

A. Overview of Solicitation

By approval of Resolution 2024-02 on April 8, 2024. The CTAC seeks qualified providers to offer services that increase access to comprehensive healthcare for children and youth in Alachua County. CTAC intends to make multiple awards. The total allocation is \$600,000.

Successful applicants will be required to enter a contract with the CTAC for the services requested in this RFP within two weeks of the funding announcement. Organizations submitting a proposal must be prepared to use CTAC's standard contract form rather than its own contract form. A Model Contract for Services is attached to this RFP. The CTAC intends to award a contract substantially in the form of the attached Model Services Contract to the selected contractors.

B. Term of Services

Successful applicants will be awarded contracts with anticipated service dates of October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. Contracts will be line-item reimbursement based on a budget approved by the CTAC. Successful applications are eligible for renewal for the following terms listed below:

- October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026
- October 1, 2026 - September 30, 2027

C. Minimum Requirements to Bid

Applicants can apply for funding based on the following requirements:

- a. All proposed services must take place within Alachua County.
- b. Applicant must be currently qualified to conduct business in the State of Florida.
- c. Applicant must not be a charter school approved by any public-school system in the State of Florida.
- d. Applicant must, previously or currently, have a structure in place for the services proposed.

D. Scope of Service

The CTAC Seeks to expand access to quality healthcare services for children and youth of families who are residents of Alachua County. The CTAC will receive proposals from organizations that have experience providing direct healthcare services to children and youth, addressing preventative dental care and education. CTAC also seeks proposals from organizations that have the ability to address the healthcare needs of children and youth in rural communities in Alachua County, via a mobile health clinic and/or youth healthcare providers located in rural communities with the capacity to expand services to uninsured families and/or families who cannot afford and face barriers in accessing healthcare services. Lastly, the CTAC seeks proposals from organizations addressing access to wellness, care coordination and navigation of healthcare for children and youth. See specific requirements for each healthcare initiative below.

Preventative Dental Care and Education: Oral healthcare continues to be one of the greatest unmet needs for children and youth in Alachua County. The 23-24 Dental Screening for Alachua County's 3rd grade students indicates there is high prevalence of children with urgent dental needs and many children with untreated cavities. To address local dental concerns for Alachua County's youth, applicants should propose preventative pediatric dental care for youth and children, ages 0-18. Applicants should incorporate ways to educate patients and their families about healthy dental practices. Services should be offered throughout the county and in community based settings, including rural communities. Services should be offered during traditional and non-traditional times to eliminate barriers to access. Applicants shall incorporate the Community Health Worker (CHW) model. CHW's should be used to provide education and awareness of healthy dental habits, care coordination, and connecting families to resources and insurance needs.

Increased Healthcare Access for Rural Communities: Mobile Health Clinic services have been found to increase healthcare accessibility and improve overall health outcomes. Mobile healthcare services serve as a supplement to the healthcare safety net by effectively targeting known gaps in the community. The CTAC seeks proposals from organizations with mobile healthcare clinics. Applicants will deliver healthcare to youth and children ages 0-18, where they live, play, and go to school, breaking barriers such as transportation, provider shortages, and costs. By funding this initiative, it is the Trust's goal to ensure families residing in rural communities have equal access to immunization, healthcare examinations and treatment, and other primary care services, including testing and treatment of sexual transmitted diseases, screening for risky behaviors, and contraception.

Applicants shall incorporate the Community Health Worker (CHW) model. CHW's should be used to provide education and awareness of healthy dental habits, care coordination, and connecting families to resources and insurance needs.

The CTAC will also accept proposals from healthcare providers currently located in rural communities, to offer services to uninsured children and youth and/or families who cannot afford and face barriers in accessing healthcare services. Applicants must be a current Medicaid provider or in the process of submitting an application to become a Medicaid provider. Successful applicants will have eight weeks after Board approval to complete Medicaid provider application. Applicants must also incorporate the CHW model and provide health education, care coordination, and connection to resources, including medical insurance. The intended goal is to refer and connect families to the most appropriate insurance plan and to help families establish relationships with primary care providers, increasing access to preventative routine care for uninsured children and youth. **Note: to be eligible for this component, provider must utilize the Medicaid rate for all children served.**

Wellness and Healthcare Navigation: Research has shown effective wellness programs can lead to a reduction of absenteeism, and healthcare costs. Wellness Navigators serve as a bridge between family and provider, building a rapport with student and parent and guiding them through the healthcare system to eliminate barriers that may otherwise prevent access to care. Funding for wellness navigators is to support existing community based health and wellness programs that are located in settings where there is a captive audience of children and youth. Proposals should detail current operations and location, target population, and navigation services offered. Applicants should be prepared to articulate model effectiveness and success.

Applicants shall incorporate the Community Health Worker (CHW) model. CHW's should be used to provide education and awareness of healthy dental habits, care coordination, and connecting families to resources and insurance needs.

Note: Funding is limited to wellness programs that are in operation and serving children and youth at the time of RFP release.

All CTAC funded CHWs positions shall plan to participate in local cross-training and local resource meetings. Funded proposals should expect to collaborate with CTAC Funded providers and serve on local committees and/or taskforce to assist with strengthening Alachua County's healthcare system for children and youth.

Funding from the CTAC cannot be used to supplement currently funded initiatives. Funds must be used to increase the number of individuals reached and/or the number of services provided. If renewed, current CTAC funded providers must show an increase in services numbers if requesting an increase in funding, beyond a 4% cost of living adjustment (COLA).

Collaboration

It is expected that successful applicants will demonstrate effective partnerships with collaborative services that would contribute to positive experiences for youth. CTAC is also devoted to supporting collaborative partnerships by expanding free trainings. Applicants are strongly encouraged to take advantage of CTAC training opportunities. Please see training calendar at:

[https://www.childrenstrustofalachuacounty.us/programs/page/training-opportunities.](https://www.childrenstrustofalachuacounty.us/programs/page/training-opportunities)

Target Population:

The target population for the Youth Health RFP is children and youth, ages 0-18, who reside in Alachua County. Applicants will be responsible for marketing and promotion of funded programming to ensure families are aware of the services offered.

Data Collection:

All funded entities will be required to collect and report on the data specified during the contact term. The Trust recognizes the importance of data security and technology resources required to operate effectively and provide accurate reporting on outcomes. The Trust utilizes an online integrated data system, SAMIS, which the Contractor will input data on a monthly basis. The CTAC is devoted to working collaboratively with Contractors to ensure a shared understanding of data collection goals and processes. Monthly data entry is required to receive payment for services, though dedicating time weekly to review and enter data is a best practice. Contractors will report data on service provision, recipient demographics, survey, and quality metrics for monitoring and evaluation of outcomes overtime.