



Finance & Operations Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 2025
3150 S.W. 3rd Avenue – 8th Floor
The Children's Trust – Training Room
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Board of Directors

Kenneth C. Hoffman
Chair
Pamela Hollingsworth
Vice-Chair
Matthew Arsenault
Treasurer
Laurie Weiss Nuell
Secretary

Edward Abraham, M.D.
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Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi
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Alex Auguste
Daniel Bagner, Ph.D.
Hon. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ph.D.
Cathy Burgos
Silvia Castellanos
Norie del Valle
Lourdes Diaz
Gilda Ferradaz
Gioia Ploy Gentile
Hon. Norman S. Gerstein (Ret.)
Lourdes P. Gimenez
Valrose Graham
Mindy Grimes-Festge
Osmani Gonzalez
Hon. Keon Hardemon
Malou C. Harrison, Ph.D.
Thamara Labrousse
Benjamin Nussbaum
Clara Lora Ospina, Psy.D.
Hon. Orlando Prescott
Hon. Alex Rizo
Hon. Isaac Salver
Alfred Sanchez
Miriam Soler Ramos, J.D.
Luis E. Suarez, J.D.

David Lawrence Jr.
Founding Chair

James R. Haj
President & CEO

County Attorney's Office
Legal Counsel

AGENDA

9:30 a.m. **Welcome and opening remarks**

Matthew Arsenault
Committee Chair

9:35 a.m. **Public Comments**

Matthew Arsenault
Committee Chair

9:40 a.m. **Approval of June 5, 2025, Finance & Operations Committee minutes summary** *(Addl. Items packet, Pg. 3-4)*

Matthew Arsenault
Committee Chair

9:45 a.m. **Resolutions**

Matthew Arsenault
Committee Chair

Resolution 2026-A: Authorization to negotiate and execute an agreement with U.S. Bancorp Asset Management Inc. to provide investment advisory services, commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and ending October 1, 2030. *(Pgs. 5-7)*

Resolution 2026-B: Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with two vendors, identified herein, for event planning services related to the 2026 Children's Trust Signature Events, in a total amount not to exceed \$655,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactively commencing on October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026, with four annual renewal options at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and to waive the formal competitive procurement process **[2/3 vote]**. *(Pgs. 8-11)*

Resolution 2026-C: Authorization to accept a contribution of up to \$191,327.56 from Miami Beach Education Chamber Foundation, Inc., the fiscal agent for the City of Miami Beach and neighboring municipalities, and to negotiate and execute a contract with Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc., a funded school-based health provider, to provide behavioral health enhancements in eight Miami-Dade County Public School system schools in Miami Beach, at a cost equal to the same dollar amount, for a term of nine months, commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026. *(Pgs. 12-14)*

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 2026-D: Authorization for the payment of membership dues to the Florida Alliance of Children’s Councils and Trusts (FACCT) in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00, inclusive of training and analytics tools to support public policy initiatives, for a term of 12 months, commencing retroactively October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. Authorizing The Children’s Trust staff to advocate in accordance with FACCT policy priorities, and other related policy priorities that benefit children and families served by The Trust. *(Pgs. 15-17)*

10:55 a.m. **CEO Report**

- *Monthly Financial Statements*
- *2025 Spooky Symphony, at the Moss Center’s Halloween Event*
Friday, Oct. 24, 2025 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center (The Moss Center)
10950 SW 211 St.
Cutler Bay, FL 33189
- *Miami Book Fair – November 22-23, 2025*

James R. Haj
President & CEO

11:00 a.m. **Adjourn**

Reminder:
Next Committee Meeting: Thursday, January 8, 2026



**Finance & Operations Committee Meeting
Summary of Actions Taken
June 05, 2025
9:30 a.m.**

These actions were taken by the Finance & Operations Committee meeting held on June 05, 2025:

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

Motion to approve the May 01, 2025, Finance & Operations committee meeting minutes was made by Dr. Clara L Ospina and seconded by Hon. Norman Gerstein. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Presentation & Discussion Items:

The preliminary budget and millage rate for FY 2025-26 was presented by James Haj and William Kirtland and discussed among committee members.

Motion to approve the millage rate of \$.4610 and the Preliminary Budget for FY 2025-26 as proposed by staff was made by Dr. Clara L. Ospina and seconded by Alfred Sanchez. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Motion to approve the recommendation of the Staff for the FY 2025-26 budget, including estimates of \$224,931,120 of tax revenues, \$260,056,994 of expenditures and a projected ending fund balance of \$32,007,572 was made by Dr. Clara L. Ospina and seconded by Hon. Norman Gerstein. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Resolution 2025-A: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on June 19, 2025, was made by Alfred Sanchez and seconded by Norie Del Valle. Authorization to renew services and execute related agreements with multiple IT vendors, and to waive (in part) the formal competitive procurement process [2/3 vote] in a total amount not to exceed \$1,762,586.00, inclusive of \$50,000.00 contingency for IT budgeted enhancement projects, for a term of 12 months, commencing on October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. **Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Resolution 2025-B: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on June 19, 2025, was made by Alfred Sanchez and seconded by Dr. Clara L. Ospina. Authorization to pay SIJ Holdings, LLC d/b/a The McClatchy Company, LLC, parent company of the Miami Herald, for services rendered by the Miami Herald to advertise The Children's Trust's Truth in Millage rate, board vacancies and other advertisements related to funding announcements, activities, initiatives, events and programs and to waive the formal competitive procurement process [2/3 vote]. In addition, authorization to enter into agreements with SIJ Holdings, LLC d/b/a The McClatchy Company, LLC, parent company of the Miami Herald for Silver Knight and Spelling Bee sponsorships. In a total amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. **Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Resolution 2025-C: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on June 19, 2025, was made by Dr. Clara L. Ospina and seconded by Alfred Sanchez. Authorization to enter into a sponsorship agreement with Actors' Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre Inc. for presenting sponsorship of the Young Talent Big Dreams talent search, in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing on October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026. **Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Resolution 2025-D: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on June 19, 2025, was made by Norie Del Valle and seconded by Dr. Clara L. Ospina. Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with four vendors, identified herein, to support The Children's Trust Book Club, in a total amount not to exceed \$3,732,339.00, inclusive of \$100,000.00 contingency for potential cost increases to operate the program. In addition, authorization for the President/CEO to move funds between the different implementation components identified within this resolution, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026, with four possible contract renewals. **Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Resolution 2025-E: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on June 19, 2025, was made by Norie Del Valle and seconded by Alfred Sanchez. Authorization to negotiate and execute a match contract with Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, for cultural arts programs in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. **Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Resolution 2025-F: Motion to recommend the resolution to the Board of Directors on June 19, 2025, was made by Alfred Sanchez and seconded by Dr. Clara L. Ospina. Authorization to negotiate and execute contract renewals with eight providers, identified herein, for Trust Academy quality supports, in a total amount not to exceed \$4,249,893.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026, with one remaining contract renewal. **Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

The Children's Trust Board Meeting

Date: October 20, 2025

Resolution: 2026-A

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Administrative/Operations

Strategic Framework Headline Community Results: This investment supports the advisory investment services of The Children's Trust.

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute an agreement with U.S. Bancorp Asset Management Inc. to provide investment advisory services, commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025 and ending October 1, 2030.

Budget Impact: There is no budget impact for this resolution.

Description of Services: This resolution authorizes The Children's Trust to negotiate and execute an agreement for investment advisory services that will result in The Children's Trust achieving its investment objectives of safety of principal, maintenance of liquidity, and return on investment for funds that are invested in accordance with the parameters of its investment policy (Policy 4037. Investment Policy) and section 218.415, Florida Statutes.

The selected investment advisor will:

- Perform the scope of services using the prudent expert standard of care as the investment advisor will have discretion in managing the portfolio of The Children's Trust in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, The Children's Trust investment policy, and as otherwise provided in the contract, whose terms and conditions shall not conflict with the foregoing, and which may include voting proxies in the portfolio, acting on corporate actions, and various other portfolio management responsibilities;
- Not less than once annually, provide comprehensive reports for the staff of The Children's Trust and The Children's Trust's Finance and Operations Committee members;
- Review and recommend revisions to The Children's Trust investment policy, at least on an annual basis;
- Provide as-needed financial advice regarding market conditions and trends, financial products, credit and credit analysis, and various other security-related issues to The Children's Trust;
- Assist The Children's Trust staff with cash flow/maturity analysis to ensure that the investment strategy is consistent with The Children's Trust cash requirements;
- Serve as a general resource to The Children's Trust staff and Finance and Operations Committee for information, advice, and training regarding fixed income securities, investments, and Treasury operations;
- Meet with the Finance and Operations Committee and staff on a periodic basis to review strategies and performance; and
- Investment advisers will not provide custodial services or security safekeeping.

Background: Historically, investment decisions for The Children’s Trust’s assets have been managed internally by the CFO and Finance staff. While this approach has served the organization to date, it does not provide the depth of expertise required to optimize performance and ensure alignment with evolving market conditions. To strengthen our investment strategy and better serve the long-term financial interests of The Children’s Trust, we are pursuing the engagement of a qualified investment advisor. This advisor will bring specialized knowledge in market trends, portfolio management, and investment strategies tailored to the governmental sector, ensuring our assets are managed with the highest standard of care and insight.

On May 19, 2025, The Children’s Trust Board approved a revised investment policy, which, as one of its terms, authorized the release of a request for proposal (RFP) for an investment advisor.

On July 11, 2025, The Children’s Trust released an RFP, and applicants were invited to apply for consideration. Four applications were submitted in response to the Investment Advisory Services RFP:

- Boreal Capital Management, LLC
- JP Morgan Chase & Co.
- NewEdge Wealth, LLC
- U.S. Bancorp Asset Management Inc. (recommended)

A review committee comprised of The Children’s Trust staff members conducted independent reviews of the four submitted proposals using a standard scoring matrix to analyze applicants’ ability to deliver the scope of services sought. The scores from the final reviews resulted in the recommendation for U.S. Bancorp Asset Management Inc., based on the proposed scope of services that will provide the best value for the services sought.

This recommendation is based on a comprehensive review process, which included:

- Proposal review: A team of reviewers conducted independent evaluations of each application, assessing them across four key categories: company overview, qualifications and experience, product and service offerings, and fees and pricing.
- Review team debriefing: Following each reviewer’s individual rating, the review team met in a publicly noticed debriefing meeting to discuss each proposal and assigned a consensus team score, including explanatory comments.
- Staff recommendations: Taking into consideration the above review process results, consideration is also given to factors such as alignment with The Children’s Trust’s priority investment areas.

Procurement Policy: Per the procurement policy, Section 2001, and The Children’s Trust Investment Policy, section 4037, purchase of operational goods and services greater than \$50,000.00 requires a formal competitive procurement 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 **20th day of October 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: October 20, 2025

Resolution: 2026-B

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

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

Recommended Action: Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with two vendors, identified herein, for event planning services related to the 2026 Children's Trust Signature Events, in a total amount not to exceed \$655,000.00 for a term of 12 months, retroactively commencing on October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026, with four annual renewal options at the sole discretion of The Children's Trust and to waive the formal competitive procurement process **[2/3 vote]**.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$655,000.00 is available in FY 2025-2026. \$200,000.00 of which is reimbursed to The Trust from sponsorships and ticket sales.

Description of Services: This resolution authorizes The Children's Trust to negotiate and execute agreements for event planning services for its annual Champions for Children Awards Ceremony and Family Expo signature events. This resolution authorizes The Children's Trust to contract with the vendors identified below.

| Signature Event | Recommended Event Planning Vendor | Funding Not to Exceed |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Champions for Children | 305 Communications and Events, LLC | \$200,000.00* |
| Family Expo | Armstrong Creative Consulting, Inc. | \$455,000.00 |

**Funds reimbursed to The Children's Trust from sponsorships and ticket sales*

Event Planning for Champions for Children Awards Ceremony – This awards luncheon celebrates inspiring honorees through videos and youth performances fostering a collective commitment to improving children's lives. Notably, The Children's Trust is reimbursed 100 percent of its expenditures for this event through ticket sales and annual sponsorships, ensuring that no taxpayer dollars or core program funds are used to support the luncheon. All revenues generated are specifically allocated to cover costs such as venue rental, catering, audio-visual production, and event staffing. This cost-neutral approach reflects the Trust's commitment to fiscal responsibility while maintaining a high-quality event that advances its mission and public engagement. The event has experienced significant growth, with nearly 900 attendees in 2025.

The selected vendor will be responsible for securing key services in accordance with best business practices in event planning procurement, collaborating with The Trust to develop the event's vision and theme, managing all logistics and vendor communications, and coordinating meal selections and audiovisual needs. Additional responsibilities include procuring, paying for, and overseeing the production of the honorees' videos, managing RSVPs, developing seating charts, and handling on-site parking logistics. The vendor will also facilitate online ticket sales and ensure smooth registration on the day of the event, as well as supervise setup, production, and breakdown. The vendor will reconcile event expenses and ensure the overall execution aligns with The Trust's mission and vision for the Champions for Children Awards Ceremony.

The vendor's scope of work will include scouting, procuring, and paying for the venue- covered within the total event budget of \$200,000.00-following current best business practices in procurement that align with The Trust's procurement policies, and event planning to the extent of securing at least three quotes within the limits set by The Trust's procurement policy. Trust staff will review the quotes and make the final determination on any procurement over \$50,000.00. Trust staff will also make the final determination on the event date, meals, and venue location. In the event the procurement is over \$50,000.00, the authority under this resolution will allow Trust staff to authorize such bids that are in the best interest of The Trust.

Two applications were submitted in response to the event planning services for the Champions for Children Awards Ceremony:

- 305 Communications and Events, LLC
- CIM Consulting LLC

A review committee comprised of Trust staff members conducted independent reviews of the two submitted proposals using a standard scoring matrix to analyze applicants' ability to deliver the scope of services sought. The scores from the final reviews resulted in the recommendation for 305 Communications and Events, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00, based on the proposed scope of services that will provide the best value for the services sought.

Event Planning for Family Expo - The Children's Trust Family Expo serves as a vital community resource gathering in Miami-Dade County, drawing thousands of families and children each year. The selected vendor will manage the planning and execution of The Trust's annual Family Expo event and Pop-Up series, with oversight from The Trust's Communications Department.

The Trust also secures corporate and community sponsorships for the Family Expo to partially offset the cost of the event. By leveraging external partnerships, The Trust enhances the scope and quality of the Expo while ensuring the efficient use of public funds and broadening its outreach to families across Miami-Dade County.

The selected vendor will be responsible for securing key services in accordance with current best business practices in event planning procurement, collaborating with The Trust to develop the event's vision and theme, and managing all logistics and vendor communications. Trust staff will make the final determination on the event dates and venue location. In the event

the procurement is over \$50,000.00, the authority under this resolution will allow staff to authorize such bids that are in the best interests of The Trust.

The selected vendor will provide comprehensive event planning services, including managing and tracking exhibitor registration, coordinating all event sponsors, securing venues and all necessary permits and inspections. Additional responsibilities will include hiring security, managing audiovisual services, entertainment, food vendors, and producing on-site signage, overseeing all event staff, and coordinating up to 100 volunteers.

Furthermore, the vendor will be responsible for all logistical components of the event, including venue coordination, acquisition of insurance documentation from exhibitors, and resolution of any operational challenges that may occur.

The Children's Trust secures sponsorships for the Family Expo to provide additional resources, entertainment, and activities that enhance the events at no cost to The Trust. The vendor will also reconcile event expenses and ensure the overall execution aligns with The Trust's mission and vision for the Family Expo and Pop-Up Series.

Four applications were submitted in response to the event planning services for the Family Expo:

- 305 Communications and Events, LLC
- Armstrong Creative Consulting, Inc.
- CIM Consulting LLC
- Early Childhood Solutions Inc.

A review committee comprised of Trust staff members conducted independent reviews of four submitted proposals using a standard scoring matrix to analyze applicants' ability to deliver the scope of services sought. The scores from the final reviews resulted in the recommendation for Armstrong Creative Consulting, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$455,000.00, based on the proposed scope of services that will provide the best value for the services sought.

Background: In The Children's Trust's more than 20-year history, community outreach has been a key component to ensure public awareness of the programming and resources available from The Trust. The ability to highlight The Trust's mission and role in the community, to honor those who exemplify this mission, and to bring essential resources and information to the public is critical to the success of the organization. Community outreach efforts connect funded services, programs, and resources with the children and families of Miami-Dade in an accessible manner.

As The Children's Trust's available funded services continue to grow, so must communication and outreach efforts to inform the public of the impact and how it affects their lives. In recent years, there has been a marked increase in overall community brand awareness, along with attendance at the Champions for Children Awards Ceremonies and Family Expo events.

The total funding between the two events is the same as budgeted for the prior fiscal year 2024-2025.

Procurement Policy: Policy: Request for Procurement Waiver (requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of board members present): 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 18, 2024, The Children's Trust Board approved resolution #2025-16 to release a request for proposals (RFP) for event planning services related to The Children's Trust Signature Events. On February 27, 2025, The Children's Trust released the RFP, and applicants were invited to apply for one or both events. However, because this resolution is presented to the Board well in advance of the events' dates, and given the fact that some individual costs may fluctuate above the \$50,000.00 threshold due to market conditions or attendance numbers, a procurement waiver is requested to grant staff the authority to select and award bids that best serve the interest of The Children's Trust, should any of the individual costs exceed \$50,000.00.

Geographic Area: Countywide

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this **20th day of October 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: October 20, 2025

Resolution: 2026-C

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Health & Wellness: School-based health: nursing and mental health.

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

Recommended Action: Authorization to accept a contribution of up to \$191,327.56 from Miami Beach Education Chamber Foundation, Inc., the fiscal agent for the City of Miami Beach and neighboring municipalities, and to negotiate and execute a contract with Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc., a funded school-based health provider, to provide behavioral health enhancements in eight Miami-Dade County Public School system schools in Miami Beach, at a cost equal to the same dollar amount, for a term of nine months, commencing retroactively on October 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

Budget Impact: This item is cost neutral. Funding in the amount of \$191,327.56 is allocated in the FY 2025-2026 budget, expenditure of which is contingent upon receipt of external funding in the same amount from Miami Beach Chamber Education Foundation, Inc. and the City of Miami Beach.

Description of Services: The City of Miami Beach has long prioritized student behavioral health. It has raised funds to staff all eight Miami-Dade County Public School system (M-DCPS) schools in the city with two licensed mental health professionals who:

- promote a school-wide wellness initiative;
- implement protocols that ensure behavioral screenings are administered efficiently and respectfully;
- support identified students and their families by linking them with appropriate clinical intervention and supportive services;
- collaborate with various clinical teams at participating schools and in the community; and
- deliver culturally competent services and support systems.

These services will continue to be implemented through this funding during the 2025-26 school year.

In agreement with The Miami Beach Chamber Education Foundation, Inc., Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc. will provide mental health services on a 15-day rotating schedule, visiting each of the schools below two days in every 15-day period, except for Treasure Island Elementary, which will be visited once every 15-day period. As with all public schools in Miami-Dade County, services on all school days include access to mental health services via telehealth.

- Biscayne Elementary School
- Feinberg-Fisher K-8 Center
- Miami Beach Senior High School
- Nautilus Middle School
- North Beach Elementary School
- South Pointe Elementary School
- Ruth K. Broad/Bay Harbor K-8 Center
- Treasure Island Elementary School

Background: In 2013, the City of Miami Beach and the Miami Beach Chamber Education Foundation, Inc. spearheaded a health taskforce with several community stakeholders. The city sought guidance from The Children’s Trust, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, M-DCPS, and other school health stakeholders to plan for the healthcare needs of students attending the eight public schools in Miami Beach as listed above.

Once funds were realized to support student behavioral health, The Children’s Trust offered to manage and monitor the services within its currently funded school-based health contract to serve the Miami Beach schools.

The Miami Beach Chamber Education Foundation, Inc. serves as the fiscal agent responsible for collecting funds from all participating municipalities in Miami Beach and dispersing these funds to The Children’s Trust to provide behavioral health services at the eight schools.

Procurement Policy: Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc. was awarded the Miami Beach M-DCPS feeder pattern through a competitive solicitation approved on March 17, 2025, under Resolution #2025-33. Previously, Borinquen Health Care Center, Inc. served as the provider for the Miami Beach feeder pattern.

Geographic Area: City of Miami Beach, North Bay Village, Town of Bay Harbor Islands, Town of Surfside, and Bal Harbor Village.

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 **20th day of October 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: October 20, 2025

Resolution: 2026-D

Strategic Framework Priority Investment Area: Community Engagement, Awareness and Advocacy: Public policy priorities, advocacy and youth civic engagement.

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

Recommended Action: Authorization for the payment of membership dues to the Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT) in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00, inclusive of training and analytics tools to support public policy initiatives, for a term of 12 months, commencing retroactively October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. Authorizing The Children's Trust staff to advocate in accordance with FACCT policy priorities, and other related policy priorities that benefit children and families served by The Trust.

Budget Impact: Funding in the amount of \$85,000.00 for this resolution allocated for FY 2025-2026.

Description of Services: The Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT) is a statewide non-profit organization whose members consist of ten Children's Services Councils (CSCs) and Trusts:

- Children's Board of Hillsborough County
- Children's Trust of Alachua County
- CSC of Broward County
- CSC of Leon County
- CSC of Martin County
- CSC of Palm Beach County
- CSC of St. Lucie County
- Kids Hope Alliance (Jacksonville)
- The Children's Trust (Miami-Dade)
- The Children's Trust of Escambia County

FACCT serves as the unified messenger for all member CSCs and the interests of the hundreds of thousands of children and families they collectively represent. FACCT develops a unified legislative strategy for effective public policies benefiting children, youth, and families including the following priorities: Two-generational strategies for children and families, out of school time programs, healthy development, children with disabilities, child protection, juvenile justice, and early learning.

The Children's Trust staff plays a vital and active role in statewide advocacy, which includes, advocating directly or in conjunction with FACCT. Additionally, success comes from collaborating with other CSCs to pursue a common legislative agenda on issues such as early childhood education and care, children's safety, health, the child welfare system, and juvenile

justice. FACCT is instrumental in facilitating cooperative endeavors among member CSCs. It has made substantial investments and achieved success by allocating resources to evidence-based services. This positions the CSCs to exert meaningful influence on state policies affecting children and families through statewide advocacy and sharing evidence-based literature. Collaborative efforts with state leaders are key in developing a long-term policy plan to strengthen crucial supports and resources for children and families. In this work, FACCT maintains active relationships with leaders in the executive and legislative branches that further the collective work.

FACCT aims to make a difference in children's lives by strengthening and expanding the work and mission of CSCs. Below, is a snapshot of FACCT's annual work along with other ongoing efforts

- FACCT hosts weekly meetings with Executive Directors, including key staff members from the CSCs, to provide opportunities to engage in cross-community sharing on essential work areas.
- FACCT hosts multiple affinity groups as part of its membership that include Research, IT, Finance, Policy, Programs, Communications, and HR. This cross-section collaboration allows staff to participate in sessions that support problem-solving, innovation, and information sharing to maximize sharing of best practices.
- FACCT serves as a resource for counties to collect information from other CSCs, conduct presentations on the outcomes and impact of CSCs, provide information and advice on procedural items, and more.
- FACCT continues to work with community and state partners and the National Grade-Level Reading Campaign to create a statewide movement to ensure all children read on grade-level by the end of third grade through promoting school readiness and quality instruction, tackling chronic absenteeism, improving summer learning, and engaging parents as their children's first teachers.
- FACCT serves as the technical expert and leader to research and identify opportunities for more effective public policy supporting children's issues.
- During the 2025 legislative session, FACCT was successful on several fronts, including advocating for issues affecting children such as legislation that supported reducing regulatory burdens for the child care industry and aligning the state's School Readiness program eligibility to State Median Income allowing Florida families to continue working. Additionally, FACCT advocated for key priorities in the approved state budget (General Appropriations Act FY 25-26/SB 2500) which secured funding for early childhood education, K-12 school safety, child welfare, mental health, and substance abuse, as well as family services.

Background: By engaging in and enhancing the collective strengths of the CSCs, FACCT promotes policies that build effective prevention and early intervention systems of support for Florida's children and families. Among other things, FACCT:

1. Provides an umbrella for leadership, coordination, and centralized management.
2. Promotes and supports the needs of children and their families.
3. Advocates at the state level for policy decisions to help those children, their families, and their communities.

In its mission to promote policies that build effective prevention and early intervention systems, FACCT focuses on four key areas:

- Advocacy – Advance a prevention and early intervention agenda for children at state and national levels.

- Awareness – Educate local communities, policymakers, businesses, community leaders, and other organizations about the work and worth of CSCs.
- Relationships – Build productive partnerships with individuals and organizations interested in making smart, strategic investments in Florida’s children and their families.
- Expansion – Help communities maximize their return on investment through peer learning, resource maximization, and the establishment of CSCs in additional counties.

FACCT is based in Tallahassee, Florida. Each CSC membership is assessed dues to support FACCT's operating expenses, including FACCT staff salaries and a small proportional share for lobbying services. The Children’s Trust has been a member of FACCT since 2004. The membership fee structure is tiered and calculated based on the total ad valorem revenues collected by each CSC member. The fee structure is as follows:

- Tier 1: Up \$20,000,000.00, fee = \$20,000.00 per year
- Tier 2: \$20,000,001.00 to \$50,000,000.00, fee = \$40,000.00 per year
- Tier 3: \$50,000,001.00 and up fee = \$80,000.00 per year

The 2025-2026 membership dues for The Children’s Trust are \$80,000.00. The additional \$5,000.00 is to join a shared membership for a bill tracking and analysis database and FACCT staff leadership training.

Procurement Policy: Per the procurement policy, Section 2000 – H-8, Exemptions to Formal Competitive Procurement Process, this expenditure for membership dues is exempt from the competitive solicitation process.

Geographic Area: Statewide.

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 **20th day of October, 2025.**

THE CHILDREN’S TRUST
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY _____

SECRETARY

Approved by County Attorney for form and legal sufficiency