



**Children's Trust of Alachua County
Strategic Plan
Implementation Update**

Updates are in Green

Goal 1

Children and youth are healthy and have nurturing caregivers and relationships.

1. Maternal & Child Health (MCH) Initiatives RFP
 - a. Currently funded MCH programming ends September 30, 2024.
 - b. RFP to fund new and/or existing MCH programs will be released by July/August 2024.
 - c. Multiyear funding starts October 1, 2024.
 - d. Strategies to determine the type of MCH services to fund include the following:
 - i. Review of local & statewide programs/outcomes.
 - ii. Family input sessions to share MCH experiences in Alachua County.
 - iii. Community and provider input sessions.
 - iv. Board Workshop.
 - v. Implementation of RFP strategies will start in spring of 2024.

Update: August 2024

- **Update provided during Board workshop, scheduled for August 12, 2024.**
2. Access to Comprehensive Care for Children & Youth
 - a. Trust staff will work with current providers that offer health services listed below to determine if unallocated program funds is the appropriate next step to eliminate gaps in care while awaiting the release of the RFP.
 - i. Dental health, vision, and primary care.
 - b. RFP to fund new and/or existing programs will be released by April 2024.
 - c. Multiyear funding starts October 1, 2024.
 - d. Strategies to determine the type of comprehensive services to fund include the following:
 - i. Community and provider input sessions.

- ii. Family input sessions to share feedback regarding challenges and success gaining access to care.
- iii. Board Workshop.
- iv. Implementation of RFP strategies will start in spring of 2024.

Update: March 2024

- **An internal staff planning meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2024.**
- **Community input sessions are tentatively scheduled for March 14, 2024.**
- **RFP Board Workshop scheduled for March 25, 2024.**

Update: August 2024

- **RFP renamed to Youth Health RFP.**
- **RFP was released on April 11, 2024, and closed June 11, 2024.**
- **Funding recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors on August 12, 2024.**
- **Contract terms are scheduled to begin October 1, 2024. Successful applicants will be eligible for funding for three years.**

3. Family Resource Center

- a. Trust staff have executed contracts with Partnership for strong families to support continued services at the SWAG Family Resource Center and the Library Partnership Resource Center. The contracts also include the following:
 - i. Two Community navigators to serve as mobile resource center staff, offering families resource navigation and care coordination support in High Springs, Alachua, Micanopy, and Hawthorne. Conversations to add Porter’s Community Center and Pineridge Community Center to the Community Navigator’s route are under way.
 - ii. Expansion consultant to support growth and sustainability at the new east Gainesville location, One Community Health and Wellness Resource Center and Willie Mae Stokes Community Center in Micanopy, FL.
 - iii. Trust staff are also finalizing contracts for Resource Center staff funding for One Community Health and Wellness Resource Center and Willie Mae Stokes Community Center.

Update: March 2024

- **Porter’s community discussion and assessment completed on February 15, 2024.**
- **Funding allocation for One Community and Willie Mae Stokes finalized.**
- **Trust staff are researching solutions to support providers with HR needs as they are developing their personnel budgets.**

Update: August 2024

- **Partnership for Strong Families has successfully supported the launch of two local Family Resource Centers.**
 - **Wille Mae Stokes Community Center**

- **One Community Health**
 - **Both locations have held community events and are finalizing their staffing plan and establishing rapport with community members within close proximity of their centers.**
 - **The following are some of the services currently offered:**
 - **Food resources**
 - **Referral and care coordination**
 - **Access to healthcare and wellness services**
 - **FY 25 contracts will focus on expansion of services and implementation of the Family Resource Center model.**
 - **Community Resource Navigator Program has continued to deliver essential family support services, such as concrete supports, employability skills, community referrals, and special events, to families not reached by our Family Resource Centers.**
 - **Community Resource Navigators are providing services in the following cities and communities:**
 - **Alachua**
 - **High Springs**
 - **Hawthorne**
 - **Waldo**
 - **Porters Quarters Community Center**
4. **Care Coordination & Navigation Services**
 - a. **Care coordination and navigation services currently fall under the umbrella of the MCH programs and family resource center services.**
 5. **System of Care Building with Partners & Families**
 - a. **Trust staff will create a process for continued listening opportunities for families, partners, and providers.**
 - b. **Currently these opportunities are offered via input sessions for funding, year-end surveys, and community outreach activities.**

Update: August 2024

- **Trust staff are using multiple methods to ensure continued listening opportunities for families, providers and the community at large.**
- **The first afterschool convening was held in July.**
- **Agreements are in place with partners to host focus groups and distribute surveys, etc.**

Goal 2

All children and youth can learn what they need to be successful.

1. **Quality Volunteer Prekindergarten – Outreach and Messaging**
 - a. **Determine if the state has a marketing plan for enrollment.**
 - b. **Does ELC get marketing dollars for VPK from the state.**

- c. Use of FY24 dollars to do the following:
 - i. Enhance and push local messaging for VPK enrollment.
 - ii. Scholarships or stipends for families unable to pay for extended day after VPK hours end during the school year.
- 2. Equitable participation in Quality Early Care & Education
 - a. Partnership with ELC and funding to support BLI graduates with increased fee per child per day, during accreditation process.
 - b. Continue work with Early Learning Collaborative.
 - c. BLI Programming.

Update: August 2024

- **Mia Jones, Early Childhood Coordinator is working closely with The Anita Zucker Center (Dr. Pat Snyder & Dr. Herman Knoff), Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County, and the Office of Early Learning to finalize the scope of services for the Child Care Tuition Assistance program.**
- **The final scope is under review, as staff plans for implementation and rollout.**

- 3. Mentoring & Character-Building Programs
 - a. Trust staff have executed contracts with six providers to offer mentoring services throughout Alachua County, with a total allocation of \$345,026.
 - b. The remaining funds, \$154,974, will be used to offer mini grants to the remaining eight applicants that earned a score between 70-80 points.

Update August 2024

- **We are approaching the end of the first contract term for seven providers who were awarded funds from the Youth Mentoring RFP.**
- **Contract Managers and Research staff are completing the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process for each individual contract to determine FY25 changes to performance measures, funding, etc.**

- 4. Out of School Time Activities
 - a. In addition to the out of school time update above, Trust staff are contracting with a number of providers to ensure out of school time activities are funded and offered throughout the county.
 - i. Seven afterschool contracts - eligible for 3-year renewals.
 - ii. Six enrichment contracts.
 - 1. new RFP to be released by July 2024.
 - 2. Community and provider input sessions.
 - 3. Review of family voice via program surveys.
 - 4. Board Workshop.
 - iii. Two STEM contracts.
 - iv. 23 summer camp contracts.
 - 1. new RFP to be released September 2024.
 - 2. Community and provider input sessions.

3. Board Workshop.
4. Review of family input via program surveys.
5. Family input sessions to share local summer camp experiences.
6. Review of local & statewide programs/outcomes.
- v. Three summer programming contracts (Midnight Basketball & Freedom School, & TeensWork Alachua).

Update: August 2024

- **The Enrichment RFP was released June 13, 2024 and closed July 11, 2024.**
- **19 applications were submitted.**
- **Review and scoring have begun.**
- **Deliberation of scores to be held in August.**

5. Community Advisory Board

- a. The Trust has facilitated a meeting with the school district to discuss possible implementation of the Peak Literacy Program during Extended Day Enrichment Programs (EDEP). Follow up meetings to discuss location and assessment of need at 3-4 locations will be scheduled in the coming weeks.
- b. The Comprehensive Literacy Plan committee met to discuss collaboration with the University of Florida, Lastinger Center for Learning. The Lastinger Center has submitted a proposal to conduct a literacy needs assessment and literacy plan.

Update: March 2024

- **Trust staff facilitated a meeting with Peak Literacy and staff from the Alachua County School District.**
- **Staff are awaiting a proposal from Peak Literacy for afterschool services and summer literacy programming for the school district.**

Update: August 2024

- **Staff executed a contract extension with Peak Literacy to implement a pilot to address reading comprehension for 3rd graders attending summer school.**
- **The following are participating schools:**
 - **Stephen Foster**
 - **Shell Elementary School**
- **Research staff are awaiting program results to determine pilot impact.**

Goal 3

All children and youth live in a safe community.

1. Out of School Time Activities

- a. Trust staff have created a sports scholarship initiative to make youth participation in sports offered by each municipality equitably accessible to Alachua County families.
- b. ED Kinker introduced the initiative to city leaders at an Alachua County League of City Meeting.

- c. An invitation to meet and discuss local interests, needs, and implementation has been shared with city leaders and their recreation departments.

Update: March 2024

- **Scholarship feedback discussion was held on February 20, 2024 with local municipalities.**
- **Follow up survey will be created to capture additional feedback from municipalities who were unable to attend.**

Update: August 2024

- **Local municipalities have shown interest in the sports scholarship concept.**
- **This initiative is postponed until FY25, while staff schedule additional listening sessions with city staff.**

2. Mentoring & Character-Building Program
 - a. See goal two update.
3. Community Safety Convenor/Participant
 - a. The Trust increased safety goal to \$1,000,000 to support gun violence events/initiatives throughout out the county.
 - b. The Trust co-sponsored local gun violence summit, Choose Peace: Gun Violence Must Cease.
 - c. The Trust has received an invitation to serve as a member of the Gun Violence taskforce, in collaboration with the City of Gainesville, Santa Fe Community College, and other local organizations.

Update: August 2024

- **The City of Gainesville and Alachua County continue to meet and discuss initiatives to be funded with the approved funding from the Trust.**
- **Trust staff are meeting with AMI Kids Gainesville to support their Community Workforce Development Program for students, 16-18 years old.**
- **Staff are also working with the North Central Florida YMCA to implement Level Up Youth Enrichment Events in Alachua County. These events are open to all youth, ages 11 to 18. Level up is specifically for youth and teens, with a goal to deter them from any negative behaviors and potential risks centered around violence, juvenile arrests, etc.**
- **Level Up will be a safe space for youth & teens to attend each month while providing fun activities allowing kids to be kids, while learning, growing, and thriving throughout Alachua County.**
- **The Trust has partnered with DJJ and others, to host a youth gun violence prevention forum, scheduled for August 9, 2024.**

Provider Capacity Building & Mini Grants

1. Center for Nonprofit Excellence

- a. Trust staff allocated funding to the Center for Nonprofit Excellence, to expand services offered to local nonprofits, helping to support and sustain their operations.
- b. Contract is under review at the Community Foundation.
- c. Contract execution is expected in February 2024.

Updates: March 2024

- **Follow up contract meeting with the Community Foundation is scheduled for February 23, 2024.**

Updates: August 2024

- **The contract to support the Center for Nonprofit Excellence was executed in May.**
- **Dr. Theresa Beachy was hired at the center's Organizational Strategist.**
- **There are approximately 24 new and returning members who are youth serving organizations.**
- **Members have been exposed to the following trainings and opportunities:**
 - a. **Fundraising and marketing strategies**
 - b. **Nonprofit lobbying**
 - c. **Mentoring and coaching**
 - d. **Board assessments**

2. Provider Trainings

- a. Trust staff are finalizing contracts with the following organizations to offer training to local providers. Training rollout is expected to take place in February/March 2024.
 - i. River Phoenix Center for Peace Building.
 - ii. Child Advocacy Center.
 - iii. Florida Afterschool Network.
 - iv. Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD).

Update: March 2024

- **Provider trainings are scheduled. Rollout plan and website are being updated to ensure easy access to registration, dates, etc.**

Update: August 2024

- **The following trainings have been offered to providers during FY24:**
 - a. **Understanding Trauma**
 - b. **Child Abuse Reporting**
 - c. **Human Trafficking 101**
 - d. **Preventing Child Abuse in Child Care Settings**
 - e. **Internet Safety for Children and Caregiver**
 - f. **Self-Care and Burnout Prevention for Child Care**
 - g. **Normal Childhood Sexual Development vs Problematic Sexual Behavior**

h. Restorative Practices Training

3. Mini Grants

- a. Trust staff expects to offer mini grants to the remaining eight mentoring applicants that earned a score between 70-80 points.

Update: March 2024

- **Mini grant scopes are in draft phase in preparation for internal review.**

Update: August 2024

- **Staff executed eight mini grant agreements with local providers to offer character-building group activities that create supportive long-term relationships with caring adults that positively impact youth living in Alachua County. The goal for youth mentoring programs is to reduce juvenile delinquency, truancy, substance abuse, victimization, and other high-risk behaviors.**
- **The following organizations received mini grants agreements for mentoring:**
 - a. **100 Black Men**
 - b. **Gator Junior Golf**
 - c. **Greater Bethel**
 - d. **Just for Us**
 - e. **Old Town Ministries**
 - f. **Concrete Rose Foundation**
 - g. **Wake Up and Dream**
 - h. **Willie Mae Stokes Community Center**