

Children’s Trust of Alachua County Gun Violence Prevention Program Funding

Alachua County Report #1 – June 2025

Introduction

The Children’s Trust of Alachua County (CTAC) Gun Violence Funding Proposal, as amended, was developed to support gun violence prevention and intervention initiatives. This report outlines the County’s progress toward implementing the Gun Violence Prevention Program supported by CTAC funding.

To date, CTAC funds have not been expended. The County anticipates utilizing these funds in Fiscal Year 2025–2026. Implementation has been delayed due to ongoing staffing shortages; however, active steps are being taken to move the initiative forward.

Grant Funding Projects

In parallel with the CTAC-funded initiative—and outside of CTAC funding—the County has awarded six small grants to local community organizations. These awards support programming designed to reduce gun violence in high-need areas across Alachua County.

For the CTAC-funded component, County staff have developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) aligned with CTAC’s funding priorities. The RFP is currently undergoing internal review and approval. Once finalized, it will be released to the public. Each grant awarded through this initiative will not exceed \$33,000 and will support evidence-based violence prevention strategies.

Notably, one of the proposed grants will directly support youth participating in the County’s Youth Steering Committees by providing mentorship and mental health services. The County is also in the process of forming an Evaluation Committee to ensure a timely and transparent review process once the RFP is issued.

Youth Steering Committees

County staff have initiated engagement with the City of Gainesville’s Youth Steering Committee, as well as representatives from the City of Alachua, the City of High Springs, and

local law enforcement partners. The County also anticipates meeting with other municipalities to assess needs and discuss the implementation of additional Youth Steering Committees.

Planning is underway to establish two additional Youth Steering Committees—one in the eastern part of the County and another in the west. These committees will complement the existing Gainesville model and are intended to elevate youth voices in the County's broader gun violence prevention strategy.

Conclusion

Alachua County remains fully committed to the successful implementation of the Gun Violence Prevention Program in partnership with the Children's Trust of Alachua County. While early progress has been impacted by staffing challenges, the County is actively advancing key components of the program, including development of the RFP, coordination with community stakeholders, and the formation of youth leadership structures.

Further updates will be provided as the initiative progresses and key milestones are reached.