



Program Services Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 2024
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)
United Way – Ryder Room
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

Kennth C. Hoffman
Chair
Pamela Hollingsworth
Vice-Chair
Matthew Arsenault
Treasurer
Marissa Leichter
Secretary

Edward Abraham, M.D.
Laura Adams
Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi
Steven Adkins
Daniel Bagner, Ph.D.
Hon. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ph.D.
Cathy Burgos
Silvia Castellanos
Norie del Valle
Lourdes Diaz
Richard P. Dunn II
Jacqueline Exceus
Gilda Ferradaz
Hon. Norman S. Gerstein (Ret.)
Lourdes P. Gimenez
Nicole Gomez
Valrose Graham
Mindy Grimes-Festge
Hon. Keon Hardemon
Malou C. Harrison, Ph.D.
Maria Norton
Clara Lora Ospina, Psy.D.
Ashna Paudel
Hon. Orlando Prescott
Diana Ragbeer
Javier Reyes
Hon. Alex Rizo
Hon. Isaac Salver

David Lawrence Jr.
Founding Chair

James R. Haj
President & CEO

County Attorney's Office
Legal Counsel

AGENDA

3:30 p.m. **Welcome and opening remarks**

Pamela Hollingsworth, M.Ed.
Committee Chair

3:35 p.m. **Public Comments**

Pamela Hollingsworth, M.Ed.
Committee Chair

3:40 p.m. **Approval of May 2, 2024 Program Services Committee minutes summary**

(Addl. Items packet, Pgs. 3-4)

Pamela Hollingsworth, M.Ed.
Committee Chair

3:45 p.m. **Trust Academy and Community-Based Organizations (CBO) Capacity Building Presentation**

James R. Haj
President & CEO

Carol Brogan
Associate Director of Programs

4:00 p.m. **Resolutions**

Pamela Hollingsworth, M.Ed.
Committee Chair

Resolution 2024-A: Authorization to negotiate and execute contract renewals with eight providers, identified herein, for Trust Academy quality supports and to waive the formal competitive procurement process **[2/3 vote]**, in a total amount not to exceed \$4,249,893.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, with two remaining contract renewals. Further, delegation of authority to adjust paid partners based on the needs of funded programs. *(Pgs. 5-7)*

Resolution 2024-B: Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with 15 small Community-Based Organizations (CBO) for the second year of a two-year capacity building initiative, in a total amount not to exceed \$535,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 8-11)*

Resolution 2024-C: Authorization to negotiate and execute a match contract with Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, for cultural arts programs in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 12-15)*

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-D: Authorization to award a total amount not to exceed \$33,040,000.00 for the delivery of integrated child care quality improvement services described below and to waive the formal competitive procurement process **[2/3 vote]**. The total amount includes \$17,050,000.00 to negotiate and execute through multiple contracts with providers, identified herein, and \$15,990,000.00 for The Children’s Trust to encumber in purchase orders for educator scholarship payments, salary supplement payments to early learning educators, and high-quality tiered payment differentials to providers and for the Children’s Trust to engage in a data sharing agreement with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. In addition, authorization for the President/CEO to move funds between the different QIS system components identified within this resolution, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 16-21)*

Resolution 2024-E: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Florida International University Board of Trustees, selected following a competitive solicitation for reading enhancement services, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025 with four possible contract renewals. *(Pgs. 22-25)*

Resolution 2024-F: Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with 21 providers, identified herein, and selected following a competitive solicitation for innovative services to pilot or test new ideas or methods that have the potential to advance The Children’s Trust’s mission, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,619,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, with the option for a no-cost extension for a period up to six months. *(Pgs. 26-33)*

Resolution 2024-G: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with The District Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College, selected following a competitive solicitation, to deliver The Children’s Trust Books for Free program, 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, with four remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. *(Pgs. 34-36)*

Resolution 2024-H: Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with three providers, identified herein, and selected following a competitive solicitation to implement The Children’s Trust Parent Club through universal parenting workshops and supports across the developmental spectrum, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,700,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, each with four remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. *(Pgs. 37-39)*

Resolution 2024-I: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract renewal with Q-Q Research Consultants, LLC for research and evaluation services, in a total amount not to exceed \$185,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing on October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 40-42)*

4:55 p.m. **CEO Report**

James R. Haj
President & CEO

- *Financial Disclosure – due by July 1, 2024*
- *TRIM I & TRIM II – September 9 & September 16, 2024*
- *The Children’s Trust Family Expo events:*
 - *Florida Memorial University – July 27, 2024 (10am – 2 pm)*
(15400 NW 42 Ave, Miami Gardens, FL 33054)
 - *Miami Dade College (Kendall Campus) – August 3, 2024 (10am - 2 pm)*
(11011 SW 104th St, Miami, FL 33176)
- *Zero Drownings Miami-Dade News Conference – July 9, 2024*

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

Reminder:

Next Committee Meeting: Thursday, August 29, 2024

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.



**Program Services Committee Meeting
Summary of Actions Taken
May 02, 2024
3:31 p.m.**

These actions were taken by the Program Services Committee meeting held on May 02, 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 March 07, 2024, Program Services Committee meeting minutes as revised was made by Dr. Malou C. Harrison and seconded by Lourdes P. Gimenez. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

Resolution 2024-A: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on May 13, 2024, was made by Richard Dunn and seconded by Gilda Ferradaz. 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. **Motion passed, 9-0. Recusal by Pamela Hollingsworth.**

Resolution 2024-B: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on May 13, 2024, was made by Norie Del Valle and seconded by Valrose Graham. 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. **Motion passed, 9-0. Recusal by Dr. Malou C. Harrison.**

Resolution 2024-C: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on May 13, 2024, was made by Norie Del Valle and seconded by Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi 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. **Motion passed unanimously, 10-0.**

Resolution 2024-D: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on May 13, 2024, was made by Gilda Ferradaz and seconded by Richard Dunn 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. **Motion passed unanimously, 10-0.**

Resolution 2024-E: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on May 13, 2024, was made by Dr. Malou C. Harrison and seconded by Richard Dunn 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. **Motion passed, 9-0. Recusal by Pamela Hollingsworth.**

Resolution 2024-F: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on May 13, 2024, was made by Lourdes P. Gimenez and seconded by Valrose Graham 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. **Motion passed unanimously, 10-0.**

Resolution 2024-G: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on May 13, 2024, was made by Norie Del Valle and seconded by Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi 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 **Motion passed unanimously, 10-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: July 15, 2024

Resolution: 2024-A

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Learning & Quality Improvement: Trust Academy Supports for Quality Programming.

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

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute contract renewals with eight providers, identified herein, for Trust Academy quality supports and to waive the formal competitive procurement process **[2/3 vote]**, in a total amount not to exceed \$4,249,893.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, with two remaining contract renewals. Further, delegation of authority to adjust paid partners based on the needs of funded programs.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$4,249,893.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: Trust Academy partners provide supports for quality program implementation and sound fiscal and administrative functions. Partner agencies support The Trust's service providers in their efforts to build strong, sustainable organizations that consistently deliver high-quality services in alignment with best practices and healthy child development. The Children's Trust's mission is accomplished through its contracted service providers. We aim to support service providers to:

- achieve meaningful, measurable results for parents, children and families;
- consistently deliver high-quality services in alignment with best practices; and
- effectively and efficiently satisfy Trust contractual expectations.

Trust Academy offers a coordinated collection of learning and quality improvement supports tailored to strengthen organizational capacity, program quality, and positive staff-participant interactions to provide Trust-funded programs with better opportunities to achieve more sustainable and meaningful results for children, families, and staff.

Trust Academy program quality supports are critical to the success of The Trust's strategic framework. Through developing and delivering online courses, live trainings, peer learning and coaching, Trust Academy partners support the direct service and management staff of funded provider agencies across various Trust-funded initiatives. Trust Academy partners also closely collaborate to coordinate supports. The Trust Academy partners conduct community awareness and outreach and provide planning and policy supports related to the funding area and program initiatives supported by the Trust, including:

- Family Services: Family & Neighborhood Support Partnerships and Parenting Programs
- Youth Development: Elementary, Middle and High-school After-school and Summer Programs
- School-based Oral Health: Nurse Training

- Inclusion Supports for Programs Serving Children and Youth with Disabilities
- Social and Emotional Wellness (SEW) / Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI)
- Organizational Capacity and Leadership Development: Capacity supports for selected Trust-funded organizations (across all initiatives), Small community-based organizations (CBO) capacity building, and Program Management Leadership Academy

All programs are offered in compliance with Individual Freedom Act (HB 7) Chapter 2022-072, Laws of Florida.

The following agencies are recommended for renewal:

Recommended Agency and *Paid Partner	Funding Area	Program Initiative	Amount Not to Exceed
Breakthrough Miami *Nyah Project *Up2Us, Inc.	Youth Development	MS/HS After-school and Summer Programs	\$305,400.00 ¹
CCDH dba Advocacy Network on Disabilities *UM Mailman Center for Child Development	Inclusion	Inclusion Supports for Programs Serving Children and Youth with Disabilities	\$844,500.00 ¹
Nova Southeastern University Project RISE	Youth Development	ES/MS/HS After- school and Summer Programs	\$675,100.00 ¹
Oral Health Florida, Inc. *JMonty, LLC	Health	School-based Oral Health	\$249,893.00 ²
The Pontis Group, LLC *Covian Consulting, Inc. *Dainelys Garcia, Ph.D. *Evans Group *Halpern Consulting, LLC. *Mind Market Consulting *MP Coaching Solutions *Natalie Espinosa, Psy.D. *Open Road Partners *Philanthropic Visions *Tomarchio Instructional Design *Virtual Training Pros	Organizational Capacity and Leadership Development	Organizational Capacity and Leadership Development	\$350,000.00 ¹
Training and Implementation Associates *Lissette Blondette *Dr. Anthony Mannarino *Dr. Maite Mena *Praed Foundation	Family Services	Family & Neighborhood Support Partnerships, Parenting & Family Strengthening	\$350,000.00 ¹
University of Miami	Family Services	Parenting & Family Strengthening	\$375,000.00 ¹
YWCA South Florida *Community Learning Coalition *Equality Florida	Inclusion	Social and Emotional Wellness - Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	\$1,100,000.00 ²

Recommended Agency and *Paid Partner	Funding Area	Program Initiative	Amount Not to Exceed
*Florida Association for Infant Mental Health *Glad-Ed Solutions, LLC *NAMI Miami-Dade County, Inc. *Trinity Church *University of Miami *We Think Beyond			
Reason for Waiver: Resolution No. 2023-52 authorized paid partner Aqua Foundation. Following contract negotiations, YWCA made the business decision to replace Aqua Foundation with Equality Florida who will be providing the same service that was awarded in the original RFP.			

¹This item is funded from the learning and quality improvement budget line.

²This item is funded from the health and wellness budget line.

Background: On June 13, 2022, the board of The Children’s Trust approved the funding recommendations from the competitive Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) 2022-02 to fund Trust Academy quality support partners for a five-year cycle with one-year contract renewals, following a comprehensive review process.

Overall performance has met expectations. The following chart displays the number of events and participants across all Trust Academy offerings during fiscal year 2022-23:

Supports	Events	Total Attending (duplicated)	Participants* (unduplicated)	Programs* Represented
Courses	289	7,775	1,710	247
Trainings	251	4,727	1,166	284
Coaching	1,015	1,545	340	117
Peer Learning	102	1,867	411	158
Annual Total	1,657	15,914	2,406	365

*Some staff and programs are represented in more than one support type, so these numbers cannot be added across supports.

In the current contract year, since October 1, 2023, over 33 new courses and trainings have been created and provided. An additional 10 trainings and courses are in development.

Request for Procurement Waiver (requires approval of a 2/3 vote of board members present): This resolution requests a waiver of the procurement process for the contracted agencies to negotiate and execute agreements with paid partners to meet the training needs of providers.

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 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 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 **15th day of July, 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: July 15, 2024

Resolution: 2024-B

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Learning & Quality Improvement: Small CBO Capacity Building.

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

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with 15 small Community-Based Organizations (CBO) for the second year of a two-year capacity building initiative, in a total amount not to exceed \$535,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$535,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: Sound organizational support and staff competencies are best for implementing and maintaining high-quality programs. Throughout Miami-Dade County, small organizations provide services that respond to the community's needs, and organizational development supports can increase their impact.

Learning and quality improvement supports, and small CBO capacity building more specifically, are important to the success of The Trust's strategic framework. Each small CBO participating in this two-year initiative receives a funding award for individualized programmatic and fiscal capacity-building. The 15 small CBOs listed below will engage in several capacity-building activities supporting the successful implementation of each CBO's capacity building plan. Funding awards support capacity building needs and do not fund direct service functions. Activities include, but are not limited to, time allocated for:

- organizational assessment, training, on-site coaching, and networking opportunities.
- infrastructure, staff, and board development.
- additional training.
- administrative functioning.
- marketing and resource fund-development materials and activities.

The Children's Trust's staff, with coordination support by The Pontis Group (the Trust Academy contracted partner for Organizational Capacity and Leadership Development), ensure that the program is executed in alignment with its goals of supporting small CBOs to:

- deliver high-quality, evidence-based services with fidelity.
- practice strong administrative and fiscal management.
- engage in continuous learning and quality improvement.
- foster financial sustainability, including seeking revenue from diverse sources.
- advance parent and community engagement, along with resident advocacy.

During year one of the initiative, CBOs completed self-assessments to identify individualized areas in which to build acumen. Coaching was offered and facilitated for the leaders of participating CBOs for the completion of the assessment and in the development of capacity

building plans that continue from the first year of funding into the second year of funding, if approved. CBOs focus capacity building in the following areas:

- Board development and executive leadership.
- Strategic planning.
- Resource development and fundraising.
- Effective management of people.
- Program quality, including design, implementation, and monitoring/evaluation for continuous learning.
- Community engagement, community cultural sensitivity, and collaboration.
- Communications.
- Fiscal capacity building services.

Leadership development and the development of adaptive capacities are infused within all the activities.

The following applicants participated in the first year of the initiative and are recommended to continue in year two:

Agency	Annual Amount not to Exceed
300 Letters, Inc.	\$25,000.00
Association of Exchange and Development of Activities and Partnership (AEDAP)	\$25,000.00
Avenues of Excellence, Inc.	\$40,000.00
EatWell Exchange, Inc.	\$40,000.00
Father and Family Council, Inc.	\$25,000.00
Friends of South Florida Music, Inc.	\$40,000.00
Out of Foster Foundation, Inc. (formerly MagicWaste Youth Foundation, Inc.)	\$40,000.00
Miami Youth Garden, Inc.	\$25,000.00
Moonlighter FabLab, Inc.	\$40,000.00
Safe Schools South Florida	\$25,000.00
The Children's Voice Chorus, Inc.	\$60,000.00
The Lucy Project, Inc.	\$60,000.00
The Mavuno Project, Inc.	\$25,000.00
The START Program, Inc.	\$40,000.00
Women Voice Network, Inc.	\$25,000.00
Total:	\$535,000.00

Background: Starting in 2015, the board addressed the need to provide capacity building for small CBOs. The Children’s Trust completed the inaugural Small CBO Capacity Building cohort in July 2018. Another cohort was selected and implemented from April 2019 through March 2021. This is the third cohort which began in October 2023.

For the purposes of this initiative, eligible small CBOs are defined as:

- having a current annual operating budget between \$50,000 minimum (including the value of in-kind goods and services) and \$500,000 maximum (excluding the value of in-kind goods and services);
- providing services to children and families that address identified community needs, especially those supporting agencies that serve children and families living in neighborhoods impacted by high poverty rates, as well as those serving special populations like children with disabilities, experiencing homelessness, involved in dependency or juvenile justice systems, or LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning) youth;

- being a non-for-profit organization with continuous operations for at least two years;
- not previously completing the two-year Small CBO Capacity Building initiative, and not having current Trust board-approved contracts, with the following exceptions, which are considered eligible:
 - Agencies currently or previously subcontracted within a Trust contract;
 - Agencies currently or previously funded for only an Innovation Fund Trust contract;
 - Agencies currently or previously funded through Trust community engagement and outreach funding; and
 - Agencies with previous (but no current) Trust board-approved contracts.

The funding award amount varies according to the agency’s annual operating budget at the time of solicitation application (excluding the value of in-kind goods and services), as indicated below:

<u>Award (per year)</u>	<u>Agency annual budget</u> (excluding value of in-kind goods and services)
\$25,000.00	Less than \$100,000.00
\$40,000.00	\$100,000 to \$300,000.00
\$60,000.00	\$301,000 to \$500,000.00

The Children’s Trust issued a competitive request for proposal, RFP 2023-11, on April 3, 2023, to fund capacity building supports for child and family-serving small CBOs in Miami-Dade County. Sixteen applicants for capacity-building of small CBOs were recommended for funding because of the RFP review process, for a total annual amount of \$595,000.00. One organization, Parks Foundation, Inc., did not accept the award in year one due to the resignation of its Executive Director. The fifteen organizations that participated in the initiative's first year are recommended for renewal, in a total annual amount of \$535,000.00.

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 **15th day of July, 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: July 15, 2024

Resolution: 2024-C

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Youth Development: Cultural Arts Programming.

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

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute a match contract with Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, for cultural arts programs in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: This resolution authorizes match funding for the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs (County) to support non-profit organizations that provide cultural arts programs for children and families across Miami-Dade County. The County issues competitive grant opportunities throughout the year and provides at least 100 percent leveraged funding for these youth arts education programs. Grant applications are reviewed and rated by experienced community members with expertise in the arts and staff members from The Children’s Trust. Funding for programs awarded through this grant process is limited to youth development programs that The Children’s Trust has not already funded.

The County works with The Children’s Trust to develop appropriate tracking and outcome measures for funded programs to ensure program and participant progress and quality improvement. The three program areas of cultural arts education and enrichment that are funded include:

1. YOUTH ARTS ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (YEP)

YEP enriches the lives of children by making the arts available to more children and families throughout Miami-Dade County through:

- arts instruction;
- arts intervention;
- in-school and public performances;
- healing and expressive arts; and
- public exhibitions.

2. ALL KIDS INCLUDED (AKI): ACCESSIBLE ARTS EXPERIENCES FOR KIDS

AKI's mission is to increase the number of quality arts experiences accessible to children with disabilities and their families and to promote the benefits and importance of inclusionary arts and cultural programs in school settings and the community. This program makes resources available to non-profit organizations, including funding, ideas, information, technical assistance, and programs. Funding creates ADA-accessible arts experiences for children and youth with disabilities, which affords all children the opportunity to participate fully in the arts. Project-based funding is provided in two categories: demonstration projects to create high-profile, innovative, fully accessible arts experiences; and programs using the arts as learning tools to help teach program staff how to include children with disabilities in the classroom and community.

3. SUMMER ARTS & SCIENCE CAMPS FOR KIDS (SAS-C)

The objective of SAS-C is to provide grant funding to non-profit organizations that offer children across Miami-Dade County high-quality cultural arts and/or science summer camps at little or no cost. SAS-C funding is intended to augment existing programs, providing more children with the opportunity to participate in cultural arts and science summer camps. Priority is given to projects that engage children whose ability to participate in such programs may be otherwise limited by geography, economics, or disability.

Background: The Children's Trust understands the importance of exposing children to visual arts, music, storytelling, and dramatic play. Since 2006, it has successfully partnered with the County to provide these experiences.

Research has demonstrated that involvement in the arts can enhance children's experiences in almost every social and academic standard of achievement. Furthermore, children who study art are generally happier, more self-confident, and more likely to academically outperform those who do not.

Match Funding and Funder Collaboration: Per the procurement policy, section 2006, Match Funding and Funder Collaboration, the negotiation and execution of a match contract is 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 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). The County has consistently surpassed the minimum 100 percent funding match. Given the program's success, this resolution seeks to renew the match funding to expand arts programming across Miami-Dade County for another year. Attached is a summary of the progress for this match contract.

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 **15th day of July, 2024**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____

MIAMI DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS



Program Summary

The Children's Trust in a partnership with Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs for Youth Arts Grant Programs, funds non-profit organizations, which provide cultural arts programs for children and families of all abilities in Miami-Dade County. The objective of the program is to enrich the lives of children through the arts by making the arts available to more children and families throughout Miami-Dade County. Children will have opportunities to have positive live arts experiences through; summer arts and science camps, arts instruction, arts intervention, healing/expressive arts, in-school arts residencies & performances, out-of-School/public arts exhibitions & performances, and accessible & inclusive arts programs for children and youth with disabilities. These opportunities can be one-time or more intensive, with multiple sessions offered.



Key Numbers

22-23



76 Programs Funded

36,493



Children and Youth Served



4,869 Children with disabilities served.

60% of AKI Intensive based participants served were children with disabilities.



5.6 million Leveraged Match

Outcomes

97% Improved proficiency of arts skills, Youth Enrichment Program (YEP)

94% Increased positive peer relationships, Summer Arts & Science Camps (SAS-C)

The Children’s Trust Board Meeting

Date: July 15, 2024

Resolution: 2024-D

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Thrive by 5 Early Childhood Development: Child Care Quality Improvement System (QIS)

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; and good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes and communities.

Recommended Action: Authorization to award a total amount not to exceed \$33,040,000.00 for the delivery of integrated child care quality improvement services described below and to waive the formal competitive procurement process **[2/3 vote]**. The total amount includes \$17,050,000.00 to negotiate and execute through multiple contracts with providers, identified herein, and \$15,990,000.00 for The Children’s Trust to encumber in purchase orders for educator scholarship payments, salary supplement payments to early learning educators, and high-quality tiered payment differentials to providers and for the Children’s Trust to engage in a data sharing agreement with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. In addition, authorization for the President/CEO to move funds between the different QIS system components identified within this resolution, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$33,040,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: The Thrive by 5 integrated child care quality improvement system (QIS) strives to increase access to high-quality early learning for young children in low-income neighborhoods. The QIS builds on prior Trust efforts, evaluation, board policy guidance, and the state's early learning quality improvement work. Using an equity lens, the QIS intervenes across systems to promote healthy development for children by helping to build two-generational economic stability for families. The QIS offers a comprehensive array of supports for children and families, teachers, and child care programs, within an integrated system that takes a tailored and equitable approach to improve and maintain child care quality and ensure access to high-quality programs. The system has been intentionally designed, and each component is essential for the overall integrated approach to child care quality improvement. This interwoven and comprehensive array of supports amounts to more than the sum of the individual parts and functions as an interconnected system.

Licensed child care programs that meet the following criteria qualify to participate in the Thrive by 5 QIS.

- 1) 30+ percent of children under age 6 served receive Florida school readiness subsidies.
- 2) Located in a designated high-poverty Census area.
- 3) Provides services for infants and toddlers.

In 2018, with the rollout of the Thrive by 5 QIS, the components described below were newly designed, implemented, and integrated into a seamless system of supports aimed at assisting early learning providers to achieve and maintain high-quality care for children at greatest need.

Funded Program/Partners/System Component Descriptions
<p>A\$CEND Salary supports for the early learning workforce [\$2,990,000.00]</p> <p>In October 2022, The Children’s Trust launched A\$CEND, the revamped salary supplement program. The program focuses on a more equitable design than the previous salary incentives model. Salary supplement programs help early learning programs in Miami-Dade County attract and retain more qualified practitioners. Higher practitioner wages are linked to teacher retention and staff stability, markers of high-quality child care. Children benefit from stable and trusting relationships with caregivers they know. Teacher and program director competency and stability are directly related to children’s optimal development and learning gains. Preschools with highly qualified and well-paid teachers are better equipped to narrow the achievement gap. Due to a child care workforce shortage and low pay that has led to a child care crisis, this program supports teacher retention while incentivizing ongoing professional development.</p> <p>During the 2022-23 contract year, 932 educators received salary supplement awards and the median award amount was \$1,750.00. Turnover among recipients was only five percent, compared with national average turnover rates for child care staff of 30 percent.</p> <p>With the purchase order encumbered through this resolution, qualifying educators are paid directly by The Children’s Trust. There is no contracted provider.</p>
<p>Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe: Child care scholarships, high-quality tiered payment differentials, and educator scholarships</p> <p>Child care scholarships [\$11,250,000.00]: The Early Learning Coalition manages the child care scholarship enrollment and provider payments to address early learning capacity issues in our community. Miami’s significant oversaturation of the child care market, coupled with low payment rates for children receiving school readiness subsidies, pose significant challenges for providers to meet and maintain high-quality standards. The Thrive by 5 QIS offers guaranteed payment for slots in high-quality programs to serve children not otherwise served by the school readiness program. The Children’s Trust Families Forward child care scholarships help children who become ineligible for a school readiness subsidy during the school year, and eligible families have incomes from 150 to 300 percent of the federal poverty level.</p> <p>Currently, there are more than 1,390 children utilizing a Children’s Trust Families Forward child care scholarship. There are more than 1,400 additional children on the waitlist.</p> <p>High-quality tiered payment differentials [\$12,000,000.00]: Per chapter 1002.82(n), Florida Statutes, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe</p>

Funded Program/Partners/System Component Descriptions

categorizes programs into quality tiers, from one to five (lowest to highest quality), based on Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS) assessments measuring teacher-child interactions. More than 200 studies demonstrate that children in classrooms with more effective teacher-student interactions, as measured by CLASS, have better social and academic outcomes, such as math, literacy, cognition, and classroom engagement. The Children's Trust investment leverages state dollars that fund the collection of CLASS assessments through this coordinated approach.

With the purchase order encumbered through this resolution, programs at quality tiers two and above receive payment differentials for all children ages birth to 5 years attending their program (not only those receiving school readiness subsidies). Early learning providers receive a payment differential according to their quality tier. The tiered payment differential is additional funding on top of the base school readiness subsidy rate.

For the 2023-24 contract year there are 333 early learning programs participating in Thrive by 5, and 220 of these are in tiers 4 or 5.

Educator Scholarships [\$1,000,000.00]: Educator scholarships will continue to be available to the more than 1,300 licensed child care programs in Miami-Dade County. These scholarships were previously managed by The Children's Forum. The Early Learning Coalition, in managing a newly developed Learning Management System and Professional Development Registry, will offer career advising services, scholarships for early learning educators and administrators, and ensures training and education received by practitioners are tracked. The Children's Trust seeks approval through this resolution to enter into a data sharing agreement with the Early Learning Coalition for the purpose of tracking educator professional development and award scholarships. Such information shall be used by The Children's Trust to determine strategic investments.

During the 2022-23 contract year with the Children's Forum, 908 educators applied for and received 1,586 professional development scholarships.

Funded Program/Partners/System Component Descriptions

United Way Miami: Formative child assessment [\$ 1,100,000.00]

The implementation of the Teaching Strategies GOLD® formative child assessment is supported by professional development and coaching for teachers and directors as they better individualize instruction for children based on the child’s developmental level. Teachers conduct ongoing child assessments and analyze data to evaluate child knowledge, skills, and behaviors. These assessments also provide a means by which to track the development of children and assess the impact of the education they receive. To achieve successful implementation, it is critical that all center staff, including directors, participate in trainings and professional development opportunities.

United Way Miami provides the following services as part of the GOLD® implementation plan:

1. conducts phased rollout for early learning programs to include program readiness, a technological needs assessment, and cohort development;
2. creates professional development plans for GOLD® assessment coaches;
3. provides training for early learning educators;
4. offers ongoing on-site coaching and technical assistance;
5. manages data systems; and
6. develops data dissemination process and feedback loops.

During the 2022-23 contract year, the United Way Miami served a total of 73 early learning programs, inclusive of 576 educators and administrators working in 340 classrooms.

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine: Mental health consultation [\$3,000,000.00]

The University of Miami’s Jump Start, Building Capacity through Partnership, is designed to support social and emotional development of children and to increase the capacity of early care providers to support the mental health needs and challenging behaviors that place children at risk for negative outcomes. Consultants help adults understand, assess, and address the needs of specific children exhibiting concerning behaviors by developing individualized plans with teachers and parents. They provide program-focused, classroom-focused, and child-focused consultations. Directors are supported by consultants to make changes in child care practices and policies. Teachers are supported by identifying the attitudes, beliefs, practices, and conditions that can undermine quality relationships between teachers and children.

The Children’s Trust adopted the nationally recognized Georgetown model of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation for providing support in school-based settings. The model was developed and evaluated by the Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development with researchers and clinical experts across the country. It is an effective model to promote social-emotional development, address young children’s challenging behaviors, and reduce preschool expulsions.

During the 2022-23 contract year, the Jump Start program served 116 programs, with an average of 22 consultation hours per classroom, and 440 sessions held with children and families.

Agency	Service Contract Amounts Not to Exceed	Purchase Order Amounts to be encumbered for direct payments by The Trust
Children’s Trust Purchase Orders	N/A	\$1,000,000.00 for educator scholarships \$2,990,000.00 for A\$CEND salary supplement payments
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe	\$12,950,000.00 (for managing the child scholarship program, conducting CLASS assessments for A\$CEND, and for \$11,250,000.00 in direct child scholarship payments to child care programs)	\$12,000,000.00 for high-quality tiered payment differentials
United Way Miami	\$1,100,000.00	N/A
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine	\$3,000,000.00	N/A

Background: This initiative is grounded in the five guiding principles of a collective impact approach focused on developing a shared agenda, shared measurement systems, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and backbone support. The initiative uses a two-generation approach to promote healthy development to provide economic stability for families. System partners support ongoing quality improvement focusing on workforce development and sustainable businesses. Together, partners aim to build the capacity of locally responsive, high-quality early learning programs that meet the needs of children and families.

Thrive by 5 QIS continues to receive national recognition as an innovative and equity-focused approach to improve the quality and availability of high-quality early learning programs for young children who need it most. The model and its components have been featured in several national publications, and The Trust’s work was elevated to the national stage. Staff was invited to present the A\$CEND program at the National BUILD conference in Los Angeles last November and will present on the Jump Start program this summer at a national conference in Washington DC.

Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of board members present): Because of the unique nature of the Thrive by 5 QIS and the carefully constructed and integrated system components, a formal competitive process is impractical and would take away from the progress made to date. A waiver is in The Children’s Trust’s best interest to improve quality early learning to benefit children in need. Each Thrive by 5 QIS component is an integral and interwoven part of the system. Since the 2018 launch, together with system partners and community stakeholders, each component has been intentionality refined to ensure the elements are connected, accessible, and equitable. The QIS has worked to create resilience in the Miami-Dade child care market. It would be disruptive to the system to break apart or redesign certain components of the whole.

The exception to the Procurement Waiver described above is for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe (ELC). ELC is the entity responsible for determining eligibility and administering all state and federal childcare payments to early learning providers. 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: Designated high-poverty Census areas across the county.

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 **15th day of July 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: July 15, 2024

Resolution: 2024-E

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Youth Development: Reading enhancements.

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: Academic success; nurturing and involved parents.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Florida International University Board of Trustees, selected following a competitive solicitation for reading enhancement services, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025 with four possible contract renewals.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: Since its inception, The Children’s Trust has invested in many strategies to support early literacy development and reading skills. A key strategy of The Trust’s reading efforts is to provide engaging reading education and supports in all Trust funded Youth Development (YD) after-school and summer programs. This is offered directly by funded YD providers and through a Summer Reading Explorers program (funded as a reading enhancement) offering differentiated literacy instruction (DLI) for rising kindergarten, first and second graders.

Reading enhancement services funding provided through this resolution is intended to increase the number of children in grades K-5 who read at or above grade level. It does so in the following ways:

- Increasing awareness of early literacy needs and science-based reading instruction through professional development for YD program staff and teachers, which may include online courses, live training, and on-site staff coaching/consultation.
- Increasing parent engagement in early literacy support and development, understanding reading skills measurement and intervention. This engagement will focus on parents and caregivers of K-5 students and may be offered through online courses, live workshops, and individual communications. Outreach is expected to be primarily through Trust-funded YD after-school and summer programs and may also leverage The Children’s Trust Parent Club.
- Offering dyslexia screening and intervention services year-round in Trust-funded YD summer camps and after-school programs for rising K through fifth grade children.
- Reducing summer learning loss through DLI offered within Trust-funded YD summer camps and Trust-affiliated early childhood education programs for rising K, first and second graders.

The competitive solicitation included four required reading enhancement services to be funded, as summarized below:

1. Year-round professional development

- Direct professional development supports will include online courses, in-person and virtual live trainings, onsite reading staff coaching and consultation, peer learning supports, and content-related online resources. The focus will be on YD staff delivering high-quality reading supports to after-school and summer program participants.
 - Community awareness and outreach to YD providers, Trust staff, families and the community.
 - Planning and policy support involves ongoing data and policy analyses, content area expertise and guidance.
 - Trust Academy Collective partners will meet to ensure collaboration and connection among the partners offering resources to Trust funded providers.
 - Use of the Trust Academy Learning Management System to track participation in professional development.
2. **Year-round parent engagement** for parents of YD after-school and summer program participants will include topics related to early literacy development, reading skills measurement and interventions, dyslexia, and effective in-home support activities for struggling readers.
3. **Year-round dyslexia screening and intervention** to identify and intervene earlier with children in YD after-school and summer programs who are experiencing signs of dyslexia and reduce the likelihood of persistent reading challenges.
4. **Summer Differentiated Literacy Instruction (DLI) screening and intervention** will support rising K, first and second graders in Trust-funded YD summer camps and Thrive by 5 early childhood education programs to reduce summer learning loss using evidence-based, small group DLI (no more than five children per group).

The paid partners will be offering various components of the activities listed above in a total amount from this award not to exceed \$488,901.00.

Background: As part of The Children’s Trust efforts to reduce summer learning loss, reading enhancement services have been funded by The Children’s Trust since 2013. During the second funding cycle, 2016-2018, the program was expanded to be year-round to include after-school staff coaching and consultation during the school year. This latest solicitation incorporated an additional component, year-round dyslexia screening and intervention, an essential need in Miami-Dade identified by the Miami-Dade County Grade-Level Reading Campaign, which The Children’s Trust hosts.

Elementary students show significant needs which warrant the Trust’s support of early literacy and reading services, especially among children growing up in economically challenged, fragile and otherwise marginalized families. In 2022, the portions of Miami-Dade County fourth graders scoring proficient or above on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) overall was 39 percent, with indications of significant disparities, as 21 percent of Black, 40 percent of Hispanic, and 64 percent of White students reached this achievement.

Resolution 2024-16, approved on November 13, 2023, directed staff to release an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) 2024-11 to fund Reading Enhancement Services within The Trust’s Youth Development (YD) after-school and summer programs. The solicitation was issued as an ITN

to allow the flexibility to negotiate with one or more responsive vendors with demonstrated expertise in reading education and intervention, especially when the desired services may not be of best value when provided by only one vendor, but rather by combining the strengths of multiple vendors into a coordinated effort.

The ITN was released on February 8, 2024. Two applications were submitted by the ITN deadline. Both were reviewed, and one application is recommended for funding.

Reading Enhancements Services Lead Organization *Paid partners	Amount Not to Exceed
Florida International University Board of Trustees *Nova Southeastern University, Inc. *The Lucy Project, Inc.	\$1,500,000.00

*These are the proposed paid partners that were included in the application. After contract negotiations, some of the paid partners identified herein may not be included in the contract due to reasons including, but not limited to, reduced award amounts.

The successful applicant is recommended for funding based on a comprehensive review process, which included:

- Fiscal health review: The Children’s Trust’s finance department reviewed and scored the agency audit.
- Program proposal: Each application was independently reviewed and scored by a team of reviewers that included Children’s Trust staff, experts in the field and trained community volunteers.
- Review team debriefing: Following each reviewer’s individual rating, the review team met in a publicly noticed debriefing meeting to discuss each proposal and assigned a consensus team score, including explanatory comments.
- Staff recommendations: Taking into consideration the above review process results, consideration is also given to factors such as alignment with The Children’s Trust’s priority investment areas, effective and economical distribution of funding across Miami-Dade County and/or in underserved geographic areas/populations in Miami-Dade County (if applicable), minimizing duplication of efforts, and reasonable program cost for the services and outcomes proposed.

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 **15th day of July 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: July 15, 2024

Resolution: 2024-F

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Learning and Quality Improvement: Innovation Fund

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

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with 21 providers, identified herein, and selected following a competitive solicitation for innovative services to pilot or test new ideas or methods that have the potential to advance The Children’s Trust’s mission, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,619,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, with the option for a no-cost extension for a period up to six months.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$1,619,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available for FY 2024-2025.

Description of Services: The Innovation Fund allows The Children’s Trust to invest in innovative projects to test new ideas that address existing community needs through unique approaches that have not been tried before in our community. Funded agencies may plan, pilot or implement innovative concepts or practices to benefit families with children in Miami-Dade County. The following service providers and projects are recommended for funding:

Organization & *Paid Partners (if applicable)	Project Description	Amount Not to Exceed
Adrienne Arsht Center, Inc.	The Arsht Center will develop a new program for high school students that will leverage the Arsht Center’s brand and caliber to create a Regional Awards Program (RAP) to educate, empower and celebrate high school musical theater students in Miami-Dade County. The RAP’s working title is “Arsht Center High School Musical Theater Awards.” This program will also enable students and teachers to participate in a national network of musical theater award programs and have a presence at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards, also known as the Jimmy Awards.	\$85,000.00

Organization & *Paid Partners (if applicable)	Project Description	Amount Not to Exceed
Branches, Inc.	<p>In partnership with local communities, Branches will lead Miami-Dade County into the emerging national discussion around Guaranteed Income by piloting a direct cash transfer program. Branches has learned from experience that parents and caregivers are resilient and thrive when they have access to social networks, personalized coaching supports, and a financial cushion to weather unforeseen emergencies. The Branches Family Fund will thus provide direct cash infusions to 50 families over the span of 12 months for parents and caregivers receiving free, one-on-one personal financial coaching sessions at Branches and whose children engage in their Trust-funded K-12 afterschool program. The families will be selected based on need and participation in the Trust-funded afterschool program. The goal of the pilot program is to increase each family's savings and decrease debt making them more economically self-sufficient.</p>	\$90,000.00
City of Miami Gardens *Florida Impact, Inc. *The Children's Village dba. The Resource Room	<p>The Healthy Corner Store Project will implement a set of newly approved local policies to reduce the prevalence of underage drinking and alcohol-related nuisances, offenses, and arrests while increasing equitable access to fresh fruits and vegetables in neighborhoods that have low access to fresh produce. The project provides an array of activities including policy implementation, training, technical assistance, capacity building, and infrastructure changes to reduce consequences associated with the sale and consumption of high-risk alcohol products and increase community access to convenient, fresh, and affordable fruits and vegetables.</p> <p>The paid partners will serve as consultants to the staff implementing this project and will provide support by ensuring that all policies are being implemented as intended.</p>	\$85,000.00
Create Kids, Inc. * Take Pause *Variety Children's Hospital dba Nicklaus Children's Hospital	<p>The goal of this project is to offer stress reduction techniques to children undergoing negative medical experiences. Take-Pause is an innovative stress reduction tool using Virtual Reality (VR) and mindfulness with proven independent clinical evidence showing impact within minutes. The project will identify the most effective locations for using Take-Pause within medical facilities, assess its impact on workflow and patient experience, and develop a plan to effectively provide this solution for medical providers in Miami-Dade County.</p> <p>The paid partners will support this project with data collection and analysis, training and support for the staff implementing the proposed activities.</p>	\$85,000.00

Organization & *Paid Partners (if applicable)	Project Description	Amount Not to Exceed
Friends of the Children-National, Inc.	Friends of the Children is an innovative and revolutionary approach to early intervention services focused on addressing and preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and other factors that put children at greatest risk for child welfare system involvement and other negative long-term outcomes. Through highly individualized service-delivery and long-term, relationship-based support, Friends-Miami will be launched to pioneer a holistic strategy that constructs a network of support around vulnerable families to support youth to awaken their inherent resilience, while ensuring their caregivers have access to the tools, economic resources, and social bonds necessary to support their child(ren)'s ability to thrive. Funding will support Friends of the Children to complete a feasibility study to bring the innovative, early intervention and prevention model to empower Miami-Dade children and families facing the greatest challenges through the launch of Friends of the Children – Miami (Friends-Miami).	\$54,000.00
Friendship Circle of Miami Beach and North Dade, Inc. *Artsedbuddy, LLC.	Friendship Circle Community Orchestra (FCCO) will be the first disability-centric, integrative youth orchestra program in Miami-Dade County. This innovative program breaks down barriers to artistic engagement and education for youth with disabilities while fostering inclusion, understanding, and friendship amongst disabled and non-disabled peers. With a curriculum developed by renowned musician and music educator, Aaron Margolis, the FCCO prioritizes accessibility and adaptability, supporting the unique needs of diverse participants through physical accommodations, alternative communication methods, and sensory support. The paid partner will develop a custom curriculum for the community orchestra and will facilitate rehearsals and performances.	\$50,000.00
Hosanna Community Foundation, Inc. *Academy of Excellence	Hosanna Community Foundation (HCF) will launch Fueling Young People with Purpose (FYPwP), a revolutionary life-skills, job-skills and trade-skills mentoring program that will serve 20 male adolescents ages 13-18 who are enrolled in the Academy of Excellence, located in the heart of Liberty City, the community served by HCF since 1995. FYPwP was founded in Savannah, GA in 2012 by Xcel Strategies for the purpose of developing a network of wise, seasoned, and trained mentors to nurture young people ages 15-25 whose lives have been marred by the lack of the presence of a prosocial adult. Today, the program operates in high-need communities throughout Georgia and launched in Palm Beach County in 2023. The paid partner will support the mentors and mentees in implementing the proposed model.	\$85,000.00

Organization & *Paid Partners (if applicable)	Project Description	Amount Not to Exceed
<p>Miami Lighthouse for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Inc. *United States Association of Blind Athletes</p>	<p>Miami Lighthouse will design and pilot a Comprehensive Blind Soccer Initiative. Blind soccer is governed by the International Football Sports Federation and teams play with modified rules (e.g., the field of play is smaller than a soccer field/pitch, is surrounded by boards, and the ball is equipped with a noise-making device - vital for the blind and visually impaired). Currently, learning and playing soccer are not possible for blind and visually impaired children and teens. In collaboration with the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA), the pilot project represents the first time that a comprehensive approach to teaching and learning blind soccer will be developed for children starting at 1-year-old.</p> <p>The paid partner will provide the on-site coaching certification for the blind soccer coaches.</p>	<p>\$90,000.00</p>
<p>NABU Global Inc.</p>	<p>This project aims to enhance the accessibility and literacy outcomes of NABU's culturally relevant storybooks by integrating audio narration and a playback feature in both Haitian Creole and English, catering to the unique needs of the Haitian Diaspora community in Miami-Dade County. The approach involves: (1) Upskilling local creatives to produce authentic mother-tongue children's books through the Creative Fellowship Program; (2) publishing content for free on the low bandwidth NABU app on iOS or Android, NABU Web, and in print where needed; (3) empowering and supporting caregivers to read with their children through the Bridge To Literacy (BTL) program, led by community-based partners. This project is for an innovative idea, to enhance multisensory literacy learning through audio narration.</p>	<p>\$85,000.00</p>
<p>Skate Bud Program, Inc. *Skate Free</p>	<p>Skate Bud has been at the forefront of a national movement to leverage the unique capacity of skateparks and skateboarding in support of community initiatives for personal health, recreation, youth development, crime prevention, career mentorship, and equitable public spaces. This project employs a six-level process that engages participants across community initiatives, athletic instruction, educational curriculums, creative play, systems of challenge & reward, job preparedness training and social acumen enhancement, and finally, job placement and career mentorship. The program gamifies progress awarding points to participants at each step, and the program creates clear parameters for participants' progress based on accumulated points. Participants gain access to free prizes, and further levels of programming through the accumulation of points, and our technology tools allow us to create finely tuned reports to track progress and show proof of impact through a variety of quantified measurements.</p> <p>The paid partner will be providing skateboard lessons to youth and an integral part of this project.</p>	<p>\$82,000.00</p>

Organization & *Paid Partners (if applicable)	Project Description	Amount Not to Exceed
<p>The Everglades Foundation, Inc. * Florida Atlantic University Center for Environmental Studies</p>	<p>To address a void in scientific training and materials to teach about climate change, The Everglades Foundation (EF) will pilot the world’s first place-based Everglades Climate Curriculum in Miami-Dade County schools with an emphasis on professional development and collaboration among secondary school teachers. With its focus on real-life science and an ecosystem integral to South Florida life, EF’s Everglades Climate Curriculum for 6-12th grades has been developed in partnership with Florida Atlantic University’s Center for Environmental Studies and a test group of Florida 8th-graders.</p> <p>The paid partner will support this project by providing science expertise in the development of the curriculum.</p>	<p>\$60,000.00</p>
<p>The Lucy Project, Inc. *Choice Filled Lives Network *Florida International University, Center for Children and Families</p>	<p>The Lucy Project will engage in a feasibility study to determine the most effective and sustainable model for a new learning academy. Central to this project is the pioneering vision of an academy that goes beyond traditional educational frameworks. Distinctively, the methodology is two-fold, championing academic achievement while equally prioritizing students' physical and emotional wellness. This comprehensive approach fosters a nurturing space where every student can thrive regardless of their unique learning challenges. The education approach is anchored in the science of reading and learning, proven methodologies such as structured literacy, and weaving together academic instruction with holistic wellness interventions, including physical fitness programs, nutritional guidance, mental health support, and mindfulness exercises. This integration guarantees a holistic development path for students.</p> <p>The paid partners will provide expertise and support to conduct the community needs assessment and feasibility study.</p>	<p>\$85,000.00</p>
<p>The Rising Start Foundation, Inc.</p>	<p>The Rising Start Foundation (TRS) will create “The Rising Start Incubator For Neurodiverse Innovation & Entrepreneurship” (TRSI) designed to provide a unique, alternative model for early introduction to life and workforce skills preparation for middle and high school students and young adults (up to age 22) on the Autism Spectrum (“AS”) and related disabilities. TRSI will model itself on highly successful innovation, entrepreneurship and ecosystem development programs carefully adapted for the target AS population.</p>	<p>\$45,000.00</p>
<p>The Sundari Foundation, Inc.</p>	<p>This implementation grant allows Sundari Foundation to continue monthly collaborative provider meetings in preparation for opening and operating The Children’s Village, an innovative, holistic, model children’s neighborhood resource center offering deep educational and therapeutic supports, enriched programming, social services and a wide range of community resources to heal, empower and uplift the children, youth and families, both sheltered and in the Overtown community. Through this project they will develop protocols for collaboration and information sharing, develop detailed operating policies and procedures, safety protocols, disaster and emergency preparedness and many others.</p>	<p>\$75,000.00</p>

Organization & *Paid Partners (if applicable)	Project Description	Amount Not to Exceed
The Young Women’s Christian Association of Greater Miami and Dade County, Inc.	HER Miami is focused around three primary pillars - Opportunity, Community and Support. It will span socioeconomic and demographic categories, creating a continuum that bridges all areas of women and girls’ lives. This platform will be proactive, bringing solutions to a woman’s fingertips from across the ecosystem of Miami-Dade County. When fully implemented, HER Miami will aim to tackle the disconnect between economic opportunities and women heads of households.	\$90,000.00
Trinity Church, Inc. *Avatar Buddy *COOL Church, Inc. *Dumond Conservancy *Environmental Awareness Academy, Inc. *Mountain to Sea Education, LLC * Phillip AND Patricia Frost Museum OF Science, Inc.	The Trinity Church/Peacemakers (TC/PFC) GEN2050 program’s pilot project is to establish a "Miami-Dade County Youth Biodiversity Network" (MYBN), a youth-led biodiversity network that collaborates with local nonprofit agencies, environmental organizations, educational institutions, and community groups. The MYBN will recruit, train, and empower youth to become community biodiversity researchers and advocates. These young people will initiate this proposed county-wide biodiversity network to promote conservation, habitat restoration, species protection, and environmental education. The paid partners will provide scientific expertise and lectures, training for the youth and host meetings and events.	\$87,000.00
University of Miami	This project will pilot a focused, applied behavior analysis (ABA) intervention using augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) with minimally verbal children (ages 2–8) on the autism spectrum (ASD) or with related disabilities at the University of Miami (UM) – Pediatric Applied and Innovative Research (PAIR) program. The focused ABA intervention involves teaching minimally verbal children to make requests on a speech-generating device (SGD) within 12 weeks of PAIR program enrollment.	\$85,000.00
University of Miami *For the Future You	Although science-focused picture books for infants and young toddlers exist, they are focused on isolated facts and abstract and complex scientific phenomena. Through this project, the team will write and publish three, three-dimensional science board books that are culturally and contextually relevant for families living high poverty census tracts of Miami Dade County. They will employ a Human Centered Design (HCD) approach to problem solving. The books will include both Spanish and English text, and HCD will ensure that the content of the books is culturally and contextually relevant for families in Miami-Dade County, broadening access and increasing comfort for families, as well as driving interest for infants with images and content familiar and meaningful to them. The paid partner will provide expertise in the design of children’s science books.	\$78,000.00

Organization & *Paid Partners (if applicable)	Project Description	Amount Not to Exceed
University of Miami	This project addresses the need to learn more about language development in children, including those with developmental delays and disabilities in Miami-Dade County. Through this initiative, the Linda Ray Center will expand the Language Environment Analysis' (LENA) use to measure language and conversational turn-taking between teachers and children and peer talk in the classroom and on the school playground. LENA technology is a small wearable device, a "talk pedometer," provided to participants and used to count the conversational turns. Research-based and evidence-informed, LENA delivers an innovative way to help caregivers increase their focus on talk and positive interactions.	\$53,000.00
Voices For Children/Guardian Ad Litem *Children's Home Society *Genesis Hopeful Haven	<p>The Collective: Miami-Dade County's first and much-needed centralized and collaborative one-stop hub serving the comprehensive and complex needs of children ages 0-23 years in the foster care system and their biological, kinship and foster families. The Collective will: (1) provide a safe and supportive environment so that children placed in the foster care system many of whom have traumatizing experiences, long with their biological, kinship and foster families can easily access a comprehensive and integrated array of programs, services and resources; (2) provide all service, program and resource providers easy access to a shared facility, ensuring that children and families can have their multitude of complex needs met efficiently and effectively; (3) increase children's placements with kinship caregivers, minimizing child trauma and the need for placement changes plus preserve ties with biological parents and siblings; and (4) alter the trajectories of children and families involved in the foster care system</p> <p>The paid partners will support this project by facilitating data reviews, needs assessment and recruitment of services provider partners.</p>	\$90,000.00
Women's Fund of Miami-Dade, Inc.	The Women's Fund will address gaps and needs by conducting an in-depth analysis of the early childhood learning and childcare landscape within the business community in Miami-Dade. It will consist of comprehensive research that makes the case for business investment in early learning and child care for their employees and surrounding communities, the best models to emulate, and a feasibility assessment for implementing these models in Miami-Dade County. By evaluating different business-to-business models focused on providing safe, affordable, and high-quality early learning and education services to their workforce, the research will lay the groundwork for the future implementation of a pilot program that can positively change the way businesses can engage childcare services, support their workforce, and drastically improve and innovate the early learning system in the community.	\$80,000.00

*Denotes a paid partner

Background: The Children's Trust issued an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) 2024-12 on February 8, 2024, to fund innovative projects and test new ideas that could lead to effective and equitable opportunities for vulnerable populations to help children thrive.

During this funding cycle, awards were capped at \$100,000.00 per successful application. The Children’s Trust innovation team received and reviewed 125 pre-applications, of which 41 were invited to submit a full application. Thirty-one complete applications were submitted by the ITN deadline, all of which received an interview, and 21 applications are recommended for funding. This thorough process ensures the selection of the most promising projects. The comprehensive review process included:

- Fiscal health review: The Children’s Trust’s finance department reviewed and scored alternative financial documents, since this ITN did not require an audit.
- Program proposal: Each application was independently reviewed and scored by a team of reviewers that may have included The Children’s Trust staff, experts in the field and trained community volunteers.
- Review team debriefing: Following each reviewer’s individual rating, the review team met in a publicly noticed debriefing meeting to discuss each proposal and assigned a consensus team score, including explanatory comments.
- Interviews: At The Children’s Trust’s discretion, publicly noticed interviews were conducted with viable applicants regarding the agency fiscal health and/or program proposal.
- Staff recommendations: Taking into consideration the above review process results, consideration is also given to factors such as alignment with The Children’s Trust’s priority investment areas, effective and economical distribution of funding across Miami-Dade County and/or in underserved geographic areas/populations in Miami-Dade County (if applicable), minimizing duplication of efforts, and reasonable program cost for the services and outcomes proposed.

Innovation projects frequently require additional time due to unexpected challenges or delays, as was evident in past rounds of innovation funding. Given the nature of the work, a no-cost extension is a common practice for innovation projects and was included as an option in the Invitation to Negotiate (ITN).

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 **15th day of July 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: July 15, 2024

Resolution: 2024-G

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Parenting: Books for Free

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: High-quality early learning opportunities; Nurturing and involved parents; Kindergarten readiness; and Academic success.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with The District Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College, selected following a competitive solicitation, to deliver The Children's Trust Books for Free program, 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, with four remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations.

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: Since its inception, The Children's Trust has invested in many strategies to support early childhood literacy development. To coordinate and expand upon these efforts, The Trust hosts the Miami-Dade County Grade-Level Reading (MDGLR) Campaign, which regularly engages more than 50 community partners to elevate literacy. A key strategy of The Trust's early literacy efforts is to increase access to books in multiple languages and accompanying enriching experiences for families of young children. This is accomplished through Books for Free, a program initiated in 2013, and The Children's Trust's other early literacy investments.

The Children's Trust Books for Free program ensures young children (through age 8) have access to books to take home and keep at no cost from bookshelves placed in public spaces throughout Miami-Dade County. Books are provided in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole and are obtained primarily through book donation drives and collection bins, which are part of Books for Free. The awarded Books for Free administrative agency has a 15 percent minimum annual match funding requirement, including cash or in-kind resources.

Books for Free requires an administrative agency with a keen understanding of literacy development and a passion for broadening children and families' access to books. This entails work engaging with communities, businesses, volunteers, and the public sector to:

- Collect, sort and categorize donated and purchased age- and content-appropriate, gently used and new books through book drives and other means.
- Distribute the books through stocked bookshelves maintained in public places where parents and children congregate for extended periods and through partnerships with community organizations, particularly in under-resourced neighborhoods throughout Miami-Dade County.

The competitive solicitation included four required activities to implement the Books for Free program, summarized below:

- **Administration** - Management of and the logistics of all aspects of bookshelf maintenance, book donations/drives, participant and partner feedback, and family engagement aspects of the program. Administration also includes the required component of volunteer resources to support operations, and book purchase as needed that meet cultural and linguistic needs of Miami-Dade families.
- **Book Drives and Donations** - The acquisition of new and gently used books to fill distribution bookshelves that are age appropriate and reflect the diverse population of Miami-Dade County through outreach strategies, book drives, and donations from business and other appropriate locations. This also includes repurposing returned and undelivered books from The Children's Trust Book Club.
- **Bookshelf Maintenance and Expansion** - Maintain and expand upon the 76 current Books for Free bookshelf locations to 116 locations. Bookshelf locations in public spaces provide access for families to take free books. Activities include developing relationships with community partners at site locations to ensure shelves are regularly well stocked and maintained.
- **Reading Circles** - Host family engagement activities at least once a month to promote Books for Free program awareness and to foster a love for reading. Reading circles may provide opportunities for authors, performers, and/or students to demonstrate the richness of literacy experiences, as well as attend community-based events to promote the program, such as health fairs, children's events, library events and festivals, including The Children's Trust Family Expo.

Background: The Children's Trust issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) 2024-10 on January 20, 2024, to fund one agency to implement the Books for Free program. Two applications were submitted by the RFP deadline, and both applications were reviewed. The District Board of Trustees of Miami Dade College is recommended for funding based on a comprehensive review process, which included:

- Fiscal health review: The Children's Trust's finance department reviewed and scored the agency audit.
- Program proposal: Each application was independently reviewed and scored by a team of reviewers that included Children's Trust staff, experts in the field and trained community volunteers.
- Review team debriefing: Following each reviewer's individual rating, the review team met in a publicly noticed debriefing meeting to discuss each proposal and assigned a consensus team score, including explanatory comments.
- Interviews: At The Children's Trust's discretion, publicly noticed interviews were conducted with viable applicants regarding the agency fiscal health and/or program proposal.
- Staff recommendations: Taking into consideration the above review process results, consideration is also given to factors such as alignment with The Children's Trust's priority investment areas, effective and economical distribution of funding across Miami-Dade County and/or in underserved geographic areas/populations in Miami-Dade County (if applicable), minimizing duplication of efforts, and reasonable program cost for the services and outcomes proposed.

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 **15th day of July, 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: July 15, 2024

Resolution: 2024-H

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Parenting: Parent Club

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: 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 three providers, identified herein, and selected following a competitive solicitation to implement The Children’s Trust Parent Club through universal parenting workshops and supports across the developmental spectrum, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,700,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, each with four remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$1,700,000.00 is projected to be available in FY 2024-25.

Description of Services: Regardless of their circumstances, all parents and families face inevitable parenting challenges and can benefit from learning research-informed strategies that support children’s healthy development. Effective, consistent, and supportive parenting prepares children for a lifetime of success. Brief universal parenting workshops and supports can offer an effective, low-cost way to reach large and diverse groups of primary caregivers who might not otherwise receive parenting education. Improved parenting will support positive child outcomes related to emotional, behavioral, social and cognitive competence, and physical health and safety.

The Children’s Trust Parent Club was launched in September 2019. Brief, evidence-based parenting workshops are delivered for free in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole for diverse groups of primary caregivers across Miami-Dade County to build knowledge and skills. Topics cover a range of age-appropriate content about raising children who are successful, healthy and happy. These group contacts among parents also strengthen social supports by connecting parents and linking families who have additional needs with appropriate services. Parent Club universal workshops and supports can be an entry point to more intensive parenting and family strengthening services funded by The Trust for selective and indicated populations across the parenting continuum of care.

The goal is to reach Miami-Dade parents and caregivers to increase their awareness and engagement in effective parenting strategies that support child development. The minimum number of parents and caregivers to be served by each contracted agency is 4,500 annually, with at least 80 percent of workshops to be delivered in person.

The Parent Club Handbook guides the Children’s Trust Parent Club. All Parent Club contracted providers use standard activities and implementation procedures, common branding, and messaging to maintain consistency and quality. There is active coordination among all Parent Club providers to ensure consistent universal parenting messaging organized activities, and prominent co-branding.

There are five required activities, listed below, and one agency is recommended to deliver the optional activity to function as the Parent Club Coordinating Agency.

1. Parent Workshop Delivery
2. Content Development
3. Referral Linkages
4. Community Outreach Events
5. Coordination Meeting Participation

The recommended Coordinating Agency noted below will work collaboratively with The Children’s Trust and all funded Parent Club providers. They will be responsible for various Parent Club development, administrative and program support tasks to ensure consistency and quality of program implementation across the initiative. A dedicated full-time management staff member manages and executes the coordinating agency's responsibilities.

The following programs are recommended for funding:

Agency + Denotes Coordinating agency	Workshop Focus Areas	Number of Participants	Amount Not to Exceed
Be Strong International, Inc.	Parent workshops birth to 18	4500	\$500,000.00
FIU Board of Trustees, Center for Children and Families	Parent workshops birth to 18 and parent support groups	4500	\$516,000.00
University of Miami Department of Pediatrics +	Parent workshops birth to 18, parent support groups, and developmental screenings	4500	\$684,000.00
	Total:		\$1,700,000.00

Background: The Children’s Trust issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) 2024-13 on March 20, 2024, to fund multiple entities to implement The Children’s Trust Parent Club, for brief, evidence-based parenting workshops, delivered free in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole to diverse groups of primary caregivers across Miami-Dade County to build knowledge and skills, for a five-year cycle with one-year contract renewals.

More than 3,700 parents and caregivers of children and youth of all ages completed our online parent community survey to inform the development of this solicitation. In addition, The Trust conducted 16 focus groups with more than 100 parents in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. Participants included fathers, mothers, alternative caregivers, teen parents, expecting parents, biological and alternative caregivers involved in the dependency system, parents of

youth involved in the juvenile justice system, parents of children with disabilities, and parents of LGBTQ+ youth.

As a result of this planning and the board’s policy guidance, the solicitation aimed to:

1. Increase funding and access to parenting services and supports,
2. Tailor parenting service content, design and structure to parent preferences, and
3. Provide ongoing program quality and evaluation.

Eight applications were submitted by the RFP deadline, and eight applications were reviewed. The above three applications are recommended for funding based on a comprehensive review process, which included:

- Fiscal health review: The Children’s Trust’s finance department reviewed and scored the agency audit.
- Program proposal: Each application was independently reviewed and scored by a team of reviewers that may have included Children’s Trust staff, experts in the field and trained community volunteers.
- Review team debriefing: Following each reviewer’s individual rating, the review team met in a publicly noticed debriefing meeting to discuss each proposal and assigned a consensus team score, including explanatory comments.
- Interviews: At The Children’s Trust’s discretion, publicly noticed interviews were conducted with viable applicants regarding the agency fiscal health and/or program proposal.
- Staff recommendations: With the above review process results, consideration is also given to factors such as alignment with The Children’s Trust’s priority investment areas, effective and economical distribution of funding across Miami-Dade County and/or in underserved geographic areas/populations in Miami-Dade County (if applicable), minimizing duplication of efforts, and reasonable program cost for the services and outcomes proposed.

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 **15th day of July, 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: July 15, 2024

Resolution: 2024-I

Strategic Plan Priority Investment Area: Program Evaluation & Community Research

Strategic Plan Headline Community Results: This investment supports all community results.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract renewal with Q-Q Research Consultants, LLC for research and evaluation services, in a total amount not to exceed \$185,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing on October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$185,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2024-25.

Description of Services: As part of The Children's Trust funding requirements, The Trust collects and analyzes extensive data relating to the demographics and attendance of the families and children served through the Trust-funded programs ("program participants"), the quality of programs delivered, and the outcomes achieved by program participants. This resolution seeks to incorporate additional, timely feedback from potential, and existing program participants to assess program participant needs, input and satisfaction regarding The Children's Trust-funded programs. The goals are two-fold:

1. Strengthen The Children's Trust's understanding of potential program participants' needs and interests as we plan for future investments.
2. Incorporate input and satisfaction feedback from current program participants to guide The Children's Trust and funded program providers' continuous learning and quality improvement efforts.

Projects for the 2024-2025 fiscal year will vary in purpose and population to meet the planning needs of The Children's Trust. The work will continue to center around research and evaluation services to inform program participant needs, input, and satisfaction with Trust-funded programming. Health and wellness planning is expected to continue in the new fiscal year. The Children's Trust Book Club will require parent input through focus groups to inform the new funding cycle and associated competitive solicitation to be released next year. Other potential areas for participant input relate to special populations, family stabilization and other supports.

Any focus groups, interviews, or surveys with participants will be conducted in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. When appropriate, the budget includes participant research incentives for data collection. Mixed methods will be incorporated to triangulate input (i.e., enhancing survey results with focus group input or other relevant comparative community population or indicator data points). Results will support sound decision-making about future investments in programs and services for children and families. Sampling will ensure representation of all major race/ethnicity and language groups in Miami-Dade County, as well as oversample families earning less than half the median household income for the county, when appropriate.

Background: Q-Q Research Consultants, LLC designed and conducted a community-level parent survey in late 2022 to understand program participant needs. Areas of focus included early child care, after-school and summer programming, parenting supports, health and development services, and demographics. Initially, a survey dashboard was used to track responses and guide outreach to ensure the sampling goals were met, and they were. The final parent sample includes nearly 3,500 parents, ranging from expecting parents to parents of adolescents. In 2023, four executive summary participant input reports were published and posted on The Children’s Trust website. In 2024, survey results dashboards were developed for internal use to facilitate data exploration, which informed solicitations and is expected to continue to inform solicitations and initiative development planning in coming years.

Additionally, in the 2022-23 fiscal year, Q-Q Research Consultants, LLC successfully conducted and analyzed input from numerous focus groups across all regions of the county, with a focus on special populations such as children with significant disabilities, youth and families involved in the child welfare and delinquency systems, fathers, expecting parents, teen parents, parents of LGBTQ+ children, and immigrant families. To inform the youth development solicitation, they conducted 27 focus groups with 101 parents and 61 youth attending Trust summer camps and another 28 youth who were not actively in school or working, to provide input about what they want in programming. They further conducted and summarized 16 focus groups with more than 100 parents to inform the parenting and family strengthening solicitation and the Parent Club solicitation. Finally, in the fall of 2023, as part of our ongoing school-based health strategic planning, they conducted and compiled 23 focus groups/ interviews with 136 parents, youth, nursing staff, mental health and social work staff, school health provider administrators, and systems partners at Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County.

In the current fiscal year, Q-Q Research Consultants, LLC supported the joint development of our Trust provider staff survey regarding their satisfaction with program quality supports and resources offered by The Children’s Trust and Trust Academy partners. They administered the online survey in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole, collecting and analyzing more than 1,200 survey responses. This provider feedback is critical for The Trust’s and Trust Academy’s continuous learning and quality improvement.

On April 6, 2022, The Children’s Trust released a Request for Proposals (RFP) 2022-05, which closed on April 22, 2022. Four applications were received by the deadline and reviewed according to the solicitation guidelines and procurement policy. Based upon the reviews, Q-Q Research Consultants, LLC was recommended to carry out the research and evaluation services being sought. On May 16, 2022, the board approved resolution #2022-51 to fund the first 17 months of research and evaluation services (considered year one). The following year, the contract was renewed for a second year. The current resolution seeks the 12-month renewal for year three of services.

At year three, The Trust will assess the continued need for services and vendor performance to determine the need to renew for up to two additional 12-month terms, for a cumulative total of five years of funding. The option to renew a contract shall be at the sole discretion of The Children’s Trust.

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 **15th day of July, 2024.**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency _____