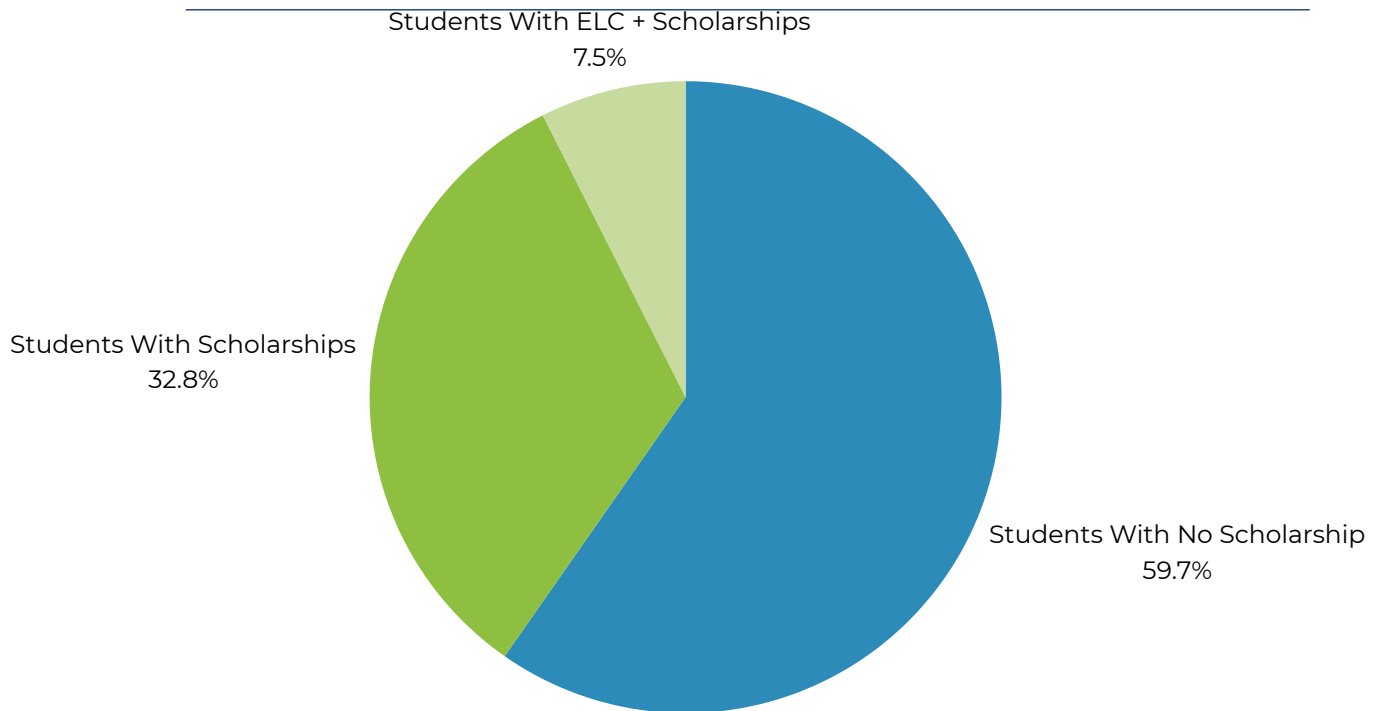
OF GEZFLC STUDENTS ENROLLED EACH MONTH



In October we began awarding scholarships to assist families in paying for GEZFLC tuition rates. The above graph shows the correlation in enrollment rates and the timing of when scholarship began being awarded. This data demonstrates that a big obstacle for these families in enrolling their children in quality early childhood learning is the cost of tuition. We currently have families in the process of registering and are projected to have 45 students at the beginning of April.

Relevant Data-Percentage of GEZFLC Student's on Scholarship

OF GEZFLC STUDENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS



Currently we have a total of 40.3% of our students who need assistance through our GEZFLC Scholarships. Of the 40.3% the percentage of students who receive only our scholarship is 32.8%. Of the 40.3% the percentage of students who receive ELC in addition to our scholarship is 7.5%.

One of our interns, Alayna Dean, conducted a research project funded through the Bob Graham Center for Public Service as a Reubin Askew Scholar Project. While surveying GEZFLC parents, Alayna found that 75% of the parents surveyed said that scholarship funding is pivotal to be able to have their children attend the GEZFLC.

Relevant Data-Research Project

One of our interns, Alayna Dean, conducted a research project about the GEZFLC. The project was funded through the Bob Graham Center for Public Service as a Reubin Askew Scholar Project. Research Project Mentor: Phil Poekert, Lastinger Center at UF. Below are some of her findings:

- 100% of the staff interviewed agreed that the activities at the Family Learning Center were aligned with the program’s mission of “helping close the Achievement Gap”.
- 100% of the staff interviewed thought the curriculum was sufficient, while more than 50% mentioned that some type of enrichment to the curriculum was preferred.
- Approximately 75% of the staff interviewed noted the positive environment and either compared it to other centers where they had not experienced this in the past or noted the other staff as cause for this.
- Almost every single staff member interviewed showed extensive background in career’s where the focus is on helping people whether that was in nursing, retail, or other educational roles. These staff members have been selected very carefully and cautiously and most people noted this difference in work environment.
- Approximately 63% of staff interviewed said they strived for professional development and growth beyond what they had been offered so far.
- Approximately 38% of staff interviewed requested specifically more of a focus for staff on certifications that deal with socio emotional regulation for children. A few noted how important it is in this population specifically ...
- Over 50% of the staff interviewed mentioned that they would love to see community partnerships expanded more, or an effort to increase community or family-driven events, similar to the Growing Greatness Celebration that occurred in March.
- Over 50% of the staff interviewed mentioned that one of the biggest challenges for them was the staff shortages. While, the administration seemed to focus mainly on the challenge of funding and scholarships to draw the families in.

Relevant Data-Research Project

One of our interns, Alayna Dean, conducted a research project about the GEZFLC. The project was funded through the Bob Graham Center for Public Service as a Reubin Askew Scholar Project. Research Project Mentor: Phil Poekert, Lastinger Center at UF. Below are some of her findings:

The parents interviewed were able to offer insight from the opposing perspective. The data from the parents' interviews led to some other important findings which I will discuss below.

- 75% of the parents interviewed mentioned that they were drawn to the Center because of the mission.
- 100% of the parents interviewed agreed that the positive environment was present and the center had high levels of student engagement compared to other centers.
- Almost all of the parents interviewed noted the refreshing level of diversity in the center between teachers, staff, and volunteers, and how this was another positive for them when deciding on the center.
- 75% of the parents interviewed said that the scholarship funding was pivotal to their ability to be able to have their children attend.
- 100% of the parents mentioned or agreed that the biggest change they would make is related to communication, whether this be from teachers to parents, newsletter, or with additional resources.
- Almost all of the parents interviewed noted their willingness to get involved with their child's learning and development. If their class offered homework they had a very positive response.
- About half of the parents hoped for more individualized learning, while they recognized this might not always be possible. They wanted more challenges or additional activities for their child to allow them to continue to grow as well"
- 75% of the parents interviewed mentioned that they would appreciate a stronger parent community.

Relevant Data

The following chart and graph display the median Household Income in Alachua County vs. Florida and Black vs. White Citizens.



Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Community Health Assessment
Division of Public Health Statistics and Performance Management

Median Household Income, Single Year

Data Year	Alachua		Florida	
	White Dollars (\$)	Black Dollars (\$)	White Dollars (\$)	Black Dollars (\$)
2021	\$59,756.00	\$38,610.00	\$65,519.00	\$46,176.00
2020	\$55,619.00	\$35,264.00	\$61,065.00	\$43,418.00
2019	\$54,994.00	\$31,183.00	\$58,809.00	\$41,702.00
2018	\$54,112.00	\$30,132.00	\$56,008.00	\$39,586.00
2017	\$51,350.00	\$27,674.00	\$53,357.00	\$37,280.00
2016	\$50,684.00	\$27,057.00	\$51,444.00	\$35,722.00
2015	\$50,142.00	\$26,561.00	\$50,308.00	\$34,664.00
2014	\$49,195.00	\$25,687.00	\$50,002.00	\$34,467.00
2013	\$48,324.00	\$26,518.00	\$49,641.00	\$34,282.00
2012	\$48,847.00	\$27,087.00	\$50,042.00	\$34,690.00
2011	\$46,934.00	\$27,004.00	\$50,554.00	\$35,334.00
2010	\$45,099.00	\$27,216.00	\$50,316.00	\$35,197.00
2009	\$43,195.00	\$26,935.00	\$50,062.00	\$34,650.00

Citation: <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsDashboards/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndGrp.Dataviewer&cid=0293>

Relevant Data-Median Incomes in Alachua County



Median Household Income, Single Year



Data Note(s)

Data Source: United States Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, Table B19013.

Chart will display if there are at least three years of data.

Multi-year counts are a sum of the selected years, not an average.

Quartiles are calculated when data is available for at least 51 counties.

MOV - Measure of Variability: Probable range of values resulting from random fluctuations in the number of events. Not calculated when numerator is below 5 or denominator is below 20, or count or rate is suppressed. The MOV is useful for comparing rates to a goal or standard. For example, if the absolute difference between the county rate and the statewide rate is less than the MOV, the county rate is not significantly different from the statewide rate (alpha level = 0.05). When the absolute difference between the county rate and the statewide rate is greater than the MOV, the county rate is significantly different from the statewide rate. MOV should not be used to determine if the rates of two different counties, or the county rates for two different years, are statistically significantly different.

Denom - abbreviated for Denominator.

Population estimates are not available for persons whose county of residence is unknown. Given this, the denominator and associated rate are not available.

* - Indicates the county rate is statistically significantly different from the statewide rate.

Median household income in dollars. Median household income, includes income of all persons 15 or older in household

Data displayed reflect the American Community Survey 5-year estimates for the year selected.

Chart will display if there are at least three years of data.

Quartiles are calculated when data are available for at least 51 counties.

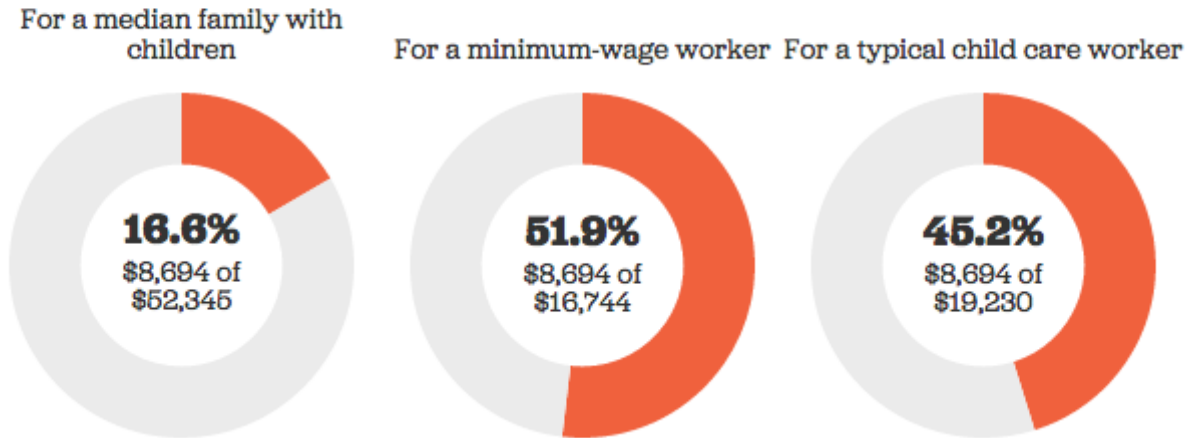
This is secondary, quantitative data.

Relevant Data-Cost of Childcare Compared to Income

The following graph shows childcare costs in Florida vs. Income.

How big a bite does child care take?

Infant care costs as a share of income in Florida



Average cost of infant care in Florida: \$8,694/year (\$725/month)

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, child care is affordable if it costs no more than 10% of a family's income. By this standard, only **30.2%** of Florida families can afford infant care.

Source: Economic Policy Institute: *The cost of child care in the United States*

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE

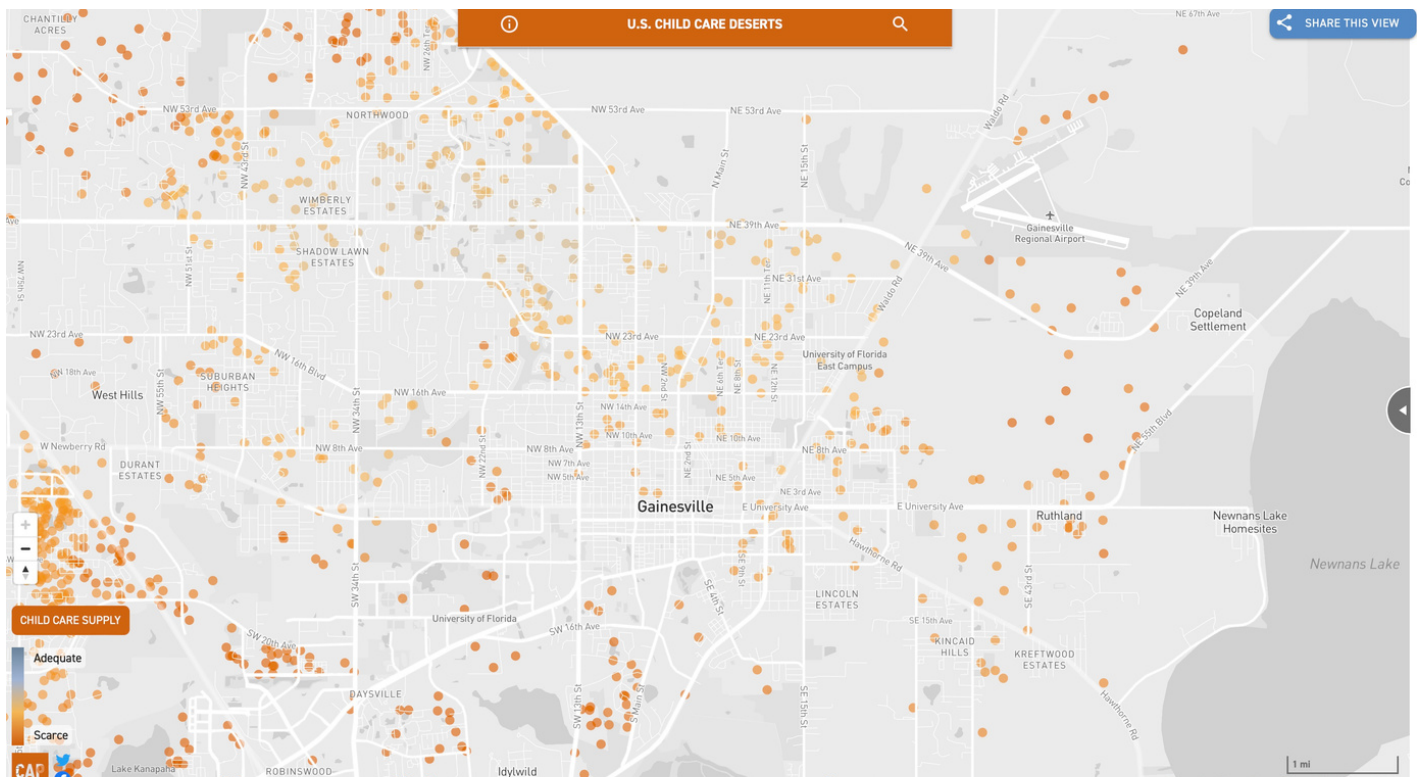
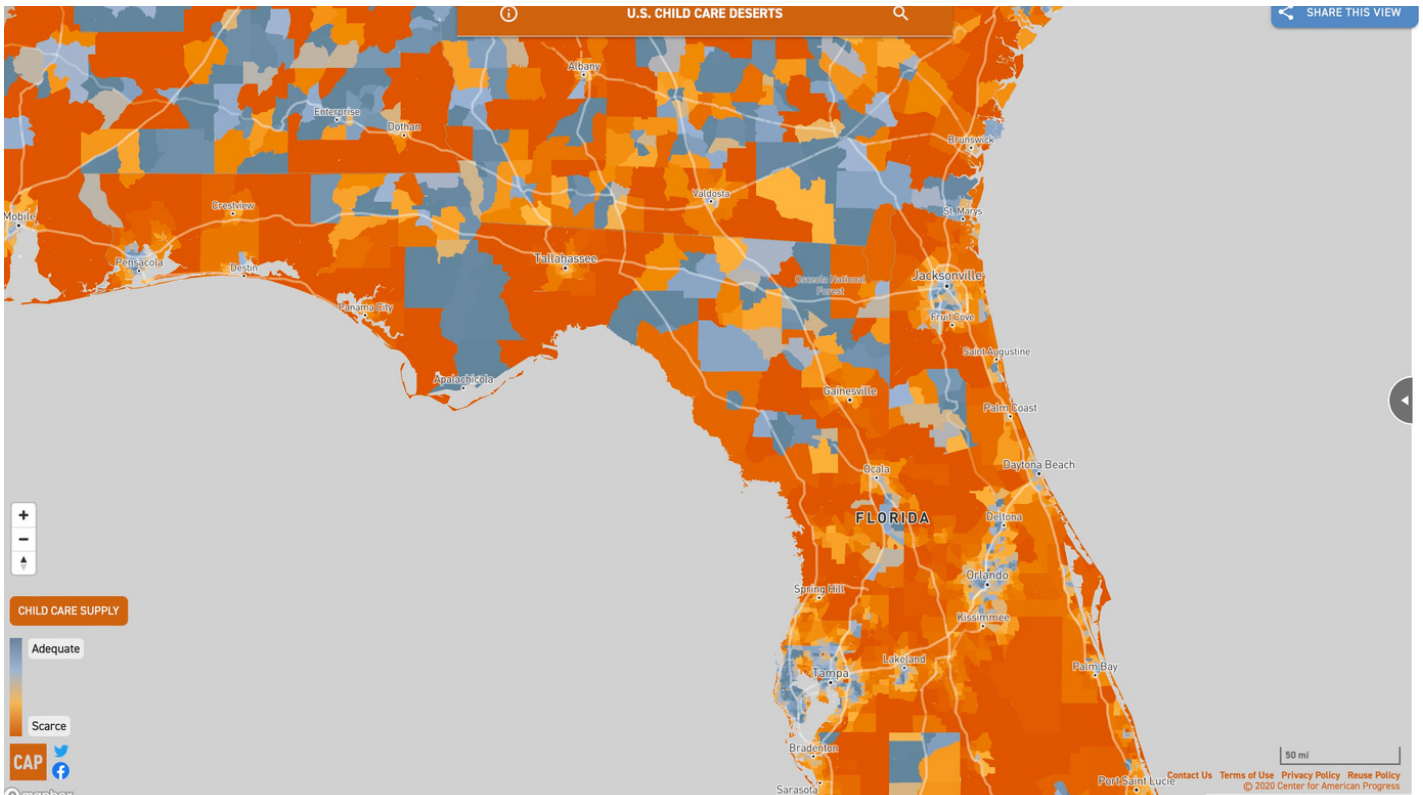
In 2021 the average household income of Black Alachua County Citizens was \$38,610.00, based on this average, the share of childcare cost compared to income for Black families in Alachua county is 22.5% of their income. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, childcare is affordable if it costs no more than 10% of a family's income. This percentage is more than double that.

Citation:

<https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/FL>

Relevant Data

The following visuals show childcare deserts in Gainesville.



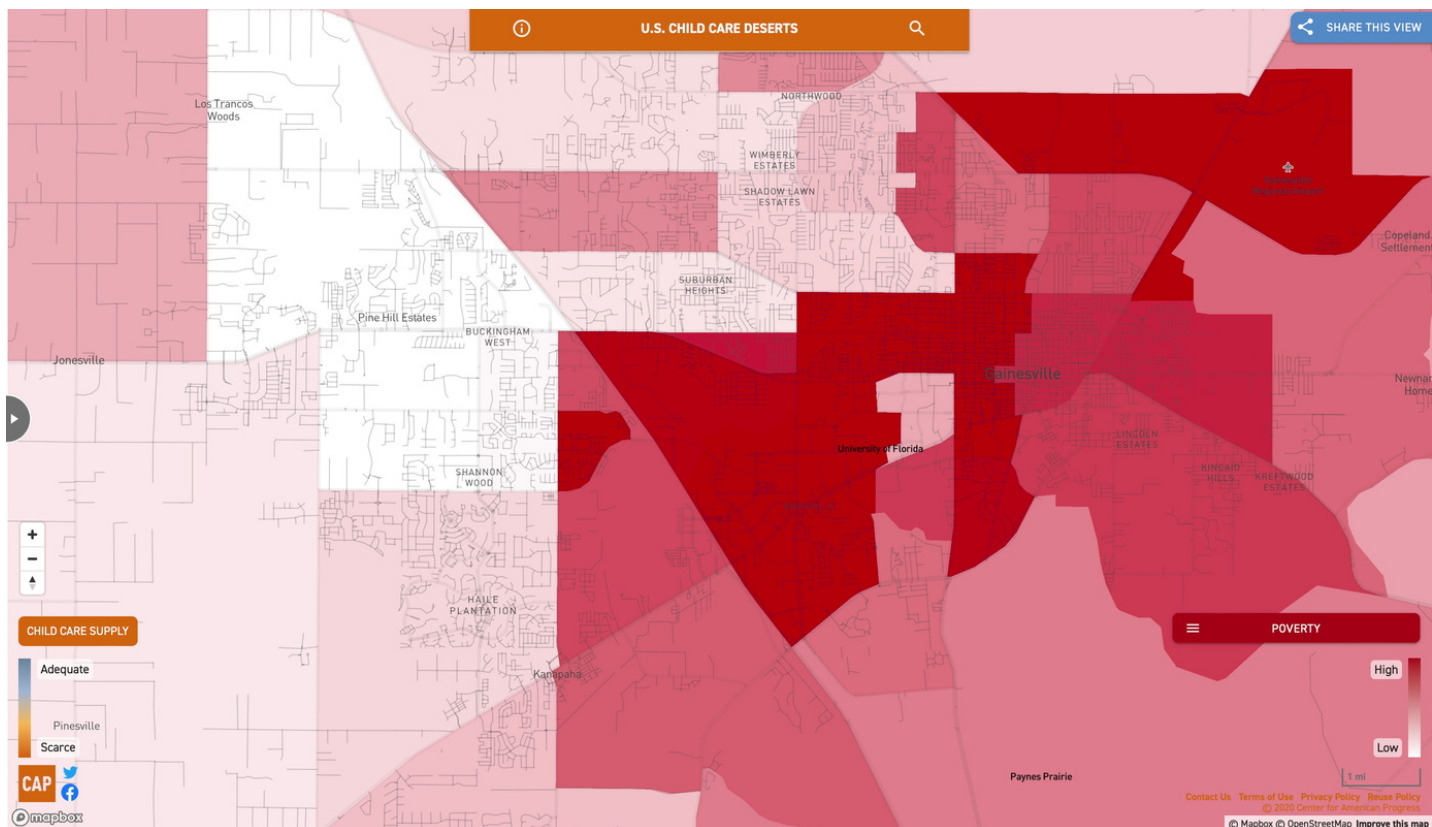
Citations:

<https://childcaresdeserts.org/?lat=29.65043603717568&lng=-83.32179716019584&zm=6.962745121204944&lyr=ccmedianhomevalue>

<https://childcaresdeserts.org/?lat=29.66438928740078&lng=-82.32055507113478&zm=12.5&lyr=ccmedianhomevalue>

Relevant Data

The following visual shows poverty levels in Gainesville.

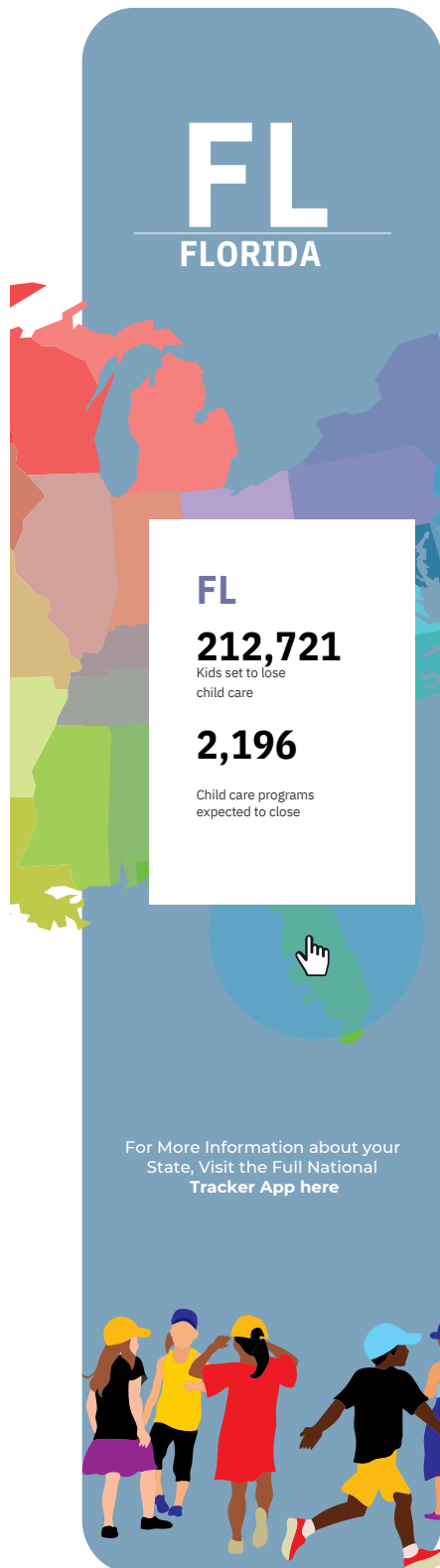


Citation:

<https://childcaredeserts.org/?lat=29.643712036619164&lng=-82.3885525262304&zm=11.986623342836369&lyr=ccpoverty>

Relevant Data

Number of Childcare Centers expected to close in Florida and the impact it will have.



CHILDREN IN FLORIDA SET TO LOSE CHILD CARE DUE TO CHILD CARE CLIFF

Beginning September 30, 2023, states will face a steep dropoff in federal child care investment. Without Congressional action, this cliff will have dire consequences. More than three million children are projected to lose access to child care nationwide. Seventy thousand child care programs are likely to close. This will have ripple effects for parents forced out of work or to cut their work hours, for businesses who will lose valuable employees or experience the impact of their employees' child care disruptions, and state economies that will lose tax revenue and jobs in the child care sector as a result.

Congress should act quickly to protect Florida's children, families, and communities from the higher costs, reduced earnings, and productivity loss that will come with going over the child care cliff.



"Child care is not yet stable. Temporary funding has offered some relief, including allowing me to offer wage increases to compete with other companies. However, I am praying for long term assistance to continue to maintain a quality environment."

CHILD CARE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

212,721

Without intervention, 212,721 children in Florida are expected to lose their child care as a result of the stabilization cliff.

2,196

2,196 child care programs are projected to close - making it even harder for families to find safe, nurturing child care options.

\$604

MILLION Florida parents will lose \$604 million in earnings as a result of being forced to cut work hours or leave the workforce.

As children and families feel these consequences, so will state economies. The loss of the federal funds will mean:

\$633.4

MILLION less in employer productivity

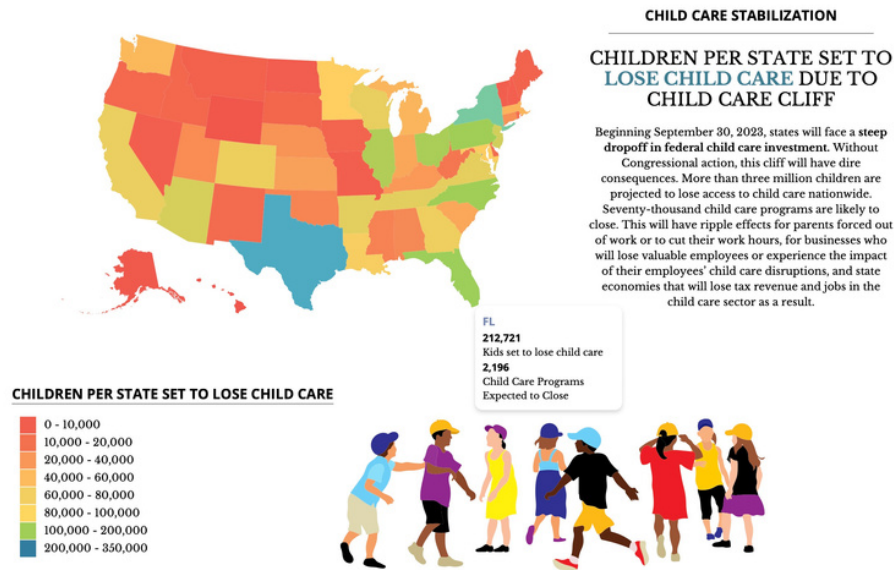
15,824
CHILD CARE JOBS

Finally, the child care sector has been far behind the rest of the economy in recovering jobs post-pandemic. We hear stories around the nation about child care classrooms having to close because there are not enough early educators. An additional 15,824 child care jobs are expected to be lost in Florida, at a minimum.

tcf.org

Relevant Data

Number of Childcare Centers expected to close in Florida and the impact it will have.



According to this data, Florida will be one of the top states in regards to the number of childcare services lost beginning in September 2023. It is expected that 212,721 children in Florida will lose childcare and 2,196 childcare centers will close. This will result in \$633.4 million loss in employer productivity and 15,824 lost childcare jobs.

Citation:
<https://tcf-ccs-map.netlify.app/>

We have seen for ourselves that childcare centers in Gainesville have begun to shut down. Just this week a mother enrolled her three children at the GEZFLC after she found out that the childcare center her children had been attending was shutting down that week. This mother was so grateful that our center was an available for her family, as childcare is a vital resource for her!

Relevant Data

We have partnered with the University of Florida School of Dentistry to provide free oral health screening to the students at the GEZFLC. If they are in need of dental work the School of Dentistry connects them with free dental services. The School of Dentistry already provides oral health screenings to schools in Alachua county. Based on their data, Metcalfe Elementary school (where the GEZFLC is located) has the worst rating in oral health among students, 72% of third graders at Metcalfe Elementary School have untreated tooth decay. See graph below.

University of Florida College of Dentistry Department of Community Dentistry & Behavioral Science **Why Children's Oral Health Matters**

#1 Chronic Disease

Tooth decay is the **MOST COMMON** chronic disease in children, disproportionately affecting those from lower income households.¹

40% Tooth Decay

In 2021, 40% of Alachua County third graders had untreated tooth decay; 7% of those had an **URGENT** need for dental care.²

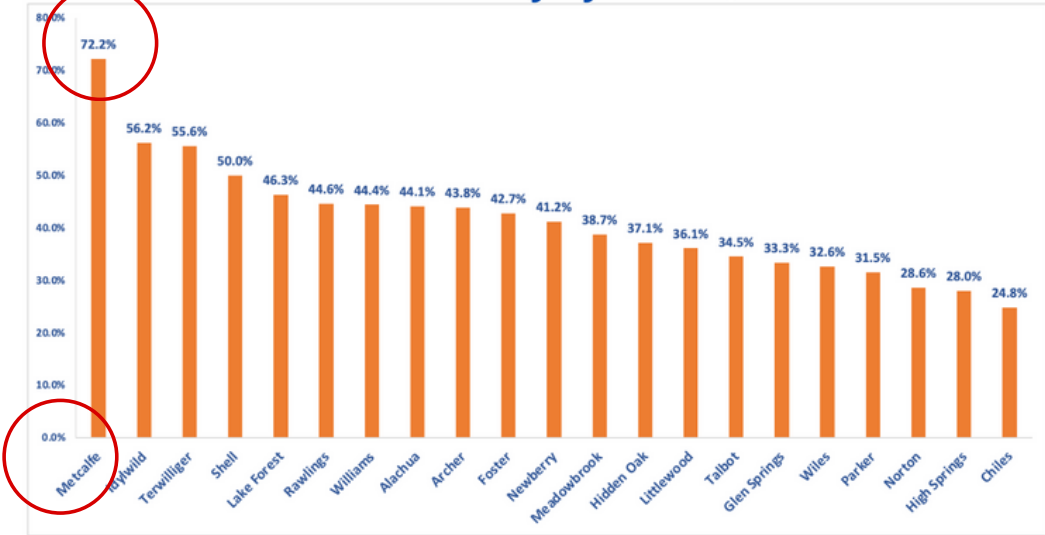
3 Million Missed School Hours

Dental disease costs Florida's children an estimated **3 million school hours** each year and can result in pain, infection, and difficulty eating and speaking.³

Oral Health Access

61.8% of Alachua County residents reported **COST** as the primary reason why their child or children were unable to receive needed dental care.⁴

Percentage of Alachua County Third-Grade Students with Untreated Tooth Decay by School, 2021-2022



1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Hygiene-related diseases: dental caries (tooth decay), 2016.
2. University of Florida College of Dentistry Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science. Oral health surveillance program, 2021.
3. National Research Council. Advancing Oral Health in America. Washington, DC: The National Press, 2011.
4. Alachua County Community Health Needs Assessment, 2020.

Citation:
Graph provided by Olga S. Ensz, DMD, MPH Clinical Assistant Professor Department of Community Dentistry & Behavioral Science

Gainesville Empowerment Zone Family Learning Center

2024 Budget Overview

This comprehensive summary delves into the intricacies of the Gainesville Empowerment Zone Family Learning Center Budget for the fiscal year 2024, offering a detailed analysis of key projections and financial insights.

Significant operational and capital needs of the Family Learning Center are sourced from tuition, private grants, and reimbursable grants from the City of Gainesville and Alachua County. The absence of office rent, generously provided by the Alachua County Public Schools, significantly bolsters our financial stability. A total of \$209,771.87 is projected to be used from remaining reimbursable grants that are provided by the City of Gainesville and Alachua County to help cover a portion of salaries and wages for the year. These reimbursable grants are projected to be depleted by the end of June 2024. We envision operating at 100% capacity from August onwards.

Careful management of operating expenses results in a total of \$167,205.19. Of this amount, \$29,297.26 is allocated to crucial areas such as office supplies, technology, and insurance. Operational expenses, covering essential services such as electricity and internet, are estimated at \$13,000.00, showcasing our commitment to maintaining a functional and well-equipped workspace. Program expenses, specifically in marketing, reflect an investment of \$10,500.00, emphasizing our dedication to promoting GNV4ALL initiatives.

Salaries and administrative-related costs constitute a substantial portion of the budget, amounting to \$712,577.87. This encompasses compensation for key personnel, including an executive director, assistant director, family engagement specialist, teachers, teacher assistants, and additional staff. The budget also incorporates various human resource expenses, covering FICA, reemployment tax, and professional fees. At full capacity, our plan includes employing 5 full-time teachers and 8 full-time teacher assistants to serve the 87 children. Annual budget for 2025 projected at \$902,000, with shortfall of \$186,000. The annual budget for the remainder of calendar year 2024 is \$95,2418.06.

The GEZFLC benefits from the donated services of professionals, executives and talented persons who volunteer hundreds of hours. The President and Executive Director of GNV4ALL receives no compensation for his services.

The Family Learning Center offers partial scholarships to families who demonstrate financial hardship. The demand for scholarships is greater than our ability to fund and we anticipate greater demand in the future.

GNV4ALL is actively pursuing other initiatives to fund the operations of the Family Learning Center.

The capacity projections, coupled with diverse revenue streams, meticulous expense management, and strategic resource allocation, underscore our commitment to financial sustainability and mission fulfillment.

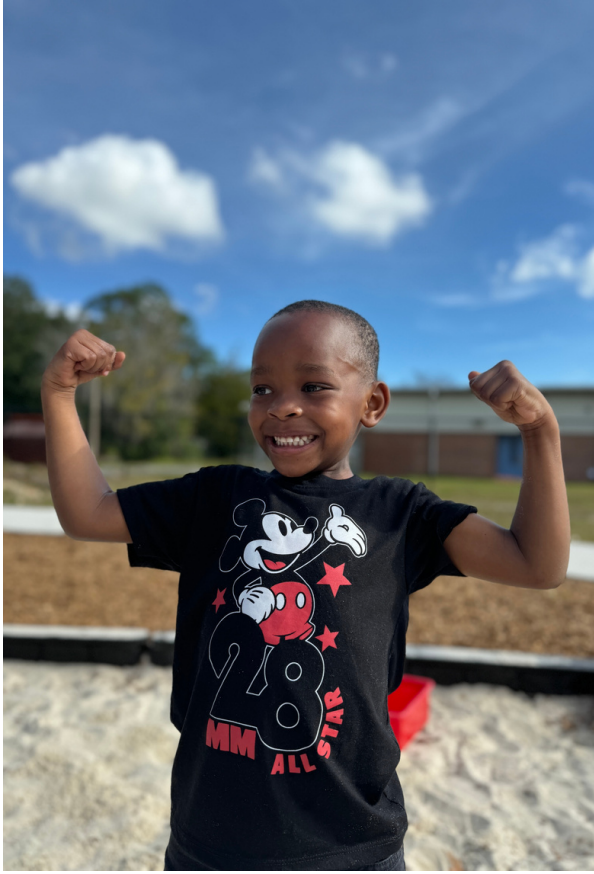
We conduct periodic reviews and adjustments to the budget to ensure ongoing financial health. For any inquiries or clarifications, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Gainesville Empowerment Zone Family Learning Center

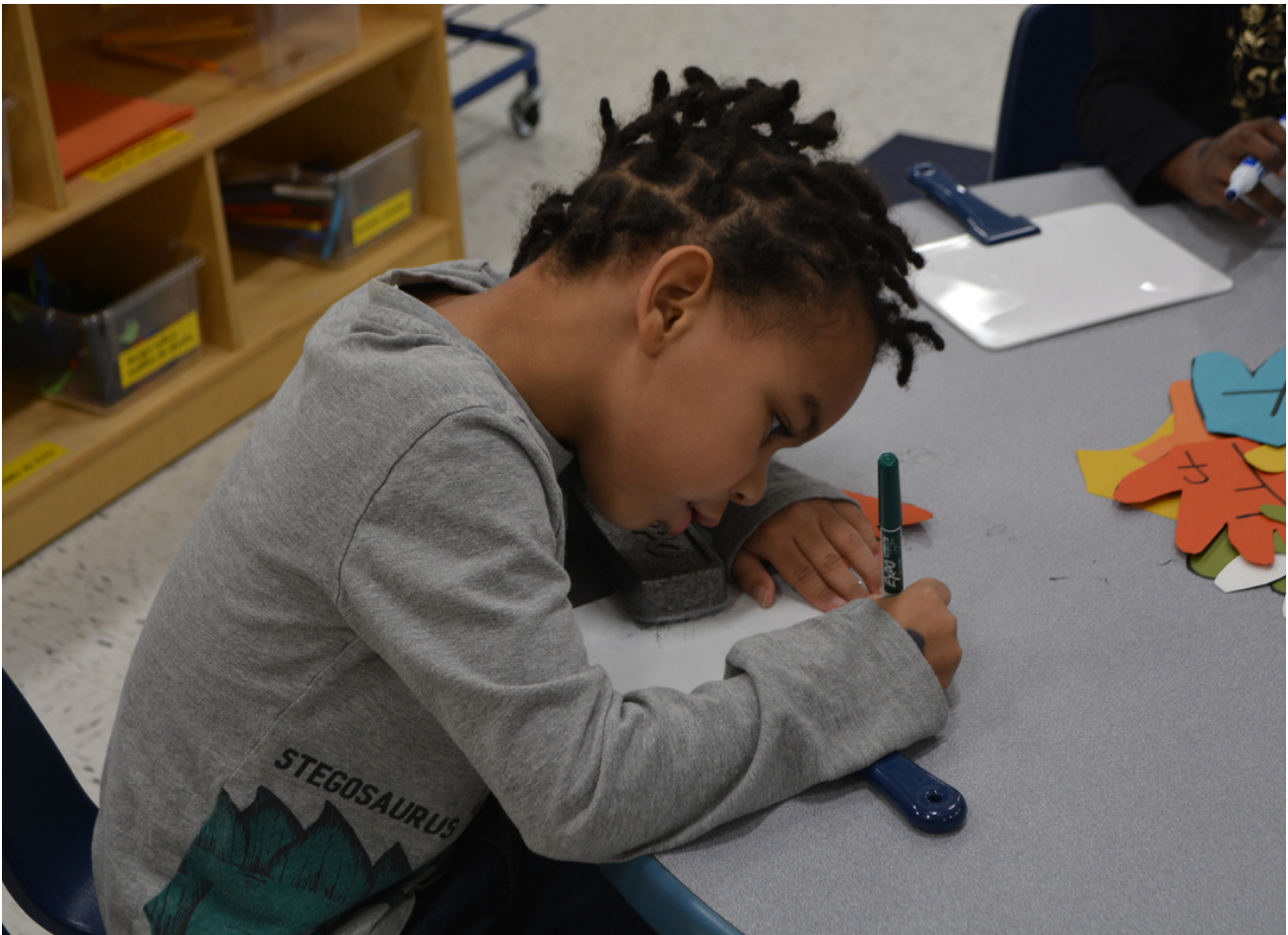
Financial Strategy

1. Full capacity enrollment (87)
2. Commuter kids --- We're developing a campaign to attract families of young children whose parents commute to GNV from communities such as Alachua and Hawthorne.
3. VPK summer kids --We anticipate enrolling at least 12 to 15 children for summer '24
4. After school --- The school district's plans for year- round school at Metcalfe and Rawlings Elementary Schools open the door for providing after- school care. We're initiating conversations with school district leaders.
5. Grants/private gifts
6. Fall fundraiser event
7. Alachua County Capp funds
8. Children 's Trust of Alachua County

Photos of the Center



Photos of the Center



Photos of the Center



Photos of the Center



Photos of the Center



Gainesville for All is currently conducting a Countywide school attendance campaign. A billboard is coming near you!



This billboard is located on Hawthorne Road