



Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2024

4:00 p.m.

Location:

**United Way – Ryder Room
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)**





Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2024
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)
United Way – Ryder Room
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

AGENDA

- TBA
Chair
Pamela Hollingsworth
Vice-Chair
Matthew Arsenault
Treasurer
Marissa Leichter
Secretary
- 4:00 p.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Pamela Hollingsworth
Vice-Chair
- 4:05 p.m. **2024 Champions for Children Awards Ceremony Recap Video**
- 4:10 p.m. **Nominating Committee Report**
 - Approval of the Board of Directors Chair*
Dr. Daniel Bagner
Committee Chair
- 4:15 p.m. **Public Comments**
Chair
- 4:20 p.m. **Approval of March 18, 2024 Board of Directors minutes summary**
(Additional Items Packet) (Pgs. 5-7)
Marissa Leichter
Secretary
- 4:25 p.m. **Welcome New Board Member**
 - Silvia Castellanos, Gubernatorial Appointee*
Appreciation for Outstanding Service to The Children's Trust
Chair
- David Lawrence Jr.
Founding Chair
James R. Haj
President & CEO
James R. Haj
President/CEO
- County Attorney's Office
Legal Counsel
 - Nelson Hincapie, Mayor of Miami-Dade County Designee*
- 4:35 p.m. **Finance & Operations Committee Report**
Matthew Arsenault
Committee Chair

Resolution 2024-36: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with The Miami Foundation, acting as the fiscal agent, for a match funding award to the Community Based Care Alliance of Miami-Dade

The public is allowed to comment on a specific agenda item but must register with the Clerk of the Board prior to being allowed to comment.

County (CBC Alliance), in a total amount not to exceed \$64,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 8-11)*

4:30 p.m. **Program Services Committee Report**

Family Support Services Presentation

James R. Haj
President/CEO

Bevone Ritchie
Director of Programs

Consent Agenda Resolutions 2024-37 through 2024-40

Pamela Hollingsworth
Committee Chair

Resolution 2024-37: Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with 45 providers, identified herein, to deliver evidence-based parenting and family strengthening services in a total amount not to exceed \$23,230,563.00, each for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, each with three remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. Request for delegation of authority to adjust paid program partners. *(Pgs. 12-16)*

Resolution 2024-38: Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and to negotiate and execute contract renewals with 22 providers, identified herein, for Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships, in an amount not to exceed \$13,408,796.00, and for The Children's Trust to encumber a purchase order in the amount of \$500,000.00 for pooled family stabilization funding, for a total amount not to exceed \$13,908,796.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, with two remaining contract renewals. Request for delegation of authority to adjust paid program partners *(Pgs. 17-22)*

Resolution 2024-39: Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and to negotiate and execute contracts with nine providers, identified herein, to deliver public benefits enrollment supports, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,596,882.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, each with three remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. Request for delegation of authority to adjust paid program partners. *(Pgs. 23-25)*

Resolution 2024-40: Authorization to negotiate and execute a single source contract with Jewish Community Services of South Florida (JCS) to operate the 211 Miami helpline, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,374,176.00. *(Pgs. 26-28)*

Non-Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 2024-41: Authorization to negotiate and execute a single source contract with Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership for Reach Out and Read early literacy programming, in a total amount not to exceed \$700,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025 *(Pgs. 29-31)*

Resolution 2024-42: Authorization to negotiate and amend a contract with the Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department for local match funding for the federal Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant, to add an additional \$400,000.00 of match funding, contingent upon a federal funding award, making the total contract amount \$1,250,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 32-33)*

The public is allowed to comment on a specific agenda item but must register with the Clerk of the Board prior to being allowed to comment.

Resolution 2024-43: Authorization to execute a funder collaboration contract with the U.S. Soccer Foundation to support the continuation of the Soccer for Success program and the expansion of the Just Ball program, in a total amount not to exceed \$300,000.00, for a term of 14 months commencing August 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 34-38)*

5:55 p.m. **CEO Report**

James R. Haj
President & CEO

- *Monthly Media Highlights (Pgs. 39-49)*
- *Amendment Report (Pgs. 50)*
- *Quarterly CEO Reports (Pgs. 51-52)*
- *Financial Disclosure – due by July 1, 2024*
- *TRIM I & TRIM II – September 9 & September 16, 2024*

6:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Reminder:

Next Board Meeting: *Monday, June 17, 2024



**Board of Directors Meeting
Summary of Actions Taken
March 18, 2024
4:05 p.m.**

These actions were taken by the Board of Directors of The Children's Trust meeting held on March 18, 2024:

Please note that the number of board members fluctuate based on arrival and departure of some of them throughout the meeting.

Motion to approve the January 22, 2024, Board minutes summaries was made by Matthew Arsenault and seconded by Dr. Edward Abraham. Motion passed unanimously, 18-0.

Presentations & Discussion Items:

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) FY 2022-23 was presented to the board by Eddy Castaneda, CPA, CFE, MBA from MSL CPAs. In addition, a Health and Youth Development presentation was conducted by staff and discussed among board members. The board retreat follow up report was presented as well.

Finance & Operations Committee Report

Motion to approve the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) FY 2022-23 was made by Matthew Arsenault and seconded by Javier Reyes. Motion passed unanimously, 19-0.

Resolution 2024-24: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Dr. Edward Abraham and seconded by Mindy Grimes-Festge. Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with five vendors, identified herein and selected following competitive solicitations, in an amount not to exceed \$2,348,500.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2025, with four annual renewal options at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust. **Motion passed, 18-0. Recusal by Javier Reyes.**

Resolution 2024-25: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Dr. Daniel Bagner and seconded by Dr. Clara Lora Ospina. Authorization to accept a \$1,000,000.00 contribution from and enter into an agreement with the Frederick A. Deluca Foundation to fund The Children's Trust Families Forward child care scholarship payments; to amend The Children's Trust budget to be reflective of the contributed funds; and for The Children's Trust to increase the Families Forward contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe over two fiscal years, for child care scholarship payments to Thrive by 5 early learning providers. **Motion passed, 17-0. Recusals by Pamela Hollingsworth and Gilda Ferradaz.**

Motion to authorize an agreement with the Early Learning Coalition and Miami-Dade County for the County's provision of \$3,000,000.00 to fund The Children's Trust Families Forward child care scholarship payments was made by Daniel Bagner and seconded by Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi. Motion passed, 17-0. Recusals by Pamela Hollingsworth and Gilda Ferradaz.

The following resolutions 2024-26 through 2024-30 were presented and voted together as part of the consent agenda.

Resolution 2024-26: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Lourdes P. Gimenez and seconded by Richard P. Dunn II. Authorization to enter into a purchase agreement with University

of Miami Department of Pediatrics to support the Pediatric Mobile Clinic in providing comprehensive health services throughout Miami-Dade County, in a total amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025. **Motion passed, 17-0. Recusal by Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi and Dr. Clara Lora Ospina.**

Resolution 2024-27: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Lourdes P. Gimenez and seconded by Richard P. Dunn II. Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., for a comprehensive vision program, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000.00. **Motion passed, 17-0. Recusal by Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi and Dr. Clara Lora Ospina.**

Resolution 2024-28: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Lourdes P. Gimenez and seconded by Richard P. Dunn II. Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with three providers, identified herein, to deliver oral health preventive services, in a total amount not to exceed \$548,014.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. **Motion passed, 17-0. Recusal by Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi and Dr. Clara Lora Ospina.**

Resolution 2024-29: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Lourdes P. Gimenez and seconded by Richard P. Dunn II. Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County, d/b/a Jackson Health System, in partnership with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, to implement Miami's Injury Free Coalition for Kids, in a total amount not to exceed \$445,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. **Motion passed, 17-0. Recusal by Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi and Dr. Clara Lora Ospina.**

Resolution 2024-30: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Lourdes P. Gimenez and seconded by Richard P. Dunn II. Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Florida Introduces Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth (FLIPANY) for after-school snacks and meals, in a total amount not to exceed \$600,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, with one remaining contract renewal. **Motion passed, 17-0. Recusal by Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi and Dr. Clara Lora Ospina.**

The following resolutions 2024-31 through 2024-35 non-consent items were considered individually.

Resolution 2024-31: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Dr. Daniel Bagner and seconded by Gilda Ferradaz. Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with six providers, identified herein, to deliver comprehensive school-based health services, in a total amount not to exceed \$20,094,846.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, and also, to request authorization to use funds from this initiative to leverage federal funding through the Low-Income Pool program (LIP). **Motion passed unanimously, 19-0.**

Resolution 2024-32: Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of the board members present). Motion to approve the resolution was made by Richard P. Dunn II and seconded by Marissa Leichter. Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and to negotiate and execute contracts with 120 providers, identified herein, to deliver high-quality (i) after-school programming for 16,463 elementary, middle, high school-aged children and youth, and (ii) summer programming for 15,350 elementary, middle, and high school-aged children and youth, in a total amount not to exceed \$71,637,000.00. For year-round and school-year programs, the contract term will be 12 months, commencing August 15, 2024, and ending August 14, 2025, with three remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. Request for delegation of authority to adjust paid program partners and optional program components. **Motion passed unanimously, 19-0.**

Resolution 2024-33: Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of the board members present). Motion to approve the resolution was made by Dr. Edward Abraham and seconded by Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi. Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and to negotiate and execute contracts with Miami-Dade Family Learning

Partnership, Inc. and All in One Mail Shop, Inc. d/b/a All in One Direct Marketing Solutions for the support and maintenance of a birth to five book club, in a total amount not to exceed \$3,602,239.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. **Motion passed, 18-0. Recusal by Dr. Daniel Bagner.**

Resolution 2024-34: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mindy Grimes-Festge and seconded by Javier Reyes. Authorization to negotiate and execute a match contract with the Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade for the Moving Beyond Depression (MBD) program, in a total amount not to exceed \$175,000.00, for a term of nine (9) months, commencing retroactively on March 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024. **Motion passed, 17-0. Recusal by Pamela Hollingsworth and Gilda Ferradaz.**

Resolution 2024-35: Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of the board members present). Motion to approve the resolution was made by Richard P. Dunn II and seconded by Lourdes P. Gimenez. Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and, contingent on necessary approvals by Miami-Dade County, to negotiate and execute contracts with The Miami Foundation and Miami-Dade County to launch a child drowning prevention program in Miami-Dade County, in a total amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for a term of seven months, commencing retroactively to March 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2024, and a total amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025; and authorization to enter into agreements with Miami-Dade County, Miami Foundation, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, American Red Cross and future partners and funders. **Motion passed unanimously, 19-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

The Children’s Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 13, 2024

Resolution: 2024-36

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Community Engagement, Awareness and Advocacy: Funder collaboration initiatives; and Parenting.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: This investment supports all headline community results for children in the child welfare system.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with The Miami Foundation, acting as the fiscal agent, for a match funding award to the Community Based Care Alliance of Miami-Dade County (CBC Alliance), in a total amount not to exceed \$64,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$64,000.00 is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: Since August 2007, The Children’s Trust has provided annual funding to the Community Based Care Alliance of Miami-Dade County (CBC Alliance) to support staff and operational costs. As of October 1, 2024, The Miami Foundation will serve as the fiscal agent for the CBC Alliance. Previously, the Center for Social Change, Inc. served as the fiscal agent. The CBC Alliance advises it is changing fiscal agents from the Center for Social Change to The Miami Foundation in order to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and access better services for their organization.

Recommendations by the CBC Alliance help to improve children’s well-being in the foster care system and promote the integration of foster care with other social services programs, including The Children’s Trust’s direct services programs.

The Children’s Trust funding supports the mission of the CBC Alliance board and its subcommittee workgroups to provide support, guidance, and coordination of the entire child welfare system. The Trust investment supports the CBC Alliance’s full-time director position, operating costs, and the Annual Regional Child Welfare Conference. As the fiscal agent, The Miami Foundation coordinates the payments for the staff position, utilizing these funds with funding from other agencies. Four percent of the annual total of \$64,000.00 will be paid to The Miami Foundation for fiscal agent services. This is a four-percent decrease in the fiscal agency fee previously paid to the Center for Social Change.

The CBC Alliance director is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the CBC Alliance, the implementation of its mission, goals, and responsibilities, and provides administrative support to the CBC Alliance, including the following:

- organizing and facilitating monthly CBC Alliance meetings;
- preparing and disseminating minutes from all committee meetings and a summary of all board meeting minutes;
- conducting follow-up activities after all board and committee meetings;
- participating in community meetings and events connected to the child welfare

Resolution 2024- 36 - Community Engagement, Awareness & Advocacy: Funder collaboration initiatives
May 13, 2024

- system as the CBC Alliance representative;
- facilitating community and monthly board meetings and supporting board action plans based upon board priorities;
- engaging in regular communication with the CBC Alliance board and community stakeholders;
- overseeing all operational issues related to the CBC Alliance; and
- engaging in other activities related to ongoing projects of the CBC Alliance.

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year the CBC Alliance Director reports the following accomplishments:

- Reevaluated and reinforced the CBC Alliance by-laws to ensure the board of directors implements effective change and upholds the vision and mission of the CBC Alliance.
- Actively worked with organizations and community stakeholders that interfaced with the child welfare system through various committee workgroups. These workgroups focused on identifying barriers, creating solutions, and collaborating with community partners for strategic plans for change.
- Actively participated and facilitated a fiscal committee to establish and strategically plan for grant funding opportunities through programs, events, and initiatives. Through the fiscal committee, a bookkeeping budgeting system was developed as cross reference for fiscal agent.
- Developed a parent birth rights brochure voted and approved by the board of directors for distribution to parents at removal and/or throughout their case plan, through the parent education committee. A parent's rights manual is also being developed to provide an in-depth description of the process for a parent while their case is under our system of care.
- Actively participated in internal and external committees related to improving outcomes within the child welfare system.
- Re-established the Florida Community Alliance Collective (the Collective), which is a statewide CBC Alliance workgroup, to obtain accurate and reflective trends across statewide community alliances, allowing for systemic change and advocacy to the legislature in the State of Florida. The Collective has effectively partnered with all CBC Alliances across the state and the Department of Children and Families to further analyze any risks, opportunities, weaknesses, and strengths in our communities across the state.
- Continued the use of SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis for community partners, stakeholders, and members of the CBC Alliance.
- Facilitated the 18th Annual Regional Child Welfare Conference for over 350 child welfare professionals.
- Addressed disproportionalities in the community, helped design and gather questions to retrieve information related to cultural impact, with the support of the University of Miami Law School.
- Assisted with creating effective change with placement through community voice by utilizing space to strategically plan and provide resources to assist the lead agency and other community partners with placement issues.
- Conducted the CBC Alliance Training Series monthly, offering continuing education units through Jewish Community Services.

With funding for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, CBC Alliance proposes to continue and institutionalize the following initiatives:

- Actively facilitate and engage with community stakeholders to maintain established committees and create goals and objectives for the work they have begun.

- Bring additional speakers for the Annual Regional Child Welfare conference and provide more opportunity for stakeholders to network and share ideas for successful models used in their organizations.
- Expand and facilitate “The Conversation” training series to include lived experiences, expansion of community partners, and outreach.
- Further develop the Collective, a statewide initiative and forum to address challenges and barriers across the State of Florida.
- Create and disseminate tools and resources to assist parents involved in the child welfare system.
- Actively update and engage the community through website and social media management.
- Actively engage the community, children, and families to bring awareness to teen-centered topics.

Background: The CBC Alliance was established under section 20.19(6), Florida Statutes, to provide a local community presence to guide the development of community-based care for child welfare in Miami-Dade County. While the CBC Alliance was created by a State of Florida statute, local stakeholders and the board of directors are responsible for making it a functional body that promotes the interests of children and families associated with the child welfare system.

The CBC Alliance is composed by law of mandatory representatives and includes various members through expansion so that at any given time, the body consists of more than 20 participating members. The Children’s Trust is a mandatory representative of the CBC Alliance as the county’s children’s services council representative.

The mission of the CBC Alliance is to engage the community in advocating for a family-centered, culturally competent, and outcomes-driven system of care that enhances the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families. The CBC Alliance focuses on:

- Redesigning the system of care for children in or diverted from the child dependency and juvenile justice systems.
- Serving as the lead advocate for implementing research-based best practices for services to dependent and other children associated with the child welfare system.
- Advocating for additional funding for traditionally state-operated social services components.
- Maintaining an open community forum for addressing the challenges associated with the community-based system of care for dependent children and continuing improvement of the system.

In addition to the funding from The Children’s Trust, the CBC Alliance reports the following agency contributions to the operating expenses, including in-kind support, such as additional partner staff time, office and meeting space, and office supplies.

Partner	Amount *In-kind funding
Citrus FCN	\$2,000.00
Domestic Violence Initiative	\$2,496.68
Educate Tomorrow	\$1,000.00
Florida Department of Children and Families	*\$10,000.00
Jewish Community Services	*\$1,200.00
Regional Conference Ticket Sales	\$7,140.00
The Guardian Ad Litem – 16th Circuit	*\$1,000.00
United Way of Miami	\$5,000.00
Voices for Children	\$5,000.00
Total	\$32,340.00

Per the procurement policy, section 2006, Match Funding and Funder Collaboration, the negotiation and execution of a match contract are exempt from the competitive solicitation process. Renewal of match funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children’s Trust and is contingent upon satisfactory performance, availability of funding, and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding sources.

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **13th day of May, 2024.**

THE CHILDREN’S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children’s Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 13, 2024

Resolution: 2024-37

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Areas: Parenting: Parenting & Family Strengthening Group, Individual & Home Visitation Services.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: High-quality early learning opportunities; Nurturing and involved parents; Kindergarten readiness; Academic success; Healthy lifestyle habits for eating, sleeping, physical activity and mental wellness; Good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes, and communities; and Successful transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with 45 providers, identified herein, to deliver evidence-based parenting and family strengthening services in a total amount not to exceed \$23,230,563.00, each for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, each with three remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. Request for delegation of authority to adjust paid program partners.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$23,230,563.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: Regardless of their circumstances, all families face inevitable parenting challenges and can benefit from supports. Effective, consistent, and supportive parenting prepares children for a lifetime of success. Nurturing and involved parenting and family supports strengthen positive-child outcomes related to emotional, behavioral, social and cognitive competence, and physical health and safety. The Children’s Trust funds a continuum of evidence-based parenting and family strengthening programs (EBPs) with curricula and service activities to address specific needs or challenges, encourage positive parent-child interactions and communication, and decrease parenting stress. These EBPs are culturally appropriate for our diverse Miami-Dade community and tailored to support caregivers from the prenatal period through the transition to adulthood.

The frequency, intensity, and duration of services vary based on selected EBPs and curricula, and family needs. Programs must be inclusive of and fully accommodate the families of children and youth with disabilities and are also encouraged to support other vulnerable and disconnected populations who may have more significant stressors and parenting challenges.

Programs provide services throughout the county in homes, pediatric offices, and other settings, such as child care centers and schools in high-need communities in person and virtually. All funded EBPs offer selective and/or indicated prevention strategies.

- **Selective strategies and populations:** These services are designed for families when faced with parenting challenges like health or behavior problems related to social, educational, economic, or environmental factors. Services include group and individual

sessions or home visiting, typically with multiple contacts over several months. The aim is to support families who are experiencing early signs of challenges or problem behaviors but are not yet seriously impacted.

- **Indicated strategies and populations:** Therapeutic services for families with more intensive needs and challenges related to child/youth behavior or mental health, parent-child relationships, and/or consequences of violence, mental health or substance abuse. This may include families with involvement in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems or experiencing homelessness. Services are more intensive and frequent, delivered by trained clinicians, in home or clinic environments.

Depending on the EBPs being delivered, programs are delivered in one or a combination of the following program types:

- **Group parenting services:** A standardized curriculum delivered in a group setting by a trained facilitator who covers specific content and creates opportunities for participants to experience social supports, expand insights and understanding, and build knowledge and skills around parenting.
- **Individual parenting services (home visiting):** Programs offer regular home visits delivered by family coaches, clinicians and/or nurses to promote parental and child health and to support child development, parenting skills, and positive family relationships.
- **Individual parenting services (not in the home):** Programs provide individual parenting and/or family behavioral health services in person at sites such as community-based organizations, schools, childcare centers or pediatric offices, or virtually.

This investment supports all types of families, parents/ caregivers (mothers, fathers, other relatives, and non-relatives), and their children of all ages (including prenatally) to improve overall family well-being. Early childhood developmental screenings are conducted for children up to 6 years old receiving individual services. In contrast prenatal/postpartum depression screenings are administered to new mothers and fathers enrolled in individual services, with follow-up referrals as appropriate. Home visiting programs also include education about home safety.

The following agencies are recommended for funding:

Agency • Denotes paid partners	Evidence-based Programs	Amount Not to Exceed
Affirming Youth Foundation Inc. formally known as Jonathan Spikes Foundation, Inc.	Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), 3–18 years	\$250,000.00
Amigos Together for Kids, Inc.	Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) Birth-12 years	\$596,000.00
Barry University	Strengthening Families Program, 7-17 years; Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), 3-18 years	\$250,000.00
Be Strong International, Inc.	Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), 12-16 years	\$250,000.00
Belafonte Tacolcy Center, Inc.	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth–18 years	\$250,000.00
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, Inc.	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth–18 years	\$537,000.00
Cayuga Home For Children, Inc.	Healthy Steps, Birth–3 years;	\$2,100,000.00

Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denotes paid partners 	Evidence-based Programs	Amount Not to Exceed
	Parents as Teachers, Prenatal-5 years; The Incredible Years, Birth-6 years	
CCDH, Inc. d/b/a The Advocacy Network on Disabilities	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-19 years; Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), 3-18 years	\$400,000.00
Children's Home Society	Healthy Families, Prenatal-5 years; Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-19 years	\$1,531,908.00
Citrus Health Network, Inc	Circle of Security Parenting, Birth-5 years; Parent Child Interaction Therapy, 2-12 years; Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), 3 - 18 years	\$422,000.00
City of Miami <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceptional Consulting for Educational Leaders, Inc. 	The Incredible Years, 3-12 years	\$200,000.00
City of Miami Beach	Nurturing Parenting Program, Prenatal-12 years; Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), Birth-12 years	\$400,000.00
CMB Visions Unlimited, Inc.	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-18 years	\$330,000.00
Community Health of South Florida, Inc.	Healthy Steps, Birth-3 years	\$400,000.00
Concerned African Women, Inc.	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-18 years	\$175,000.00
Empowering Youth, Inc.	Culturally Informed and Flexible Family-Based Treatment for Adolescence, 11-18 years	\$486,107.00
EnFamilia, Inc.	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-18 years	\$203,692.00
Family & Children Faith Coalition, Inc.	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-18 years	\$250,000.00
Family Action Network Movement, Inc. (FANM)	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-5 years	\$335,000.00
Family Central	Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), 2-5 years; Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-18 years	\$1,422,289.00
Family Resource Center of South Florida, Inc.	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-19 years	\$425,500.00
Federation of Families, Miami-Dade Chapter Inc.	Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), Birth-12 years	\$381,500.00
FIU Board of Trustees, Center for Women's and Gender Studies	Parents as Teachers, Prenatal-5 years; Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), 5-10 years	\$660,978.00

Agency • Denotes paid partners	Evidence-based Programs	Amount Not to Exceed
FIU Board of Trustees, Center for Children and Families	Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), 3–18 years	\$523,507.00
Gang Alternative, Inc.	Nurturing Parenting Program Birth-19 years; Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), 3–18 years	\$800,000.00
Haitian Neighborhood Center Sant La, Inc.	Culturally Informed and Flexible Family-Based Treatment for Adolescence, 11-18 years; Strengthening Families Program, 10-14 years Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), 3–18 years	\$673,434.00
Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc.	Nurturing Parenting Program, Prenatal to 1 year.	\$175,000.00
Jewish Community Services of South Florida, Inc.	Families and Schools Together (FAST), Birth-5 years	\$ 305,108.00
Le Jardin Head Start Program, Inc.	Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), Birth-12 years	\$175,000.00
Lutheran Services Florida	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-19 years	\$131,557.00
Mexican American Council, Inc.	Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), 12-16 years	\$ 182,740.00
Miami Dade Family Learning Partnership, Inc.	The Incredible Years, Birth-6 years	\$500,000.00
Miami Lighthouse for The Blind & Visually Impaired, Inc.	Parents as Teachers, , Prenatal–5 years	\$ 360,144.00
Our Child Care, Inc.	The incredible Years, Birth-6 years	\$175,000.00
Overtown Youth Center, Inc.	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-18 years	\$150,000.00
Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc.	Parent to Parent Peer Support Program, Birth-18 years	\$ 920,000.00
Richmond Perrine Optimist Club, Inc.	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-5 years	\$245,000.00
Sundari Foundation, Inc.	Family Check-up, 2-17 years; Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), Birth-12 years; Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), 3–18 years	\$ 802,359.00
The Arc of South Florida, Inc.	Positive Parenting Program (Triple P), Birth-12 years	\$ 312,185.00
Touching Miami with Love	Families and Schools Together (FAST), Elementary 4-10 years	\$ 240,000.00
University of Miami, Educational & Psychological Studies	Culturally Informed and Flexible Family-Based Treatment for Adolescence, 11-18 years	\$ 585,919.00
University of Miami, Department of Pediatrics	The Incredible Years, Baby & Toddlers Birth-3	\$ 899,116.00
University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine	Healthy Steps, Birth-3; Parent Child Interaction Therapy, 2-12 years	\$ 2,267,520.00

Agency • Denotes paid partners	Evidence-based Programs	Amount Not to Exceed
University of Miami, Department of Psychology	Unified Protocol, 13-18 years	\$350,000.00
University of Miami, Linda Ray Intervention Center	Nurturing Parenting Program, Birth-12 years	\$200,000.00

Background: The Children’s Trust issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) #2023-03 on February 14, 2023, to fund high-quality evidence-based programs (EBPs) for group, individual and home visiting parenting services for families in Miami-Dade County with various levels of needs and preferences, for a five-year funding cycle. The above 45 agencies were awarded initial funding by board approval resolution # 2023-55 for parenting and family strengthening contracts.

In the first year of the funding cycle, providers have engaged in start-up activities including mandatory EBP trainings and hiring new staff prior to the initiation of family services. Recommendations for the above contract renewals for the second of five years are based on Trust staff assessment of programs through reviews of performance data and site visits to programs.

Delegation of Authority: To respond to changing program needs and the provision of services, staff requests a delegation of authority to adjust paid providers and some optional program components that are not essential to the core requirements of the RFP. Such changes will not change the lead organization or the funding amount.

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **13th day of May, 2024.**

THE CHILDREN’S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 13, 2024

Resolution: 2024-38

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Areas Family & Neighborhood Supports:
Family & Neighborhood Support Partnerships

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: Regular use of medical, dental, and behavioral health care services; Nurturing and involved parents; Kindergarten readiness; Academic success; Healthy lifestyle habits for eating, sleeping, physical activity, and mental wellness; Good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes, and communities; and Successful transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and to negotiate and execute contract renewals with 22 providers, identified herein, for Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships, in an amount not to exceed \$13,408,796.00, and for The Children's Trust to encumber a purchase order in the amount of \$500,000.00 for pooled family stabilization funding, for a total amount not to exceed \$13,908,796.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, with two remaining contract renewals. Request for delegation of authority to adjust paid program partners.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$13,908,796.00 for this resolution is projected to be available for FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships (FNSP) offer comprehensive and individualized supports for children, youth, and their families experiencing challenges that may limit them from realizing their total health, social, educational, and economic potential. Supports aim to amplify strengths and build resilience to counter the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) such as child abuse or neglect, exposure to family and community trauma and violence, family mental health issues, legal issues, and extreme poverty.

Populations served include residents of neighborhoods affected by poverty, crime, unemployment and community violence and countywide populations with specific needs and challenging life experiences, including those listed in the table below. Partnerships include an array of participant-centered services that engage parents and youth as partners to build on their strengths, address life challenges, and provide individualized supports.

Partnerships are staffed by management, clinical, and direct service professionals and paraprofessionals. To convey the importance of a strengths-based foundation for FNSP services, staff who coordinate care are called "success coaches." All programs include natural helpers, and trained paraprofessionals typically from or representative of those served, to encourage family and youth service engagement and follow-through. Intense staff supervision and professional development expectations are critical for FNSP success.

Because each family or youth may need different frequencies, intensities, and durations of supports, FNSP contracts are based upon the expected number of direct service contact hours

to be delivered, determined by the number of direct service staff members funded in the staffing plan. All direct service staff members are expected to spend at least 75 percent of their working hours delivering service activities with families or youth, to be documented through participant contacts entered the care coordination reporting system.

All programs provide at least three required core services designed to stabilize child and family environments, including:

1. Screening and assessment: using standard tools, with additional relevant population-specific tools, to determine family and youth eligibility, assess strengths, risks and needs to guide success plans and the level of care coordination services required.
2. Care coordination: including different levels of wraparound supports from a team of success coaches and natural helpers, guided by individualized success plans that are supported by community service referrals, follow-up, and resource connections.
3. Family stabilization funding: All funded partnerships have access to \$500,000.00 in a pooled funding amount, administered through The Children's Trust care coordination reporting system. They manage requests and payments from the pooled fund to reduce barriers to services and address family and youth emergencies, such as food insecurity, job loss, the threat of eviction, termination of utilities, and child endangerment related to family stressors and lack of basic needs.

Some programs also offer additional direct services designed to meet the needs of the intended service populations, such as academic supports; behavioral, mental health or parent-child relationship supports; legal services and education; life skills support; and vocational training and supports. Additionally, one contract focused on serving children, youth and families living with significant disabilities, as noted in the table below includes \$500,000.00 dedicated to directly funding youth program inclusion and in-home respite care supports for children with significant disabilities and accommodation needs.

Due to the comprehensive nature of the expected services, The Children's Trust funding alone is insufficient to implement the desired services with fidelity. Thus, funded partnerships contribute at least 10 percent in match funding, which is defined as cash or in-kind contributions including nonfederal cash dollars, donated items, and/or services that are part of the overall cost of operating the program.

All programs report on at least five required outcomes that track the extent to which enrolled families and youth are progressing toward and achieving their individualized success plan goals, including:

- Outcome achievement: Number and percentage of participants who make progress toward and achieve their goals.
- Goal Progress: Families make progress on or achieve at least two-thirds of success plan goals.
- Goal Resolution: Families achieve at least three-quarters of all success plan goals.
- Strengths Building: Families increase their identified strengths.
- Satisfaction: Participants are satisfied with the services received.

The following providers are recommended for renewal:

FSNP Lead Organization * Paid Partners (Additional direct services provided), if applicable	Populations Served	Amount Not to Exceed
Advocate Program * Legal Services of Greater Miami (Provision of legal services and education) * Rizpah Group Inc. (Family Behavioral and Mental Health Supports or Parent-Child Relationship Supports, Individual Family Visitation, Individual Behavioral and Mental Health Supports)	Children exposed to family conflict and domestic violence	\$700,000.00
Amigos Together for Kids	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$300,000.00
Belafonte Tacolcy * Infinite Ways Network, Inc. * T.O.U.C.C.H., Inc * Hosanna Community Foundation (Group & Individual Academic or Education Supports, Group & Individual Behavioral and Mental Health Supports, Individual Vocational Training and Supports, Group & Individual Life Skills Support)	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$617,607.00
Be Strong International (Individual Legal Services and Education, Group Behavioral and Mental Health Supports, Group Academic or Education Supports, Group Life Skills Support)	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$500,000.00
CCDH Inc. dba Advocacy Network Children with Disabilities * Behavior Plus, Inc. * Legal Services of Greater Miami (Individual Academic or Education Supports, Individual Behavioral and Mental Health Supports, Legal services)	Families living with significant disabilities	FNSP program: \$608,796.00 Inclusion/respite funds: \$500,000.00 Total amount: \$1,108,796.00
Children of Inmates * Family & Children Faith * Guardian Watch, Inc. * OIC of South Florida, Inc. * Survivors Affected by Violence, (Group Family Visitation)	Children of incarcerated parents	\$700,000.00
City of Homestead * Dade County Legal Aid * EnFamilia, Inc. * Kristi House, Inc. * Mujeres Unidas En Justicia Educacion Y Reforma, Inc * Start Off Smart, Inc. * VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc. (Individual Legal Services and Education, Family Behavioral and Mental Health Supports or Parent-Child Relationship Supports, Individual Behavioral and Mental Health Supports)	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$700,000.00

FSNP Lead Organization * Paid Partners (Additional direct services provided), if applicable	Populations Served	Amount Not to Exceed
City of Miami Beach * Advocate2Create * Guardian Watch, Inc. (Individual Academic or Educational Supports, Individual Behavioral and Mental Health Supports)	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$500,000.00
Concerned African Women, Inc. (Individual Behavioral and Mental Health Supports)	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$575,000.00
Connect Familias, Inc. * Cuban American Bar Association CABA (Individual Legal Services and Education)	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$725,000.00
Educate Tomorrow * Casa Valentina * Lawyers for Children (Legal Services and Education, Individual Academic or Educational Supports, Individual Behavioral and Mental Health Supports)	Children in or transitioning out of the child welfare system Families experiencing homelessness or chronic housing instability	\$950,000.00
Empowering Youth, Inc. * Empowerment Tutoring * Psyched Solutions (Individual Academic or Educational Supports, Family Behavioral and Mental Health Supports or Parent-Child Relationship Supports)	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$400,000.00
Gang Alternative (Individual Academic or Educational Supports)	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$800,000.00
Genesis Hopeful Heaven, Inc * A Worthy Cause, Inc. * Empowering Legacies Financial Solutions * Keeping a Dream Alive, Inc. * Sports Konnect, Inc. * Village51, LLC (Individual & Group Vocational Training and Supports, Individual Academic or Educational Supports, Group Life Skills Support)	Children in or transitioning out of the child welfare system	\$300,000.00
International Rescue Committee * Americans for Immigrant Justice, Inc. * Trauma Resolution Center (Individual & Group Behavioral and Mental Health Supports, Individual Legal Services and Education)	Youth experiencing immigration challenges and/or in need of legal advocacy	\$550,000.00
Kristi House, Inc. (Group & Individual Vocational Training and Supports)	Youth affected by sexual abuse and/or human trafficking	\$400,000.00
New Horizons Community Mental Health Center, Inc. * Overtown Youth Center	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$997,393.00
Opa-Locka Community Development Corporation * Lifestyle Empowered, LLC * The Knowledge Incubator * Tristar Leadership, Inc (Individual Behavioral and Mental Health Supports; Individual Academic or Educational Supports)	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$600,000.00

FSNP Lead Organization * Paid Partners (Additional direct services provided), if applicable	Populations Served	Amount Not to Exceed
Sant La, Haitian Neighborhood Center * Catholic Charities * Legal Services of Greater Miami (Individual Legal Services and Education)	Children and youth residing in vulnerable neighborhoods	\$400,000.00
Sundari Foundation, Inc. * Legal Services of Greater Miami (Group & Individual Legal Services and Education; Group & Individual Academic or Education Supports; Group & Individual Vocational Training and Supports; Family Behavioral and Mental Health Supports or Parent-Child Relationship Supports)	Families experiencing homelessness or chronic housing instability	\$450,000.00
The Alliance for LGBTQ (Group & Individual Behavioral and Mental Health Supports; Family Behavioral and Mental Health Supports or Parent-Child Relationship Supports)	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth	\$635,000.00
United Cerebral Palsy (Group Behavioral and Mental Health Supports)	Families living with significant disabilities	\$500,000.00

*These are all current paid partners that are included in the contract.

Background: On June 13, 2022, The Children’s Trust board approved the funding recommendations from the competitive request for proposals, RFP# 2022-01 Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships (FNSP), for a five-year funding cycle, following a comprehensive review process. The foundational assumption for this investment is that if we promote positive childhood experiences, build family and youth strengths and relationships, and support basic needs, children, youth and families will achieve better outcomes. In Resolution No. 2023-56, the above 22 agencies were authorized by the board for renewal, and the board delegated authority to staff to adjust paid providers and some optional program components not essential to the core requirements of the RFP. Following the second year of the FNSP contract, some of the lead organizations made additional adjustments to the paid partners and program services based on program needs and lessons learned. These changes are reflected in the chart above, as the listed current paid partners and as authorized by The Children’s Trust board delegation of authority.

Recommendations for the renewing of the above contracts are based on Trust staff assessment of programs through reviews of performance data and site visits to programs.

Delegation of Authority: To respond to changing program needs and the provision of services, staff requests a delegation of authority beyond Resolution No. 2017-18 in order to adjust (add or remove) the paid partners indicated above. Such changes will not change the lead organization receiving funding or the funding amount.

Geographic Area: Countywide with several programs focused in the high-need areas noted in the table above.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **13th day of May 2024.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency. _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 13, 2024

Resolution: 2024-39

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Health and Wellness: Public Benefits Enrollment.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: High-quality early learning opportunities; Regular use of medical, dental, and behavioral health care services.

Recommended Action: Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and to negotiate and execute contracts with nine providers, identified herein, to deliver public benefits enrollment supports, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,596,882.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, each with three remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. Request for delegation of authority to adjust paid program partners.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$1,596,882.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: Based upon the critical impact of social determinants on child health and well-being, The Children's Trust invests in supporting families with public benefits enrollment. Benefits enrollment supports aim to maximize economic benefits for children and their families who qualify for means-tested benefits, ultimately contributing to the broader local economy and child well-being. Enrollment supports will be provided throughout Miami-Dade County, concentrating on services for vulnerable communities with high proportions of families experiencing poverty. Priority populations and partnerships for benefits enrollment supports are encouraged with other Trust-funded initiatives such as after-school programs, parenting, and other family services. Programs provide one-on-one enrollment assistance that includes new and initial benefits enrollment, and renewal/recertification to maintain eligible benefits over time. Support includes tracking each application's status to determine approval status. Annual services are expected to support the enrollment of at least 6,480 families in various public benefits programs.

Priority benefits programs supported through this initiative include family-relevant federal means-tested programs, as well as other entitlement and assistance programs, such as:

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), including TCA-Relative Care Program and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Medicaid and KidCare (Florida's Children's Health Insurance Program/CHIP)
- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) / Child Tax Credit (CTC)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Housing and rental assistance programs, including homeless assistance benefits

- Benefits managed by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe (ELCMDM) (e.g., School Readiness funds (CCDF), Voluntary Pre-K, Thrive by 5 Child Care Scholarships)
- Head Start, Early Head Start
- Low/ no cost after-school and summer programs (including Trust-funded programs)
- Discount phone, wireless and broadband services, like those offered through Miami Connected
- Adult education and employment assistance programs
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/ Disability

The following agencies are recommended for renewal:

Agency *Paid Partners	# Families to be Approved for Benefits	Amount Not to Exceed
Citrus Health Network, Inc. * Florida Department of Children and Families	620	\$150,575.00
Community Health of South Florida, Inc. * Florida Department of Children and Families	700	\$170,896.00
Family Central Inc.	940	\$235,002.00
Family Resource Center of South Florida, Inc.	800	\$193,407.00
Haitian Neighborhood Center Sant La, Inc.	940	\$235,000.00
Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc.	940	\$230,244.00
Start Off Smart, Inc.	460	\$114,782.00
Sundari Foundation, Inc.	400	\$96,882.00
Young Men’s Christian Association of Greater Miami (YMCA)	680	\$170,094.00

Background: The Children’s Trust issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) #2023-10 on April 3, 2023, to fund several agencies to provide families with children with public benefits enrollment support. The above nine agencies were awarded initial funding by board approval resolution # 2023-64 for benefits enrollment contracts.

In the first year of the funding cycle, providers engaged in start-up activities including training and hiring new staff before family services began. Recommendations for the above contract renewals for the second of five years are based on Trust staff assessment of programs through reviews of performance data and site visits to programs.

Delegation of Authority: To respond to changing program needs and the provision of services, staff requests a delegation of authority beyond Resolution No. 2017-88 in order to adjust (add or remove) the paid partners indicated above. Such changes will not change the lead organization receiving funding or the funding amount.

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was reconsidered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **13th day of May 2024.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency. _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 13, 2024

Resolution: 2024-40

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Family & Neighborhood Supports: 211 Miami Helpline.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: This initiative supports all headline community results.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute a single source contract with Jewish Community Services of South Florida (JCS) to operate the 211 Miami helpline, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,374,176.00.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$1,374,176.000 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: The 211 Miami helpline is a 24/7 centralized source of information and resources for health and human services in Miami-Dade County. The service aims to provide up-to-date information so that children and families can get the right services at the right time and place. Services are described below.

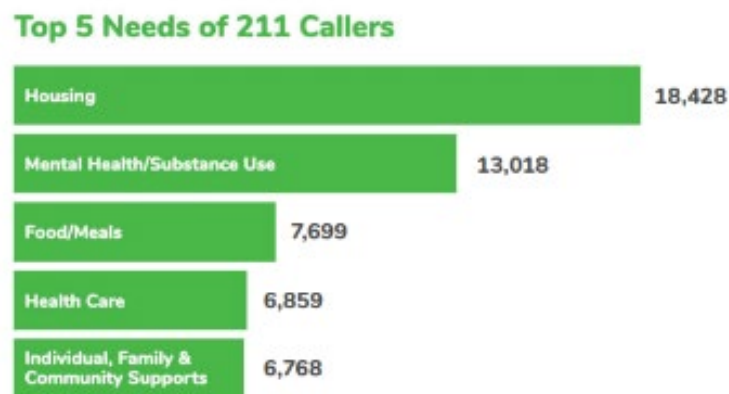
- A 24-hour staffed call center provides comprehensive information, referrals, and crisis counseling services that support the health and human service needs of children, youth, and their families throughout the county. Counselors are fluent in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole and respond to telephone and text message inquiries.
- JCS provides support through enhanced advocacy calls for the most vulnerable callers with more complicated issues, including direct follow-up contacts to ensure they receive the services they need.
- The work includes the maintenance of an up-to-date, searchable online community resource directory accessible via computer and mobile device, including an online chat feature. The directory currently includes information about 4,450 services offered by 1,152 community-based organizations and government agencies providing health and human services. Services include basic needs (like housing and food assistance), health care, mental health care, child care, after-school programs, educational programs, substance abuse treatment, family resource centers, summer camps, recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, and protective services. These resources are verified and validated by JCS staff to strive for accuracy. In addition, resource staff conducts community outreach activities through multiple means and community presentations to share and gather information about community resources and ensure regular updates to the directory by community providers.

Background: The 211 Miami helpline informs individuals and service providers of the array of health and human services available, including their locations and eligibility requirements. Last year, counselors assisted 49,150 callers with more than 67,600 needs. Over 23,500 individuals made 91,845 online searches for services during the fiscal year 2022-2023.

To make it easier for families to find low or no-cost summer camps and after-school programs, The Children’s Trust partnered with Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and Jewish Community Services of South Florida to promote the “More Choices” initiative. Starting with More Summer Camp Choices, nearly 500 programs funded by or operated through the anchor partners were listed on 211miami.org and widely promoted throughout the community. The efforts resulted in 400 times as many online searches as the previous year (from 90 in 2022 to 35,778 in 2023) and a 40 percent increase in calls to the 211 Miami helpline for summer camps. This collaborative initiative is currently underway for summer 2024 camp listings and is planned for after-school programs as well.

JCS and the 211 Miami helpline staff continue implementing their ongoing plan to offer more enhanced advocacy support services to meet increased community needs. They have developed a cross-training plan to ensure that counselors can provide enhanced advocacy services. In the fiscal year 2022-2023, nearly 4,200 enhanced advocacy calls were completed.

Overall, the top needs of callers remain similar to those in previous years, relating to various basic and health needs, as shown in the chart below.



As part of its program, JCS contracts with Florida International University’s Metropolitan Center (FIU) for professional services. Specifically, FIU conducts external “secret shopping” of the 211 Miami helpline to assess the quality of services and to provide regular continuous learning and improvement feedback to JCS. Continuing the trend of high satisfaction, last year there was a 97 percent satisfaction rating for the completeness of the information provided and 86 percent satisfaction with the resolution of calls. Additionally, callers are invited to participate in a phone survey after their call, and 90 percent of survey respondents would recommend the 211 Miami helpline services.

Single Source Procurement: JCS is currently the sole license-holder for the 211 number in Miami-Dade County. As such, per The Children’s Trust’s procurement policy, section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (G-4, Single Source Purchases), a competitive solicitation is not required.

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **13th day of May, 2024.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 13, 2024

Resolution: 2024-41

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Areas: Parenting: Reach Out and Read.

Strategic Framework **Headline Community Results:** High-quality early learning opportunities; Regular use of medical, dental, and behavioral health care services; Nurturing and involved parents; and Kindergarten readiness.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute a single source contract with Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership for Reach Out and Read early literacy programming, in a total amount not to exceed \$700,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$700,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: Reach Out and Read (ROR) is a national model endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics that champions the positive effects of reading daily and engaging in language-rich activities with young children within positive parent-child interactions. The program trains medical providers on the importance of early relationships as the foundation for healthy brain development leading to the emergence of early language, literacy and social-emotional skills. ROR provides families with children from birth to 5 years of age with developmentally appropriate books in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, accompanied by trained pediatrician guidance about the importance of reading aloud with young children at well-child checkups (1-2 week, 1-month, 2-month, 4-month, 6-month, 9-month, 12-month, 15-month, 18-month, 2-year, 2.5-year, 3-year, 4-year, and 5-year checkups). ROR is provided in primary pediatric care settings where at least half of the population serviced is uninsured or publicly insured.

ROR implementation components include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Maintain formal partnerships with the pediatric providers who integrate ROR into their well-child visits with fidelity to the model.
- Assist new sites in completing a formal application to the ROR National Center to ensure sustainable growth and expansion of ROR's work across Miami-Dade County and to provide systems to support the program's implementation.
- Assist medical providers to complete Core Training: ROR 101 and to access myror.org, inclusive of awarding Certified Medical Education credits.
- Provide appropriate in-person and residency training to new and existing sites.
- Order high-quality, culturally, and linguistically appropriate books; identify age and developmental level of books; and coordinate delivery of books to sites.

- Assist sites to connect families with community resources and additional opportunities to build upon messages in the exam room, including creating literacy-rich environments and community partnerships.
- Assist sites with ongoing activities and submission of reports to the national program center.
- Support sites with regular check-ins through site visits or calls to ensure clinic leadership is supportive of the program and integrating ROR at the practice with fidelity to the model.
- Foster parental engagement by offering anticipatory guidance to parents and caregivers by modeling dialogic read aloud techniques with families and children during sessions in clinic waiting rooms.
- Gauge the effectiveness of the physician’s guidance and recommendations regarding early reading by surveying a percentage of parents on a regular basis to assess their perception of what the physician conveyed about the importance of early literacy and reading with their child, as well as the number of times their child is read to per week.

Background: ROR is an evidence-based model funded by The Trust since 2015 as a single-source contract delivered by the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership in 67 pediatric care clinics across Miami-Dade County. It serves children from birth to 5-years-old as part of the parenting early literacy supports. For the contract period ending September 2023, more than 48,116 well-child visits were completed, each with an accompanying book provided during the visit.

Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership holds exclusive distributor rights for the ROR program in Florida. The National Reach Out and Read Center awards this distinction. ROR is an essential component of The Children's Trust's early literacy parenting support, and it offers a unique opportunity to encourage early relationships and literacy through trusted pediatric care providers.

Per The Children’s Trust’s procurement policy, section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (G-4, single-source purchases), a competitive solicitation is not required.

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **13th day of May, 2024.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children’s Trust Board Meeting

Date: May 13, 2024

Resolution: 2024-42

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Thrive by 5 Early Childhood Development: Early Child Care & Education Match Slots

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: High-quality early learning opportunities; Regular use of medical, dental and behavioral health care services; Nurturing and involved parents; Kindergarten readiness; Healthy lifestyle habits for eating, sleeping, physical activity and mental wellness; and good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes and communities.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and amend a contract with the Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department for local match funding for the federal Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant, to add an additional \$400,000.00 of match funding, contingent upon a federal funding award, making the total contract amount \$1,250,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$400,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available for 2024-2025.

Description of Services: This authorization will award the Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department an additional \$400,000.00 in local match funds for an additional 260 high-quality early head start learning slots should federal funding be awarded in a new federal grant opportunity. The Trust’s additional match would help draw down approximately \$5,000,000.00 in new federal funds if awarded. On January 22, 2024, the board approved \$850,000.00 in match funding via resolution #2024-17 to support 552 early head start slots. The local match funds leverage federal infant and toddler care funding through the EHS-CCP Grant. Children served must be Miami-Dade County residents and meet the eligibility requirements of the EHS-CCP grant. Enrollment criteria prioritize children living in families earning below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), ages birth to two years, and those experiencing life stressors. Children receive health, mental health, nutrition, and family support services. Family advocates also work closely to address each family’s unique needs and help them achieve self-sufficiency. A minimum of 10 percent of children served must have diagnosed disabilities (regardless of income).

Background: Since 1965, the federal Head Start program has provided comprehensive early education and support services for three- and four-year-old children living in families earning below the FPL. In recognition of the importance of the earliest years in children’s development, the Early Head Start (EHS) program was established in 1994 to serve children from birth to three years of age.

In 2024, the federal government made \$100,000,000.00 available to expand EHS services nationally. These funds will be awarded competitively to grantees nationwide to expand access to high-quality, comprehensive services for infants and toddlers living in families earning below the FPL. Local match contributions are contingent upon a successful award.

Per the procurement policy, section 2006, Match Funding and Funder Collaboration, the negotiation and execution of a match contract are exempt from the competitive solicitation process. Renewal of match funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children’s Trust. It shall depend on satisfactory performance evaluations, quality program results, outcome achievements, funding availability, and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding source(s).

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **13th day of May 2024.**

THE CHILDREN’S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

May 13, 2024

Resolution 2024-43

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Areas: Youth Development: After-School Programs; Community Engagement, Awareness & Advocacy: Funder Collaboration Initiatives.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Result: Academic success; Healthy lifestyle habits for eating, sleeping, physical activity and mental wellness; Good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes and communities; and Successful transition to adulthood.

Recommended Action: Authorization to execute a funder collaboration contract with the U.S. Soccer Foundation to support the continuation of the Soccer for Success program and the expansion of the Just Ball program, in a total amount not to exceed \$300,000.00, for a term of 14 months commencing August 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$300,000.00 is available in FY 2023-2024 and is projected to be available for FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: The selection of Miami-Dade County as a host site for the 2026 FIFA World Cup presents a unique opportunity to expand upon the longstanding partnership between the U.S. Soccer Foundation and The Children's Trust through its Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative. The initiative intends to create a long-term legacy of soccer in the community also giving youth from under-resourced and under-served communities safe places to play and effective and relevant programming.

As of March 2024, in its first year of operation, the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative, in partnership with the U.S. Soccer Foundation, Miami-Dade County, and Griffin Catalyst, accomplished the following:

- Mini-pitches: Six mini-soccer pitches have been installed in under-resourced areas across Miami-Dade County. Each pitch is valued at \$100,000.00 and includes lighting, seating, and advertising of sponsors and partners. An additional five pitches are slated for activation by July 1, 2024. Griffin Catalyst's \$5 million donation to the U.S. Soccer Foundation will fund the 50 anticipated pitches.
- Just Ball Neighborhood League: In the fall season, The Children's Trust funding supported the implementation of the *Just Ball* Neighborhood League at 12 sites, with 1,783 youth ages 11 to 18 from under-resourced communities participating in this hyper-local soccer league that emphasizes creativity, mentorship, youth development, and healthy competition. The *Just Ball* Neighborhood League is a fun, inclusive league opportunity centered in the local neighborhoods and supported by community coach-mentors. In addition, 45 Playmakers (coach-mentors) were trained by the U.S. Soccer Foundation to implement the *Just Ball* league model. The countywide *Just Ball* Unity Cup is scheduled

for May 4 at Stadio Soccer in downtown Miami, with an estimated 2,000 youth in attendance.

- *Soccer for Success Innovation Hub*: *Soccer for Success* is an evidence-based model for sports-based youth development for youth ages 6 to 13. It is delivered after school for two 12-week seasons annually with programming three days a week. It is free and provided by trusted community-based organizations to increase accessibility for youth with the highest needs. The Innovation Hub is overseen by the U.S. Soccer Foundation and operated directly by community-based organization FLIPANY. This funding now supports the *Soccer for Success* Innovation Hub to expand *Soccer for Success* programming for youth from under-resourced communities across Miami-Dade County and at the new mini-pitch sites. The Innovation Hub serves as the local leader in operating *Soccer for Success* and in building the capacity of other youth development and community-based organizations to offer this program. This hub provides expertise and guidance for those who desire to implement soccer programming in their communities, while removing barriers such as transportation and cost that often prohibit youth in underserved communities from playing the game.

A total of \$62,000.00 of Trust funding has been earmarked to continue the Soccer for Success Innovation Hub. Through the expanded collaboration Soccer for Success and Just Ball together, they have created many opportunities for youth as they progress through school. There is a special emphasis on multiple opportunities for middle school-aged youth—an especially critical time for physical, social, and emotional well-being, which also coincides with the time that youth tend to reduce their levels of physical activity. Additionally, former *Just Ball* participants can be trained to become Playmakers.

Background: The U.S. Soccer Foundation is the pre-eminent organization using soccer to improve children's health and social outcomes in underserved communities. Their unique and cost-effective programs have been shown to transform neighborhoods, increase physical activity among children, and build a culture of health in communities nationwide.

Since 2017, the U.S. Soccer Foundation has partnered with The Children's Trust to support community-based organizations in implementing its evidence-based *Soccer for Success* program. Since then, 26,022 youth from under-resourced communities across Miami-Dade County have been engaged through *Soccer for Success* with the support of 418 trained coach-mentors. Ninety-one percent of participating youth identify as Black, Hispanic, or multi-ethnic, and 87 percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

On March 17, 2017, The Children's Trust Board approved resolution #2017-70, initially committed \$100,000.00 to support and expand the *Soccer for Success* program to serve 1,300 children and youth in Miami-Dade County. This allocation was subsequently increased to \$125,000 for fiscal years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. For fiscal year 2023-2024, the funding increased to \$250,000 to support the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative community-wide expansion to support programming on the 50 new donated soccer pitches, to establish the new *Just Ball* program, and to establish the *Soccer for Success* Innovation Hub. An additional \$50,000.00 increase is needed in the fiscal year 2024-2025 to support expanded programming as new pitches are built and additional partners are engaged. Additionally, the staff is extending the term of this contract by two months to align it with The Trust's fiscal year for ease of future processing.

The U.S. Soccer Foundation raises additional funds to grow and improve the program in Miami-Dade County. As a result of this collaborative effort, for every dollar The Children's Trust invests, the funding partners collectively invest a minimum of \$16.

Per the procurement policy, section 2006 Match Funding and Funder Collaboration, the negotiation and execution of a funder collaboration contract are exempt from the competitive solicitation process. Renewal of match and funder collaboration funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children’s Trust and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations, quality program results, outcome achievements, availability of funding, and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding source(s).

Geographic Area: Countywide.

The foregoing recommendation was offered by _____ who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **13th day of May, 2024.**

THE CHILDREN’S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____
SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative: Investing in the Next Generation

Soccer is having a moment. Miami-Dade's youth should, too, and more.

Across the country, and in Miami, excitement about and momentum toward the 2026 Men's World Cup is placing soccer at the forefront of the cultural, social, and economic landscape. Our Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative is working to capture this unique moment and catalyze efforts to transform the lives of youth across Miami-Dade County.

Together with the Children's Trust, Griffin Catalyst, and a host of local community partners, the initiative is improving the lives of tens of thousands of youth living in under-resourced areas across Miami-Dade County. The goal: improve the health and well-being of at least 36,000 children by 2030.

Fall
2023 /
Spring
2024
Impact

100%

of *Soccer for Success* coach-mentors and

5,000+

youth engaged*

84%

of youth would recommend *Just Ball* to a friend

99%

of *Just Ball* Playmakers (coaches) report that the Foundation-led training increased their ability to help address the social, emotional, or health needs of youth.

75+

coach-mentors trained*

* Projected numbers by end of 2024 spring season

Just Ball League



The *Just Ball League* reimagines youth soccer in the United States by breaking down barriers and promoting elements of pick-up soccer – using mini-pitches and other community areas for hyper-local play. Designed to extend the continuum of play opportunities and encourage healthy development and active living, the league is led by Playmakers who allow players the freedom to express themselves through stylistic play within safe, accessible, and inclusive environments for all.

95% — 

of *Just Ballers* developed more confidence

94% — 

of *Just Ballers* feel happier

84% — 

of *Just Ballers* feel less stress

Just Ball
Sites

- Boys and Girls Club of West Grove
- Bright Park
- Centro Mater Childcare Center
- City of North Bay Village
- Coral Gables Prep Academy
- Everglades Village
- Homestead Middle School
- Iglesia Capilla del Rey
- Nautilus Middle School
- Prodigy Soccer Training
- South Dade Park
- The Underline
- Tropical Park
- Villas del Lago
- Voices For Children

Just Ball
Partners

- Aid for Aids/Flag Nation
- Centro Mater Foundation
- City of Hialeah
- Futbol Con Corazon
- Iconic Sports Lab Miami
- Miami Dade Police Athletic League
- Rural Neighborhoods
- Ten North Group
- The Underline
- YMCA of South Florida

Soccer for Success

Soccer for Success is the U.S. Soccer Foundation’s program proven to help children improve their physical, social, and emotional skills and overall well-being. Designed for children ages 6-14, the program is offered at little or no cost to participants and their families. *Soccer for Success* is run by **FLIPANY** in Miami-Dade County during the after school hours.

Soccer for Success
Sites

- Achieve Miami Caribbean K-8th
- Advent Center
- AJ King Park
- Be Amazed
- Bunche Park
- Carol City Park
- Kayleen’s Center
- Kids Paradise
- KLC
- North Shore
- Norwood Park
- Roberto Clemente Park
- Virrick Park
- YAC



Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative
Strategic Partners



GRIFFIN CATALYST

The U.S. Soccer Foundation’s mission is to provide underserved communities access to innovative play spaces and evidence-based soccer programs that instill hope, foster well-being, and help youth achieve their fullest potential.



**Media Highlights
March - April 2024**



EDUCATION

How the Summer Youth Internship Program helped me prepare for a career in broadcasting

BY MICHAEL GONZALEZ CHILDREN'S TRUST

UPDATED APRIL 24, 2024 2:47 PM



Michael Gonzalez on the job with Miami-Dade Fire Rescue.

Like most young people I know, I was expecting to spend my summer vacation in 2023 sleeping, playing video games and relaxing. Then I heard about the Summer Youth Internship Program. When I first heard about it, I was a little bit concerned. I was not planning on working during my summer vacation time. However, as I learned more about the SYIP and the benefits I could receive in this work-learning experience, I became more excited than anxious.

Getting started was easy. I followed every piece of instruction provided by SYIP including creating a bank account, completing a pre-internship course, putting together my first resume, searching for an internship that fit my interests and needs and filling out my first W9.

Going through this process taught me to be more independent and responsible and improved my communication and time management skills, and I learned a lot about how to present myself professionally.

PICKING THE RIGHT INTERNSHIP

As a member of the TV production program at Doral Academy, I was very interested in video production, broadcasting and video editing. It made sense for me to search for internships that fell within my areas of interest. My selection was a direct result of the support services provided by Miami-Dade County Public Schools. They reached out to each charter school student that applied for this internship to ensure they could take part as well as M-DCPS students. Soon enough, my paid internship at Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's Public Education Bureau began.

GETTING REAL WORK EXPERIENCE

During my internship period I gained invaluable experience in fire safety education, community outreach and public information. It helped me understand how to communicate effectively in an emergency. Among the tasks I was assigned was helping to post fire prevention tips and news on the department's social media channels.

Even more important for my career goals, I had the privilege of being mentored by Robert Hernandez, a two-time Emmy Award-winning videographer with more than 25 years in the news industry. With him as a mentor, I learned the proper use of a camera, tips on shooting videos and other valuable insights only a person that has been in the industry for years could provide. He also gave me a once-in-a-lifetime experience by coordinating a tour at NBC6 and Telemundo. It was a dream come true to get an inside look at how a real newsroom operates.

During my internship, I recorded and photographed various events including fire truck demonstrations, station tours and other training, furthering my practical skills. While I was covering these events, I took many videos and pictures, and I was challenged by my mentor to create a video so I could demonstrate the knowledge and skills I developed at school and on the job. The video I created turned out to be my summer project for FBTV, and it drew compliments from classmates and teachers.

My time as an intern prepared me for a career choice, increased my knowledge of public service, enhanced my perspective about videography and helped me to apply concepts learned at my school to real-life situations. I have to say that this has been the best summer work experience I could ever have.

I would like to say thank you to The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County, Career Source South Florida, EdFed and the Foundation for New Education Initiatives for partnering with M-DCPS to fund this awesome work-learning experience and for investing your funds in the future of young students like me. To my school, Doral Academy Preparatory, thank you for enrolling for this program and for having the vision to use this experience to enhance my learning path and prepare me for the future. Finally, to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue, thank you for having me as your intern, for treating me with respect and for your willingness to share your experiences and knowledge with me. Your dedication to the community impressed me, and I learned so much from you.

Michael Gonzalez is a 10th grader at Doral Academy who participated in the 2023 Summer Youth Internship Program and plans to do so this summer as well. Michael is pursuing a career as a video editor and broadcast anchor. To learn about the Summer Youth Internship Program visit miamiinterns.org



Education

A children's library at home, for free: Miami-Dade literacy program expands to 60,000 families

WLRN 91.3 FM | By [Kate Payne](#)
Published April 10, 2024 at 2:05 PM EDT



▶ LISTEN - 1:19



Courtesy: Galina Ilcheva

Miami-Dade County mom Galina Ilcheva signed up her son David for the Children's Trust Book Club when he was about seven months old. Four years later, he has a whole library of free books.

Parents of young children know there's only so many hours in the day when your babies aren't screaming, crying or in need of a diaper change. And in those precious moments of calm, those sleep-deprived young parents are probably not doing a deep-dive on the best new children's books.

But families in Miami-Dade County have another option — the Children's Trust Book Club. Launched in 2015, the initiative run by the [taxpayer-funded organization](#) sends a free book every month to young children from birth until they turn five.

Galina Ilcheva says her son David looks forward to the monthly "gifts" he gets in the mail from the Children's Trust Book Club. The program sends one free book every month to young children in Miami-Dade County from the time they're born through their fifth birthday.

So far, the program has distributed more than 1.6 million free books —in fact, demand was so great that at one point last year registration was paused. But a recent [expansion](#) means the Book Club can now serve up to 60,000 Miami-Dade families — up from a previous limit of 40,000 — and the program is welcoming new registrations.

When hospitality worker Galina Ilcheva first signed up her son David, she thought the program was too good to be true.

“Sometimes you register for those things but you think, 'Oh my god it's one of those that it will never come,'” Ilcheva said. “But when I received the first book, I was like, 'Oh my god!’”

Ilcheva signed up her son when he was about seven months old, back in 2020 — in the dark days of the pandemic when it didn't feel safe to spend hours leisurely wandering the stacks at the [Miami-Dade County Public Library](#) (which will also mail you books for free — [here's how](#)).

So Ilcheva turned to the Children's Trust Book Club and started getting a curated selection of developmentally appropriate books delivered directly to her door, in a cheerful package decorated with a giraffe.

Four years later, David looks forward to those monthly “gifts” — and he has a whole library of his own books, some of which his mom says are on heavy rotation at bedtime.

“Some of them, I will tell you, they become very favorites. So we tend to reread them many, many, many, many times,” Ilcheva said with a smile. “And sometimes those many times are in one night!”

Books from the Children's Trust Book Club are on heavy rotation at Galina Ilcheva's house. She says her son David likes to read his favorites over and over — sometimes multiple times in one night.

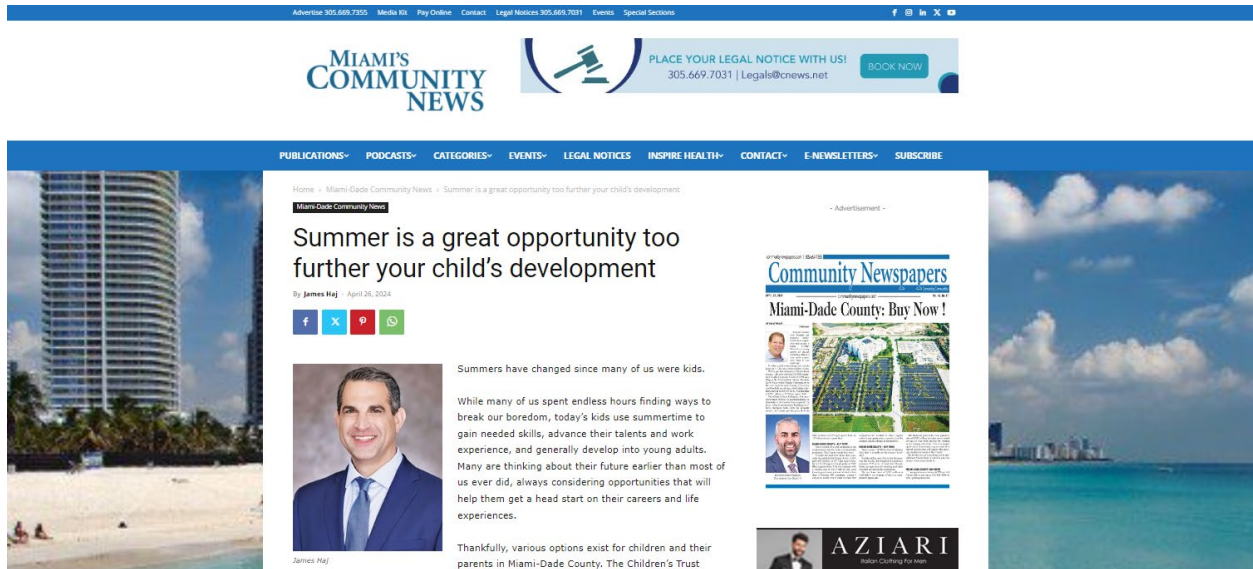
Families can elect to receive books in English or Spanish, and can request special deliveries of books in Haitian Creole as well. Galina says it's helped her four year old dramatically improve his literacy skills — and it's also helped his grandparents, whose primary language is Bulgarian.

“They’re learning a little bit of English and Spanish through him. But he’s learning all the Bulgarian with them,” she said. “The more languages he knows the better, no?”

And each of the monthly book deliveries comes with a resource guide to help families teach their kids how to read — deciphering letters and sounds and absorbing every detail on the colorful pages.

“I call it my cheatsheet because they teach you how to actually read the book,” Ilcheva said. “The parent guide is teaching you how to actually make three words on the page a full-blown 10 minutes conversation with your kid. Which ultimately allows you to also connect with your kid on a different level.”

Families can sign their kids up for the Book Club at any time and at any age — from birth until their child turns five. More information is available [here](#).



Summers have changed since many of us were kids.

While many of us spent endless hours finding ways to break our boredom, today's kids use summertime to gain needed skills, advance their talents and work experience, and generally develop into young adults. Many are thinking about their future earlier than most of us ever did, always considering opportunities that will help them get a head start on their careers and life experiences.

Thankfully, various options exist for children and their parents in Miami-Dade County. The Children's Trust along with a myriad of partners know how important the summer can be not only to help children and youth progress, but also to prevent the dreaded summer slide during which they can lose the learning and skills gained over the school year.

There are hundreds of summer camps and programming options for parents, with many that are either free or low-cost, depending on family income. That's why The Trust has partnered again with Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Jewish Community Services of South Florida (JCS) to list all of our summer camp options in one place as part of the More Summer Camp Choices initiative. Parents can simply visit <https://211miami.org> and scroll through hundreds of options, including searching by zip code. They can also call the 2-1-1 Helpline for assistance finding programming.

Parents can also look directly at The Children's Trust website for summer camp options from the "Find a Program" page, at <https://www.thechildrenstrust.org/find-a-program>.

Trust-funded summer camps provide enriching summer experiences focusing on academic support, decreasing risky behaviors, and keeping kids engaged. They also offer activities to keep our children moving including sports and games, while supporting their social and emotional wellness.

While most of our summers might have been a battle against boredom, summer camps provide fun, engaging and social interactions with kids their age. The summer camps also provide healthy snacks and meals and comfort to parents who know their children are being well taken care of while they are at work.

While parents will have hundreds of summer camp options, there are also other options for summer experiences. The Trust is a primary funder of the Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP). Designed for rising 10th to 12th graders, SYIP allows students to gain paid, real-world work experience in hundreds of companies, organizations, and government institutions. Student interns interview for their positions, engage in real work projects, and interact with professionals at all levels. And let's remember the allure of earning money over the summer and learning how to save it.

What sets this year's SYIP apart is the integration of Florida Work Ready to Work-Soft Skills, an innovative pre-internship course. Through this digital platform, interns will learn essential employability skills such as professionalism, effective communication, teamwork, and critical thinking.

It's not just about getting a foot in the door; it's about equipping these young minds with the tools they need to thrive in today's competitive job market. Visit miami.getmyinterns.org for more information as deadlines are approaching fast. If your organization would like to host interns, you will also find information there to register.

Whether diving into the world of internships through SYIP, or delving into sports, creative arts and academic pursuits, there's something for every young mind to discover and embrace this summer. These experiences enrich their summers and shape their futures, instilling confidence, fostering friendships, and igniting their imaginations that will guide them on their journey to success.

Join The Children's Trust as we embrace the diversity of summer offerings and empower our youth to seize every opportunity for a brighter tomorrow.

James R. Haj is president and CEO of The Children's Trust.



'Champions for Children' leave mark on Miami-Dade

Miami Times Staff Report Apr 16, 2024 Updated Apr 16, 2024



Zoe A. Terry, recipient of the Excellence in Youth Leadership Award, Joshua Ingram, program director for The Children's Trust Books for Free initiative managed by Miami Book Fair at Miami Dade College, and Liberty City Optimist Club program director Yolanda Bathune (L-R). (Mark A. James Photography)



THIS WEEK'S TOP 10

- 1 The Deltas get their due
- 2 Opa-locka a finalist for Museum of Black History
- 3 MDEAT releases disparity study after 7-month delay
- 4 DeSantis can't ignore putting Blacks on the bench
- 5 Has Florida become a free-for-all for police?
- 6 North Miami voter recall threatened
- 7 Culmer Place combats housing crisis
- 8 Fani Willis among all-star panel as Black public leaders meet in Miami for NABCO Summit
- 9 Axing North Miami Manager Rasha Cameau a bad idea
- 10 Art bent on encouraging environmental justice

The Champions for Children awards luncheon, held annually by The Children's Trust to honor programs and individuals making a transformative impact on the lives of Miami-Dade's children and families, was a resounding success this year.

The highly anticipated event in the child welfare and advocacy community was attended by more than 1,000 people last Thursday at the DoubleTree by Hilton Miami International Airport & Convention Center.

Program of the Year awards were bestowed upon Liberty City Optimist Club, the University of Miami's Jump Start Program and Miami Book Fair at Miami Dade College for its success in managing The Children's Trust Books for Free initiative.

Individual honorees included:

- Dr. William E. Pelham Jr., posthumous recipient of the David Lawrence Jr. Champion for Children Award for lifetime achievement and dedication to children. Pelham, a groundbreaking researcher in ADHD, was the founding director of the FIU Center for Children and Families.
- Bianca Sandoval, Kayleen's Learning Center, recipient of the Excellence in Direct Service Award.
- Zoe Terry, a senior at Miami Country Day School, recipient of the Youth Leadership Award.
- Ruban Roberts, a licensed therapist who uses a holistic approach to developing evidence-based programs like Amplify Community Wellness and TeenTalk Dialogue Sessions, recipient of the Excellence in Advocacy Award.

"Each of their unique stories is a testament to the profound difference one can make in the lives of children and families. These inspiring individuals remind us all that positive change begins with a compassionate heart and a determined spirit," said James R. Haj, Children's Trust president and CEO, in a written statement.

Amendment Report
January 1, 2024 - April 30, 2024

Agency	Initiative	Amendment Category
Liberty Academy, Inc.	Youth Development	Change in Activities
The Promised Land Academy for Christian Education, Inc.	Youth Development	Change in Activities

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
President/CEO
Agreements - </= \$25,000
January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024

Qty	Organization	# Served	Final Agreement Amount	Description
Promote Citizen Engagement and Leadership				
1	5000 Role Models of Excellence Project	1,000	\$10,000.00	Mentoring initiative
2	93Rd St. Community Development Corporation Inc	44	\$15,000.00	Summer program
3	A Worthy Cause Incorporated	50	\$13,000.00	Summer program
4	A Youth Awareness Community Corporation	80	\$12,000.00	Summer program
5	After School Film Institute Inc	150	\$10,000.00	Year-round program
6	Amplify Community Resources Inc	400	\$7,500.00	Family health and resource initiative
7	Avenues Of Excellence Inc	25	\$5,000.00	Summer program
8	B.L.U.E. Missions Group Inc	500	\$10,000.00	Summer program
9	Barbershop Speaks LLC	430	\$4,000.00	Child advocacy initiative
10	Barbershop Speaks LLC	30	\$12,000.00	Parenting program
11	Beautiful Beauties Of Tomorrow Corp	40	\$10,000.00	School year program
12	Bossin' Up Enterprise LLC	200	\$5,000.00	Community financial literacy initiative
13	Brighter Days Foundation International Inc	100	\$5,000.00	Year-round program
14	C.H.A.N.G.E. Charity Inc	35	\$7,000.00	Parenting program
15	Center for Learning Innovation and Change Inc	100	\$3,000.00	Mentoring initiative
16	Children's Bereavement Center Inc	180	\$14,000.00	Parenting program
17	Coconut Grove Optimist Preparatory Inc	25	\$10,000.00	Summer program
18	Dare 2 Impact Inc	30	\$14,000.00	School year program
19	Do Good 41 Inc	100	\$13,000.00	Year-round program
20	Dr Martin Luther King Jr Parade and Festivities Committee Inc	2,000	\$10,000.00	Family resource initiative
21	Dreamcatchers For The Soul Foundation Incorporated	30	\$8,000.00	Summer program
22	E.D.B.B	20	\$15,000.00	Summer program
23	Environmental Awareness Academy Inc	300	\$7,000.00	Family health and resource initiative
24	Epilepsy Foundation Of Florida Inc	800	\$5,000.00	Family health and wellness initiative
25	Esther Johnson LLC	46	\$10,000.00	Year-round program
26	Friends Of The North Miami Public Library Inc	340	\$15,000.00	School year program
27	Friendship Circle Of Miami Beach And North Dade Inc	70	\$9,000.00	Year-round program
28	Friendship Circle of Miami Inc	120	\$15,000.00	School year program
29	Gamebred Youth & Families Inc	100	\$9,000.00	Year-round program
30	Girl Scout Council Of Tropical Florida Inc	210	\$6,000.00	Family resource initiative
31	Girl Scout Council Of Tropical Florida Inc	40	\$8,000.00	Summer program
32	Global Innovative Foundation Inc	40	\$13,000.00	School year program
33	Greater Saint Matthew Holiness Church Inc	30	\$10,000.00	Summer program
34	Guardian Watch Inc	36	\$7,000.00	School year program
35	Hard Knocks Foundation Inc	400	\$7,500.00	Family resource initiative
36	Haynes Harbour Group Inc	104	\$5,000.00	Human trafficking advocacy initiative
37	Hialeah School of Self Defense and Gym Inc	40	\$12,000.00	Summer program
38	Hope 4 Girlz Inc	10	\$5,000.00	Year-round program
39	Hope Heart and Home LLC	750	\$8,000.00	Foster youth advocacy initiative
40	Hopeful Hair Inc	20	\$12,000.00	Year-round program
41	Human Trafficking Front Inc	2,000	\$2,500.00	Human trafficking advocacy initiative
42	ICU Baby Inc	1,040	\$5,000.00	Parenting program
43	Infinite Ways Network Inc	25	\$12,500.00	Summer program
44	Jefferson Noel and Associates LLC	100	\$14,000.00	Year-round program
45	Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church	29	\$10,000.00	Summer program
46	Lashawntay T Howard Youth Offender Program	55	\$15,000.00	School year program
47	Leisure City/Modello Optimist Club Of Florida Inc	25	\$8,000.00	Summer program
48	Leisure City/Modello Optimist Club Of Florida Inc	300	\$4,000.00	Family health and resource initiative
49	Level-Up Tutoring Service LLC	35	\$10,000.00	Year-round program
50	Li'L Abner Foundation Inc	235	\$18,000.00	Year-round program
51	Macedonia Community Outreach Ministries Inc	44	\$16,000.00	Summer program
52	Many Happy Hearts Inc	100	\$13,000.00	Year-round program
53	Miami City Ballet Inc	50	\$14,000.00	Summer program
54	Miami Youth Garden Inc	52	\$18,000.00	Summer program
55	Mothers Fighting 4 Justice Inc	5,000	\$8,000.00	Family advocacy initiative
56	National Black Child Development Institute Inc	20	\$8,000.00	Family health and resource initiative
57	NICU Alumni Inc	127	\$5,000.00	Parenting program
58	One Hundred Black Men Of South Florida Inc	80	\$10,000.00	Year-round program
59	One Royal Effect Foundation Inc	20	\$11,000.00	Summer program
60	Our Chance Enterprise Inc	190	\$12,000.00	Year-round program
61	Papa Keith For People Matter Inc	10,000	\$5,000.00	Family resource initiative
62	Parks and Police 4 Kids Inc	100	\$8,000.00	School year program
63	PhilanthropyMiami Inc	300	\$7,000.00	Capacity-building advocacy initiative
64	Pierre Toussaint Leadership And Learning Center Inc	1,500	\$5,000.00	Family resource initiative
65	Radical Partners LLC	3,000	\$8,000.00	Countywide partnership initiative
66	Raza Mentors Inc	150	\$10,000.00	School year program
67	RER Consulting Enterprise LLC	300	\$18,000.00	Year-round program- mentoring
68	Rise Up 4 Change Inc	25	\$15,000.00	Summer program
69	Saving, Teaching, Empowering, Protecting, And Sacrificing For Children Inc	30	\$8,000.00	Year-round program
70	Shakevia's Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation Incorporated	100	\$6,000.00	Family health and resource initiative
71	Silent Victims Of Crime	95	\$13,000.00	Year-round program
72	Sprout Up Inc	600	\$7,000.00	Family health and resource initiative
73	St. James Economic Development Inc	20	\$13,000.00	Summer program
74	STEAM Academy of Excellence LLC	55	\$10,000.00	Year-round program
75	STF Community Foundation Inc	15	\$5,000.00	Year-round program
76	The Florida City Foundation Inc	30	\$8,000.00	Summer program

77	The Full Deliverance Ministries	30	\$8,000.00	Summer program
78	The Lucy Project Inc	14	\$10,000.00	Year-round program
79	The Lucy Project Inc	300	\$5,000.00	Disability advocacy initiative
80	The Miami Children's Museum Inc	4,200	\$7,500.00	Family literacy and resource initiative
81	The Right Fit Educational And Consulting Services LLC	15	\$3,000.00	Summer program
82	The Right Fit Educational And Consulting Services LLC	25	\$13,000.00	Summer program
83	The Rising Start Foundation Inc	20	\$7,000.00	Summer program
84	The Start Program Inc	100	\$10,000.00	Summer program
85	U-Turn Youth Consulting LLC	108	\$14,000.00	Year-round program
86	Wish Foundation Inc	99	\$8,000.00	Summer program
87	WKF Fitness Incorporated	30	\$8,000.00	Summer program
		Subtotal	\$829,500.00	
Public Awareness and Program Promotion				
1	Angelz On Deck Inc	125- 75 Youth, 50 Adults	\$5,000.00	Child talent showcase event
2	Be Strong International Inc	1000 Youth, 500 Adults	\$2,500.00	Family back to school event
3	Best Of The Bess Inc	400 Youth, 200 Adults	\$2,500.00	Family school year event
4	Black Girls Who Math Inc	70 - 35 Youth, 35 Adults	\$2,400.00	Child STEAM showcase event
5	KP Cares Foundation Inc	55 - 35 Youth, 20 Adults	\$4,850.00	Family financial literacy event
6	Miami Dade County	250 - 100 Youth, 150 Adults	\$5,000.00	Disability resource fair
7	Miami Youth Orchestra Inc	140- 60 Youth, 10 Adults	\$5,000.00	Child talent showcase event
8	Milton and Nelly Eyma Foundation Inc	200 - 150 Youth, 50 Adults	\$2,500.00	Family sports event
9	NAMI Miami-Dade County Inc	2200 - 500 Youth, 1700 Adults	\$5,000.00	Family mental health event
10	Omega Power And Praise Ministries Inc	200 - 100 Youth, 100 Adults	\$5,000.00	Child talent awards event
11	Our Chance Enterprise Inc	100 - 70 Youth, 30 Adults	\$1,500.00	Family awareness event
12	South Florida Foster And Adoptive Parents Association Inc	180 Youth, 120 Adults	\$2,500.00	Foster family event
13	Team Ball Academy LLC	210 - 200 Youth, 10 Adults	\$5,000.00	Family sports event
14	Throne Consulting Group LLC	35 - 20 Youth, 15 Adults	\$4,800.00	Financial literacy event
15	Tutu Atwell Junior Foundation Inc	915 - 615 Youth, 300 Adults	\$5,000.00	Family sports event
16	Visionaries Of The Future Inc	25 Youth, 25 Adults	\$2,500.00	Family mental health event
17	Visions Of The Heart Inc	50 - 40 Youth, 10 Adults	\$2,000.00	Child entrepreneurs event
18	Voice Of Love Training And Development Inc	250 - 100 Youth, 150 Adults	\$5,000.00	Family awareness event
19	Women In Music Ayo Corp	50 Youth, 40 Adults	\$5,000.00	Family health event
20	Young Musicians Unite Inc	1000 Youth, 800 Adults	\$5,000.00	Child talent showcase event
		Subtotal	\$78,050.00	
		Total	\$907,550.00	
	Program	Total Funded	# Agreements	
	Promote Citizen Engagement and Leadership	829,500	87	
	Public Awareness and Program Promotion	78,050	20	
	TOTAL	907,550	107	