



## Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, March 17, 2025  
3250 S.W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (Coral Way)  
United Way – Ryder Room  
8:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

### AGENDA

#### Board of Directors

Kenneth C. Hoffman  
Chair

Pamela Hollingsworth  
Vice-Chair

Matthew Arsenaault  
Treasurer

Marissa Leichter  
Secretary

Edward Abraham, M.D.  
Laura Adams

Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi  
Steven Adkins

Daniel Bagner, Ph.D.

Hon. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ph.D.

Cathy Burgos

Silvia Castellanos

Roberto Carmona

Norie del Valle

Lourdes Diaz

Richard P. Dunn II

Gilda Ferradaz

Hon. Norman S. Gerstein (Ret.)

Lourdes P. Gimenez

Nicole Gomez

Valrose Graham

Mindy Grimes-Festge

Osmani Gonzalez

Hon. Keon Hardemon

Malou C. Harrison, Ph.D.

Thamara Labrousse

Laurie Weiss Nuell

Clara Lora Ospina, Psy.D.

Hon. Orlando Prescott

Hon. Alex Rizo

Hon. Isaac Salver

David Lawrence Jr.  
Founding Chair

James R. Haj  
President & CEO

County Attorney's Office  
Legal Counsel

8:40 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Kenneth C. Hoffman  
*Chair*

8:45 a.m. **Public Comments**

Kenneth C. Hoffman  
*Chair*

8:50 a.m. **Approval of October 21, 2024 Executive  
Committee minutes summary**  
*(Additional Items Packet) (Pgs. 4-6)*

Kenneth C. Hoffman  
*Chair*

8:55 a.m. **Appreciation for Outstanding Service to  
The Children's Trust**

Kenneth C. Hoffman  
*Chair*

- *Jacqueline Exceus, At-Large Board Member*

9:00 a.m. **Program Services Committee Report**

#### **Health Presentation**

Edward Abraham, MD  
*Ad Hoc Health Committee Chair*

#### **Consent Agenda Resolutions 2025-30 through 2025-37**

Pamela Hollingsworth  
*Committee Chair*

**Resolution 2025-30:** 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, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000.00. *(Pgs. 7-8)*

**Resolution 2025-31:** 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, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. *(Pgs. 9-10)*

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

**Resolution 2025-32:** 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, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. *(Pgs. 11-14)*

**Resolution 2025-33:** 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 \$25,824,500.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, with four possible contract renewals; authorization to apply for and accept grant funding for this initiative, and to execute agreements necessary to receive and expend such grant funds, including, but not limited to, up to \$750,000.00 over five years from the Health Foundation of South Florida, and \$750,000.00 from United Way Miami over five years for support of the mobile health component; and also, to request authorization to use funds from this initiative to leverage federal funding through the Low-Income Pool program (LIP). *(Pgs. 15-18)*

**Resolution 2025-34:** Authorization to negotiate and execute a fifth and final contract in the current funding cycle 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, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. *(Pgs. 19-20)*

**Resolution 2025-35:** Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract renewal with Florida International University Board of Trustees, for reading enhancement services, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026, with three remaining possible contract renewals. *(Pgs. 21-24)*

**Resolution 2025-36:** Authorization to negotiate and enter into a match contract agreement with Miami Youth Garden, Inc. for the "Well Community Initiative" in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 for a term of seven months, retroactive to March 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2025. *(Pgs. 25-27)*

**Resolution 2025-37:** Authorization to negotiate and execute contract renewals with five vendors, identified herein, for advertising creative, public relations, media buying, and community outreach, in an amount not to exceed \$2,216,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026, with three annual renewal options at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust. *(Pgs. 28-30)*

**Resolution 2025-38:** Authorization to negotiate and execute renewal contracts with 117 providers, identified herein, to deliver high-quality (i) after-school programming for 16,642 elementary, middle, high school-aged children and youth, and (ii) summer programming for 15,389 elementary, middle, and high school-aged children and youth, in a total amount not to exceed \$71,948,800.00, for a contract term of 12 months, commencing August 15, 2025, and ending August 14, 2026, with two remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. Further authorization to change the legal name of one of the providers. *(Pgs. 31-38)*

9:55 a.m. **CEO Report**

James R. Haj  
President & CEO

- *Champions for Children April 30, 2025  
Jungle Island, 1111 Parrot Jungle Trail, Miami, FL 33132*
- *Young Talent Big Dreams Finals – Saturday, May 10, 2025  
@7:00p.m. Miracle Theatre  
280 Miracle Mile Coral Gables, FL 33134*
- Media Highlights (**Pgs. 39-48**)

10:00 a.m. **Adjourn**

**Reminder:**

**Executive Committee Meeting: \*Monday, May 19, 2025**



**Executive Committee Meeting Summary  
Summary of Actions Taken  
October 21, 2024  
4:10 p.m.– 6:00 p.m.**

**The Executive Committee Meeting on October 21, 2024, was held with a quorum of members physically present:**

**Committee members in attendance:** Kenneth C. Hoffman, Pamela Hollingsworth, Matthew Arsenault, Gilda Ferradaz, Dr. Daniel Bagner, and Lourdes Gimenez.

**Legal Counsel in attendance:** Leigh Kobrinski

**Staff in attendance:** Imran Ali, James Haj, Jack Bentolila, Lori Hanson, Natalia Zea, William Kirtland, Rachel Spector, Bevone Ritchie, Carol Brogan, Bryan Pomares, Juana Leon, Lisete, Yero, Yuliet Alfonso, Victoria Gandul, Jennifer Ulysse, Nandy Smith, Sebastian Del Marmol, Patricia Leal, Amanda Gorski, Felix Becerra, Lindsay Francois, Alejandro Aguirre, Ximena Nunez, Michele Mordica, Danielle Barreras, Grettel Suarez, Garnet Esters, Lianett Jimenez, Wanda Sanchez, Wendy Duncombe, Ximena Nunez.

**Meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Kenneth Hoffman, Chair of the Executive Committee.**

**The following actions were taken at the October 21, 2024 Executive Committee meeting:**

**Resolution 2025-01: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Dr. Daniel Bagner and seconded by Pastor Richard P. Dunn.** Authorization to release a competitive solicitation for school-based health services in an annual amount not to exceed \$24,194,846.00, for a new 5-year funding cycle to begin July 1, 2025. Authorization to seek additional funding for school-based health services from other sources through partnership agreements, grant applications, and other mechanisms of fund development. **Motion passed, unanimously, 7-0.**

**Resolution 2025-02: Motion to approve the resolution twas made by Pastor Richard P. Dunn and seconded by Pamela Hollingsworth.** Amend resolution #2024-24, granting authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with five communications vendors, to reflect a name change in one of the selected vendors from Balsera Communications Group, LLC to Alfredo J. Balsera, P.A. d/b/a Balsera Communications. **Motion passed, unanimously, 7-0.**

**Resolution 2025-03: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Lourdes P. Gimenez and seconded by Gilda Ferradaz.** Authorization to accept a contribution of up to \$132,923.00 from Miami Beach Chamber Education Foundation, Inc., the fiscal agent for the City of Miami Beach and neighboring municipalities, and to negotiate and execute a contract renewal with Borinquen Medical Health Center, a funded school-based health provider, to provide behavioral health enhancements in four Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) system public schools in Miami Beach, at a cost equal to the same dollar amount for a term of nine months, commencing retroactively on October 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025. **Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

**Resolution 2025-04: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Pamela Hollingsworth and seconded by Gilda Ferradaz.** Authorization to negotiate and execute contract renewals with eight providers, identified herein, to provide 635 slots for therapeutic health and early intervention summer

camp services for children aged birth to five years, in a total amount not to exceed \$2,517,499.00, each for a term of six months, commencing March 1, 2025, and ending August 31, 2025, subject to annual funding appropriations. **Motion passed, 6-0. Recusal by Dr. Daniel Bagner.**

**Resolution 2025-05: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Matthew Arsenault and seconded by Pastor Richard P. Dunn.** Authorization to negotiate and execute contract renewals with 20 providers, identified herein, to deliver high-quality summer programming for 2,217 elementary, middle, and high school-aged children and youth, in a total amount not to exceed \$4,820,000.00. The contract term will be 6 months, commencing March 1, 2025, and ending August 31, 2025, with three remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. **Motion passed, 5-0. Recusals by Dr. Daniel Bagner and Pamela Hollingsworth.**

**Resolution 2025-06: Motion to approve the resolution t was made by Pamela Hollingsworth and seconded by Lourdes P. Gimenez.** Authorization to amend resolution #2024-32 and to execute contract modifications with 12 youth development providers identified herein to provide an increase in funding, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,213,600.00, to add additional slots and service days due to programs with waitlists for services **Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

**Resolution 2025-07: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Dr. Daniel Bagner and seconded by Pamela Hollingsworth.** Authorization to negotiate and execute a match contract renewal 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 twelve months, commencing retroactively on October 1, 2024, and ending on September 30, 2025. **Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

**Consent Agenda included Resolutions 2025-08 through 2025-13, which passed on a single vote.**

**Resolution 2025-08: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Matthew Arsenault and seconded by Pastor Richard P. Dunn.** Authorization to negotiate and enter into a contract agreement with Miami-Dade County to support Miami-Dade Public Library System's STEAM-based programming and academic tutoring, in an amount not to exceed \$225,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactive to October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. **Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

**Resolution 2025-09: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Matthew Arsenault and seconded by Pastor Richard P. Dunn.** Authorization to negotiate and enter into a contract agreement with Catalyst Miami, Inc. for Future Bound Miami, a Children's Savings Accounts program, in a total amount not to exceed \$285,000.00, for a term of 12 months retroactive to October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. **Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

**Resolution 2025-10: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Matthew Arsenault and seconded by Pastor Richard P. Dunn.** Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract renewal with Miami-Dade County for the HERO truancy prevention program, a component of the Case Management Referral Program, in a total amount not to exceed \$880,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing August 1, 2025, and ending July 31, 2026. **Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

**Resolution 2025-11: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Matthew Arsenault and seconded by Pastor Richard P. Dunn.** Authorization to negotiate and enter into a match contract agreement with Miami-Dade County for the Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP), in a total amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing March 1, 2025, and ending on February 28, 2026. **Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

**Resolution 2025-12: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Matthew Arsenault and seconded by Pastor Richard P. Dunn.** Authorization to negotiate and enter into a contract agreement with Miami Homes for All, Inc., to support partnerships to end youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County through service linkage, advocacy, and engagement, in an amount not to exceed \$325,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactive to October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. **Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

**Resolution 2025-13: Motion to approve the resolution was made by Matthew Arsenault and seconded by Pastor Richard P. Dunn.** Authorization to negotiate and enter into a contract agreement with the Key Biscayne Community Foundation to support FabLab Miami in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactive to October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025. **Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.**

# The Children’s Trust Board Meeting

March 17, 2025

## Resolution 2025-30

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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, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, 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 2024-2025 and projected to be available in FY 2025-2026.

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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 vision 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.

In contract year 2023-2024, MLB exceeded the 5,435 contracted number of children to be served by more than 16 percent. In the first six months of contract year 2024-2025, MLB conducted more than 2,700 eye examinations for children in Miami-Dade County.

Resolution 2025-30 – Health and Wellness: Comprehensive Vision Follow-Up (Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.)  
March 17, 2025

<b>Contract Year</b>	<b>Vision Services</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>
<b>2023-2024</b>	Eye examinations completed	6,322
	Eyeglasses provided	3,814
<b>2024-2025 (first 6 months)</b>	Eye examinations completed	2,783
	Eyeglasses provided	1,556

**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.

**Procurement Policy:** Per The Children’s Trust’s procurement policy section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (H-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 **17<sup>th</sup> day of**

**March 2025.**

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 17, 2025**

**Resolution: 2025-31**

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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, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$548,014.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2025-2026.

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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 contracted through The Trust-funded HealthConnect in Our Schools initiative. 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; 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

Results from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, indicate that 4,530 children were served (exceeding the number contracted), and 256 of them received 590 sealants. More details by provider are included in the table below. Similar performance metrics are being tracked for the services in progress for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Recommended Amount Not to Exceed</b>	<b>2023-2024 Contracted # Children</b>	<b>2023-2024 Actual # Children</b>
Community Health of South Florida	\$190,000.00	1,361	1,059
Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade	\$190,787.00	1,800	2,486
Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc.	\$167,227.00	778	985
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$548,014.00</b>	<b>4,243</b>	<b>4,530</b>

The overall number of children served increased from the previous year as child care center staff and parents became more comfortable welcoming the services after closures and illnesses the last few years. Staffing shortages continue in the southern areas of the county, impacting child care centers' availability and negatively affecting the number of children served by Community Health of South Florida. Effective strategies for outreach and education will continue.

**Background:** Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood. 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 (CDC) 2024 Oral Health Surveillance report, about half of children aged 6 to 9 years had one or more decayed, filled or missing primary, or permanent teeth. One study found children with poor oral health status are nearly three times more likely to miss school as a result of dental pain, and absences caused by pain were associated with poorer school performance.

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. Following the conclusion of that funding cycle, the contracts were renewed for FY 2024-2025 based on the procurement policy's health exemption. All three agencies are recommended for continued services for FY 2025-2026.

**Procurement Policy:** Per the procurement policy, Section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (H-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 **17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.**

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 17, 2025**

**Resolution: 2025-32**

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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, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$445,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2025-2026.

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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. Other trainings were offered in-person or virtually to meet the interests of participants during fiscal year 2023-2024. From October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, the PHT provided 329 trainings, attended by 2,018 staff members, parents, caregivers, and youth. Similar performance metrics are being tracked for the services in progress for the fiscal year 2024-2025.

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

Resolution 2025-32 – Health & Wellness-Injury Prevention Education (Public Health Trust of Miami-Dade County d/b/a Jackson Health System)  
March 17, 2025

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. updating and maintenance 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 2023 in Miami-Dade County, 45,292 non-fatal

emergency room visits by children and youth, ages 0-19 years, were due to unintentional injuries. That same year, there were 691 non-fatal hospitalizations and 49 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 2023-2024 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>
Car Passenger Safety (CPS) Certification	1	4
Car Seat Inspection	116	468
Customized Safety Training	13	97
Home Safety Training	78	640
Passenger Safety	91	530
Poison Safety	16	125
Teen Driver/Passenger Safety	5	45
Water Safety	9	109
<b>All</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>2,018</b>

From October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, 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, 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 Grove, Miami Springs, South Miami, Florida City, Kendall, and Downtown Miami. At these health fairs and through outreach to new families in the Jackson maternity units, 1,702 flyers and 1,271 safety items were distributed.

One of the key activities for the Injury Free Coalition is the awareness campaign for Injury Prevention Month (in November) and National Injury Prevention Day (NIPD). For the fifth annual NIPD, November 18, 2024, PHT's Injury Free Coalition of Miami organized a safety event at Holtz Children's Hospital. Participants received information on fire safety, home safety, drowning prevention, poisoning safety, gun safety, and passenger safety. They were also encouraged to visit the injury prevention mobile unit, parked on-site and available for tours. Services and information provided during the event were available in Spanish, English, and Haitian Creole. PHT published an article on injury prevention on the Injury Free Miami and the UHealth Collective news websites and appeared on social media. The event ended with Jackson Memorial Hospital, Stephen P. Clark Government Center, Miami City Hall, and

the University of Miami Mailman Center buildings all lighting up in green to commemorate NIPD.

**Procurement Policy:** Per the procurement policy, Section 2000, General Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process (H-3), these health-related 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 **17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.**

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 17, 2025**

**Resolution: 2025-33**

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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 \$25,824,500.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, with four possible contract renewals; authorization to apply for and accept grant funding for this initiative, and to execute agreements necessary to receive and expend such grant funds, including, but not limited to, up to \$750,000.00 over five years from the Health Foundation of South Florida, and \$750,000.00 from United Way Miami over five years for support of the mobile health component; 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 25,824,500.00 is allocated for FY 2024-2025 and is projected to be available in FY 2025-2026. There is no budget impact for accepting Health Foundation of South Florida and United Way Miami funding or for use these funds to leverage LIP funding.

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**Description of Services:** This resolution authorizes The Children’s Trust to negotiate and execute contracts with six providers selected through a competitive solicitation process based on their successful applications. The HealthConnect in Our Schools (HCiOS) program is designed to comprehensively address the holistic health needs of students, incorporating physical and mental health. The overarching goals of this initiative are to increase access to preventive services, provide robust health education, effectively manage chronic disease, and connect students with essential community care and resources.

The Children’s Trust collaborates with the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (FDOH-MD) and Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) to maximize the impact of this initiative. This funding will introduce school-based health services within some charter schools that demonstrate student health care needs and expand services to more public schools across the county. The program will focus on ensuring equitable access to health services for schools serving students with the greatest service needs.

HealthConnect in Our Schools will implement a tiered model of care at 282 schools, offering various levels of support based on the needs of each school, rather than a one-size-fits-all model. The tiered model will include foundational school health services that promote overall

health and wellness, as well as enhanced and expanded health interventions at schools where more students have specific health risks, and complex or severe health needs. There will be approximately 212,965 students served in 141 elementary schools, 51 K-8 schools, 42 middle schools and 48 high schools. The level of tiered services at each school were defined within the RFP, in partnership with FDOH-MD and M-DCPS based on review of relevant and available data.

In addition to onsite health services provided by school health professionals, the tiered model will integrate telehealth technologies to expand the reach and accessibility of physical and mental health care. This resolution will also fund an additional 66 schools that will receive a telehealth-only model of services, extending the HCiOS reach to all M-DCPS public schools in the county. Telehealth will enable real-time consultations, follow-ups, and health assessments, allowing students to connect with healthcare providers without needing to leave the school environment. This is particularly beneficial for managing chronic conditions, conducting behavioral health support, and coordinating care in various situations.

Expected outcomes of the school-based health program include improving return-to-class rates, thus reducing educational time lost due to health issues. The program will facilitate early identification and intervention through regular health screenings and increase access to preventive services such as immunizations, vision, oral health, and mental health services. Additionally, students will improve their awareness and practices related to key health and safety education topics, such as healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco cessation, and mental wellness. Finally, the program aims to enhance the effective management of chronic health conditions, such as allergies, asthma, diabetes, and epilepsy.

As noted in the table below. The traditional onsite and telehealth services in schools will be enhanced with pediatric mobile units by certain of the recommended providers. These units extend health care beyond schools, reaching underserved non-public school communities and addressing barriers like geography and logistics. Some of the funding recommendations below will partially fund the operational costs of existing mobile units that will be leveraged to expand services to more schools outside of M-DCPS and other high-need areas. Mobile health services, often free for uninsured students, may include check-ups, immunizations, chronic disease management, lab tests, mental health screenings, nutritional counseling, health education, and medication management.

As staff works to expand HCiOS services, leveraging additional funds through partner funding organizations is an optimal way to expand the funding pool and increase community commitment to this initiative. United Way Miami's Board has authorized a grant for the amount of \$150,000.00 per year for each year of the five-year HCiOS funding cycle to support operations of pediatric mobile units as part of this initiative. The Health Foundation of South Florida has provided a formal Letter of Intent to also fund mobile unit operations at \$150,000.00 per year for five years. The Health Foundation's Board will formally vote on the investment in its regularly scheduled meeting in April. This expected total of \$1.5 million provided directly to The Children's Trust will support expanded mobile unit services as part of the multi-tiered model of care.

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 Federal Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in Miami-Dade 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. All funded FQHCs are community-based health care providers designated to deliver primary care services in underserved areas; therefore, they are

eligible to participate in the LIP initiative. In FY 2023-2024 this arrangement drew down more than 4.1 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 funding awards, along with 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<sup>1</sup></b>
Citrus Health Network	\$3,632,655.00	32	33264
Community Health of South Florida <sup>2</sup>	\$6,628,676.00	58	49948
Hazel Health <sup>3</sup>	\$503,576.00	66	36491
Jessie Trice Community Health System <sup>2</sup>	\$7,349,654.00	60	35960
Nicklaus Children's Hospital	\$3,388,360.00	30	26164
University of Miami <sup>2</sup>	\$4,321,579.00	36	31138
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,824,500.00</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>212,965</b>

<sup>1</sup> The total number of unduplicated students is not an exact total of the students by agency, since some students transfer between schools during the school year.

<sup>2</sup> These agencies will include pediatric mobile units.

<sup>3</sup> This organization will implement a telehealth-only model at these schools with staffing support from M-DCPS.

**Background:** A child’s physical and emotional health and wellness significantly impacts 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 on health, and thus, Trust investments aim to increase access to services for children who lack health resources and are underinsured or uninsured.

**Procurement Policy:** The Children’s Trust issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) #2025-04 on October 21, 2024, to release \$24,194,846.00 to fund comprehensive school health services for a five-year funding cycle with yearly contract renewals. Based on the board-approved fiscal year 2024-2025 budget, additional funding was allocated to support the needs in school-based health. This recommendation includes the allocated additional funding.

Ten applications were submitted by the RFP deadline, and all applications were reviewed. The above six applications are recommended for funding, with five of them having been funded in the previous cycle. These recommendations are 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 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 **17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.**

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 17, 2025**

**Resolution: 2025-34**

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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 fifth and final contract in the current funding cycle 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, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$600,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available for FY 2025-2026.

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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 73 Trust-funded after-school sites for children and youth in grades K-12. In addition to food distribution, FLIPANY offers administrative services for 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 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 snacks consumed in the prior week.

Additionally, an increasing number of sites serve evening suppers daily. Children and staff highly rate this service, and suppers are available as hot or cold meals. 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 fiscal year, they received positive reviews from site staff indicating that students were satisfied with the food choices. Furthermore, staff reported being delighted with snack delivery and quality. The last fiscal year and current year-to-date performance are noted in the table below.

	<b>School Year 2023-24</b>	<b>October-December 2024</b>
Snacks	464,048	137,839
Suppers/Lunches	140,075	50,737
Federal Funding Leveraged	\$1,427,514.77	\$285,179.40

**Background:** After-school sites with children who meet free and reduced-price lunch criteria or located 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 2023-2024 contract year, the DOH approved 15 new sites; and during the 2024-2025 contract year, two additional sites were approved to date.

New youth development after-school sites are required to become DOH-approved as soon as possible to offset the cost of snacks and meals that must be fully covered by The Trust until DOH approval. 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 pay more than the established reimbursement rates, with the exception of supper, which is reimbursed at \$4.73 per meal. Through the FLIPANY contract, The Children’s Trust pays for snacks, meals, beverages, and food administration at sites that do not meet the DOH requirements.

FLIPANY has provided 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.

**Procurement Policy:** On February 8, 2021, The Children’s Trust released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) #2021-05 for an agency to act as the After-school Meals Program Food Sponsor. One application was received, reviewed, and recommended for funding. This is the fifth and final contract year of this contract cycle.

**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 **17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.**

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 17, 2025**

**Resolution: 2025-35**

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

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

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract renewal with Florida International University Board of Trustees, for reading enhancement services, in a total amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026, with three remaining possible contract renewals.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 for this resolution is projected to be available in FY 2025-2026.

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**Description of Services:** Since its inception, The Children’s Trust has invested in many strategies to support early literacy development and reading skills. A key strategy of The Trust’s reading efforts is to provide engaging reading education and supports in all Trust-funded Youth Development (YD) after-school and summer programs. This is offered directly by funded YD providers and through reading enhancements recommended in this resolution.

These services are intended to increase the number of children in grades K-5 who read at or above grade level. Services include:

### 1. Year-round Professional Development

Services include coaching, consultation, and professional development for Trust-funded YD and community providers to support high-quality literacy programming and training in the science of reading and structured literacy intervention for children with characteristics of dyslexia. Sites and professionals are identified through referral, coordination with Project RISE (another Trust Academy Partner supporting YD programs), and The Children’s Trust. Professional development services aim to identify YD provider literacy programming needs using a data-driven, collaborative approach.

From October 2024 through December 2024, 54 after-school sites and 29 program staff at 16 YD programs received more than 60 hours of coaching and consultation to improve their delivery of reading interventions. Depending on site needs and mutually developed coaching support plans, coaching hours vary by location. Topics included: improving adherence to recommended instructional time, enhancing the reading environment, providing high-quality teacher modeling and feedback, improving student engagement, incorporating active fluency and comprehension strategies into reading time, and using reading fluency pre-test data for intervention grouping.

## **2. Year-round Parent Engagement**

This service component has a goal of increasing parent engagement in early literacy support and development, reading skills measurement and intervention, dyslexia, and effective in-home support activities for helping struggling readers in grades K-5. Sessions take two forms: 1) One-time, 60-minute, interactive family sessions modeling dialogic reading or grade-appropriate reading supports with book giveaways; and 2) One-time, two-hour sessions on dyslexia awareness. This engagement focuses on parents and caregivers of K-5 students and may be offered through online courses, live workshops, and individual communications. Outreach is primarily through Trust-funded YD after-school and summer programs and may also leverage The Children's Trust Parent Club.

To date two, two-hour sessions have been offered at provider sites and one eight-hour session has been offered. The team is in the process of scheduling additional two-hour sessions for provider partners as well as the public. The one-time, 60-minute interactive family sessions will take place during May through August in conjunction with summer services.

## **3. Year-round Screening for Characteristics of Dyslexia and Intensive Literacy Intervention (ILI)**

Services include direct screening of and intervention for children with characteristics of dyslexia. Children in grades K-5 are identified through a research-informed screening process. Intervention services are delivered by certified Orton-Gillingham learning specialists with one to two children at a time, two to three days per week, for 50 to 60 minutes per session. The program aims to deliver each child 24 intervention sessions and to serve approximately 108 children within three YD agencies.

To date for contract year 2024-2025, which is the first year of a new 5-year funding cycle, the plan for implementing the new service of dyslexia screening and intervention was developed in partnership with reading experts, The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and participating providers. As of January 2025, ILI services started at one Hope for Miami site, West Flagler Baptist Church, in alignment with the planned pilot rollout. The implementation plan has a phased approach for identifying YD providers and sites, training site staff, and identifying students. Since the contract began, there has been growth in the number of students receiving ILI at the identified site.

## **4. Summer Differentiated Literacy Instruction (DLI)**

This service component aims to reduce summer learning loss by offering Response to Intervention (RtI) services within 70 YD summer camps and Trust-affiliated early childhood programs. First, reading assessments for approximately 2,250 rising kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders are used to identify those in need of intervention. Then, small-group tutoring services led by certified teachers using age-appropriate evidence-based curricula are delivered for approximately 1,100 identified children. This involves small groups of five or fewer children, who meet four days/week, for 30-45 minutes/session, over six weeks. The program aims to deliver each child 24 intervention sessions.

## **5. Personalized Parent Feedback**

Parents and caregivers are provided individualized feedback about their child's progress across intervention services. In addition, they receive resource connections to appropriate

school-year reading and academic supports if children do not demonstrate expected progress.

## **6. Collaborating with the Trust Academy Collective**

FIU ensures alignment and coordination of efforts in developing and delivering high-quality, capacity building supports that meet provider and Trust needs. This includes ongoing data and policy analysis informed by content area expertise to support planning and policies related to reading and literacy. Community awareness and outreach occur year-round, including expertly curated content for YD providers shared through quarterly newsletters and varied-format resources.

Florida International University Board of Trustees, along with their paid partners at Nova Southeastern University, Inc. and The Lucy Project, Inc., are recommended for contract renewal for these reading enhancement services at an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00.

**Background:** As part of The Children’s Trust efforts to reduce summer learning loss, reading enhancement services have been funded by The Children’s Trust since 2013. The 5-year funding cycle that started in October 2024, incorporated new components related to provider and parent education about reading and direct dyslexia screening and intervention within YD programs. These were identified as essential needs in Miami-Dade by the Miami-Dade County Grade-Level Reading Campaign, which The Children’s Trust hosts.

**Procurement Policy:** Per the procurement policy, Section 2002, requires formal competitive procurement for direct community services. Resolution 2024-16, approved on November 13, 2023, directed staff to release an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) 2024-11 to fund Reading Enhancement Services within The Trust’s Youth Development (YD) after-school and summer programs. The ITN was released on February 8, 2024. Two applications were submitted by the ITN deadline. Both were reviewed, and one application was recommended for funding and approved by the Board in Resolution 2024-54. The successful applicant was recommended for funding based on a comprehensive review process, which included a fiscal health review, program proposal review, review team debriefing and staff recommendations. Florida International University Board of Trustees is being recommended for renewal based on satisfactory performance on all program activities and deliverables to date.

**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 **17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.**

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 17, 2025

## Resolution 2025-36

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**Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area:** Community engagement, awareness and advocacy: Funder collaboration initiatives.

**Strategic Framework Headline Community Results:** Academic success; good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes and communities; and successful transition to adulthood.

**Recommended Action:** Authorization to negotiate and enter into a match contract agreement with Miami Youth Garden, Inc. for the "Well Community Initiative" in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.00 for a term of seven months, retroactive to March 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2025.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$150,000.00 is available in FY 2024-2025.

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**Description of Services:** This match contract partially funds a new initiative that provides multi-faceted support and resources onsite at faith-based centers in high-poverty neighborhoods. The "Well Community Initiative," facilitated by Miami Youth Garden, Inc., works to transform neighborhoods by empowering every aspect of the lives of children and families in marginalized communities in Miami-Dade County. This collaborative initiative with several community partners establishes hubs at churches and other faith-based sites for non-religious programming that address essential needs of neighborhood families, including affordable housing, access to organic fruits and vegetables, urban food gardening, health, nutrition, safety resources, employment, education, and after-school and summer programming for children and youth.

To start, four churches in some of Miami-Dade's most economically challenged ZIP codes will serve as "Well Community Initiative" sites:

- **Bethel Apostolic Temple** located at 1855 NW 119<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33167;
- **Christian Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church** located at 8100 NW 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Miami, FL 33147;
- **Faith Community Baptist Church** located at 10401 NW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Miami, FL 33150; and
- **Greater New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church** located at 3167 NW 56<sup>th</sup> Street, Miami, FL 33142. Each hub intends to provide a wide array of services to address the fundamental needs of families in these neighborhoods. Services offered include afterschool and summer programming focusing on science, technology, reading, engineering, agriculture, art, and math, integrating an urban gardening curriculum, culinary courses, technology, tutoring, and reading specialists. Qualified and certified educators lead academics. The initiative also focuses on family empowerment, supporting families with job training, early childhood access for parents enrolled in courses, financial management training, affordable housing access, and first-time homebuyer programs to promote long-term stability and independence. Health and safety are also a priority, with

the hubs focusing on student and family well-being through health screenings, mental health counseling, vaccinations, food distribution, veggie-based culinary classes, monthly farmer’s markets, and access to health services.

Through this collaboration, Miami Youth Garden will utilize The Children’s Trust funds specifically to provide the summer camp component of the multi-pronged initiative. Other existing Trust-funded programs that can support these hubs will also be leveraged, such as Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships, Benefits Enrollment Supports, Pediatric Mobile Services, and Parenting Programs.

Once the four hubs are fully established, the collaborative intends to continue to expand to additional churches throughout Miami-Dade. An early child care component is also being explored for the future.

**Background:** The “Well Community Initiative” facilitated by Miami Youth Garden, Inc. is founded on the principle that unless a community’s health, education, housing, food, and moral and ethical developmental needs are addressed, generational poverty deepens. The neighborhoods selected for the initiative have among the highest number of people living at or below the federal poverty level in Miami-Dade. Most reside in rental properties, and the majority have an educational attainment of a high school diploma. As the housing and affordability crisis in Miami-Dade increases, families face unprecedented challenges with accessing the resources necessary to transform their lives. This has been exacerbated by the housing crisis in Miami-Dade County.

Since its inception, and thanks in part to previous support from The Children’s Trust through the Capacity Building/Small CBO initiative and Community Engagement grant funding, the Miami Youth Garden, Inc. mission began in 2012, by providing summer and after-school academic programming for children aged 5 to 18.

Miami Youth Garden, Inc. also operates 11 community gardens, providing students with hands-on experience in urban gardening. The program maintains a 15:1 student-to-teacher ratio, employs qualified teachers, and provides tutoring, homework assistance, and specialized programming. The after-school and summer programs previously served more than 1,200 students. Miami Youth Garden, Inc. reports that participating students showed significant improvement in reading proficiency and fitness levels in the past. Funding partners in this new endeavor, the “Well Community Initiative” include The Carrie Meek Foundation, Collective Empowerment Group, and Enterprise Community Partners, as noted in the table below.

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Use Of Funds</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Collective Empowerment Group	General operations	\$12,000.00
Community Contributions	Empowerment, Health & Safety coordination	\$10,000.00
Enterprise Community Partners	Housing and church site pre-development	\$150,000.00
The Carrie Meek Foundation	After-school programming & operations	\$53,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$225,000.00</b>

Several additional funding partners are also currently considering investment in this initiative including United Way Miami, The Miami Foundation, Citi, and Key Biscayne Community Foundation. Miami Youth Garden, Inc. is also directly requesting a state budget appropriation for this initiative.

**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 as per section 2000 H-6. 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 **17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.**

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 17, 2025**

**Resolution: 2025-37**

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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 contract renewals with five vendors, identified herein, for advertising creative, public relations, media buying, and community outreach, in an amount not to exceed \$2,216,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026, with three annual renewal options at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$2,216,000.00 is projected to be available in FY 2025-2026.

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**Description of Services:** This resolution authorizes The Children's Trust to negotiate and execute contract renewals with multiple vendors across the communications and community outreach services listed in the table below for the second year of a five-year funding cycle, with three annual renewal options remaining at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust.

These combined efforts enhance The Children's Trust's digital presence, improve customer engagement, and effectively promote its mission and services. Communications and community outreach efforts include general and strategic campaigns and initiatives that reach various community stakeholders, service providers, families, youth, and the public. Communications services to be funded include:

- Advertising creative, which involves the development and execution of effective advertising campaigns in multiple languages, and the creation of various communications assets for multimedia public awareness and marketing campaigns.
- Specialized media buying and community outreach efforts focusing on African American and Haitian American communities, utilizing specific media expertise and community connections to develop multilayered outreach strategies and targeted media buys.
- General media buying, a critical component, encompasses comprehensive media plans, negotiation of best rates, and analysis of media buys to ensure goals are met and added value is obtained.
- Public relations services, which are vital for securing earned media placements, managing the Trust's community reputation, and increasing awareness of Trust-funded programs and initiatives.

Most of the services outlined above are also provided under separate contract agreements to support communications and community outreach services for The Children’s Trust’s Book Club through the Parenting budget, as noted in the table below.

<b>Contract</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>From Communications Budget</b>	<b>From Parenting/ Book Club Budget</b>	<b>Funding Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Advertising Creative	Agencia Central, LLC	\$390,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$450,000.00
African American and Haitian Creole Media Buy and Community Outreach	Armstrong Creative Consulting, Inc. and The Creative Esquire, LLC	\$261,000.00 \$115,000.00	\$100,000.00 \$65,000.00	\$361,000.00 \$180,000.00
General Media Buying	WOW Factor Marketing Group, Inc.	\$1,125,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$1,175,000.00
Public Relations Services	Alfredo J. Balsera, P.A. d/b/a Balsera Communications	\$50,000.00	n/a	\$50,000.00
<b>Total Funding Amount Not to Exceed:</b>				<b>\$2,216,000.00</b>

**Background:** In the Children’s Trust’s 22-year history, trilingual communications in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole and community outreach have been key components in 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.

As The Children’s Trust’s positive impact grows, so must its communication efforts. In recent years, communications and community outreach have increased positive brand awareness with record attendance at community events, record numbers of attendees to Trust solicitation information sessions, and other significant increases in exposure and recognition.

Funds proposed for each contract are at the same levels as FY 2024-2025.

**Procurement Policy:** Per the procurement policy, Section 2001, purchase of operational goods and services greater than \$50,000.00 requires a formal competitive procurement process. On November 3, 2023, The Children’s Trust released multiple competitive requests for proposals (RFPs) to secure vendors for various essential communications and community outreach services. On March 18, 2024, The Children’s Trust board approved the funding recommendations from the competitive requests for proposals, RFPs #2024-05, 2024-06, 2024-08 and 2024-09, for a five-year funding cycle. After a comprehensive review process, staff recommended the five vendors identified herein for funding. This request for approval represents the second contract year in the current funding cycle. Recommendations for renewal are based on successful performance in the first contract year.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.**

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 17, 2025**

**Resolution: 2025-38**

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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 negotiate and execute renewal contracts with 117 providers, identified herein, to deliver high-quality (i) after-school programming for 16,642 elementary, middle, high school-aged children and youth, and (ii) summer programming for 15,389 elementary, middle, and high school-aged children and youth, in a total amount not to exceed \$71,948,800.00, for a contract term of 12 months, commencing August 15, 2025, and ending August 14, 2026, with two remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations. Further authorization to change the legal name of one of the providers.

**Budget Impact:** Funding in the amount of \$71,948,800.00 for this resolution is allocated for FY 2024-2025 and is projected to be available in FY 2025-2026.

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**Description of Services:** After-school and summer 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 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 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, civic engagement, fitness/sports, and post-secondary supports related to jobs, careers, entrepreneurship, life skills, and college readiness. Program metrics track participation and quality service delivery. Participant outcomes relate to each program's specific activities and 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 these 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 specializing in serving children with disabilities. The actual cost per program varies based on the hours of operations; timeframes (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 school-year-only programs. Populations are defined as follows: K-5 is elementary school, 6-8 is middle school, 9-12 is high school, FC is young adults transitioning from foster care, and SIY is systems-involved and/or disconnected youth. Any changes in funding allocation and/or slots from the prior contract cycles are indicated using superscript with an explanation following the chart.

<b>School-Year Only Programs</b>		
<b>Agency (*and subcontractors if applicable)</b>	<b>Populations</b>	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Be Strong International	6-8	\$350,000.00
Blossom Group Florida, LLC *Los Pinos Nuevo Christian Schools	K-5; 9-12	\$280,000.00
Cayuga Home For Children, Inc.	K-5	\$270,000.00
First Step Champions	K-5	\$130,000.00
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	6-8	\$144,000.00
Miami-Dade County: Community Action and Human Services Department	9-12	\$148,000.00
Miami Music Project, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$700,000.00
The Miami Children’s Museum, Inc.	K-5	\$1,000,000.00
Young Musicians Unite, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$129,000.00

\*Subcontractor agencies providing services under the contract. Per the procurement policy, paid partners are no longer denoted.

The following agencies are recommended for funding for year-round programs. Populations are defined as follows: K-5 is elementary school, 6-8 is middle school, 9-12 is high school, FC is young adults transitioning from foster care, and SIY is systems-involved and/or disconnected youth.

<b>Year-Round Programs (after-school and summer)</b>		
<b>Agency (*and subcontractors if applicable)</b>	<b>Populations</b>	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Abundant Living Citi Church, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$430,000.00
Adults Mankind Organization, Inc.	K-5	\$275,000.00
Affirming Youth Foundation, Inc. (previously Jonathan Spikes Foundation, Inc.) <sup>3</sup>	SIY	\$256,000.00

<b>Year-Round Programs (after-school and summer)</b>		
<b>Agency (*and subcontractors if applicable)</b>	<b>Populations</b>	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Amigos Together for Kids	K-5; 6-8	\$570,000.00
Area Performance Gallery, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$430,000.00
Armour Dance Theater, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	K-5	\$1,656,000.00
Arts for Learning/Miami, Inc. <sup>1,3</sup>	K-5	\$714,000.00
Ayuda, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$240,000.00
Barry University	6-8; 9-12	\$350,000.00
Belafonte TACOLCY Center, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	K-5; 6-8	\$688,000.00
Big Ideas Educational Services, Inc.	K-5	\$450,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of Miami-Dade, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,600,000.00
Branches, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$820,000.00
Carlmar, Inc. DBA Town Center Preschool	K-5	\$250,000.00
Casa Valentina, Inc.	SIY	\$215,000.00
Centro Campesino Farmworker Center, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$720,000.00
Centro Mater Childcare Services, Inc.	K-5	\$1,600,000.00
City of Hialeah <sup>3</sup>	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,192,000.00
City of Miami Beach	K-5; 6-8	\$980,000.00
City of Miami Gardens	K-5; 6-8	\$650,000.00
City of North Miami Beach	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$580,000.00
Community Coalition <sup>1</sup>	K-5; 9-12	\$428,000.00
Concerned African Women, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	K-5; 6-8	\$1,152,000.00
Cuban American National Council (CNC)	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	\$940,000.00
Educate Tomorrow	6-8; 9-12; FC	\$242,000.00
Empowering Youth, Inc. <sup>3</sup>	K-5; 9-12	\$505,000.00
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	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$2,984,000.00
Family Christian Association of America, Inc.	K-5	\$420,000.00
Family Action Network Movement, Inc.	K-5	\$762,000.00
Fantasy Land Academy Corp	K-5	\$270,000.00

<b>Year-Round Programs (after-school and summer)</b>		
<b>Agency (*and subcontractors if applicable)</b>	<b>Populations</b>	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Federation of Families, Miami-Dade Chapter, Inc.	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	6-8; 9-12	\$360,000.00
Florida Film Institute, Inc.	9-12	\$190,000.00
FLOTA, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	K-5	\$284,000.00
Foundation of Community Assistance and Leadership, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$670,000.00
Future Leaders Academy of Kendall, Corp. <sup>4</sup>	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. <sup>3</sup>	6-8	\$342,000.00
Hosanna Community Foundation, 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	K-5	\$850,000.00
Kids Learning Center of South Dade, Inc. *Kids Learning Center of South Dade II	K-5	\$480,000.00
Kids Learning Center of South Dade III, Inc.	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.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,200,000.00
Liberty Academy, Inc. <sup>2</sup>	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	K-5	\$300,000.00
Melania Holdings Group II, LLC dba The Thinking Child Educational Programs, Inc. <sup>3</sup>	K-5	\$238,000.00

<b>Year-Round Programs (after-school and summer)</b>		
<b>Agency (*and subcontractors if applicable)</b>	<b>Populations</b>	<b>Amount Not to Exceed</b>
Mexican American Council, Inc.	9-12	\$440,000.00
Miami-Dade County: Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces	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
Musical, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$700,000.00
New Hope Development Center, Inc.	K-5	\$130,000.00
OIC of South Florida, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$290,000.00
Opa-Locka Community Development Corp, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$900,000.00
Overtown Youth Center, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,108,000.00
Peace CDC, Inc.	K-5	\$800,000.00
Prosperity Social and Community Development Group, Inc. <sup>3</sup>	SIY	\$552,000.00
Prosperity Social and Community Development Group, Inc. <sup>1</sup> *City of North Miami Parks & Recreation	K-5; 6-8	\$618,000.00
Recapturing the Vision, International, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$1,388,000.00
Richmond Perrine Optimist Club, Inc.	K-5	\$300,000.00
Sanrau Corporation	K-5	\$300,000.00
SBC Community Development Corporation of Richmond Heights, Inc.	K-5	\$280,000.00
Shepherd of God Christian Academy, Corp.	K-5	\$156,000.00
Small World Day Care and Preschool, Inc.	K-5	\$250,000.00
Southern Homestead Soccer Academy, Inc.	K-5; 6-8	\$250,000.00
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. <sup>1</sup>	K-5; 6-8	\$646,800.00
The ARC of South Florida, Inc.	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 New Jerusalem Development Corp. *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.	K-5; 6-8	\$990,000.00

Year-Round Programs (after-school and summer)		
Agency (*and subcontractors if applicable)	Populations	Amount Not to Exceed
*Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, Inc.		
The Optimist Foundation of Greater Goulds, Florida, Inc. <sup>4</sup>	6-8; 9-12	\$95,000.00
The Promised Land Academy for Christian Education, Inc. <sup>4</sup>	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$312,000.00
The Urban League of Greater Miami, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	K-5	\$522,000.00
Thumbelina Learning Center, Corp	K-5	\$800,000.00
Thumbelina Play and Learn Center, Inc.	K-5	\$340,000.00
Tiny Town Day Care Center, Inc.	K-5	\$280,000.00
Touching Miami with Love Ministries, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,800,000.00
Touching Miami with Love Ministries, Inc.	SIY	\$324,000.00
Town of Bay Harbor Islands <sup>1</sup>	K-5; 6-8	\$524,000.00
Town of Cutler Bay	K-5; 6-8	\$228,000.00
Trinity Church, Inc. *Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School of North Miami	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. *Creative Reclamation of Artistic Fundamental Truths *Florida International University Theater Department *K-TEC, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$1,488,000.00
Urgent, Inc.	K-5; 6-8; 9-12	\$475,000.00
Victory for Youth, Inc.	6-8; 9-12	\$300,000.00
WCA Private School, Inc.	K-5	\$234,000.00
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
Young Women’s Christian Association of Greater Miami and Dade County, Inc.	K-5	\$876,000.00
Zamlus, Inc.	K-5	\$240,000.00

\*Subcontractor agencies in the contract.

<sup>1</sup> These contracts received additional slots and funding through **Resolution #2025-06** approved by the Board on October 21, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> **Liberty Academy, Inc.**, a for profit entity, requests to change the contracted organization to **Liberty Foundation Academy, Inc.** a 501(c)(3). The board composition, officers and program staff all remain the same, but services will now be provided by the foundation. The purpose of the change in provider is to allow the agency to qualify for free meals throughout the school year and summer and to eliminate this cost to The Children’s Trust.

<sup>3</sup> **Year-Three Implementation Adjustments** for the year-round youth development initiative:

- **American Children’s Orchestra for Peace, Inc.** is not being renewed, as the contract was breached in the summer of 2024 due to failure to provide services. This contract was terminated during the 2023-2024 contract year, following the item that went to the Board in March for renewal awards. Although it was approved by the board, there was no contracted executed for the 2024-2025 contract year and it is likewise not being recommended for the 2025-2026 contract year
- **Affirming Youth Foundation, Inc.** funding is decreased by \$64,000.00 because of significantly lower-than-expected program enrollment.
- **City of Hialeah** funding is decreased by \$108,000.00 because of significantly lower-than-expected program enrollment.
- **Greater Miami Youth Symphony of Dade County, Florida, Inc.** funding is decreased by \$108,000.00 because of significantly lower-than-expected program enrollment.
- **Sports Konnect, Inc.** is not being renewed, as their contract will be terminated effective June 30, 2025.
- **Tiger and Dragon, Inc.** is not being renewed, as the organization closed in April 2024, following the item that went to the Board in March for renewal awards. Although it was approved by the board, there was no contracted executed for the 2024-2025 contract year and it is likewise not being recommended for the 2025-2026 contract year.

The funds reclaimed from the above reductions/recaptured funds will be reallocated to enhance the budgets and capacity of the following programs beginning in year three, which based on data are experiencing a high demand:

- **Arts for Learning/Miami, Inc.** will add \$180,000.00 for 30 K-5 slots in the school year in a school site that Sports Konnect, Inc. is vacating.
- **Empowering Youth, Inc.** will add \$75,000.00 for 15 K-5 slots in the school year and summer, as they have a new site and a waiting list.
- **Melania Holdings Group II, LLC dba The Thinking Child Educational Programs, Inc.** will add \$78,000.00 for 15 K-5 slots in the school year and summer, as they are over-enrolled and have a waiting list.
- **Prosperity Social & Community Development Group, Inc.** will add \$184,000.00 to serve additional justice system-involved youth during the school year and summer.

<sup>4</sup> The following providers are recommended for renewal contingent upon the completion of a **Renewal Action Plan**. Renewal Action Plans are mutually agreed upon goals that must be met by the organization within a specified amount of time. Expectations for Renewal Action Plans include but are not limited to: increased enrollment, improved fiscal health, and/or enhanced administrative capacity. If an organization listed below does not meet the conditions of their Renewal Action Plan, they will not be renewed for the 2025-2026 contract year.

- **Future Leaders Academy of Kendall, Corp.**
- **The Optimist Foundation of Greater Goulds, Florida, Inc.**
- **The Promised Land Academy for Christian Education, Inc.**

**Background:** 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.

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 recommended for renewal in this resolution had satisfactory performance in their school year and summer programs in 2023-2024 and to date this contract year.

**Procurement Policy:** Per the procurement policy, Section 2002, requires formal competitive procurement for direct community services. On October 26, 2022, the Children’s Trust issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) # 2023-01 to fund youth development after-school and summer services for a five-year cycle with one-year contract renewals. In Resolution No. 2023-38, and subsequently in Resolution No. 2024-32, the above 118 applications were recommended for funding, based on a comprehensive review process and satisfactory performance.

**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 **17<sup>th</sup>**

**day of March 2025.**

THE CHILDREN’S TRUST  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY \_\_\_\_\_

SECRETARY

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



**Media Highlights**  
**Jan. – Feb. 2025**



## The Children's Trust: Parenting trends to look forward to in 2025

By Grettel Suarez *The Children's Trust*

January 06, 2025 3:02 PM |



'Lighthouse parenting' gives children more freedom but with supervision if they need it. *Dreamstime*

Balance has always been a key component of parenting, both for the child and caregiver. According to a study by the Journal of Research on Adolescence, the key to parenting success is finding that balance. The study suggests that parents who are “accepting with clear boundaries; encouraging autonomy with practical limits; displaying warmth with reasonable discipline” see the best outcomes in adolescents. As we look ahead to the coming year, balance is a recurring theme in parenting trends in 2025.

Not only do parents today spend more quality time with their children than ever before, they also spend more time trying to figure out what kind of parent they would like to be. While these trends aren't guaranteed home runs, they could help you think further about your relationship with your child, improve your bond and make that time you spend together even more special.

## **Lighthouse Parenting**

Lighthouse parenting could be the primary trend for 2025, as it has gained popularity in recent months. This style of parenting is a middle ground between free-range parenting, a hands-off approach that teaches autonomy and is popular in countries like Japan, where children as young as 6 can ride trains alone, and helicopter parenting, which involves a high level of control over every aspect of a child's life.

People who practice lighthouse parenting encourage their children to figure things out for themselves but let them know they are there for them if needed. Whether watching a younger child play freely in a park from a bench or allowing an older child to attend a supervised party, as long as they check in periodically and arrive home at a pre-arranged time, parents and children need to communicate well to make it work.

It also requires parents to resist the natural urge to step in and help a child struggling to figure something out. If you like the sound of lighthouse parenting, want a forum to talk it over with others, and want to know more about other parenting techniques, make sure to sign up for The Children's Trust Parent Club. This essential community resource offers free workshops on different parenting topics throughout the county in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. Visit [TheChildrensTrust.org/ParentClub](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/ParentClub) for topics, dates and other information. Parent Club also offers free family engagement event tickets for attending multiple workshops.

## **Digital Detox**

While utilizing some technology can be beneficial to children, another parenting trend on the rise is a family-wide digital detox. This idea invites families to set aside a morning, an afternoon, or a whole day to spend together without technology. Some ideas for a digital detox day are enjoying family game nights, exploring your community on foot or cooking a family dinner together.

Tech-free zones are another way of limiting screen time. Instead of allotting time for the family to avoid technology, parents can implement a blanket ban on technology in select parts of the house, like the bedroom or dining room. Parents must also lead by example by avoiding frequent glancing at their phones. These steps build a bigger bond within families and can positively affect everybody's mental health, in part by lowering anxiety levels.

If you like the idea of ditching screens, have a young child and live in Miami-Dade County, join The Children's Trust Book club by visiting [TheChildrensTrust.org/BookClub](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/BookClub) and receive a free book by mail every month.

## **Sustainable Parenting**

Buying top of the line strollers, the trendiest toys and top children's fashion are ways families accumulate lots of stuff and spend considerable amounts of money. Sustainable parenting can cut the costs of parenting and lower a family's carbon footprint at the same time.

One way to be more sustainable is to buy fewer toys, but to ensure those you do buy are high quality. Not only does this encourage more focused play, but it also creates a calmer environment around the house (which most adults can also enjoy!) and sets the tone about needs and wants. For those with enough space, starting a garden and teaching your children the importance of growing food sustainably is a way to spend quality time together with a purpose. With regular seed-sharing events at the Miami-Dade Public Library System and through groups like Miami Seed Share, growing together has never been easier.

Visit The Trust's Find a Program page at [TheChildrensTrust.org/FindAProgram](http://TheChildrensTrust.org/FindAProgram)) for programs that help with so many of the challenges facing parents today, including child care, after-school and summer programs, family support services and so many more funded by The Children's Trust.

*Grettel Suarez, M.Ed. is a mother of two and the Director of Research and Evaluation at The Children's Trust. She holds a master's degree in Marriage and Family Counseling from the University of Miami and has years of experience evaluating nationally implemented and widely researched parenting programs.*



CAREER & WORKPLACE

# MEET THE 2025 CFO AWARD HONOREES

Honorees of the South Florida Business Journal's 2025 CFO Awards continue to highlight and define the critical role chief financial officers play in entities across the region.

Where the news reports on deals, their work behind the scenes would tell a supporting tale. Whether for-profit or nonprofit organizations, their acumen would reveal an ability to guide the financial foundation of a C-suite's vision.

From Fortune 500 companies, tech firms, developers, entertainment companies and financial advisors to social service and community development offices, their job is to manage financial activities, develop fiscal strategies and help the organization achieve its goals.

In South Florida, the work of these executives has helped elevate their enterprises – and the success of our region. That's the definition of a remarkable CFO.

This year's CFO Awards honorees were celebrated Jan. 30 at Gulfstream Park's Sport of Kings Theater in Hallandale Beach. The event was presented by Steven Douglas, with corporate sponsors Berkowitz Pollack Brant Advisors + CPAs and CIBC, with Out of the Box sponsor Amazon, travel sponsors Delta Air Lines and LATAM Airlines, and community partner the Orange Bowl Committee. Thanks to former CFO Awards honorees Sonia Canessa-Gonzalez of Grove Bank & Trust, Carlos Molina of United Way Miami and David Spinola of Netrio, who served as an advisory board to assist our editorial team in vetting this year's nominations.



Image: Courtesy of The Children's Trust

COURTESY OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST

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*CFO, The Children's Trust*

CFO, The Children's Trust

[www.thechildrenstrust.org](http://www.thechildrenstrust.org)

3150 S.W. Third Ave., Miami 33129

305-571-5700 Birthplace: Cape Canaveral

Education: Bachelor's degree, accounting, Samford University; master's degree, accounting, Liberty University

Career: Senior auditor, Verdeja & De Armas; staff auditor, Berenfeld, Spritzer, Schetcher & Sheer

Key accomplishments in the past year: Kirtland helped develop the largest operating and programmatic budget in Trust history, alongside lowering management costs to 5.57%, the lowest in Trust history.

How AI will change my job: AI is producing real-time data and analytics faster than ever. Utilizing these resources, we will continue to shift our energies from the “corrective” service to the “detective” and, finally, “preventive.”

Most important lesson from my mentor: Never lose perspective of the entire picture. Working tediously within any project loses its value and effectiveness if you are not constantly considering the larger picture.


Tip for protégés: Never approach your work in fear of losing your job. Let me clarify, if your work is sound, just and complete, never alter the quality to fit what you think someone wants. If the quality of your work or ethics is out of alignment with the company, never fear compromising employment.

Professionally, I’m kept up nights by: Losing sincerity or developing standard company “speak.” Sounds like nails on a chalkboard to me. Whether it’s a performance review, discussing policies or even water cooler conversation, people need to feel they are being heard.

My “other” career would have been: Something in a creative space. When I leave work, all my energy goes into creating community spaces: organizing and maintaining a run club; hosting events; planning group trips. I’m the one who likes to get things organized.

EDUCATION

## The Children’s Trust: What to do when your child needs more academic help

By Danielle Barreras *The Children's Trust*  
 February 10, 2025 4:18 PM | 



Miami-Dade County students can get free tutoring online and in-person thanks to the Homework Help & Tutoring Program sponsored by The Children’s Trust and Miami-Dade County Public Library System.  
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From pressure from grades and exams to stress and difficulty, there are many reasons why a child may need academic support beyond the classroom. Parents and caretakers who haven’t had to solve algebraic equations since grade school or have to work more hours to cover household costs, also face additional strain, leaving less time to help children study at home.

If you notice signs that your child needs additional help, remember that this doesn’t reflect your parenting style or effort. One study published in the National Library of Medicine examined the effect of extracurricular tutoring on adolescent students and concluded that “the cognitive ability level of teenagers who participated in extracurricular tutoring was significantly

higher than those who did not participate in extracurricular tutoring,” which begs the question: Why not bring in the experts to help with algebra so you don’t have to try to remember it?

### **When is it Time to Seek Help?**

It’s not always apparent that your child needs help to reach their academic potential. Here are some telltale signs that you can look out for:

- **Grades dropping:** The most obvious sign that a child may need more help is if grades start dropping in certain subjects.
- **Avoiding homework:** If your child is avoiding doing homework, this could indicate that they don’t know how to do it and need help.
- **Stressed or disorganized:** Organization and development of study habits are a key part of academic success. If your child doesn’t seem to know how to study for an upcoming test, isn’t aware of upcoming assignments, or is repeatedly losing assignments, this could indicate that they need to develop specific skills to help with organization and study habits.
- **Overwhelmed (you or your child):** We aren’t all natural mathematicians or writers. It’s okay to seek outside help if you stare at your kid’s homework and can’t figure it out.

### **Homework Help & Tutoring Program**

Finding someone to help your child reach their academic goals doesn’t have to affect your monthly budget. Since 2018, The Children’s Trust has partnered with the Miami-Dade County Public Library System to offer the Homework Help & Tutoring Program, which provides free online and in-person tutoring by certified teachers in reading, math, and science. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the program conducted more than 40,000 sessions for Miami-Dade County students between K-12th grades.

The program is available online on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and in person on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 29 public library locations throughout the county. Students can sign up for the program at [mdpls.org/tutor](https://mdpls.org/tutor).

### **More Helpful Programs**

High-quality summer and after-school programming can have lasting positive effects on children’s quality of life. The Children’s Trust funds various programs for all ages of students that include K-5 classes with general group literacy activities, and small-group literacy instruction for children reading below grade level, as well as STEM, arts, and specialized

programming for children with disabilities. For grades 6-12, the focus shifts to academic success, social and emotional learning, career skill-building, as well as arts, STEM, civic engagement, sports, entrepreneurship, and college readiness.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools offers public elementary and secondary grade students help in English, math, science, and more with the Pop n' Prep free homework program online, Monday through Thursday from 4-8 p.m. Students can register from 3-8 p.m. for sessions up to 24 hours in advance. They will need access to Microsoft Outlook and Teams and can visit [popnprep.dadeschools.net](http://popnprep.dadeschools.net) to schedule a session. Individual schools also offer tutoring and homework help and students can contact them directly for more information.

While there are many ways to improve academically during the school year, it's essential to continue learning during the summer. If students don't, they could experience a "summer slide" where academic performance stalls or declines, with patterns even stronger for disadvantaged children." In 2022, the portions of Miami-Dade fourth graders scoring proficient or above on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) indicated significant racial disparities, with 21 percent of Black, 40 percent of Hispanic, and 64 percent of White students reaching this achievement. Summer camps can protect against learning loss (especially in reading) while school is out. Find a program near you at [TheChildrensTrust.org/Find-A-Program](http://TheChildrensTrust.org/Find-A-Program).

The Children's Trust is proud to fund these exceptional programs that give families across Miami-Dade access to more academic help after the bell rings. However, if your budget allows, private tutoring services are also available. This type of tutoring is usually one-to-one and more focused on specific areas a student is struggling in.

### **How to Talk to Your Child About Tutoring**

One stumbling block parents may encounter in their journey towards better academic outcomes for their children is resistance or lack of interest. That's why it's essential to approach the subject positively with care and compassion. After all, your child may feel shame or embarrassment if they start slipping academically. Be positive about areas they are doing well in before asking them if there's anything they think they need additional help with. Invite them to help choose a tutor and a time that works for them, so it feels more like a group decision and less like a punishment. This additional support may make a significant difference for your child as they continue their academic progress toward success.

*Danielle Barreras, Associate Director of Community Engagement for The Children's Trust, is an advocate for children & families, and a subject matter expert on literacy initiatives and partnerships. As an educator for over a decade, she is a community connector with a track record of developing collaborative efforts that positively impact children.*