

Children's Trust of Alachua County

Enable our children to succeed so our community prospers.

What is the Children's Trust of Alachua County?

The Children's Trust of Alachua County is a children's services council (CSC), which is overseen by an independent board made up of 10 members and governed by Florida Statute 125.901. Florida is home to eight successful independent CSCs. A CSC:

- Is a local board that oversees funding for evidence-based programs and services that respond to the needs of the community's children.
- Cannot provide funding to public schools, only to programs that support children in the times they are not served by schools (early childhood, afternoons, summers, etc.).
- Is created by a voter referendum and funded by a property tax up to one-half mill. Must be re-authorized by voters every twelve years.

What will the Children's Trust do?

The Children's Trust will create the funding needed to expand local services to area children from 0 to 18 years old. The Children's Trust can invest in:

- Early childhood education and care so children are prepared when they start kindergarten.
- Tutoring and literacy programs to ensure more students read at grade level.
- Safe, quality afterschool and summer programs so children have more opportunities for learning and stay out of trouble.
- Quality preparation for technical or trade school, college or university, and support for successful entry into our workforce.

Why do we need the Children's Trust?

Local studies show we can do more for children in Alachua County. The Children's Trust will guarantee funding for children with a strategic, long-term vision, beyond year-to-year budget cycles. Investments we make in children now will pay dividends for our community in the future.



25% of our kindergarteners arrive at public school not ready to learn. In many Alachua County schools that number is as high as 56%



Racial disparities in educational achievement in Alachua County are among the highest in the state



In 2015-16, over 1,200 public school students in Alachua County were retained/not promoted to the next grade; the cost of retention is approximately \$10,000 per student



Research supports that improved early learning and afterschool opportunities improve the educational outcomes of students



Achievement gaps result in a permanent state of recession, but they could be closed with more equitable education for the county's children, which would result in substantial economic gains



Numerous economic studies have shown that for every \$1 invested in providing a stronger start for children, at least \$7 is saved by the reduced need for spending on other services like remedial education or repeating grades in school, as well as increased productivity and earnings for these children as adults

According to UNICEF, investing in children can help promote equitable, inclusive societies, allowing more people to effectively participate in their economic development.



How much will it cost taxpayers?

Based on taxable home values in Alachua County the median homeowner will contribute less \$3.06 a month.

That's about the cost of one cup of coffee a month.



The Children's Trust will be on the November ballot.

Look for this question on the November ballot.

Children's Trust of Alachua County - Authority to Levy One Half-Mill Ad Valorem Taxes

In order to provide developmental, preventative, and supportive services for children, such as early learning supports and out of school enrichment programming, should an independent special district titled "The Children's Trust of Alachua County" be created and authorized to levy an annual ad valorem tax not to exceed one half-mill for 12 years?

Don't forget to vote November 6!
Visit www.VoteAlachua.com for information on voting in Alachua County.

Alachua County Council



everychild.onevoice.®

Produced and endorsed by:



The Children's Trust provides long-term strategies, instead of short-term solutions.