



# Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, March 18, 2024  
3250 S.W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (Coral Way)  
United Way – Ryder Room  
4:10 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## Board of Directors

Kenneth C. Hoffman  
Chair

Pamela Hollingsworth  
Vice-Chair

Mark A. Trowbridge  
Treasurer

Marissa Leichter  
Secretary

Edward Abraham, M.D.  
Laura Adams

Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi

Matthew Arsenaull

Daniel Bagner, Ph.D.

Cathy Burgos

Hon. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ph.D.

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

4:10 p.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Kenneth C. Hoffman  
*Chair*

4:15 p.m. **Public Comments**

Kenneth C. Hoffman  
*Chair*

4:20 p.m. **Approval of December 4, 2023 Sunshine Meeting minutes summary**

*(Additional Items Packet) (Pgs. 5-6)*

Marissa Leichter  
*Secretary*

4:25 p.m. **Welcome New Board Members**

Kenneth C. Hoffman  
*Chair*

- *Cathy Burgos, Mayor of Miami-Dade County Designee*
- *Diana Ragbeer, Mayor of Miami-Dade County Designee*

4:30 p.m. **Finance & Operations Committee Report**

### **Presentation and Approval of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) FY 2022-23**

Mark Trowbridge  
*Committee Chair*

Eddy Castaneda, CPA, CFE, MBA  
MSL CPAs & Advisors

## **Resolutions**

Mark Trowbridge  
*Committee Chair*

**Resolution 2024-24:** Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with five vendors, identified herein and selected following competitive solicitations, in an amount not to exceed \$2,348,500.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2025, with four annual renewal options at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust. *(Pgs. 7-10)*

**Resolution 2024-25:** Authorization to accept a \$1,000,000.00 contribution from and enter into an agreement with the Frederick A. Deluca Foundation to fund The Children's Trust Families Forward child

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.

care scholarship payments; to amend The Children's Trust budget to be reflective of the contributed funds; and for The Children's Trust to increase the Families Forward contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe over two fiscal years, for child care scholarship payments to Thrive by 5 early learning providers. *(Pgs. 11-12)*

**Approval to enter into an agreement with the Early Learning Coalition and Miami-Dade County for the County's provision of \$3,000,000.00 to fund The Children's Trust Families Forward child care scholarship payments.**

5:00 p.m. **Program Services Committee Report**

5:05 p.m. **Health Presentation**

James R. Haj  
*President/CEO*

K Lori Hanson, Ph.D.  
*Chief of Research, Evaluation & Strategic Planning*

Juliette Fabien, MBA, RN  
*Chief Programs Officer*

## **Resolutions**

Pamela Hollingsworth  
*Committee Chair*

**Resolution 2024-26:** Authorization to enter into a purchase agreement with University of Miami Department of Pediatrics to support the Pediatric Mobile Clinic in providing comprehensive health services throughout Miami-Dade County, in a total amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 13-15)*

**Resolution 2024-27:** Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., for a comprehensive vision program, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000.00. *(Pgs. 16-17)*

**Resolution 2024-28:** Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with three providers, identified herein, to deliver oral health preventive services, in a total amount not to exceed \$548,014.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 18-19)*

**Resolution 2024-29:** Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County, d/b/a Jackson Health System, in partnership with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, to implement Miami's Injury Free Coalition for Kids, in a total amount not to exceed \$445,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 20-23)*

**Resolution 2024-30:** Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Florida Introduces Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth (FLIPANY) for after-school snacks and meals, in a total amount not to exceed \$600,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, with one remaining contract renewal. *(Pgs. 24-25)*

**Resolution 2024-31:** Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with six providers, identified herein, to deliver comprehensive school-based health services, in a total amount not to exceed \$20,094,846.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, and also, to request authorization to use funds from this initiative to leverage federal funding through the Low-Income Pool program (LIP). *(Pgs. 26-29)*

5:20 p.m. **Youth Development Presentation**

James R. Haj  
*President/CEO*

Rachel Spector  
*Director of Programs*

**Resolution 2024-32: Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of the board members present).** Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and to negotiate and execute contracts with 120 providers, identified herein, to deliver high-quality (i) after-school programming for 16,463 elementary, middle, high school-aged children and youth, and (ii) summer programming for 15,350 elementary, middle, and high school-aged children and youth, in a total amount not to exceed \$71,637,000.00. For year-round and school-year programs, the contract term will be 12 months, commencing August 15, 2024, and ending August 14, 2025, with three remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. Request for delegation of authority to adjust paid program partners and optional program components. *(Pgs. 30-56)*

**Resolution 2024-33: Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of the board members present).** Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and to negotiate and execute contracts with Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, Inc. and All in One Mail Shop, Inc. d/b/a All in One Direct Marketing Solutions for the support and maintenance of a birth to five book club, in a total amount not to exceed \$3,602,239.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 57-59)*

**Resolution 2024-34:** Authorization to negotiate and execute a match contract with the Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade for the Moving Beyond Depression (MBD) program, in a total amount not to exceed \$175,000.00, for a term of nine (9) months, commencing retroactively on March 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024. *(Pgs. 60-62)*

**Resolution 2024-35: Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of the board members present).** Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and, contingent on necessary approvals by Miami-Dade County, to negotiate and execute contracts with The Miami Foundation and Miami-Dade County to launch a child drowning prevention program in Miami-Dade County, in a total amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for a term of seven months, commencing retroactively to March 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2024, and a total amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025; and authorization to enter into agreements with Miami-Dade County, Miami Foundation, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, American Red Cross and future partners and funders. *(Pgs. 63-66)*

5:35 p.m. **Board Retreat Follow Up**

Kenneth C. Hoffman  
*Chair*

K Lori Hanson, Ph.D.  
*Chief of Research, Evaluation & Strategic Planning*

Jack Bentolila, Ed.D., PMP  
*Chief Operations Officer*

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

James R. Haj  
President & CEO

- *Monthly Media Highlights (Pgs. 67-85)*
- *Financial Disclosure – due by July 1, 2024*
- *Champions for Children – Thursday, April 11, 2024*  
*Double Tree by Hilton Miami Airport & Convention Center*  
*711 NW 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Miami, FL 33126*
- *Young Talent Big Dreams Finals – Saturday, May 11, 2024*  
*@7:00p.m. Miracle Theatre 280 Miracle Mile Coral Gables, FL 33134*

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

**Reminder:**

**Next Board Meeting: \*Monday, May 13, 2024**



**Sunshine Meeting  
Summary of Discussion Items  
December 4, 2023  
2:30 p.m.– 3:30 p.m.**

**The Sunshine Meeting was held on December 4, 2023:**

**Committee members in attendance:** Kenneth C. Hoffman, Pamela Hollingsworth, Gilda Ferradaz, Nelson Hincapie, and Marissa Leichter

**Legal Counsel in virtual attendance:** Leigh Kobrinski

**Staff in attendance:** James Haj, Imran Ali, Jack Bentolila, Yuliet Alfonso, Victoria Gandul, Juana Leon, Juliette Fabien, Lori Hanson, Natalia Zea, and William Kirtland

**Guests in attendance:** None

**Meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by Kenneth Hoffman, Chair of the Executive Committee.**

**Discussion Items:**

Access to Data for Decisions: Matching Purpose with Appropriate Levels of Data

Roles and Data Uses Across Levels

Community-level Needs Assessment

- Direct collection of input (from parents, youth, providers, other stakeholders) using surveys, focus groups, interviews (e.g., Q-Q reports)
- Community indicators and administrative data (e.g., Community Results Snapshot in Annual Report)

Strategic Investments-level: Annual Report

- Sections by priority investment areas
- Sub-sections on specific initiatives' overall results and performance

Initiative-level Dashboards (mid-level, assesses overall performance and impact, informs policy decisions about implementation)

- For a deeper understanding of performance of key investments
- To inform changes for quality improvement
- Board policy shifts and guidance
- Show example of YD dashboard from IDR project: reiterate different views for different audiences and purposes (e.g., providers need to get to the level of individual participants, PMs review daily attendance/compliance with reporting, Management/leadership review more aggregated performance, board sees initiative level performance
  1. Get board reactions to initiative level dashboard view
  2. What is most important for the board to know to make the best decisions?
  3. What is missing or confusing? What would be helpful?

Contract-level Reviews (ground level, details of individual contract performance, informs contracting actions)

- Share CLQI model used by staff and providers
- For staff to regularly assess program performance; share examples of the processes staff follow in contract management and program performance assessment
- To inform specific Trust Academy quality supports needed for improvement
- With more than 300 individual contracts, approach for board is to callout to board only when there are exceptions to be noted
- We have provided various formats and versions of this in the past and seen some challenges with information overload. How do we get the level right to inform policy and funding decisions?

#### Procurement Policy

Timing is right...new finance system coming on board, recently revised HR handbook and bylaws, procurement policy is next logical step

Based on the most critical information for board, there may be implications for procurement policy updates. Board has previously given direction on procurement policy content and items via various resolutions. Our goal is to approach a policy revision to unify these items and update the policy accordingly.

- What funding details should be in recommendations/renewals? What can be modified through contract negotiations and/or changed along the course of the 5-year cycle
- What types of amendments require board approval, CEO approval, or can be administrative changes
- Consideration of multi-year approvals for the cycle with annual data reports on initiatives, assuming only certain range of changes (what would require board approval, CEO approval, administrative change)
- Bring back procurement policy updates for Finance Committee consideration over the next several months, for goal to be effective by next FY, 10/1/24

Reimagine Board Input: Format and Content (how does the board want to spend its valuable time)

- Board Meeting Frequency
- Board field trips and provider presentations
- Consent Agenda
- Substantive Data Presentations

School-based Health Strategic Planning Updates

**Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.**

# The Children's Trust Board Meeting

**Date: March 18, 2024**

**Resolution: 2024-24**

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Community Engagement, Awareness and Advocacy: Public Awareness, Outreach and Program Promotion.

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

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with five vendors, identified herein and selected following competitive solicitations, in an amount not to exceed \$2,348,500.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2025, with four annual renewal options at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$2,348,500.00 is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

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**Background:** On October 16, 2023, the board approved resolution #2024-01 to issue multiple requests for proposals (RFPs) to support The Children's Trust communications and community outreach services. All RFPs were released on November 3, 2023. The selection process for all RFPs included a review committee comprised of Trust staff members from multiple departments. The process consisted of initial independent reviews of the submitted proposals using a standard scoring matrix to analyze vendors' ability to deliver the scope of services sought. The scores from the final reviews identified the vendor that met the scope of services sought by The Trust and that provided the best value for the services proposed. There were several notices of appeal received for the process. All but one notice of appeal did not meet the criteria for the appeal process. The one notice of appeal that did meet the criteria for the appeal process was reviewed and was denied.

The RFPs were for the following:

- RFP #2024-05 Advertising Creative
- RFP #2024-06 African American and Haitian Creole Media Buying and Community Outreach
- RFP #2024-07 Event Planning for Champions for Children Awards Ceremony
- RFP #2024-08 General Media Buying
- RFP #2024-09 Public Relations Services

In the Children's Trust's 20-year history, trilingual communications (English, Spanish and Haitian Creole) and community outreach have always been key components in continually making the public aware of the programming and resources available from The Children's Trust. The ability to spread awareness of The Children's Trust's mission and role in the community is critical to the organization's success, and essential to bring the services, programs, and resources it funds to the population it serves. Communications and community

outreach efforts include general and strategic campaigns and initiatives that reach a wide range of community stakeholders, service providers, families, youth, and the public.

As The Children's Trust impact grows, so must its communication efforts. In recent years, communications and community outreach have increased in positive brand awareness and record attendance at the 2023 Family Expo events and 2023 Champions for Children Awards Ceremony, as well as record numbers of attendees to Trust solicitation information sessions.

**Description of Services:** This resolution authorizes The Children's Trust to negotiate and execute contracts with multiple vendors across the communications and community outreach services listed in the table below for an initial year, with four annual renewal options at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust.

**1) Advertising Creative** – The Children's Trust released a competitive RFP for advertising creative services related to marketing and advertising, including but not limited to graphic design and the development and execution of effective advertising campaigns in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. This includes designing and developing various communications assets for broadcast, print, outdoor, and digital media elements for multimedia public awareness, branding, and marketing campaigns related to The Children's Trust signature events and promotion of funded programs and initiatives. The process consisted of initial independent reviews of seven submitted proposals using a standard scoring matrix to analyze vendors' ability to deliver the scope of services sought. The scores from the final reviews identified the vendor that met the scope of services sought by The Trust and that provided the best value for the services proposed.

Seven applications (listed in alphabetical order) were submitted in response to the Advertising Creative RFP:

- Agencia Central, LLC (Current and recommended vendor)
- CCOM GROUP, INC
- Fenton Communications INC
- Gade Tet Ou LLC
- rbb Communications, LLC
- Roar Media LLC
- The Brand Collective INC

**2) African American and Haitian Creole Media Buying and Community Outreach** – The Children's Trust is aware that reaching some segments of Miami-Dade's population requires specialized communications strategies and assets, utilizing specific media expertise and community connections. To that end, an RFP for media buying and community outreach was released for both the African American and Haitian American communities, together or separately, that develops and executes:

- A multilayered community outreach strategy in Miami-Dade County involving a wide array of community partners, including a focus on faith-based partners.
- Targeted media buying on outlets that are most effective in reaching the intended population, including radio, television, digital and print.

Five applications (listed in alphabetical order) were submitted in response to the African American and Haitian Creole Media Buying and Community Outreach RFP:



- Armstrong Creative Consulting, Inc (Current vendor for African American and Haitian Creole Media Buying and Community Outreach contracts, but being recommended only for African American market)
- Island TV
- Lead To Excel, USA
- Repiblik, INC
- The Creative Esquire, LLC (Recommended vendor for Haitian Creole Media Buying and Community Outreach)

**3) General Media Buying** – An essential component of The Children’s Trust communication efforts and strategy is media buying with television and radio broadcasting stations, print, digital, and outdoor media. Media advertising remains the most widespread opportunity to convey messaging to a broad spectrum of diverse audiences. As such, a competitive RFP for media buying was released that included:

- Obtaining and analyzing data and research to develop a comprehensive media plan best suited to successfully delivering messages for the promoted programs and initiatives.
- Negotiating best rates and additional benefits on multiple media platforms, such as no-cost tv/radio spots, print/digital ads and/or additional outdoor media spaces.
- Reconciling monthly/annual media buys by analyzing results on a case-by-case basis to determine if goals were achieved and contractual obligations were met while obtaining "added value" benefits, including additional advertising provided at no cost.

Four applications (listed in alphabetical order) were submitted in response to General Media Buying RFP:

- CCOM GROUP, INC
- Fenton Communications Inc
- ROAR MEDIA, LLC
- WOW Factor Marketing Group, Inc (Current and recommended vendor)

**4) Public Relations Services** – An essential component of a well-rounded communications and community outreach strategy includes securing earned news media placement to ensure credible and positive reputation management and expanded awareness of Trust-funded programs and services. As such, a competitive RFP for a public relations agency was released to work closely with the communications department to develop, manage, and implement a comprehensive public relations plan that adheres to communications strategies and operating processes, and provides increased awareness of Trust-funded programs and initiatives.

Two applications (listed in alphabetical order) were submitted in response to Public Relations Services RFP:

- BALSERA COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, LLC (Current and recommended vendor)
- KO Communications, LLC

**5) Event Planning for Champions for Children Awards Ceremony** – No recommendations

The Children’s Trust Champions for Children Awards Ceremony is the organization’s annual signature celebratory event honoring child advocates and organizations serving the children and families of Miami-Dade County. This event has grown substantially over the years, with

a record 1,200 attendees at the 2023 ceremony. Nearly 100 percent of the cost for this annual event is paid by event sponsorships.

Three applications were submitted in response to Event Planning Services for the Champions for Children Awards Ceremony RFP. After review, the response to the scope of service in RFP did not meet the intent of the solicitation therefore the entire solicitation was canceled.

**This resolution authorizes The Children’s Trust to contract with the vendors identified below to provide services in the respective areas of need.**

RFPs	Recommended Vendors	Communications Budget	Book Club Budget	Funding Amount Not to Exceed	Contract Period
Advertising Creative	Agencia Central, LLC	\$390,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$450,000.00	FY 24-25
African American and Haitian Creole Media Buy and Community Outreach	Armstrong Creative Consulting, Inc. and	\$261,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$361,000.00	FY 24-25
	The Creative Esquire, LLC	\$115,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$180,000.00	FY 24-25
General Media Buying	WOW Factor Marketing Group, Inc.	\$1,125,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$1,175,000.00	FY 24-25
Public Relations Services	BALSERA COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, LLC	\$50,000.00		\$50,000.00	FY 24-25
Event Planning for Champions for Children Award Ceremony	Canceled	-----	-----	-----	-----

**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

**18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 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: March 18, 2024**

**Resolution: 2024-25**

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Thrive by 5 Early Childhood Development: Child Care Quality Improvement.

**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 accept a \$1,000,000.00 contribution from and enter into an agreement with the Frederick A. Deluca Foundation to fund The Children’s Trust Families Forward child care scholarship payments; to amend The Children’s Trust budget to be reflective of the contributed funds; and for The Children’s Trust to increase the Families Forward contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe over two fiscal years, for child care scholarship payments to Thrive by 5 early learning providers.

**Budget Impact:** This item will increase The Children’s Trust budget by \$1,000,000.00 from the Frederick A. Deluca Foundation.

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**Description of Services:** As part of The Children’s Trust mission to support working families through The Trust’s Thrive by 5 Families Forward child care scholarships, private contributions are being sought on an ongoing basis to augment Trust funding in this area.

The Frederick A. Deluca Foundation has committed \$1,000,000.00 over two fiscal years to support services for families on the waiting list for the Families Forward child care scholarships by providing enough funding for their families to receive scholarships for two years. This expands upon Miami-Dade County’s one-time \$3 million investment to the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe for child care scholarships for waitlisted families. The Children’s Trust also increased its funding for Families Forward by \$3 million through Resolution No. #2024-03.

Serving these children will support a safe and high-quality early learning education and set them on a path to kindergarten and later success in their school years. It also assists in preventing families from holding back from career advancement or engaging in intentional underemployment, due to the concern of falling off the fiscal cliff, a well-documented problem across the state and nation.

This contribution is part of a larger framework inclusive of additional private donations, public policy work to adjust the income threshold for the School Readiness Program, evaluations of the Thrive by 5 model, and results of an ongoing study by the Florida Association of Children’s Councils and Trusts (FACCT) and the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation to determine the impact of the fiscal cliff and study income and programmatic data to help solve the problem.

**Background:** The Children’s Trust Thrive by 5 Early Learning Quality Improvement System (QIS) stems from a two-generational approach that assists under-resourced families in combining parent and child interventions to disrupt the cycle of poverty. One component of Thrive by 5 is the Families Forward child care scholarship initiative for families earning up to 300% of the federal poverty line (FPL) instead of the 150% FPL currently allowed through Florida’s School Readiness Program. The Children’s Trust awards scholarships to children for two years to allow families to continue their economic and career path toward economic self-sufficiency to break the generational cycle of poverty. Scholarships also help families who become ineligible for a school readiness subsidy during the school year. Scholarships must be used at high-quality programs, determined by teacher-child interactions on the CLASS observation tool. Over 1,150 children are enrolled across more than 214 high-quality early learning programs located in or near high poverty neighborhoods.

The Trust currently invests \$13 million in the child care scholarship program. Private investment is necessary to augment public funding as community needs continue to rise, and a public policy solution has yet to be finalized.

**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 **18<sup>th</sup> day of March 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: March 18, 2024**

**Resolution: 2024-26**

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Areas:** Health and Wellness: Other Health Services.

**Strategic Framework Headline Community Results:** Regular use of medical, dental and behavioral health care services.

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to enter into a purchase agreement with University of Miami Department of Pediatrics to support the Pediatric Mobile Clinic in providing comprehensive health services throughout Miami-Dade County, in a total amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 is allocated for FY 2023-2024 and is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

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**Description of Services:** The University of Miami (UM) Pediatric Mobile Clinic (PMC) aims to reduce healthcare disparities by providing comprehensive medical care to underserved children. Furthermore, it promotes a healthy lifestyle through education in the communities served until families can secure permanent, long-term healthcare coverage.

Services available on the PMC include:

- primary medical care for children in underserved areas and without health insurance or access to medical providers, including linking those in need with medical specialists;
- mental health services for children and families identified to have specific needs;
- prevention, early identification, education, and intervention for medical issues and support to reduce preventable diseases;
- assisting parents and caregivers with social services, care management, and educational attainment issues to strengthen families and increase self-sufficiency;
- provision of the primary pediatric vaccination series through the SHOTZ-2-GO program, which follows CDC-recommended vaccine schedules to offer children vaccines free of charge with parental consent, in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida Department of Health, and the University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Clinic;
- COVID-19 testing and vaccines;
- connection with dental and vision services through a referral network of community-based programs, as well as on-site dental services through partnerships with mobile dental clinic programs;
- telehealth for specialized services and to include caregivers in services;
- multidisciplinary staff provide knowledge, skills, tools and supports to promote self-efficacy so that families can better help themselves on a path to health;
- partnership with developmental specialists at the Mailman Center for Child Development, including Parent Child Interactive Therapy; and
- training and mentoring future health care providers to meet the challenges of serving children with increased needs based on their social health determinants. The goal is to increase the number of professionals choosing careers focused on care for underserved children and families.

During the past fiscal year, October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, the PMC/SHOTZ-2-GO achieved the following:

- 3,025 unique patients were seen in medical visits.
- More than 467 encounters by a mental health counselor to identify and manage depression, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, self-esteem problems, behavioral problems and family violence.
- Social services for 503 children, including care management, subspecialty referrals, social service agency referrals, food bank referrals, and toy, food and clothing donations.
- 274 immunization drives that resulted in:
  - 13,883 vaccines administered.
  - 6,877 children and 186 adults immunized.
  - 893 people immunized with a COVID-19 vaccine (first dose, second dose and boosters).
- Partnered with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and Miami-Dade County Public Schools to identify schools with low compliance with mandated school vaccinations and supported 183 schools in 67 ZIP codes.
- 101 telehealth/tele-mental health encounters.
- Participated in 39 community events providing immunizations, testing, COVID vaccination, and health education (i.e., The Children’s Trust Family Expo events, Miami Consortium of Latin American Consulates’ events, The Mexican American Council Health and Financial Fairs, The Farmworker Association of Florida health and back-to-school and food fairs, Homestead Farmworker Association health fairs, city governments’ back-to-school events and health fairs, vaccine initiative at the Asociación Campesina de Florida City, Lotus House, Celebracion Dia del Niño, Church World Services, Allapattah Community Fair, UM DOCS Health fairs, Le Jardin Community Fairs, FDOH locations, Overtown parks, and Jackson Community Health Fair).

**Background:** The University of Miami Pediatric Mobile Unit has been receiving funding from The Children’s Trust since 2020. It is recommended that the UM PMC services, as described herein, be continued for an additional year at \$100,000.00 through this resolution due to continued need and utilization of the services.

Per the procurement policy, Section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (G-3), these health-related prevention services provided by the University of Miami Department of Pediatrics are exempt from The Children’s Trust competitive solicitation process.

**Geographic Area:** Countywide with a focus on under-served communities.

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 **18<sup>th</sup> day of March 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

March 18, 2024

## Resolution 2024-27

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Health and Wellness: Comprehensive Vision Follow-Up.

**Strategic Framework Headline Community Results:** Regular use of medical, dental and behavioral health care services; kindergarten readiness; and academic success.

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc., for a comprehensive vision program, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000.00.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$500,000.00 for this resolution is allocated for FY 2023-2024 and projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

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**Description of Services:** The comprehensive vision program, implemented by Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. (MLB), provides free eye examinations and prescription eyeglasses for preschool and school-age children who are financially disadvantaged. The primary goals are:

- Early detection of vision impairments.
- Facilitating access to vision care.
- Promoting optimal visual functioning to ensure students succeed academically and socially.

Services are delivered using instant vision and in-office voucher programs (IVP). Four mobile clinics visit various schools for the IVP to serve students referred by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Trust-funded school-based health staff, and parents/guardians. The in-office voucher program provides services through vouchers dispensed by MLB that local participating optometrists accept.

This contract is paid on a unit cost basis of \$92.00 per exam, which leverages the resources needed to provide free eyeglasses when indicated. This unit cost is a reduction from the actual \$181.00 per exam since MLB leverages \$750,000.00 from other sources, including The Miami Foundation, the Florida Department of Health, and the Dr. John T. MacDonald Foundation.

MLB exceeded the contracted number of children served in 2022-2023. In July 2023, when funding was increased by \$100,000.00 per Resolution 2023-34 to accommodate the increased demand for vision services based on the contracted unit cost and total allocation, the number of children to be served increased from 4,248 to 5,435 children. In the first five months of the 2023-2024 school year, MLB has conducted more than 3,100 eye examinations in Miami-Dade County.



<b>Contract Year</b>	<b>Vision Services</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>2022-2023</b>	Eye examinations completed	5,259
	Eyeglasses provided	3,005
<b>2023-2024</b> (first 5 months)	Eye examinations completed	3,188
	Eyeglasses provided	1,772

**Background:** Vision impacts a child’s physical, cognitive, and social development, and good vision predicts better academic achievement for school-age children. Early identification of vision problems is critical to a child’s health and school outcomes. School-based health programming includes regular vision screenings to identify potential deficits, which are conducted in alignment with the Florida Department of Health requirements for vision screenings for students in kindergarten and grades 1, 3, and 6. The Children’s Trust has funded MLB to provide vision follow-up services since 2006.

Per The Children’s Trust’s procurement policy section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (G-3), health services involving examination, diagnosis, and treatment are exempt from a formal competitive procurement process and therefore do not require a formal solicitation.

**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 **18<sup>th</sup> day of March 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: March 18, 2024**

**Resolution: 2024-28**

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Health and Wellness: Oral health training and preventive services.

**Strategic Framework Headline Community Results:** Regular use of medical, dental and behavioral health care services; kindergarten readiness; and academic success.

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with three providers, identified herein, to deliver oral health preventive services, in a total amount not to exceed \$548,014.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$548,014.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

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**Description of Services:** The Children’s Trust community-based oral health preventive services complement the oral health screenings conducted by school nurses. The agencies listed below provide oral health education and prevention services for uninsured and underinsured preschool and elementary-aged children attending The Children’s Trust-affiliated early child care centers, after-school and summer programs, and Women, Infant and Children (WIC) offices. Services are provided on-site at program locations where children attend. Parental consent and engagement are obtained with the agencies operating the direct service programs for children. Required service components are listed below; all children receive the first two components, and the remaining three services are offered if needed.

1. Oral health education and counseling
2. Screening for oral diseases
3. Fluoride varnish application
4. Dental sealants
5. Referrals for connection to a dental home for comprehensive continuity of care and any needed restorative services

From October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, 3,349 children were served and 345 of them received 930 sealants. More details by provider are included in the table below.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Recommended Amount Not to Exceed</b>	<b>2022-2023 Contracted # Children</b>	<b>2022-2023 Actual # Children</b>
Community Health of South Florida	\$190,000.00	1,361	959
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade	\$190,787.00	1,800	1,597
Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc.	\$167,227.00	778	793
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$548,014.00</b>	<b>4,243</b>	<b>3,349</b>

Last year, although performance improved, compared to previous years, the numbers served continued to be negatively impacted in child care centers in western and southern areas of

the county. Providers report that this was due to continued reluctance to allow additional adults in the site locations, staffing shortages within child care centers and a low number of parent consents. Outreach with education is expected to counter this to increase the number of children served.

**Background:** Tooth decay is one of childhood’s most common chronic diseases. If left untreated, it can lead to severe infection and complex treatments, with negative implications for routine behaviors like eating, speaking, and school performance. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s 2019 Oral Health Surveillance report, 17 percent of 6 to 11-year-olds and 57 percent of 12 to 19-year-olds had tooth decay. One study found children with poor oral health status were nearly three times more likely to miss school due to dental pain, and absences caused by pain were associated with more unsatisfactory school performance. Children growing up in households with limited economic resources and underserved and uninsured minority populations suffer the most from dental disease and often lack access to proper treatment.

On January 22, 2019, The Children’s Trust Board of Directors approved the funding recommendations for the request for proposals, RFP #2018-15, for oral health education and preventive services for a five-year funding cycle. All three agencies are recommended for continued services. although the 5-year funding cycle has been completed.

Per the procurement policy, Section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (G-3), these health-related prevention services provided by the three agencies noted above are exempt from The Children’s Trust competitive solicitation process.

**Geographic Area:** Countywide with a focus on high-need neighborhoods and settings to reach the intended populations.

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 **18<sup>th</sup> day of March 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: March 18, 2024**

**Resolution: 2024-29**

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Health & Wellness: Injury Prevention Education

**Strategic Framework Headline Community Results:** Regular use of medical, dental and behavioral health care services; and nurturing and involved parents.

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County, d/b/a Jackson Health System, in partnership with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, to implement Miami's Injury Free Coalition for Kids, in a total amount not to exceed \$445,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$445,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

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**Description of Services:** The Children's Trust funds the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County d/b/a Jackson Health System (PHT) for countywide injury prevention and education services, provided by the PHT and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine (UM). These services aim to reduce unintentional child and youth injuries through multi-lingual, interactive services. Services are provided virtually and in-person at early learning centers and schools and in the "Injury Free" mobile unit which has an interior built to demonstrate common home safety issues. Services include:

- Trainings for Trust-funded providers, parents, caregivers, and youth.
- Public awareness through a dedicated website.
- The mobile unit participates in community events.
- Articles published in The Children's Trust Parenting Our Children newsletter.

PHT serves as The Children's Trust's and the community's expert on child safety.

The PHT offers in-person Home Safety and Car Seat Safety and Certification training. In contrast, many other trainings were offered virtually to meet the interests of participants during fiscal year 2022-2023. From October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, the PHT provided 350 trainings attended by 1,552 staff members, parents, caregivers, and youth.

The "Injury Free" mobile unit travels throughout Miami-Dade County for events and scheduled visits with agencies funded by The Children's Trust. The bus is equipped with an interior that provides hands-on education through simulated learning about home and passenger safety topics. Common safety hazards are displayed in the mobile unit, and visitors are provided with opportunities to identify, correct, and take action to eliminate risks. Visitors learn through verbal, visual and physically interactive exercises and media. The mobile unit is staffed with injury prevention experts fluent in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. On-site

training is offered when groups are too large for the mobile unit and online training is not feasible.

Contracted services include:

1. Direct injury prevention education for caregivers, providers, and youth, including:
  - a. home safety with parents, caregivers and providers;
  - b. child passenger safety through car seat/booster inspections, training of parents in the use and provision of car seats/boosters;
  - c. teen driving safety for parents and teens; and
  - d. targeted home safety assessments with home visitors.
2. Capacity-building to enable Miami-Dade County residents and stakeholders to increase injury prevention knowledge and advocate for change, including:
  - a. training certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians;
  - b. Asking Saves Kids (ASK) social media campaign to encourage parents and teens to ask if a gun is accessible in the home or other location where children will play and visit; and
  - c. safety education for child care professionals.
3. Awareness efforts through communications, including:
  - a. participation in media and educational outlets, such as print, digital, television and radio appearances;
  - b. development of an Injury Free Coalition internet and social media presence to educate, highlight new and emerging risks, and focus on local South Florida issues, with the [www.injuryfreemiami.org](http://www.injuryfreemiami.org) website getting an average of approximately 11,000 hits per month; and
  - c. participation in community events to distribute educational materials and exhibit home safety features in the "Injury Free" Mobile Unit.

The PHT leadership includes four doctors under the Program Director's leadership with specializations in pediatric medicine, pediatric injury and pediatric surgery, with a vision to:

- amplify reach and effectiveness by giving the public the same messages from multiple sources at the same time to improve communication, education and training;
- increase funding/grant monies by implementing more data surveillance, and research efforts; and
- expand the program's footprint by getting more involved with health care systems and policymaking.

**Background:** The Injury Free Coalition for Kids (the Coalition) is among the country's most effective injury prevention models. It is a national program developed with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and comprises hospital-based, community-oriented programs whose efforts are anchored in research, education and advocacy. Currently, more than 30 cities house institutions that participate in the Coalition nationally. The Children's Trust has funded the local coalition, made up by the PHT and UM, since 2006.

Unintentional injuries are a leading cause of emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and death among children in the United States. In 2020 in Miami-Dade County, 32,622 emergency room visits by children and youth, ages 0-19 years, were due to unintentional injuries. That same year, there were 653 hospitalizations and 47 deaths of children due to unintentional injuries.

Injuries can lead to physical, cognitive and emotional trauma, school absences, performance impairment, and family and financial stress. While they vary by age, the primary causes of severe and fatal child injuries are motor vehicle crashes, pedestrian and cycling injury, drowning, poisoning or overdose, and strangulation or suffocation. Common injuries, sometimes severe, include falls, burns, sports/concussion injuries and injuries to mental health (e.g., bullying). Families often need help to reduce the risk of choking, burns, dehydration, tip-over injuries and lacerations. Education must be ongoing to address the growing community and its evolving needs.

The table below includes the 2022-2023 trainings for Trust-funded provider staff members, parents, caregivers and youth.

<b>Training Activity</b>	<b>Number of Sessions</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)	2	19
Car Passenger Safety (CPS) Certification	2	17
Car Seat Inspection	84	205
Customized Safety Training	18	137
Home Safety Training	95	373
Passenger Safety	98	462
Poison Safety	17	93
Teen Driver/Passenger Safety	4	38
Water Safety	30	208
<b>All</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>1,552</b>

From October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, the mobile unit participated in fourteen health fairs in: North Miami, Homestead, Downtown Miami, Miami Springs, Liberty City, Kendall, Charles Hadley Park Miami, North Miami Beach, Miami Gardens, Miccosukee and Westchester. Home Safety training with the mobile unit was provided in: Homestead, Hialeah, Hialeah Gardens, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Miami Lakes, Doral, Miami Gardens, Coconut Groove, Miami Springs, South Miami, Florida City, Kendall, Downtown Miami. At these health fairs and with outreach to new families in the Jackson maternity units, approximately 1,000 informational flyers were distributed monthly.

One of the key impacts for all of Injury Free Coalition is the awareness campaign for Injury Prevention Month (November) and National Injury Prevention Day (NIPD). For NIPD, November 18, 2023, the UM medical building and courtyard, inside Jackson Diagnostic Treatment Center and Jackson North lit up in green and all monitors at Jackson Hospital had a green light with a message regarding NIPD. The Injury Free mobile unit gave tours, and each participant received a home safety kit with different safety items, including gun locks.

Given the child injury landscape changes during the pandemic, a study to evaluate the baseline efficacy of ongoing educational programs provided by PHT to contrast to intervention outcomes was conducted. The abstract, Injury Prevention on the Go: Evaluation of Mobile Injury Prevention Education Program, was accepted for presentation at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) 2023 National Conference & Exhibition's Council on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention Program.

Per the procurement policy, Section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (G-3), these health-related Resolution 2024-29 – Health & Wellness-Injury Prevention Education (Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County d/b/a Jackson Health System)  
March 18, 2024

prevention services provided by the Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County d/b/a Jackson Health System, in partnership with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, are exempt from The Children’s Trust competitive solicitation process.

**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 **18<sup>th</sup> day of March 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: March 18, 2024**

**Resolution: 2024-30**

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Health and Wellness: Food and Nutrition Services.

**Strategic Framework Headline Community Results:** Academic success; Healthy lifestyle habits for eating, sleeping, physical activity and mental wellness.

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Florida Introduces Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth (FLIPANY) for after-school snacks and meals, in a total amount not to exceed \$600,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025, with one remaining contract renewal.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$600,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available for FY 2024-2025.

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**Description of Services:** Through partnerships with the Florida Department of Health (DOH) and the Florida Department of Agriculture (FDA), FLIPANY provides nutritious lunches, snacks, and suppers to 74 Trust-funded after-school sites for children and youth in grades K-12. In addition to food distribution, FLIPANY offers administrative services to these agencies to help them meet the requirements of the Afterschool Meals Program funded by the FDA and administered by DOH.

The Children's Trust requires all after-school and summer programs to provide participating children with food that meets the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) nutrition program requirements. FLIPANY is the after-school snack and meal provider for programs not located in a Miami-Dade County public school or a licensed child care center since those locations are already served through separate food programs. FLIPANY delivers healthy snacks to after-school providers weekly based on the average number of snacks consumed in the prior week.

Additionally, an increasing number of sites serve evening suppers daily. Children and staff highly rate this service, and it is available as a hot or cold meal. FLIPANY encourages providers to serve evening suppers to meet basic nutritional needs.

FLIPANY regularly surveys after-school program staff about the food services provided. Last year, they received positive reviews from site staff indicating that students were satisfied with the food choices. Furthermore, staff were delighted with snack delivery and quality. Performance for last year and current year-to-date are noted in the table below.

	School Year 2022-23	First Quarter 2023-24
Snacks	459,786	137,640
Suppers/Lunches	21,674	36,001
Federal Funding Leveraged	\$ 1,463,732.00	\$ 314,043.00



**Background:** After-school sites with children who meet free and reduced-price lunch criteria or within school boundaries that include children who meet the requirements are approved by the DOH for federal reimbursement for after-school snacks and meals. FLIPANY assists sites in getting approved for reimbursement by the DOH. During the last contract year, the DOH approved three new sites; during the current contract year, 11 additional sites were approved. Due to the start of a new funding cycle, new sites are required to become DOH-approved as soon as possible to offset the cost of snacks and meals. The Children’s Trust uses payment rates established by the DOH Child Care Food Program as a guideline for the cost of meals per participant and will not reimburse at a rate greater than the established reimbursement rates. The only exception is supper, which is reimbursed at 4.55. The Children’s Trust pays for snacks, meals, beverages, and food administration at sites that do not meet the DOH requirements.

On February 8, 2021, The Children’s Trust released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) #2021-05 for one agency to act as the After-school Meals Program Food Sponsor. One application was received, reviewed, and recommended for funding. FLIPANY has been providing snacks and meals to Trust-funded providers since June 2015. FLIPANY has demonstrated the established infrastructure and capacity to continue this critical nutrition component, supporting the health and development of participating children and youth.

**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 **18<sup>th</sup> day of March 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: March 18, 2024**

**Resolution: 2024-31**

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Health and Wellness: School-Based Health: Nursing and Mental Health.

**Strategic Framework Headline Community Results:** Regular use of medical, dental and behavioral health care services; 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 six providers, identified herein, to deliver comprehensive school-based health services, in a total amount not to exceed \$20,094,846.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, and also, to request authorization to use funds from this initiative to leverage federal funding through the Low-Income Pool program (LIP).

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$20,094,846.00 is allocated for FY 2023-2024 and is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025. There is no budget impact for LIP.

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**Description of Services:** The overarching goal of school-based health services is to improve access to quality health care by delivering essential services in schools and to make referrals to community providers for follow-up services, as needed. These services promote a healthy school environment that identifies, prevents, and remedies student health problems.

The school health program is implemented in collaboration with Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) and the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. It is provided in 145 school health suites across 141 M-DCPS schools with a collective student population of nearly 109,000. School health teams include:

- Six advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNP).
- 70 registered nurses (RN).
- 115 licensed practical nurses (LPN).
- 16 health aides/medical assistants.
- 40 mental health professionals.
- 17 social workers.

High school sites are staffed with RNs with required bachelor's degrees. Most middle schools are staffed by a pool of nurses, including one RN assigned to two schools and an LPN. Some middle schools with more significant needs are staffed with full-time RNs. Each elementary/K-8 school is assigned one full-time LPN supported by a rotating RN who provides ongoing consultation, review of clinical notes, observations of LPN encounters, and shadowing.

Essential nursing care, disease prevention and health promotion activities provided include:

- basic nursing services;
- medication administration and assistance with self-administration;
- chronic disease management, including one-on-one education for children with chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, severe allergies, seizures and sickle cell;

- state-mandated screenings for vision and Body Mass Index (BMI);
- oral health risk assessment, health education and disease prevention counseling based on individual health needs, as well as fluoride varnish application if requested; and
- referral and connection of families with needed community services and resources, including other programs funded by The Children’s Trust.

Behavioral health services are delivered within a multi-tier model of services that includes schoolwide and small group interventions, and more intensive, individualized interventions when indicated. School administrators and staff are involved in planning and conducting interventions to ensure successful implementation.

Key mental health and social work services include:

- screenings for developmental, social, emotional and behavioral well-being for early identification of students with developmental, mental health or behavioral concerns;
- timely and responsive assessment and intervention services for students who may be put at-risk by social determinants of health, as well as students with existing developmental and behavioral concerns;
- individual, group and family counseling to address specific problems interfering with student functioning and well-being;
- referrals to community health providers and connections with additional community services for students and families requiring long-term supports;
- risk reduction for vulnerable students by promoting awareness, responding to crises, and assisting schools in reinstating a state of functional safety and security; and
- schoolwide preventive education and supports that promote a healthy school climate.

The Low-Income Pool program (LIP) comprises a broad allotment of state and federal funding primarily through intergovernmental transfers from local governments, matched by federal funds through the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA). The LIP aims to ensure continued government support for health care services for uninsured and underinsured populations. Based on state appropriations of LIP, a percentage of the contracted amount from the three Federal Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) may be used to draw down LIP funding, through agreements between The Children’s Trust and AHCA on behalf of these FQHCs. These contracts will be used as leverage to draw down the LIP funding to Miami-Dade County’s most vulnerable populations. This funding will be used exclusively to provide health services for children in Miami-Dade County. The funded FQHCs, a federal designation for community-based health care providers funded to provide primary care services in underserved areas, are Borinquen Health Care Centers, Citrus Health Network, and Jessie Trice Community Health Center. Last year this arrangement drew down more than 4.3 million dollars. In addition, school health providers must bring at least a 10 percent match to The Children’s Trust funding.

The following table shows the agencies recommended for renewal, and the number of schools and students to be served.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>	<b># of Schools</b>	<b>School Enrollment</b>	<b>2022-2023 # of Visits<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2022-2023 Unduplicated Students</b>
Borinquen Health Care Centers	\$4,304,625.00	31	25,724	55,043	17,915
Citrus Health Network	\$2,754,169.00	19	14,222	40,051	10,066
Community Health of South Florida	\$4,512,375.00	29	27,233	25,317	11,806
Jessie Trice Community Health Center	\$5,439,829.00	40	25,036	55,378	18,313
University of Miami <sup>2</sup>	\$1,269,994.00	9	7,632	22,631	5,757
Variety Children’s Hospital d/b/a Nicklaus Children’s Hospital	\$1,813,854.00	13	8,925	37,374	7,613
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$20,094,846.00</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>108,722</b>	<b>235,794</b>	<b>71,140<sup>3</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes all visit types, such as non-routine medication, routine medication, social worker, consultation.

<sup>2</sup> This provider offers holistic primary care services in addition to the standard school health services provided by other agencies.

<sup>3</sup> The total number of unduplicated students is not an exact total of the students by agency, since some students transfer between schools in the course of the school year.

During the school year 2022-2023:

- 83 percent of school health visits resulted in students returning to class;
- More than 30,000 school health referrals were made for community follow-up services, mostly related to nursing and mental health needs;
- About 1 in 4 of more than 31,000 screened for BMI received weight follow-up services;
- 18 percent of more than 28,000 students screened for vision received follow-up services; and
- Nearly 1 in 6 of more than 4,100 students screened for oral health received follow-up services.

For the current 2023-2024 school year, from the start of school through November 30, 2023, programs have delivered the following services:

- More than 52,000 students served through more than 114,000 school health visits;
- About 27,000 BMI screenings; and
- More than 24,000 vision screenings.

**Background:** A child's physical and emotional health and wellness significantly impact learning, behavior, and overall quality of life. Most risk factors for chronic adult diseases, mental health conditions, and social challenges arise in childhood. The Trust's strategies consider the powerful influence of social determinants, and thus, Trust investments aim to increase access to services for children who lack health resources and are underinsured or uninsured.

On March 12, 2018, The Children's Trust board approved funding recommendations from the request for proposals, RFP #2018-01, for comprehensive school health services for a five-year funding cycle. All six agencies are recommended for continued services although the five-year funding cycle has been completed.

The recommended funding amount represents an increase of \$3,844,846.00 over last year's budget. This recommendation is a strategic imperative to bridge the substantial gap between our current salary structure and the prevailing market rates. This increase is vital for bolstering the hiring and retention of skilled healthcare staff ensuring that we maintain high standards of care for our students. Addressing this salary disparity is not just about offering competitive compensation, but also about preserving long-term fiscal prudence by reducing the costs associated with frequent turnover and the ongoing need to recruit new talent.

Per the procurement policy, Section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (G-3), these health-related prevention services provided by the agencies listed above are exempt from The Children's Trust competitive solicitation process.

**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 **18<sup>th</sup> day of March 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: March 18, 2024**

**Resolution: 2024-32**

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Youth Development: K-12 After-school programs and summer camps.

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

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and to negotiate and execute contracts with 120 providers, identified herein, to deliver high-quality (i) after-school programming for 16,463 elementary, middle, high school-aged children and youth, and (ii) summer programming for 15,350 elementary, middle, and high school-aged children and youth, in a total amount not to exceed \$71,637,000.00. For year-round and school-year programs, the contract term will be 12 months, commencing August 15, 2024, and ending August 14, 2025, with three remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. Request for delegation of authority to adjust paid program partners and optional program components.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$71,637,000.00 for this resolution is allocated for FY 2023-2024 and is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

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**Description of Services:** Elementary school children need safe and engaging supervision and care when not in school. High-quality after-school and summer programs are crucial to meeting this need for working parents. Older middle and high-school-aged youth also need safe and enriching environments after school and during the summer. Additionally, there are older youth involved in the child welfare or delinquency systems and/or disconnected from school or work who greatly need to engage in enrichment activities. Quality after-school programs and summer camps can increase school attendance, improve academic performance, decrease risky behaviors, prevent summer learning loss, and support working families.

Services are funded throughout Miami-Dade County, with a concentration of programs in under-served communities with high proportions of children and youth experiencing poverty. All after-school and summer programs are enriching, accessible, affordable, inclusive, and fully accommodate children and youth with disabilities. Programs are encouraged to support other vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations who may be negatively impacted by poverty, lack of opportunity and related neighborhood social factors.

Programs will offer academic support, facilitate social and emotional wellness, support physical and mental health, complement school and family supports, and provide safe and supervised environments. In addition to specific activities in support of reading, homework completion, and social and emotional wellness, programs will offer children and youth various enrichment opportunities related to at least two of the following areas: STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), arts, cultural programming with a focus on

bilingualism, civic engagement, fitness/sports, and post-secondary supports related to jobs, careers, entrepreneurship, life skills and college readiness. Program metrics will track participation and quality service delivery. Expected participant outcomes relate to each program’s specific activities and will include measures of success in school, health, and social and emotional wellness.

The amount of funding being recommended reflects the unit cost of the program per child. The unit cost of Youth Development programs averages \$20 per day per child for after-school programs and \$40 per day per child for summer camps. These costs double for programs serving children with disabilities exclusively. The actual cost per program includes several variables such as hours of operations; timeframe (school year, summer, or year-round); the number of full days offered during teacher planning days and holidays; the number of service days offered during summer; youth-staff ratios and age groups served; the number of children with disabilities served; the number of children in need of differentiated literacy instruction; the number of enrichment activities offered; and types of facilities.

**The following agencies are recommended for funding for Year-Round Programs:**

<b>Year-Round Programs</b>		
<b>Agency</b> *Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	<b>Populations:</b> K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Abundant Living Citi Church, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$430,000.00
American Children’s Orchestra for Peace, Inc.	K-5	\$590,000.00
Adults Mankind Organization, Inc.	K-5	\$275,000.00
Affirming Youth Foundation, Inc. (previously Jonathan Spikes Foundation, Inc.) *DM Cubed, LLC	SIY	\$320,000.00
Amigos Together for Kids *Futbol con Corazon *Junior Achievement of Greater Miami	K-5; 6-8	\$570,000.00
Area Performance Gallery, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$430,000.00
Armour Dance Theater, Inc. *MiamiBloco *Healthy Connections CMHC	K-5	\$1,500,000.00
Arts for Learning/Miami, Inc. *Children’s Bereavement Center	K-5	\$390,000.00
Ayuda, Inc. *Snapology	6-8; 9-12	\$240,000.00
Barry University	6-8; 9-12	\$350,000.00
Belafonte Tacolcy Center, Inc. *Common Threads *Up2Us	K-5; 6-8	\$580,000.00
Big Ideas Educational Services, Inc. *Chivas Davis Enterprises, Inc. *Teeny Violini *TOPP PHLYTE Executive Step & Performing Arts Alliance, Inc.	K-5	\$450,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of Miami-Dade, Inc. *Flying Classroom	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,600,000.00

<b>Year-Round Programs</b>		
<b>Agency</b> *Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	<b>Populations:</b> K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Branches, Inc. *Uplift Literacy, Inc. *First Class Prep, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$820,000.00
Carlmar, Inc. DBA Town Center Preschool *JM Dance Center *Trinity Church Peacemakers Family Center of Miami	K-5	\$250,000.00
Casa Valentina, Inc. *T Rose Foundation	SIY	\$215,000.00
Centro Campesino Farmworker Center, Inc. *Biznovator *Miami Lifeguards, LLC	K-5; 6-8	\$720,000.00
Centro Mater Childcare Services, Inc. *Fundamental Enrichment, LLC *El Ingenio Teatro *Soccer for Peace Foundation, LLC	K-5	\$1,600,000.00
City of Hialeah *Arts for Learning	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,300,000.00
City of Miami Beach *Common Threads *F.I.T. Enterprises *FLIPANY *Miami Martial Arts and Fitness *Snap Miami, LLC *Soccer for Peace Foundation, LLC	K-5; 6-8	\$980,000.00
City of Miami Gardens *Chivas Davis Enterprises, Inc. *Crandon Golf Academy, LLC *Cutz by Mississippi, Inc. *Diamond in the Ruff Fitness and Wellness Center *First Serve Miami, Inc. *Fitness by Fernando *FLIPANY *I Can Ko Fitness, LLC *I love my Roots *Junior Achievement of Greater Miami, Inc. *Magicroom Productions, LLC *S.E.E.K. Foundation, Inc. *Top Golf	K-5; 6-8	\$650,000.00
City of North Miami Beach *Augmented Intelligence Academy, Inc. *Elich Entertainment, Inc. *Focus Learning Academy, Inc. *Gross Designs, LLC *Magicroom Productions, LLC *Pachy's Catering and Dessert Corp.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$580,000.00
Community Coalition	K-5; 9-12	\$400,000.00



<b>Year-Round Programs</b>		
<b>Agency</b> *Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	<b>Populations:</b> K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Concerned African Women, Inc. *Arts for Learning *Chivas Davis Enterprises, Inc. *P.E. X-Games, LLC *Science Eye, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$990,000.00
Cuban American National Council (CNC) *High Five Academy	K-5	\$250,000.00
Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$400,000.00
Easter Seals South Florida, Inc. *Atlantis Swim School	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$940,000.00f
Educate Tomorrow	6-8; 9-12; FC	\$242,000.00
Empowering Youth, Inc. *Kidology *Miami Dance Project, Inc. *The Academic Hustle	K-5; 9-12	\$430,000.00
EnFamilia, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$500,000.00
Excel Kids Academy, Inc.	K-5	\$500,000.00
Family and Children Faith Association, Inc. DBA Hope for Miami *Arts for Learning *Global Learning, Inc. *Local Impact, Inc. *Love Equals Arts Foundation	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$2,984,000.00**
Family Christian Association of America, Inc. *TOPP PHLYTE Executive Step & Performing Arts Alliance, Inc.	K-5	\$420,000.00
Family Action Network Movement, Inc. *Teaching Digital Natives	K-5	\$762,000.00**
Fantasy Land Academy Corp *Florida Dance, Inc. *L & C Miami Serivces, LLC	K-5	\$270,000.00
Federation of Families, Miami-Dade Chapter, Inc. *Kidology *Sports Konnect to S.T.E.A.M.	6-8	\$320,000.00
Fit Kids of America	K-5; 6-8	\$800,000.00
Florida International University Board of Trustees: College of Engineering and Computing Sciences *Fit Kids of America *They Yaeger Foundation, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$580,000.00
Florida International University Board of Trustees: College of Arts, Sciences & Education *Arts for Learning *FLIPANY	6-8; 9-12	\$360,000.00
Florida Film Institute, Inc.	9-12	\$190,000.00

<b>Year-Round Programs</b>		
<b>Agency</b> *Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	<b>Populations:</b> K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=youth adults transitioning from foster care; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
FLOTA, Inc. *ArtPad *Friends of South Florida Music, Inc.	K-5	\$230,000.00
Foundation of Community Assistance and Leadership, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$670,000.00
Future Leaders Academy of Kendall, Corp. *All-in Education, Inc. *Black Belt for Life Studios *Cornerstone Global Collective, LLC *JM Dance Center *M & M West Kendall Swimming Club, Inc.	K-5	\$400,000.00
Gang Alternative, Inc. *The Motivational Edge, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,600,000.00
Girl Power Rocks, Inc. *Global Stem Academy, Inc. *Up2Us, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$380,000.00
Greater Miami Youth Symphony of Dade County, Florida, Inc. *Mindful Kids Miami	K-5; 6-8	\$450,000.00
Hosanna Community Foundation, Inc. *Sons of Little Haiti, Inc.	K-5	\$165,000.00
Judah Christian Center Ministries, Inc.	K-5	\$400,000.00
Just Kids, Inc.	K-5	\$370,000.00
Kayleen's Learning Center Corp *FLIPANY	K-5	\$850,000.00
Kids Learning Center of South Dade, Inc. *KIDSology	K-5	\$480,000.00
Kids Learning Center of South Dade III, Inc. *KIDSology	K-5; 6-8	\$560,000.00
Kidworks USA, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$600,000.00
Knowledge Builders of Florida, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$340,000.00
La Vina del Senor, Inc.	K-5	\$200,000.00
Leadership Learning Center at Saint John Bosco, Inc. *Cervino Arts, LLC *Citizens for a Better South Florida, Inc. *University of Miami Frost School of Music	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,200,000.00
Liberty Academy, Inc. *A Girl and her H'art Learning Project, LLC *Augmented Intelligence Academy, Inc. *Berlitz Languages Corporation *Community Learning Coalition *RM Robinson Solutions	K-5	\$270,000.00
Liberty City Optimist Club of Florida, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$600,000.00
Llirrafo, Inc. DBA O'Farrill Learning Center *Kidology	K-5	\$300,000.00

<b>Year-Round Programs</b>		
<b>Agency</b> *Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	<b>Populations:</b> K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=youth adults transitioning from foster care; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Melania Holdings Group II, LLC dba The Thinking Child Educational Programs, Inc. *Moonlighter FabLab, Inc.	K-5	\$160,000.00
Mexican American Council, Inc. *Teaching Digital Natives	9-12	\$440,000.00
Miami-Dade County: Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces *Colormotion *Guitars Over Guns *Roxy Theater Group	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$2,500,000.00
Miami Dance Project, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$388,000.00**
Multi-ethnic Youth Group Association, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$485,000.00
Musicall, Inc. *Barry University Institute for Immigration Studies *Cristo Rey Miami High School, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$700,000.00
New Hope Development Center, Inc.	K-5	\$130,000.00
New Jerusalem, Inc. *Khaila Montessori Academy, Inc. *Miami Youth Garden, Inc. *Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Inc. *New Birth Primitive Baptist Church, Inc. *St. Paul A M E Church, Inc. *Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.	K-5	\$990,000.00
OIC of South Florida, Inc. *Baton Youth Services *The Motivational Edge, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$290,000.00
Opa-Locka Community Development Corp, Inc. *Chivas Davis Enterprises, Inc. *Lifestyle Empowered, LLC *Next Generation Dance	K-5; 6-8	\$900,000.00
Overtown Youth Center, Inc. *Children's Bereavement Center, Inc. *Common Threads *Do Good 41, Inc. *Fundamental Enrichment LLC *Girls, Inc. of Greater Miami *The Lucy Project	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$990,000.00
Peace CDC, Inc.	K-5	\$800,000.00
Prosperity Social and Community Development Group, Inc. *U-Turn Consultant	SIY	\$368,000.00
Prosperity Social and Community Development Group, Inc. *City of North Miami Parks & Recreation	K-5; 6-8	\$564,000.00**
Recapturing the Vision, International, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$1,388,000.00**
Richmond Perrine Optimist Club, Inc.	K-5	\$300,000.00

<b>Year-Round Programs</b>		
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Sanrau Corporation *Fit Sisters, LLC *Trinity Church, Inc. *Wild and Free, LLC	K-5	\$300,000.00
SBC Community Development Corporation of Richmond Heights, Inc.	K-5	\$280,000.00
Shepherd of God Christian Academy, Corp. *U.S. Soccer Foundation	K-5	\$156,000.00
Small World Day Care and Preschool, Inc. *Snapology	K-5	\$250,000.00
Southern Homestead Soccer Academy, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$250,000.00
Sports Konnect, Inc. *My Life My Power Alpha, LLC	K-5	\$252,000.00
Start off Smart, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$168,000.00**
Strong Girls, Inc.	K-5	\$400,000.00
Sunflowers Academy, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$600,000.00
Teen Up-Ward Bound, Inc. *Avatar Buddy, LLC *L & C Miami Services, LLC *Love Equals Art Foundation *Micha Yoga *Mindful Kids Miami	K-5; 6-8	\$570,000.00
The ARC of South Florida, Inc. *I & E Aquademy, LLC *Peace Education Foundation	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$2,200,000.00
The Children's Village DBA The Resource Room	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$700,000.00
The Motivational Edge, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$380,000.00
The Optimist Foundation of Greater Goulds, Florida, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$95,000.00
The Promised Land Academy for Christian Education, Inc. *Arts for Learning *Friends of South Florida Music, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$312,000.00**
The Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc.	K-5	\$468,000.00
Thumbelina Learning Center, Corp *JM Dance Center	K-5	\$800,000.00
Thumbelina Play and Learn Center, Inc. *City of Hialeah *JM Dance Center	K-5	\$340,000.00
Tiger and Dragon Group, Inc. *Luc I'm Reading, LLC *Ronin Learning, LLC	K-5; 6-8	\$296,000.00
Tiny Town Day Care Center, Inc. *FLIPANY *JM Dance Center	K-5	\$280,000.00

<b>Year-Round Programs</b>		
<b>Agency</b> *Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	<b>Populations:</b> K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Touching Miami with Love Ministries, Inc. *Augmented Intelligence Academy, Inc. *BLEStREBEL *Common Threads *Dibia Dream, Inc. *Greater Miami Youth Symphony *Ideas For Us *Miami City Ballet, Inc. *Simply M the Movement *Trinity Church, Inc. *Tru Prep Academy, Inc. *YWCA	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,800,000.00
Touching Miami with Love Ministries, Inc. *BLEStREBEL *Dream Defenders	SIY	\$324,000.00
Town of Bay Harbor Islands *Creece Coaching and Consulting *Kingdom Performance, LLC *Mentally FiIT *Sprout Up, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$320,000.00
Town of Cutler Bay *Chivas Davis Enterprises, Inc. *Dibia Dream, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$228,000.00
Trinity Church, Inc. *Avatar Buddy, LLC *Environmental Awareness Academy, Inc. *Fit Sisters of Miami, Inc. *Frost Museum of Science *Great Love Gospel Baptist Church, Inc. *Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School of North Miami *La Luchi Foundation *Mountain to Sea Education	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,266,000.00
University of Miami: Frost School of Music	6-8; 9-12	\$236,000.00
United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc. *Florida International University Theater Department *K-TEC, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,488,000.00
Urgent, Inc. *Global STEM Academy *Our Girls Enrichment Program, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$475,000.00
Victory for Youth, Inc. *Sports Leadership and Management, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$300,000.00
WCA Private School, Inc.	K-5	\$180,000.00
Young Men's Christian Association of Greater Miami	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$2,900,000.00
Young Leaders Academy, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$270,000.00

Year-Round Programs		
Agency	Populations:	Amount Not to Exceed
*Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	
Young Women’s Christian Association of Greater Miami and Dade County, Inc. *Snap Miami, LLC	K-5	\$876,000.00
Zamlus, Inc.	K-5	\$240,000.00

\*These are all current paid partners that are included in the contract. After contract negotiations, some paid partners might be adjusted as necessary.

**\*\*Year-Two Implementation Adjustments for the Year-Round Youth Development Initiative:**

- The City of North Miami withdrew its acceptance of the funding award of \$176,000.00.
- Early Childhood Quality Consultants, LLC (ECQC) is not being considered for funding due to an ongoing investigation by the Office of Inspector General (OIG). This contract was originally awarded at \$300,000.00 but was not executed upon award.
- Start of Smart experienced a reduction in year one of \$107,000 in its contract funding following their reported challenges in serving the elementary age population.
- The Promised Land has a decrease in its allocated funds in year two as a result of lower-than-expected program enrollment. This contract was reduced by \$312,000.00.

The funds reclaimed from the above adjustments will be reallocated to enhance the budgets and capacity of the following programs beginning in year two, which are experiencing a high demand:

- Family & Children Faith Coalition (\$184,000.00)
- Family Action Network Movement, Inc. (\$162,000.00)
- Miami Dance Project (\$108,000.00)
- Prosperity Social and Community Development Group (\$164,000.00)
- Recapturing the Vision International (\$198,000.00)

**The following agencies are recommended for funding for School-Year Only Programs:**

School-Year Only Programs		
Agency	Populations:	Amount Not to Exceed
* Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program.	K-5=elementary; 6-8= middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	
Be Strong International	6-8	\$350,000.00
Blossom Group Florida, LLC *Junior Achievement of Greater Miami	K-5; 9-12	\$280,000.00
Cayuga Home For Children, Inc. *Sports Konnect to S.T.E.A.M.	K-5	\$270,000.00
First Step Champions	K-5	\$130,000.00

School-Year Only Programs		
<b>Agency</b> * Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program.	<b>Populations:</b> K-5=elementary; 6-8= middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=youth adults transitioning from foster care; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Greater Miami Youth for Christ, Inc.	6-8	\$220,000.00
Guitars Over Guns, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$630,000.00
Haitian Neighborhood Center Sant La, LLC *ShareNest *Up2Us, Inc.	6-8	\$144,000.00
Miami-Dade County: Community Action and Human Services Department *FLIPANY *RER Consulting	9-12	\$148,000.00
Miami Music Project, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$700,000.00
The Miami Children’s Museum, Inc. *Miami-Dade County	K-5	\$1,000,000.00
Young Musicians Unite, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$129,000.00

\*These are all current paid partners that are included in the contract. After contract negotiations, some paid partners might be adjusted as necessary.

**Background:** The Children’s Trust issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) #2023-01 on October 26, 2022, to fund after-school and summer programs for elementary, middle and high school age children and youth for a five-year cycle with one-year contract renewals. The foundational assumption for this investment is that children and youth need safe and engaging opportunities outside of school time. Quality after-school and summer programs have been shown to improve academic performance, decrease risky behaviors, and support working families.

The programs included in this resolution had satisfactory performance in their school year programs to date. Summer-only programs have been separated out of this resolution and will be brought to the Board in October or November.

**Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of the board members present):** On October 26, 2022, the Children’s Trust issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) # 2023-01 to youth development after-school and summer services for a five-year cycle with one-year contract renewals. In Resolution No. 2023-38 (attached hereto for reference) the above 120 applications were recommended for funding, based on a comprehensive review process.

Following Board approval, staff engaged in contract negotiations with the lead organizations. During these contract negotiations, some proposed paid partners in Resolution No. 2023-38 were excluded from the executed contracts for various reasons. Reasons include but are not limited to unallowable expenses, reduced award amounts, and additional activities not essential to the scope of work. These changes did not impact the core activities required by the solicitation or the lead agency recommended for an award. This is the reason for the request for procurement waiver.

Following the first year of the Youth Development contract, some of the lead organizations are proposing further adjustments to the paid partners and program services based on program needs and lessons learned. These changes are reflected in the chart above.

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

**Geographic Area:** Countywide

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **18<sup>th</sup> day of March 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: April 17, 2023**

**Resolution: 2023-38**

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**Strategic Plan Priority Investment Area:** Youth Development: K-12 After-school programs and summer camps.

**Strategic Plan Headline Community Results:** Students are succeeding academically; children meet recommended levels of physical activity; children behave appropriately in schools, homes and communities; and youth successfully transition to adulthood.

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with 143 providers identified herein, to (i) deliver high-quality after-school programming for 17,413 elementary, middle, high school-aged children and youth, and (ii) summer programming for 18,597 elementary, middle and high school-aged children and youth, in a total amount not to exceed \$76,662,000.00. For year-round and school-year programs the contract term will be 12 months, commencing August 15, 2023, and ending August 14, 2024, and for summer only programs the contract term will be a term of six months, commencing March 1, 2024, and ending August 31, 2024, each with four remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$76,662,000.00 for this resolution is allocated for FY 2022-2023 and is projected to be available in FY 2023-2024.

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**Description of Services:** Elementary school children need safe and engaging supervision and care when not in school. High-quality after-school and summer programs are crucial to meeting this need for working parents. Older middle and high school-aged youth also need safe and enriching environments after school and during the summer. Additionally, there are older youth involved in the child welfare or delinquency systems and/or disconnected from traditional schools which greatly need to engage in enrichment activities. Quality after-school programs and summer camps can increase school attendance, improve academic performance, decrease risky behaviors, prevent summer learning loss, and support working families.

Services are funded throughout Miami-Dade County, with a concentration of programs in under-served communities with high proportions of children and youth experiencing poverty. All after-school and summer programs are enriching, accessible, affordable, inclusive, and fully accommodate children and youth with disabilities. Programs are encouraged to support other vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations who may be negatively impacted by poverty, lack of opportunity and related neighborhood and social factors.

Programs will offer academic support, facilitate social and emotional wellness, support physical and mental health, complement school and family supports, and provide safe and

supervised environments. In addition to specific activities in support of reading, homework completion, and social and emotional wellness, programs will offer children and youth various enrichment opportunities related to at least two of the following areas: STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), arts, cultural programming with a focus on bilingualism, civic engagement, fitness/sports, and post-secondary supports related to jobs, careers, entrepreneurship, life skills and college readiness. Program metrics will track participation and quality service delivery. Expected participant outcomes relate to each program’s specific activities or focus and will include measures related to success in school, and health, social and emotional wellness.

The amount of funding being recommended reflects the unit cost of the program per child. The unit cost of Youth Development programs averages \$20 per day per child for after-school and \$40 per day per child for summer camps. These costs double for programs serving children with disabilities exclusively. The actual cost per YD program includes several variables such as hours of operations; timeframe (school year, summer, or year-round); the number of full days offered during teacher’s planning days and holidays; the number of service days offered during summer; youth-staff ratios, age groups served; the number of children with disabilities served; the number of children in need of differentiated literacy instructions; the number of enrichment activities offered; and types of facilities.

**The following agencies are recommended for funding:**

<b>Year-Round Programs</b>		
<b>Agency</b> * Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	<b>Populations:</b> K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care services; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Abundant Living Citi Church, Inc. *Inhale Fitness *GMoss Designs *Florida Flexible Printing *Mister Conjunto *Mady’s Dance Project	K-5; 6-8	\$430,000.00
American Children’s Orchestra for Peace, Inc.	K-5	\$590,000.00
Adults Mankind Organization, Inc.	K-5; 9-12	\$275,000.00
Amigos Together for Kids *Futbol con Corazon *Junior Achievement of Greater Miami	K-5; 6-8	\$570,000.00
Area Performance Gallery, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$430,000.00
Armour Dance Theater, Inc. *Miami Bloco *Triumph Steps *Healthy Connections CMHC	K-5	\$1,500,000.00
Arts for Learning/Miami, Inc. *Children’s Bereavement Center	K-5	\$390,000.00
Ayuda, Inc. *City of Miami Beach *Snapology *Edge Above Academy *Normandy Arts, LLC	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$240,000.00
Barry University	6-8; 9-12	\$350,000.00
Belafonte Tacolcy Center, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$580,000.00

Year-Round Programs		
Agency * Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	Populations: K-5=elementary; 6-8= middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care services; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	Amount Not to Exceed
*Common Threads *Mentally FiTT *Emerging Creative Minds, Inc. *Up2Us		
Big Ideas Educational Services, Inc. *MindWorks Resources *Snapology *Teeny Violini *ALM Sports, LLC *Hype Elite Dance Organization *Chivas Davis Enterprises, Inc. *TOPP PHLYTE Executive Step & Performing Arts Alliance, Inc.	K-5	\$450,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of Miami-Dade, Inc. *International Association of Alternative & Ancient Medicine *Flying Classroom	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,600,000.00
Branches, Inc. *Uplift Literacy, Inc. *First Class Prep, Inc. *The Children's Voice Chorus, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$820,000.00
Carlmar, Inc. DBA Town Center Preschool *JM Dance Center *Trinity Church Peacemakers Family Center of Miami	K-5	\$250,000.00
Casa Valentina, Inc. *T Rose Foundation	SIY	\$215,000.00
Centro Campesino Farmworker Center, Inc. *Arts for Learning *Bricks 4 Kidz *Biznovator *Miami Lifeguards, LLC	K-5; 6-8	\$720,000.00
Centro Mater Childcare Services, Inc. *Futbol Con Corazon *El Ingenio Teatro *Nexplore, LLC	K-5	\$1,600,000.00
Children's Village DBA The Resource Room *JNCY Jewelers *JuiceDefined, LLC *Place of Aroma *YWCA	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$700,000.00
City of Hialeah	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,300,000.00

Year-Round Programs		
Agency * Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	Populations: K-5=elementary; 6-8= middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care services; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	Amount Not to Exceed
*Arts for Learning *Dojo of Exceptional Wellness, Inc. *Edusource DBA Ceramics on Wheels *Energy Yoga and Wellness *Nexplore, Inc. *Teaching Digital Natives *Wholesome Harmonies		
City of Miami Beach *Edge Above Academy, LLC *F.I.T. Enterprises *FLIPANY *Futbol Con Corazon *Miami Martial Arts and Fitness *Snapology	K-5; 6-8	\$980,000.00
City of Miami Gardens *Crandon Academy *Diamond in the Ruff Fitness and Wellness Center *First Serve Miami, Inc. *Fitness by Fernando *FLIPANY *I love my Roots *Junior Achievement of Greater Miami, Inc. *Michanta, LLC *Next Generation Dance *Paint with Faith *S.E.E.K. Foundation, Inc. *Top Golf	K-5; 6-8	\$650,000.00
City of North Miami Employee Assistance Trust Fund, Inc. *Developing Dreams Foundation *Jump Start Tutoring	9-12	\$176,000.00
City of North Miami Beach *Augmented Intelligence Academy, Inc. *Focus Learning Academy, Inc. *Gross Designs, LLC *Institute of Wholistic Empowerment	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$580,000.00
Community Coalition *Millennium Martial Arts	K-5; 9-12	\$400,000.00
Concerned African Women, Inc. *Bringing the Globe *Chivas Davis Enterprises, Inc. *P.E. X-Games, LLC *Science Eye, Inc. *S.E.E.K. Foundation, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$990,000.00
Cuban American National Council (CNC) *Teaching Digital Natives	K-5	\$250,000.00
Dave and Mary Alper Jewish Community Center, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$400,000.00
Easter Seals South Florida, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$940,000.00f

Year-Round Programs		
Agency * Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	Populations: K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care services; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	Amount Not to Exceed
*Atlantis Swim School		
Early Childhood Quality Consultants, LLC DBA Playing the Game of Life *Florida Dance, Inc. *Miami City Ballet *Kindness Matters 365 *Saturn STEM, LLC *Teaching Digital Natives *Uzo Media Productions *FLIPANY *Physical Youth Sports, Inc.	K-5	\$300,000.00
Educate Tomorrow *Miami Dade College	9-12; FC	\$242,000.00
Empowering Youth, Inc. *Art Prevails *Community Learning Coalition *Empowerment Tutoring *Kidology *Miami Dance Project, Inc. *Prosperity Social & Community Development Group, Inc. *The Academic Hustle	K-5; 9-12	\$430,000.00
EnFamilia, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$500,000.00
Excel Kids Academy, Inc. *Belafonte Tacolcy Center, Inc. *Denetrya Brookins, LLC	K-5	\$500,000.00
Family and Children Faith Association, Inc. DBA Hope for Miami *Arts for Learning *LitArt *Local Civics *Love Equals Arts Foundation *Teaching Digital Natives	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$2,800,000.00
Family Christian Association of America, Inc. * Ferguson Shorin Ryu Karate  *TOPP PHLYTE Executive Step & Performing Arts Alliance, Inc.	K-5	\$420,000.00
Family Action Network Movement, Inc. *Alva Dance Meditation, LLC *Otniel Taekwondo Institute *Teaching Digital Natives *Young Leaders Academy	K-5	\$600,000.00
Fantasy Land Academy Corp *Bricks 4 Kidz *Common Threads *Florida Dance, Inc. *Futbol Con Corazon	K-5	\$270,000.00

Year-Round Programs		
Agency * Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	Populations: K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care services; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	Amount Not to Exceed
Federation of Families, Miami-Dade Chapter, Inc. *Chef Mike Popola *Kidology *Sports Konnect to S.T.E.A.M.	6-8	\$320,000.00
Fit Kids of America *Trinity Church Peacemakers Family Center of Miami	K-5; 6-8	\$800,000.00
Florida International University Board of Trustees: Center for Children and Families	K-5	\$740,000.00
Florida International University Board of Trustees: College of Engineering and Computing Sciences *Fit Kids of America *They Yaeger Foundation, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$580,000.00
Florida International University Board of Trustees: College of Arts, Sciences & Education *Arts for Learning *FLIPANY *S.E.E.K. Foundation, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$360,000.00
Florida Film Institute, Inc. *ShareNest	9-12	\$190,000.00
FLOTA, Inc. *ArtPad *Friends of South Florida Music, Inc. *Dade County Federal Credit Union *Mr. Gol's Soccer	K-5	\$230,000.00
Foundation of Community Assistance and Leadership, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$670,000.00
Future Leaders Academy of Kendall, Corp. *All-in Education, Inc. *Black Belt for Life Studios *JM Dance Center *M & M West Kendall Swimming Club, Inc. *The Magic Bus	K-5	\$400,000.00
Gang Alternative, Inc. *Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship *The Motivational Edge, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,600,000.00
Girl Power Rocks, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$380,000.00
Greater Miami Youth Symphony of Dade County, Florida, Inc. *FIU Herbert & Nicole Wertheim School of Performing Arts *Mindful Kids Miami *Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church	K-5; 6-8	\$450,000.00
Hosanna Community Foundation, Inc. *Sons of Little Haiti, Inc.	K-5	\$165,000.00

Year-Round Programs		
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Jonathan Spikes Foundation, Inc.	SIY	\$320,000.00
Judah Christian Center Ministries, Inc. *Lee Arts Academy	K-5	\$400,000.00
Just Kids, Inc. *Dojo of Exceptional Wellness, Inc. *Sunset T.R.P. Inc, DBA Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center	K-5	\$370,000.00
Kayleen's Learning Center Corp *FLIPANY	K-5	\$850,000.00
Kids Learning Center of South Dade, Inc. *Educational Leadership Institute, Inc. *KIDSology *Snapology	K-5	\$480,000.00
Kids Learning Center of South Dade III, Inc. *CMS, LLC *Educational Leadership Institute, Inc. *KIDSology *Snapology	K-5; 6-8	\$560,000.00
Kidworks USA, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$600,000.00
Knowledge Builders of Florida, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$340,000.00
La Vina del Senor, Inc.	K-5	\$200,000.00
Leadership Learning Center at Saint John Bosco, Inc. *Bricks 4 Kidz *Cervino Arts, LLC *Citizens for a Better South Florida, Inc. *Excavating Roots Yoga *Junior Achievement *Teaching Digital Natives *University of Miami Frost School of Music	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,200,000.00
Liberty Academy, Inc. *A Girl and her Heart Learning Project, LLC *Augmented Intelligence Academy, Inc. *Berlitz Corporation *Community Learning Coalition *RM Robinson Solutions	K-5	\$270,000.00
Liberty City Optimist Club of Florida, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$600,000.00
Llirrafo, Inc. DBA O'Farrill Learning Center *Kidology *305Bytes	K-5	\$300,000.00
Mexican American Council, Inc. *Teaching Digital Natives *The Princeton Review	9-12	\$440,000.00
Miami-Dade County: Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces *Colormotion *Futbol Con Corazon, Inc. *Guitars Over Guns	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$2,500,000.00



Year-Round Programs		
Agency * Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	Populations: K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care services; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	Amount Not to Exceed
*Rise up 4 Change, Inc. *Roxy Theater Group *S Foundation *Short Chef		
Miami Dance Project, Inc. *ClubZ! In Home Tutoring Services *Empowerment Tutoring *Empowering Youth	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$280,000.00
Miami Music Festival, Inc.	9-12	\$115,000.00
Multi-ethnic Youth Group Association, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$485,000.00
Musical, Inc. *Barry University Institute for Immigration Studies	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$700,000.00
New Hope Development Center, Inc.	K-5	\$130,000.00
New Jerusalem, Inc.	K-5	\$990,000.00
OIC of South Florida, Inc. *Baton Youth Services *The Motivational Edge, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$290,000.00
Opa-Locka Community Development Corp, Inc. *Art Prevails *Avatar Buddy, LLC *Next Generation Dance *Paint with Faith	K-5; 6-8	\$900,000.00
Overtown Youth Center, Inc. *Common Threads *Diamond in the Rough Fitness and Wellness Center *Girls, Inc. of Greater Miami *Junior Achievement *Nexplore, LLC *PowerUpEDU *The Lucy Project	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$990,000.00
Peace CDC, Inc. *Epic Dance Center *Teaching Digital Natives	K-5	\$800,000.00
Prosperity Social and Community Development Group, Inc. *U-Turn Consultant	SIY	\$368,000.00
Prosperity Social and Community Development Group, Inc. *Amsoul Illustrations, LLC *City of North Miami Parks & Recreation *Faithful Tutors, LLC *The Sweet Exchange Miami, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$400,000.00
Recapturing the Vision, International, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$1,190,000.00
Richmond Perrine Optimist Club, Inc.	K-5	\$300,000.00
Sanrau Corporation	K-5	\$300,000.00



Year-Round Programs		
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*Carlson Gracie Miami *Fit Sisters, LLC *GEN2050® STEAM modules *Wild and Free, LLC		
SBC Community Development Corporation of Richmond Heights, Inc. *Dibia Dream, Inc.	K-5	\$280,000.00
Shepherd of God Christian Academy, Corp. *Global Steam Academy *Miami Youth Garden *U.S. Soccer Foundation	K-5	\$156,000.00
Small World Day Care and Preschool, Inc. *Snapology	K-5	\$250,000.00
Southern Homestead Soccer Academy, Inc. *Bricks 4 Kidz	K-5; 6-8	\$250,000.00
Sports Konnect, Inc. *My Life My Power Alpha, LLC	K-5	\$252,000.00
Start off Smart, Inc. *The Art of Family, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$275,000.00
Strong Girls, Inc. *Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship *YWCA	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$400,000.00
Sunflowers Academy, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$600,000.00
Teen Up-Ward Bound, Inc. *Avatar Buddy, LLC *Bricks 4 Kidz *Friends of South Florida Music, Inc. *Love Equals Art Foundation *Micha Yoga	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$570,000.00
The ARC of South Florida, Inc. *Arc Broward *Arts for Learning *CATCH Global Foundation *Fantasy Theater Factory *LitART *Little Swimmers *Mindful Kids Miami *Peace Education Foundation	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$2,200,000.00
The Motivational Edge, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$380,000.00
The Optimist Foundation of Greater Goulds, Florida, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$95,000.00
The Promised Land Academy for Christian Education, Inc. *Friends of South Florida Music, Inc. *Sunset T.R.P., Inc. DBA Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center *U.S. Soccer Foundation	K-5	\$624,000.00

Year-Round Programs		
Agency * Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	Populations: K-5=elementary; 6-8=middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care services; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	Amount Not to Exceed
The Thinking Child Educational Programs, Inc. *Miami Youth Garden *Moonlighter FabLab, Inc. *U.S. Soccer Foundation	K-5	\$160,000.00
The Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc.	K-5	\$468,000.00
Thumbelina Learning Center, Corp *JM Dance Center *Playmaker Basketball Academy *Reyes Martial Arts	K-5	\$800,000.00
Thumbelina Play and Learn Center, Inc. *Hialeah City Football Club *JM Dance Center *Pros2Go	K-5	\$340,000.00
Tiger and Dragon Group, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$296,000.00
Tiny Town Day Care Center, Inc. *FLIPANY *JM Dance Center	K-5	\$280,000.00
Touching Miami with Love Ministries, Inc. *Augmented Intelligence Academy, Inc. *Avatar Buddy, LLC *BLEStREBEL *Common Threads *Dibia Dream, Inc. *Greater Miami Youth Symphony *Ideas For Us *Miami City Ballet, Inc. *Simply M the Movement *The Dream Defenders *The Florida Film House *The Lucy Project *YWCA	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,800,000.00
Touching Miami with Love Ministries, Inc. *Avatar Buddy, LLC *BLEStREBEL *Dream Defenders *Ideas For Us *The Florida Film House	SIY	\$324,000.00
Town of Bay Harbor Islands *Creece Coaching and Consulting *Dibia Dream, Inc. *Excavating Roots *Kingdom Performance, LLC *Mentally FiiT	K-5; 6-8	\$320,000.00
Town of Cutler Bay *Dibia Dream, Inc. *Paint with Faith *Place of Aroma	K-5; 6-8	\$228,000.00

Year-Round Programs		
Agency * Denotes Subcontractors/Paid Partners who deliver specific components of the program	Populations: K-5=elementary; 6-8= middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care services; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	Amount Not to Exceed
*Short Chef		
Trinity Church, Inc. *Biscayne National Park *Children's Defense Fund *Environmental Awareness Academy, Inc. *Fit Sisters of Miami, Inc. *Frost Museum of Science *Great Love Gospel Baptist Church, Inc. *Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School of North Miami *La Luchi Foundation *Mountain to Sea Education	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,266,000.00
University of Miami: Frost School of Music	6-8; 9-12	\$236,000.00
United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc. *Florida International University Theater Department *Know Thyself Enrichment Center *One On One Learning Corp	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,488,000.00
Urgent, Inc. *Avatar Buddy, LLC *Global STEM Academy *Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship *Overtown Children and Youth Coalition *Paint with Faith *PATH, Inc. *Pitch It, LLC *Teaching Digital Natives *WHQT HOT 105FM Miami	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$475,000.00
Victory for Youth, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$300,000.00
WCA Private School, Inc. *Elite Basketball	K-5	\$180,000.00
Young Men's Christian Association of Greater Miami	K-5	\$2,900,000.00
Young Leaders Academy, Inc. *House of Muse *Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship	K-5; 6-8	\$270,000.00
Young Women's Christian Association of Greater Miami and Dade County, Inc. *Guitars Over Guns *M Ensemble Company *Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship *Play Sports 4 Fun *Snapology *The Lucy Project	K-5; 9-12	\$876,000.00
Zamlus, Inc.	K-5	\$240,000.00

\*These are all proposed paid partners that were included in the applications. After contract negotiations, some paid partners might be dropped based on reduced award amounts, and these will be documented in the contract.

School-Year Only Programs		
Agency *Paid Partners (Additional direct services provided), if applicable	Populations: K-5=elementary; 6-8= middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care services; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	Amount Not to Exceed
Be Strong International	6-8	\$350,000.00
Blossom Group Florida, LLC *Junior Achievement of Greater Miami	9-12	\$280,000.00
Cayuga Home For Children, Inc. *Sports Konnect to S.T.E.A.M.	K-5	\$270,000.00
First Step Champions	K-5	\$130,000.00
Greater Miami Youth for Christ, Inc. *Trusted Passion, LLC *Victor Giralda Art & Design, LLC *Wellspring Counseling, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$220,000.00
Guitars Over Guns, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$630,000.00
Haitian Neighborhood Center Sant La, LLC *ShareNest *Up2Us, Inc.	6-8	\$144,000.00
Miami-Dade County: Community Action and Human Services Department *FLIPANY *RER Consulting	9-12	\$148,000.00
Miami Music Project, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$700,000.00
The Miami Children's Museum, Inc. *Best of the Bess, Inc. *Conscious Discipline *FLIPANY *IXL Learning *University of North Carolina: Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute *WRiTE BRAiN WORLD, LLC	K-5	\$1,000,000.00
Young Musicians Unite, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$129,000.00

\*These are all proposed paid partners that were included in the applications. After contract negotiations, some paid partners might be dropped based on reduced award amounts, and these will be documented in the contract.

Summer-Only Programs		
Agency	Populations: K-5=elementary; 6-8= middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care services; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	Amount Not to Exceed
*Paid Partners (Additional direct services provided), if applicable		
Achieve Miami, Inc. *Artpad, Inc. *Guitars Over Guns *YWCA *FLIPANY	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$210,000.00
Adrienne Arsht Center Trust, Inc.	6-8	\$200,000.00
Breakthrough Miami *Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) *Florida International University *Miami Waterkeeper *Metamorphosis *Q-Q Research Consultants *YWCA *Nyah Project *Project Destined	6-8; 9-12	\$660,000.00
First Serve Miami, Inc.	K-5	\$78,000.00
Florida Introduces Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth, Inc. *Center for Virtual Advancement, Inc. *F.I.T. Enterprises, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$270,000.00
Global Speech and Rehab Services, LLC *Interactive Therapy Solutions *IScore Foundation *Triumph Steps, Inc. *The Lucy Project	K-5	\$130,000.00
Honey Shine, Inc. *Diamond in the Rough *Dibia Dream, Inc. *From the Inside-Out School of Etiquette *Girls, Inc. of Greater Miami *Nexplore, LLX	K-5; 9-12	\$220,000.00
Lutheran Services Florida, Inc. *Harvest 107 *Miami Dade College	SIY	\$133,000.00

Summer-Only Programs		
Agency *Paid Partners (Additional direct services provided), if applicable	Populations: K-5=elementary; 6-8= middle school; 9-12=high school; FC=young adults transitioning from foster care services; SIY=systems-involved and/or disconnected youth	Amount Not to Exceed
Miami Dade College *Triumph Steps, Inc.	9-12	\$108,000.00
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc. *Miami-Dade County: Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces *Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$210,000.00
Michael-Ann Russell Jewish Community Center, Inc.	K-5	\$264,000.00
Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, Inc.	9-12	\$320,000.00
S.E.E.K. Foundation, Inc. *Kids N Touch Academy *Mentally FiTT, Inc. *The Ultimate Scholastic Athlete, Inc.	9-12	\$126,000.00
Shake-A-Leg Miami, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$360,000.00
South Florida Autism Center, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$218,000.00
St. Alban's Day Nursery, Inc. *Dibia Dream, Inc.	K-5	\$120,000.00
University of Miami: School of Education and Human Development	6-8	\$150,000.00
University of Miami: School of Law *Afterschool Film Institute *Avatar Buddy, LLC *Educate Tomorrow *Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship *YES Institute	SIY	\$206,000.00
University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University: Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)	K-5	\$108,000.00

\*These are all proposed paid partners that were included in the applications. After contract negotiations, some paid partners might be dropped based on reduced award amounts, and these will be documented in the contract.

**Background:** The Children’s Trust engaged in over two years of widespread communications and community engagement efforts to develop and disseminate this competitive solicitation, including holding an information and input session with more than 500 attendees. The Children’s Trust issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) #2023-01 on October 26, 2022, to fund after-school and summer programs for elementary, middle and high school age children and youth for a five-year cycle with one-year contract renewals. The foundational assumption for this investment is that children and youth need safe and engaging opportunities outside of school time. Quality after-school and summer programs have been shown to improve academic performance, decrease risky behaviors and support working families.

One hundred sixty-seven applications were submitted by the RFP deadline, and 154 were reviewed, as 13 applications did not meet the eligibility requirements for a review. The above 143 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: 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 reconsidered by **Dr. Edward Abraham** who moved its approval. The motion was seconded by **Annie R. Neasman** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

**Motion passed, 12-0.**

**Recusals by Daniel Bagner, Hon. Norman Gerstein, Nelson Himcapie,  
Pamela Hollingsworth, Hon. Keon Hardemon and Richard P. Dunn II.**

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **17<sup>th</sup>**  
**day of April 2023.**

Resolution 2023-38 - Youth Development: After-school programs and summer camps (K-12; SIY)  
April 17, 2023

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY \_\_\_\_\_

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency. \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Only



## The Children's Trust Board Meeting

**Date: March 18, 2024**

**Resolution: 2024-33**

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Parenting: Book Club

**Strategic Framework Headline Community Results:** Nurturing and involved parents; and kindergarten readiness.

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and to negotiate and execute contracts with Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, Inc. and All in One Mail Shop, Inc. d/b/a All in One Direct Marketing Solutions for the support and maintenance of a birth to five book club, in a total amount not to exceed \$3,602,239.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$3,602,239.00 is projected to be available in FY 2024-25.

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**Description of Services:** Community demand for The Children's Trust Book Club has grown exponentially, which led The Trust to pause enrollment in May of 2023, and increase funding for the program in November 2023 for FY 2023-2024 to expand membership and grow the program. Additional efforts and coordination by Book Club vendors this year are necessary to accommodate the goal of reaching and maintaining 60,000 Book Club active members, a 28 percent increase over the prior membership peak of 47,000.

This resolution would facilitate a one-time, 12-month contract renewal beyond the current 5-year funding cycle with the current Book Club vendors listed in the table below. This will enable Trust staff members and vendors to continue to expand efforts and strategies to reach the recently increased membership goal.

This additional one-year renewal will enable Trust staff to gain a better understanding and experience in providing services to a much larger audience, which would inform future competitive procurement requirements and processes.

The Children's Trust Book Club is for children from birth until their fifth birthday and is comprised of four implementation components, which include the following key services:

- **Content Revision/Development and Book Buying** – Includes the: (i) selection of developmentally-appropriate books for young children, (ii) revision and creation of culturally-relevant content and activities to accompany the books, inclusive of content for children with disabilities, and (iii) procurement of books.
- **Professional Fulfillment Services** – Includes packaging, storing and monthly mailing of the books and accompanying materials.
- **Marketing** – Includes the creation and implementation of specialized marketing campaigns and other supporting collateral materials for grassroots outreach efforts. This component is approved under a separate resolution for marketing services.

- **Ongoing Operations** – Includes project and vendor management, relationship building to coordinate outreach and enrollment with other early childhood organizations and the community, customer service, and day-to-day oversight. These tasks are carried out by a dedicated Children’s Trust staff member. The Book Club’s existing software management solution assists with the management of operational tasks.

Vendors for the above-described implementation components and The Children’s Trust are working together to ensure coordination and effective operations. The following vendors are recommended for contract renewal for one year beyond the current 5-year funding cycle at the same contract amount that was in place for 2023-24, as amended by Resolution No. 2024-15.

Agency Name	Services Provided	Amount Not to Exceed
Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, Inc.	Content Development/ Book Buying	\$2,003,039.00
All in One Mail Shop, Inc. d/b/a All in One Marketing Solutions	Professional Fulfillment	\$1,599,200.00

This resolution includes the continued procurement and development of Haitian Creole home library packages and their accompanying educational materials. These packages are provided to families who register for the Book Club or current members who want to receive Haitian Creole books at various outreach activities, birthing hospitals, and professional fulfillment services. Additional incentives may be purchased to support enrollment in priority ZIP codes.

**Background:** On September 9, 2019, the board of The Children's Trust approved the funding recommendations from the competitive request for proposals, RFP# 2019-10, for a five-year funding cycle, following a comprehensive review process. Two agencies were funded for the Book Club's content development/book buying and professional fulfillment services components. To date, both vendors have been successfully renewed, and funding has been significantly expanded based on their performance and increased community demand for services.

Numerous early childhood organizations comprising The Children’s Trust Book Club Community Advisory Committee collaborate and support the efforts to select age-appropriate books and develop the accompanying educational collateral materials.

- A Central
- Creoletrans
- Florida International University
- University of South Florida
- Leonie Hermantin
- Miami-Dade County - Community Action and Human Services Department - Early Childhood Programs & Psychological Services
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

In February of 2023, the Book Club membership began experiencing a rapid increase in enrollment. By May 2023, the number of active members increased to 47,000, far surpassing the goal of 40,000. The Book Club general registration was paused temporarily due to this

surge. Through Resolution #2024-15, the Board authorized \$1,000,000.00 in additional funds to expand Book Club membership by 50 percent to 60,000 members.

The Book Club is in the fifth and final year of the funding cycle (2023-24), and community demand has led to significant expansion of funding and Book Club membership enrollment goals, as described above. Although there are currently no remaining renewals within the initial 5-year funding cycle, the current recommendation is for an additional 12-month term (2024-2025) to focus on reaching the expanded membership goal. This extra year will also enable Trust staff to understand better the new goal, which would inform future competitive procurement requirements and processes.

**Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of board members present):** The Book Club solicitation was initially developed on a five-year funding cycle. The current 2023-24 contract year was scheduled to be the final year of the initial cycle. However, this resolution is requesting a procurement waiver of the formal competitive procurement process to add one 12-month term to allow adequate time for reaching an expanded membership enrollment goal and for development of future competitive procurement requirements and processes.

**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 **18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 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: March 18, 2024**

**Resolution: 2024-34**

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Parenting & Family Strengthening  
Individual & Home Visitation Services; Health and Wellness

**Strategic Framework Headline Community Results:** Children are supported by nurturing and involved parents; and healthy lifestyle habits for eating, sleeping, physical activity and mental wellness.

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to negotiate and execute a match contract with the Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade for the Moving Beyond Depression (MBD) program, in a total amount not to exceed \$175,000.00, for a term of nine (9) months, commencing retroactively on March 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2024.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$175,000.00 for this resolution is allocated for FY 2023-2024.

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**Description of services:** In 2020, The Florida Maternal Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative completed the Florida Home Visiting Statewide Needs Assessment Update. This assessment indicated that Miami-Dade County was a high-risk community, based on maternal or child health outcomes and an eligible community for the implementation of the Moving Beyond Depression program based on local needs and gaps in services.

The Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade (HSCMD) offers the Moving Beyond Depression (MBD) program, a comprehensive, evidence-based cognitive behavioral treatment approach to identifying, treating, and reducing maternal depression in pregnant/postpartum women who are participating in existing home visitation programs. Women are screened and referred to the MBD program by various partner agencies during the home visits. It is an innovative program tailored to the specific needs of each participant, providing mothers who participate with the treatment needed to function optimally and support their child's development.

This match contract would enable HSCMD to support its current services and implement a pilot program to increase the availability of the MBD program to participants in Trust-funded home visitation parenting programs. Pregnant and post postpartum parents would be screened for depression using a standard tool and could be referred directly to this ready source of support. The funded home visitation models are Nurturing Parenting, Healthy Families, Parents as Teachers, and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschoolers Youngsters (HIPPY).

Through MBD, mothers receive In-Home Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (IH-CBT) delivered by therapists who hold a Master's degree, are certified to administer the evidenced-based MBD curriculum, are trained in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), and have the required experience to treat severe psychopathology. MBD participants receive up to 15 therapy sessions either virtually or at home, depending on family preference.

MBD is adapted for real world circumstances and is designed to be engaging and relevant to young, low-income, new mothers who participate in home visitation programs. Home visiting

is a prevention strategy used to support pregnant moms and new parents to promote infant and child health, foster educational development and school readiness, and help prevent child abuse and neglect. By treating mothers in their own homes or via tele-health, many barriers to treatment are removed. These include a lack of access to mental health care, transportation, and childcare. On average, mothers who have participated in MBD consistently scored below the clinical cutoff for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) after four sessions and were considered low risk by the ninth session.

Currently, postpartum parents who are screened and exhibit symptoms of depression do not have adequate/sufficient options available for treatment. In 2022, 12 percent (1,722) of pregnant women screened by HSCMD indicated they experienced symptoms of depression in the past month. In the same year, out of 1,796 pregnant/postnatal women who received psychosocial counseling, only 637 were able to access the State of Florida’s recommended MBD program due to a lack of funding and an insufficient number of organizations that offered this service.

**Background:** Perinatal depression is a mental health disorder that affects pregnant and postpartum women. Every year approximately four million women give birth in the United States. At least one in eight report experiencing depression symptoms, and about 50 percent of women experiencing depression never receive treatment. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Perinatal Mental Health is an urgent public health issue in the United States, with 15 to 20 percent of women suffering from postpartum depression; this is rate is two times higher for women living in poverty. The effects of untreated depression directly affect both the mother and the child. Depression during pregnancy is associated with infant preterm birth, low birth weight, attachment issues, and developmental and cognitive delays. Postpartum depression may interfere with a mother’s ability to bond and care for her baby. When untreated, it can affect the child’s behavior, cognitive development, and social and emotional development. Half of women diagnosed with postpartum depression remain depressed at five to nine months after childbirth, and one-third remain depressed at 12 to 18 months after childbirth. Additionally, it can affect a mother's ability to return to the workforce and provide for the family, increasing the risk of poverty, unemployment, and other family hardships.

The total cost of the MBD program, including other funders, is outlined in the table below. The Trust’s investment of \$175,000.00 would support HSCMD’s current work and expand services to facilitate direct referrals from Trust-funded programs. For every dollar The Children’s Trust invests in this initiative, \$3.00 in direct funding will be leveraged in return.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Match Funding</b>
Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade	\$460,672.00
United Way Miami	\$65,000.00
Total	\$525,672.00

**Procurement Policy:** 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 and funder collaboration funding beyond the initial contract term is at the sole discretion of The Children’s Trust and shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance evaluations, quality program results, outcome achievements, availability of funding, and an ability to maintain the underlying primary funding source(s).

**Geographic Area:** Countywide

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted **this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 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: March 18, 2024**

**Resolution: 2024-35**

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Health & Wellness: Injury Prevention Education; Community Engagement, Awareness and Advocacy; Funder Collaboration Initiatives

**Strategic Framework Headline Community Results:** High-quality early learning opportunities; and healthy lifestyle habits for eating, sleeping, physical activity and mental wellness.

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and, contingent on necessary approvals by Miami-Dade County, to negotiate and execute contracts with The Miami Foundation and Miami-Dade County to launch a child drowning prevention program in Miami-Dade County, in a total amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for a term of seven months, commencing retroactively to March 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2024, and a total amount not to exceed \$500,000.00 for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025; and authorization to enter into agreements with Miami-Dade County, Miami Foundation, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, American Red Cross and future partners and funders.

**Budget Impact:** Funding for this resolution in the amount of \$300,000.00 is allocated in FY 2023-2024, and funding in the amount of \$500,000.00 is projected to be available in FY 2024-2025.

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**Background:** Florida has the highest unintentional drowning death rate among children from birth to 9 years of age compared to other states, based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention national injury data. According to the archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicines, participation in formal swimming lessons is associated with an 88 percent reduction in the risk of drowning in children. Despite the widespread number of bodies of water throughout the County, from backyard swimming pools to neighborhood canals, there is no comprehensive, community-wide drowning prevention program for children.

The Children's Trust convened a team of community stakeholders to brainstorm solutions to this problem and to create a large-scale, community-wide program that can be sustainable for future years. This collaborative is comprised of representatives from various departments of Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), and The Miami Foundation. Together the group developed a three-year strategy to ideate and implement a drowning prevention initiative that would provide in-water swim safety lessons for children throughout the county.

Staff have learned from Broward County's 24-year-old drowning prevention program, Swim Central, to inform these planning efforts. This initiative is funded primarily by the Children's Services Council of Broward County and conducted in partnership with Broward County Parks Department and Broward County Public Schools.

The Miami-Dade collaborative is prepared to launch a pilot initiative, and to scale the program each year for three years, reaching a long-term goal of swim lessons for 20,000 children by the end of year three and beyond.

**Description of Services:** As part of this first-time initiative, the County plans to create a Miami-Dade Office of Drowning Prevention within the Miami-Dade County Parks Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS), which would pilot, implement, and coordinate an evidence based learn-to-swim/water safety program. This office would serve as the logistics hub to coordinate with swim safety providers, M-DCPS, The Miami Foundation (serving as the fiscal agent for various components of the program), and The Children’s Trust as the primary funder. The office would coordinate logistics and facilitate free swim lessons for cohorts of children transported from Miami-Dade County Head Start Centers, The Children’s Trust Thrive by 5 Centers, and M-DCPS kindergarten classrooms to the participating water safety provider nearest them during the school day.

The lessons provide essential drowning prevention instruction, during 10-day, 30-minute group classes with a ratio of one instructor per six students, which is a best practice and requirement of the American Red Cross for their program certification. The goal is to ensure participation of a wide range of swim safety providers to allow for no more than a 15-minute travel time to and from participating sites and reduce missed class time affected by the daily field trips. The advantage to participating during school hours is the availability of M-DCPS and County Head Start transportation, pools and instructors, and the increased likelihood that the children will complete the 10-day program. Parents/guardians will be required to sign waivers allowing their children to participate in swim safety lessons.

The pilot program is set to begin in April 2024, followed by the official start in September 2024. The American Red Cross has committed \$12,000.00 to fund the swim lessons for the pilot and is being engaged for future support. To maintain this support lower ratios and time in the water are minimum requirements. Trust funding of \$300,000.00 for FY 2023-2024 would be utilized to hire county staff and fund transportation and operational costs for the setup of the office, inclusive of elements to support the pilot program. The additional \$500,000.00 investment in FY 2024-2025 would allow the program to expand following the pilot. The intent is for PROS to absorb all costs for the staff in the Office of Drowning Prevention within three years, with Trust funding in future years (pending Trust Board approval) intended to cover the estimated \$4 per swim lesson, per child, per day at scale, as well as transportation. While the program is focused on 4- and 5-year-olds, it may be expanded to children of additional ages. The program will also have a family engagement component, including water safety education materials to further protect children from water danger and community-wide water safety communications and outreach campaigns.

Each partner in this collaborative has specific roles and responsibilities, which will be outlined in an agreement between entities. Details of the current partners are outlined below and are contingent upon receiving all necessary approvals by the relevant entities.

**Miami-Dade County, Office of the Mayor** - committed to establishing a Miami-Dade County Office of Drowning Prevention housed in PROS and to fund staff members for the office starting in FY 2024-2025 and taking over all staff costs by the end of FY 2026-2027. This partner is also assisting in securing additional funders for the program.

**Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces (PROS)** – The Office of Drowning Prevention, planned to be housed within PROS will operate and coordinate the evidence-based learn-to-swim/water safety program utilizing municipal and private learn-to-swim providers county-wide. Staff in the newly formed office will be responsible for program



implementation and recruitment, training, and certification of swim instructors. Miami-Dade County will also provide access to its facilities with pools.

**Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD)** - partnering on the efforts focused on 4-year-olds who participate in County Head Start programs and Trust-funded Thrive by 5 programs. This includes coordination of transportation for the children. CAHSD provides oversight to 17 delegate agencies in providing high-quality early childhood education in more than 350 Head Start classrooms, in over 90 locations across Miami-Dade County.

**The Miami Foundation** – possibly serving as the fiscal agent (details and contracts to be negotiated) and executing contracts and facilitating the funding transactions with participating anchor partners, and the participating municipal and private swim entities.

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools** – securing participation of M-DCPS kindergarten classrooms and facilitating transportation services utilizing its bus fleet during the school day, during non-peak traffic hours.

**The Children’s Trust** – facilitating the collaborative’s work, serving as the primary funder of the program, assists in securing additional funders for the program, and serves as the lead in marketing and communications.

Below is an estimated program timeline:

- **PILOT:** April and May 2024 - 400 children at four pools
- **YEAR 1:** October 2024 - Scale up of program to 4,000 children at 12 pools
- **YEAR 2:** October 2025 - Expansion of program to 10,000 children at 20 pools
- **YEAR 3 and beyond:** October 2026 - Full implementation of program with goal of 20,000 children at 30 pools

While The Children’s Trust funding would underwrite most of the pilot initiative and year one, all anchor partners are seeking additional funders to secure the match funding needed for future years of the program.

**Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of board members present):** This funding is needed to develop the infrastructure, pilot program, and execution of this new community initiative. A formal competitive procurement process, a collaborative agreement between multiple governmental agencies, is not feasible for this program.

Additional public and private sources of funding are expected to be secured once the program is in operation and future requests for funding will be made per procurement policy, section 2006 Match Funding and Funder Collaboration, once the additional funders have been established.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023**

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY \_\_\_\_\_

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency \_\_\_\_\_



**Media Highlights  
January 2024**

HOMESTEAD - SOUTH DADE

## Students using tech to learn about agricultural economy in South Dade school program

BY DAVID GOODHUE  
JANUARY 19, 2024 5:00 AM



Courtney Faith Nelson and Faith Denise Ariel Chapman, both 9 years old, studiously scanned their electronic tablets while sitting on the floor of Phicol Williams Community Center in Homestead Wednesday morning.

In front of them was a taped maze. The Primer Microschools students were entering calculations into the computers to help their baseball-shaped robots successfully traverse every corner of the course laid out before them.

For each move the robots made, the students had to enter a new line of code. The exercise was equal parts computer understanding and solve-as-you-go adaptation to fresh obstacles.

“My favorite part is where you can learn the calculations, and it helps you grow your brain because you’re learning the calculations of where it needs to go and where to turn and what the speed is,” Courtney explained.

The task certainly seemed difficult to many of the tech-deficient adults in the room, but Courtney, Faith and the other children, like 10-year-old Abraham Rodriguez, sure had a handle on things.

“It’s only difficult if you’re a starter,” Abraham said, as his robot scooted along the course like BB-8, the orb-like droid from the “Star Wars” movies.

The roughly 30 students demonstrating their skills had been immersed in coding, not only with robots, but also 3-D printing through Fab Lab Miami, which provides students in underserved communities hands-on instruction in digital fabrication and science, technology, engineering, arts and math learning — called STEAM, collectively.

**FIRST LAUNCHED IN LIBERTY CITY**

Fab Lab was launched in 2020 at the Belafonte TACOLCY Community Center in Liberty City with funding provided by non-profits like The Children’s Trust, the Key Biscayne Community Foundation, Himan Brown Charitable Trust, Fa Bene Foundation and the Miami Foundation for a Greater Miami.

The Liberty City students were in Homestead this week because a new Fab Lab is being launched there that will focus on agriculture and agricultural technology — fields in demand in the farm-driven economy of Homestead, Florida City and the Redland.

“Well, tech is obviously the way of the future. Miami-Dade is a beautiful community, but the south sometimes gets neglected in terms of funding programs. And, to be able to bring a state of the art hub to South Dade, to Homestead, really focusing on agriculture and agri-science, which is the industry down here, it really ties in well,” James Haj, CEO of The Children’s Trust, told the Herald.

The Phicol Williams Community Center Fab Lab was started with a \$225,000 investment from The Children’s Trust, the Kirk Foundation, the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, the Key Biscayne Community Foundation and the Ocean Reef Community Foundation.

Most of the students who will be taking part will be middle and high schoolers, but organizers are also hoping to attract elementary school children as well, said Ximena Nunez, director of communications for The Children’s Trust.

Haj said Fab Lab will soon open a third location in north Miami-Dade County.

Icilda Humes is chief of staff at Gangs Alternative, a Homestead non-profit aimed based at providing children with educational and economic opportunities to keep them away from life on the streets. She was excited at the prospects for South Dade students as she watched the Fab Lab kids demonstrate what they had learned through the program.

“It’s going to give so many opportunities to Black and Brown children who now don’t have these types of opportunities,” Humes said.

Fab Lab teachers are trained in how to instruct the technology offered to the students by staff at Florida International University, said Brian Schriener, dean of the school’s college of communications, architecture and the arts.

“Technology will never replace great teachers, but, in the hands of great teachers, technology is truly transformational,” Schriener said addressing attendees at the launch of the Homestead Fab Lab.

Many of the people who will be teaching at the Homestead campus are Gang Alternative staff, Humes said. As more young people are focusing on trades instead of four-year colleges and universities, Humes said programs like Fab Lab get students on a path to success when they enter the professional world.

Watching the students figure out their assignments with the robots and 3D printers, Humes said she was encouraged that the lessons seem to prepare them with the types of impromptu problem-solving skills employees need in the office, lab, out in the field and on construction sites.

“It’s really critical thinking. It’s trial and error. This gives me more hope for the next generation of the workforce,” Humes said.

# The Children's Trust and partners use soccer to help children develop

By James Haj - January 1, 2024



## New initiative brings soccer to more youth; builds social skills

It has never been a better time to be a soccer fan in South Florida. The best player in the world, Lionel Messi, plays for Inter Miami CF. The final of the Copa America will be played in Miami-Dade County next summer, and Miami will be one of the FIFA World Cup host cities in 2026.

And as thrilling as it is to be a fan, it is an even better time to be a young soccer player in Miami-Dade. That's because The Children's Trust has partnered with the U.S. Soccer Foundation, Miami-Dade County, and Griffin Catalyst to form the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative

that will bring soccer to all corners of the county, especially underserved communities. Not to watch – but to play!

The ambitious initiative is to build 50 new soccer mini-pitches throughout the county by 2026 to reach 36,000 Miami-Dade youth by 2030. The mini-pitches will bring free soccer programming that will allow children to enjoy the sport's physical, mental, and emotional benefits.

While professional sports like soccer can unite communities, The Trust knows that participating in sports and being part of a team helps children and youth build essential social skills that help them develop into well-adjusted adults. At the same time, being engaged with teammates under the guidance of a coach will keep many teens away from negative situations like being left alone with no direction and lessen the chances of getting in trouble.

The Trust has partnered with the U.S. Soccer Foundation's Soccer for Success program since 2017, a program that brought thousands of kids the benefits of exercise and fun while leading to better attitudes toward school and homework, improved relationships with peers and teachers, and increased positive self-views. The Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative is building on that success and taking it to the next level with the introduction of the Just Ball League.

Already a success story in New York City and Los Angeles, the Just Ball League focuses on more than just creating players; it seeks to establish a community support system. Coach-mentors, called "playmakers," guide players, identify and address their diverse needs, and encourage them to thrive, regardless of background.

The Just Ball League and mini-pitches have already started to pop up, with the first opening at Centro Mater in Little Havana, followed by another one at Everglades Village in Homestead, and a third at the Villa Del Lago apartment complex in Miami Gardens, operated by Ten North Group (formerly Opa-locka Community Development Corporation).

As more pitches are built, the community will find that these spaces represent more than just room to kick a ball. These mini-pitches are safe places for youth to develop, build friendships, and become responsible adults.

The Just Ball League is about more than soccer skills, as it instills life skills in young players. The impact of the league in other markets is inspiring, with 95 percent of participants developing more confidence, 94 percent feeling happier, 84 percent feeling less stress, and 81 percent having new friends.

As our community welcomes the world to watch high-level athletes play soccer in Miami-Dade in the next few years, The Trust and its partners are proud that we are doing our part to utilize the sport to nurture our children and strengthen our community for the future.

For more information on The Children's Trust's support of youth soccer, visit [TheChildrensTrust.org/soccer](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/soccer), and to find a Just Ball League location in your neighborhood go to [ussoccerfoundation.org/map](https://ussoccerfoundation.org/map) and visit [ussoccerfoundation.org/programs/just-ball-league](https://ussoccerfoundation.org/programs/just-ball-league).



# The Parent Club: a safe space and learning hub for Miami-Dade parents

**TOPICS:** Center For Children And Families Child Development Miami-Dade County Parent Club Parenting



Gabriel Suarez, a facilitator for the Parent Club, hosts story time for one of the club's "Ready, Set, Go: Storytelling" workshops | Courtesy of The Parent Club

"Instructions not included" is the motto most parents gravitate towards when asked what it's like to raise a child. With 21st-century problems such as screen-time ratios and the online learning years of the pandemic, this rings even truer.

Though a proven parenting formula has yet to exist, there's an FIU organization that wants to help Miami-Dade County families get as close to it as possible.

The Children's Trust Parent Club is a community-wide initiative dedicated to supporting parents through the triumphs and trials of parenthood with workshops on how to raise happy, healthy, and successful children and teens.

Established in 2019, the club is a mixture of efforts from several local organizations including The Children's Trust, the University of Miami's Mailman Center for Child Development, Be Strong International, Inc. and, most notably, FIU's Center for Children and Families.

"[The Parent Club] is really close to the mission of our center, because our focus is to promote children's mental health and wellbeing," shared Dr. Katie Hart, director of the initiative. "One of

the ways we know we can prevent a lot of mental health challenges is if we support parents and caregivers specifically.”

The Parent Club partners with community hubs such as the HistoryMiami Museum to reach parents all across Miami-Dade County | Courtesy of The Parent Club

Workshops are held weekly online and in-person at schools, libraries, churches, museums, and other community hubs across the county and are offered in English, Spanish and Creole. They cover a range of relevant topics including ADHD, cyberbullying, and tantrums.

Incentives such as free childcare, food, and raffle giveaways draw in crowds of up to 75+ who show up for the perks and stay for the pointers.

Dr. Hart, who is an associate professor of psychology and licensed clinical psychologist herself, spearheads a team of five staff members made up of two coordinators and three facilitators. Together, their distinct cultural, educational and even familial backgrounds speak to the diversity of the community they serve.

“We have facilitators who are bilingual, some who are new parents, and some who are parents of teens,” Dr. Hart said about her team members. “That helps to provide some additional context and empathy for families. It’s helpful to hear from voices that share lived experiences.”

Aside from being a safe space parents flock to, the Parent Club aims to be an educational cornerstone for the families it serves. The organization prides itself in its Triple P curriculum, an Australian-based positive parenting program that is rooted in empirical evidence.

Triple P supplies parents with simple and practical strategies that stem from the belief that when you build healthy parents, you build stronger communities.

The program’s extensive research findings that point to [decreased rates of child abuse](#), [reduced problem behavior in children](#), and [improved mental health amongst caregivers](#) seem to agree.

“As parents, we only have the model of how we were raised and, although all parents are doing the best they can, it isn’t always a model that we would like to repeat,” said one of the club’s facilitators, Barby Jimenez, on some of the challenges the Parent Club’s curriculum addresses.

She recalled being surprised at a recent workshop when parents were asked if they had experienced “time-out” as a childhood punishment, and no one raised their hand. Instead, the participants, who ranged between the millennial and Generation X ages, admitted that they’d often been “hit” for misbehaving.

“I love when I see parents have an ‘Aha!’ moment and feel like they have permission to parent differently from their past experiences,” Jimenez mentioned. “It feeds my heart to know we are changing lives well into the future.”

Beyond the Parent Club’s goal to support and educate parents, the heart of its mission is connection. Dr. Hart and her team are keenly aware of the weight that accompanies being a parent – a child’s first and most formative role model – and the isolating effect that responsibility can have.

Parents often feel left to their own devices when it comes to navigating their unique children and parental experiences. The Parent Club aims to remedy that very misconception.

“I think we all want to feel like we have a community and belong somewhere,” closed Dr. Hart. That’s really what the Parent Club is all about – bringing parents together to learn, share, and connect with one another.”



**Media Highlights  
February 2024**

## The Children's Trust Book Club Reopens Registration, Expands Free Program for Miami-Dade County Families

Balsera PR Mar 1, 2024 0



The Children's Trust Book Club proudly announces the reopening of registration for families in Miami-Dade County with children from birth up to their fifth birthday. The relaunch comes with exciting expansions in its services aimed at promoting early literacy and ensuring all children in the county are kindergarten-ready.

Ensuring children are reading at grade level by third grade is essential for their lifelong success. As of 2022, 44 percent of students in Miami-Dade were not reading on grade level. To increase literacy rates across Miami-Dade County and ensure all kids are ready for kindergarten, The Children's Trust has implemented several literacy initiatives, including The Book Club.

This program is just one part of their efforts to help children begin school on day one, with the right tools and skills needed to succeed. "We're thrilled to present the revitalized Children's Trust Book Club, marking a key milestone in our broader efforts to equip every child with the readiness for a successful start to kindergarten," said The Children's Trust President and CEO James R. Haj. "Our steadfast dedication to early literacy underscores our ongoing commitment to preparing all children within Miami-Dade County for educational success."

Since its inception in 2015, The Children's Trust Book Club has shown remarkable growth. In 2020, it expanded its reach to include children from birth to their fifth birthday and has provided over 1.6 million free books to registered families. Due to

high demand, the registration process was temporarily paused from May to September 2023, however, with The Trust's increased investment to expand membership from 40,000 to 60,000 to offer the program to even more families in Miami-Dade.

Through the Book Club, The Children's Trust mails one free book, in English or Spanish, to all registered families each month, accompanied by educational reading guides for parents, grandparents, and caregivers to engage in shared experiences with their child. A significant aspect of the Book Club's expansion is its commitment to linguistic inclusivity.

Families can select their preferred language for book titles and communication materials during registration, with options available in English and Spanish as well as special deliveries of books in Haitian Creole.

As of February 2024, the Book Club has 42,600 members, continuously increasing as parents complete registrations. Families in Miami-Dade County with children from birth to 4 and a half years old are invited to register now at [www.TheChildrensTrust/BookClub](http://www.TheChildrensTrust/BookClub). All registered families will receive their first book of the month after the registration date until their child's fifth birthday.

# A strong Miami-Dade economy requires investment in quality child care | Opinion

Miami Herald

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FISCAL CLIFF COLLABORATIVE  
February 28, 2024 at 2:04 PM



Miami-Dade County is at a crossroads, struggling with affordability that has far-reaching consequences for working families and employers. The high cost of living has led to slight wage increases that often still fall significantly short of covering essential needs. Accepting the much-needed increases forces families to make tough choices as they risk losing eligibility for social safety net services and leaves employers struggling with labor shortages. This situation has become increasingly common and is known as a fiscal or benefits cliff.

High-quality child care is one of the most expensive costs for families. Research consistently demonstrates that high-quality early learning experience in child care profoundly impacts a child's life long academic performance. Children who receive quality care are more likely to excel in school, achieve higher test scores, and less likely to drop out. The importance of investing in the earliest years of a child's life

cannot be overstated; it lays the foundation for future success and societal contributions.

Safe and high-quality care is also indispensable to support the current workforce. The fiscal cliff has forced some families to choose child care options based only on affordability and convenience, rather than quality. This jeopardizes children's access to high-quality early learning opportunities or keeps families from thriving financially. Our community's families deserve both high quality child care and higher wages.

A recent report by the Florida Chamber Foundation sheds light on the magnitude of the problem. According to the "Untapped Potential" report, insufficient child care costs Florida \$5.38 billion annually. Additionally, child care related employee turnover and absenteeism cost Florida employers another \$3.47 billion each year. This is not merely a financial burden; it is a restraint on the potential of future generations and a significant obstacle to the growth of Miami-Dade's economy.

We are grateful that many members of the Florida Legislature have recognized this situation's urgency and introduced an unprecedented number of early learning bills this legislative session. These bills signify a commitment to providing equitable and successful beginnings, so that every child is ready for kindergarten. Moreover, legislation has been proposed to expand intervention services, identifying roadblocks to future learning early enough to prevent common challenges in K-12. At the same time, bill proponents actively seek solutions to offset the fiscal cliff for families, fostering a stable transition to economic independence and sustainability.



## Solutions

The Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation members support these bills and have shown their commitment to advocating for children, families, and employers. Through collaboration with public-private partners, these legislators spearhead policy changes that promise to impact and strengthen the community positively.

The Miami-Dade County Fiscal Cliff Collaborative, a group that convenes quarterly, is actively finding tangible solutions to this community challenge. Recognizing that employee retention is essential for economic stability, the Collaborative partners are addressing the fiscal cliff issue and facilitating programs that provide families with the support they need to thrive.

The imminent solutions posed by members of our Legislature have the potential to make a lasting positive impact on both our families and our local economy. We must continue to work together, leveraging the momentum generated by the legislative efforts, to strengthen our community further.

Supporting solutions to Miami-Dade's child care challenges is not just a moral imperative; it is an economic necessity. By investing in high-quality child care we are investing in the workforce of today and tomorrow. The legislative initiatives underway offer a solution, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that these efforts result in tangible, transformative change for Miami-Dade County.

*Miami-Dade County Fiscal Cliff Collaborative Members include: CareerSource South Florida, Coalition of Miami-Dade County Chambers of Commerce, Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Greater*

*Miami of Chamber of Commerce, Health Foundation of South FL, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami-Dade Beacon Council, The Children's Movement of Florida, The Children's Trust, United Way Miami, YWCA South Florida.*

# Nurturing Miami-Dade's Innovative Growth and Sustainability Focused on Children and Families

By James Haj - February 7, 2024



Miami-Dade County is experiencing an economic shift as it transforms into a burgeoning technology hub. Our community has recently become a magnet for tech founders and venture capitalists, with *Forbes* even ranking Miami ahead of traditional tech hubs like New York and Austin, Texas. This change is fueled by an influx of global technology, financial companies, and investors, making the county a frontrunner in innovative job growth.

For this change to be sustained, we must ensure that our future workforce is ready to support technology and paradigm-shifting ideas to handle the changes that may come

with it. Through its Innovation Fund and other funding initiatives, The Children's Trust is sowing the seeds for Miami-Dade County's future as a technology and innovation leader. The next round of Innovation Fund applications, opening February 8, will make more than \$1 million in grant funds available for multiple innovative projects. In part, these funds are expected to catalyze technology-based initiatives that benefit children and families and explore solutions that align with Miami-Dade's forward-thinking trajectory.

The Children's Trust is dedicated to investing in evidence-based programs and services that positively impact the well-being of children and families in Miami-Dade. The Trust established the Innovation Fund to nurture innovative ideas and program designs that address new or existing community needs. The grant program supports piloting ideas, strategies, methods, and partnerships not previously tried in Miami-Dade's diverse community. Its goal is to promote effective and equitable opportunities for children to thrive.

In October 2022, the previous innovation cycle yielded 17 funded projects, including multiple initiatives that bring technology to the forefront. Many of those projects are already thriving. ICUBaby, for example, uses technology to help guide parents whose newborns are in neonatal intensive care units (NICU) through uncertain and challenging circumstances. The organization developed a mobile app for use by parents that helps educate and inform parents about what can be a traumatic experience while also keeping them more connected to their newborn and to essential support. Initially started at one hospital, the project plans to expand to several others.

Another Innovation Fund project developed by the University of Miami/Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities uses virtual reality as exposure therapy for youth with phobias or social anxieties, with promising initial results. University of Miami's Mailman Center for Child Development is also developing a Virtual Reality simulation to help children with anxiety and fears deal with those issues in a virtual setting as a safe and protected way of confronting issues before tackling them in real life.

Other innovative projects include a Science Alliance subscription box that helps educators promote science-related educational materials to underserved preschool youth, the building of an aquaculture facility in an urban setting that can harvest fish, vegetables, and even pearls, and in-depth high school investing program where

students can manage a portion of funds while receiving guidance from financial professionals.

Not all Innovation Fund projects will be successful or enduring, but even those that aren't still use creativity, imagination, and ingenuity that will ultimately move our community forward. The Trust also invests in funder collaborations that support projects like Fab Lab Miami, which brings STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) education to children and youth from underserved communities – currently in Liberty City and Homestead and seeking to expand locations.

The upcoming Innovation Fund grant round promises to further propel Miami into the forefront of the global tech landscape. Nurturing the greatness of every child gives them a chance to thrive and is imperative to the success of Miami-Dade – both now and in the future. To learn more about the Innovation Fund and other funding opportunities, visit [TheChildrensTrust.org/grants](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/grants).