



..... Children's Trust of
 Alachua County
 and
 Alachua Board of
 County Commissioners

BUILDING COMMUNITY LITERACY TOGETHER

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Alachua County Reads is a collective impact project for community based providers using expert tools and activities to support the literacy programs in the Alachua County Public Schools.

Guided by recommendations from the Alachua County Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment, this effort recognizes literacy as essential to strengthen community infrastructure and improve quality of life.

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Literacy Collaborative



What is Literacy?



Literacy is the ability to read and write at a level that allows full participation in one's community and work.



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This initiative addresses the critical need for systematic literacy improvement by establishing a sustainable framework that addresses literacy throughout the community as an essential infrastructure that impacts economic development and quality of life across all populations.

This is a resource realignment project that represents a growing trend of communities across the country who realize that investment in collective impact for literacy at all ages will allow our citizens to realize their potential.

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As the Alachua County Reads Literacy Collaborative continues to develop, the outline, activities, and goals of the project are progressing as we strive to create the collective impact that the Alachua County Needs Assessment envisioned.

Since October 2025, the project has been active in two collaborative paths: The Literacy Catalyst project, led through the PEAK Literacy partnership with the County, and the larger capacity building efforts led through the Center for Nonprofit Excellence with the Children's Trust and the County.

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Many initial objectives and benchmarks have been met through both efforts, including:

- establishing programming and partners through PEAK Literacy leadership
- holding town hall meetings for community input
- securing marketing and communications specialists
- identifying and contracting with Team One and Team Two experts to design activities, training, and evaluation
- contracting with literacy specialists and consultants who can support capacity building, implementation fidelity, and reporting accountability
- reaching out to the community partners to gauge interest and readiness
- building the larger vision for implementation by September 2026

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Looking ahead, the project has opportunities to bring the two pieces together for greater coordination and expansion to more community partners. These opportunities include:

- As we see what programming and implementation processes work best, PEAK Literacy and UFLI will facilitate more training
- The CNE Literacy Coordinator and Consultants will work with providers, new and existing, to build organizational capacity and expand their ability to conduct programming, evaluations, and reporting
- Integration of additional enrichments such as literacy partners in the community continue to engage and evolve through Team Three advisory work
- Build awareness by maximizing literacy hub access and cross promotion to reach families around the county with virtual and physical resources

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Key aspects of collaborative coordination:

- Continue funding PEAK and CNE literacy staff to work on implementation fidelity, ACPS coordination, and collaborating with new partners
- Establish PEAK Literacy as the Lead Agency for programming for under capacity sites and new programs in their area of expertise
- Fund partner sites not eligible for CTAC funding based on PEAK and Team 2 assessments of their readiness and capacity for expansion
- CNE remaining focused on capacity building through Team 1, 3 and 4 activities
- Team 2 activities would be coordinated with the Literacy Staff at both programs so that there is greater coverage and expertise in the field
- Coordination of reporting would continue and grow
- Long term planning for investment in the project beyond local funding would begin, using Team 3 and 4 so that County and CTAC funds could be supplemented for programming that has shown impact

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Ongoing Steps

CNE is working with our literacy team to coordinate a full action plan for the coming two years with PEAK Literacy, starting with a meeting on March 3rd. Through collaborative support to the providers where CNE focuses on capacity building, operations, and reporting, and PEAK Literacy focuses on program expansion, implementation, and new program onboarding, we can achieve the long term goals of Alachua County Reads.



Build Teams and Train

UFLI, PEAK Literacy, UF College of Education, Family Youth and Community Sciences, and local literacy specialists and consultants have been secured for the project. They are building training, capacity and readiness assessments, and deliverables for the 17 providers.

Fund Programs

Team Two Providers have been contacted and the 17 partners will begin building their funding requests for capacity building this Spring.

Build Resources and Awareness

Through the virtual and physical literacy hubs, an awareness campaign modeling Social Network for Good principles, and coordinated marketing, CNE will promote the project and bring accessible resources.

Recruit an Advisory Council

Potential Advisory Council members have been identified through a collaboration with the Alachua County Grade Level Reading workgroup. Once additional town hall presentations are completed this Spring, a chair will be recruited and this group will get community feedback and ensure fidelity.



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Anticipated opportunities and costs (Annual Cost Estimates)

- Establishing the Literacy Coordinator at the CNE to a full -time contractor position to ensure capacity building, program fidelity, ACPS coordination, and exploration of new partner sites (\$100,000)
- Engage ongoing sites for literacy hub development through the Library District, including funding for supplies (\$50,000)
- Marketing expansion (\$25,000)
- Funding for assessments and special services for students on waiting lists with ACPS (\$25,000)

CNE request: \$200,000

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Supporting Documentation

- Implementation Timeline with January 2026 Updates
 - Names and roles of Teams 1, 2, 3, and 4, including the community based programs and the Community Advisory Council suggestions
- CNE Monthly Report
 - Workgroup meeting documentation in airtable
 - MOUs
 - Teams objectives and activities from the scope of work being developed
 - Description of program activities this month
 - Notable achievements and milestones in project implementation
 - Challenges encountered

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Thank You



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