

# Program Committee Meeting AGENDA

Monday, May 15, 2023, 10:30 AM  
Tryon Branch Library  
1200 Langley Avenue  
Pensacola, FL 32504



**ESCAMBIA**  
**CHILDREN'S TRUST**  
Our Children. Our Community. Our Future.

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- I. Call to Order
  - II. Approval of Agenda
  - III. Approval of Minutes - December 5, 2022
  - IV. Items for Discussion
    - A. Review of unsolicited proposals
    - B. Sponsorships
  - V. Public Comments\*
  - VI. Adjournment

*\* The Escambia Children's Trust welcomes comments from the public. Those who wish to address the Board may do so at this time. Those addressing the Board should complete a Public Comment Form prior to speaking and should state their full name and affiliation for the official record. In the interest of time, we ask that one person be designated to speak on behalf of a constituency and that all comments are limited to three (3) minutes. Thank you.*

## Escambia Children's Trust Programs Committee Meeting December 5, 2022, at 1:00 PM

Location: Tryon Branch Library  
Open to public at 1200 Langley Avenue,  
Pensacola, FL 32504

### M I N U T E S

<b>Meeting Title:</b>	Escambia Children's Trust Programs Committee Meeting		
<b>Date:</b>	December 5, 2022	<b>Time:</b>	1:00 PM
<b>Location:</b>	1200 Langley Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32504		
<b>Chair:</b>	Ms. Tori Woods	<b>Scribe:</b>	Alma Ellis
<b>Participants Present:</b>	<p><b>Committee Members:</b> Ms. Tori Woods, Dr. Rex Northup, Ms. Patty Hightower</p> <p><b>Staff/Advisors:</b> Tammy Greer, Executive Director; Kimberly Krupa, Ph.D., Director of Programs and Performance; Meredith Bush, Esq., Legal Counsel; Alma Ellis, Board Liaison and Administrative Specialist; Rick Stone, Programs and Research Coordinator</p>		
<b>Not Present:</b>			

- **Call to Order**
  - Meeting called to order at 1:35pm
- **Approval of Agenda**
  - Agenda approved
- **Public Comment Regarding Agenda Items**
  - Representatives from Legal Services of North Florida introduced themselves and stated they would be available to answer any questions throughout the meeting.
  - Sheriff Department personnel introduced themselves and stated they will be available to answer any questions throughout the meeting
  - Mr. Vinny Whibbs introduced himself and Mr. Troy Watts representing Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola and stated they will be available to answer any questions throughout the meeting. Mr. Watts also distributed some items available to children through their program.
- **Discussion Items**
  - **Sole Source Proposals**
    - **Legal Services of North Florida**  
The Committee carefully reviewed the proposal.  
(Entire meeting available on ECT website)

Dr. Northup asked for and received a brief explanation of the difference in services provided by Legal Services of North Florida and the Guardian ad Litem services and the expected impact on the children of Escambia County.

Ms. Hightower questioned the Salary, Personnel and Wages portion of the proposal and whether Legal Services of North Florida works directly with Gulf Coast Kids House. The response was:

*Education Issues:* The grant would allow them to hire one attorney, one paralegal and one client advocate and would provide partial funding for supervision and office management.

*Representatives of Dependent Children:* The grant would allow them to hire two attorneys, one paralegal and one client advocate.

Legal Services of North Florida works directly with Gulf Coast Kids House in a variety of ways including providing services for children faced with domestic violence and rape crisis.

Ms. Hightower asked and confirmed that Legal Services of North Florida provides services in the North end of the county including Centry.

Ms. Hightower asked if Legal Services of North Florida was aware of any other organization in our community that provides the same services. Legal Services of North Florida confirmed there were no other providers that offer the same services for the children of Escambia County.

- **Re-Entry Alliance of Pensacola (REAP)**

(Entire meeting available on ECT website)

The Committee carefully reviewed the proposal. After discussion by the Committee and several questions and answers, Mr. Whibbs requested to withdraw his proposal and re-submit at a later date.

- **Escambia County Sheriff's Office**

(Entire meeting available on ECT website)

The Committee carefully reviewed the proposal.

Ms. Woods questioned sole-source provider on the co-sleeping portion under PSA. It was explained that the Sheriff's Department is working in partnership with Healthy Start on the co-sleeping portion.

Ms. Hightower asked for clarification on "AXON" simulator. It was explained that this simulator provides real world scenarios that deputies may not have experienced in the field thus providing the opportunity for better outcomes.

There was discussion on Movie Night and how it impacts children and families. The response was that Movie Night provides a way for deputies to engage with young people in an enjoyable, nonconfrontational safe setting thus opening the door for long term relationships and viewing deputies as trusted community service members.

Ms. Woods asked for more information on Real-Time Crime Center. This initiative partnered with the Escambia County School District will provide additional safety for the children by providing more security cameras in schools. The Real-Time Crime Center would also allow

for immediate monitoring, intervention, and response to a juvenile crisis. Time-sensitive information can be relayed to responding deputies so that they are better prepared to deal with at-risk youth.

The Committee asked and received confirmation that there are no other providers of these types of service in the area as E.C.S.O. is the only law enforcement provider for Escambia County.

- **Escambia County Public Schools Foundation**

(Entire meeting available on ECT website)

Staff wanted to make the Committee aware that Escambia County Public Schools Foundation has reached out to get information on funding. A proposal has not been received. Staff will keep Committee updated on any future discussions.

- **Center for Independent Living**

(Entire meeting available on ECT website)

Staff received a sole-source funding request while an active RFP for OST was open. Staff encouraged them to apply for funding through the RFP. No proposal was received. This program does not qualify under sole-source funding.

The committee reviewed the Sole-Source Funding policy and discussed each proposal for “sole-source”.

- **Recommendations**

Ms. Hightower moved to recommend Legal Services of North Florida to the Board for funding consideration with no objections.

Dr. Northup moved to recommend Escambia County Sheriff’s Department to the Board for funding consideration with no objections.

With no public comments on non-agenda items, this meeting was adjourned at 3:42pm.

# Sole-source Special Community Initiatives Grant Application Form



This form is to be used to apply for non-competitive funds from the Escambia Children's Trust (ECT). Sole-source Special Community Initiatives requests for funding may be submitted by a community organization based solely upon the applicant's initiative and not in response to a formal solicitation or procurement process of the ECT. Applications will be considered for funding on a case-by-case basis. Please allow up to eight (8) weeks for a funding decision.

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Contact Person: Joshua Bugby

Email Address: [joshuabugby@childrenincrisisfl.org](mailto:joshuabugby@childrenincrisisfl.org)

Phone Number: 850-864-4242

Organization: Children in Crisis, inc.

Program Address: 1000 Lukes Way, Fort Walton Beach, FL. 32547

Administrative  
Address (if different):

## REQUEST INFORMATION

**Need Statement:** What priority need(s) identified in the ECT Needs Assessment will this project address in Escambia County?

Children in Crisis, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of caring people, working together to provide homes and keep brothers and sisters together. We give a home to the abused, neglected, and abandoned children of our community. Before Children in Crisis, there was no Emergency Shelter in Circuit One (which includes Okaloosa, Walton, Escambia, and Santa Rosa Counties in Northwest Florida) for young children removed from an unsafe environment on short notice. Without CIC and the stability it brings, many foster children would be moved from home to home, some as many as ten times per year. We have given a safe, loving home to over 1000 children since 2008.

**Program Description:** What services will be offered for children? How many children will be served? How and where? By whom? Please list all project partners and their roles.

**7 Pillars of Care (Objectives in which our goals are accomplished)** Children in Crisis approximately serves 100 children a year as we provide an emergency shelter, foster homes, and a therapy center at The Children's Neighborhood.

**1. Protection from harm:** CIC provides trained staff to ensure the safety of every child who enters our Children's Neighborhood. CIC provides a secure community equipped with surveillance cameras and safety protocols. CIC is a refuge to children who have suffered from physical abuse, and provides safe homes where children work on healing. CIC has become a beacon of hope and protection for children who have suffered abuse. Our children feel safe in our Children's Neighborhood, and it is reflected in their actions, behaviors, and gratitude as children are introduced to their new normal routine in our foster homes to create stable minds.

**2. Improved physical and mental health:** Our children receive regular health check-ups to track improved physical health benchmarks after adjusting to a new diet and exercise routine. As children are evaluated, every child who needs therapy will continue to be monitored for progress in various areas of emotional stability, mental stability, and interaction with siblings and peers in the Children's Neighborhood.

**3. Improved quality of education:** Children In Crisis provides various tutoring programs to ensure that our children improve academically. Many children who enter our Children's Neighborhood have unfortunately fallen behind due to lack of educational routines. Education and higher learning are a major priority of Children In Crisis. The CIC helps our young adults apply and prepare for college if that is the path they choose. Every year the staff at CIC celebrate our graduates with their own graduation party! Our Transitional Living Coordinator works with our high school students to prepare them for life after graduation. We make it a big celebration on every milestone including: drivers license, graduation, first job, and college.

**4. Enriched cultural experiences:** Children In Crisis provides a loving and diverse community of peers that help enrich and encourage cultural growth in our Children's Neighborhood. Every child at Children In Crisis has the freedom to express their uniqueness and culture. We provide a healthy balance of interactions and activities so that children of different ethnic backgrounds can express their cultural diversity.

**5. Improve agricultural production/promotion/education:** Children In Crisis provides a Kids Club House that promotes educational summer programs including cooking and health classes, which give the children the skills it takes to provide for themselves nutritionally throughout their lives. During the summer, our children are learning the origins of ingredients while learning to cook. Our children learn the basic necessities on how to take their cooking skills with them after they leave the Children's Neighborhood. Each child will leave with a cookbook of items they have learned to prepare.

**6. Enhancement of specific individual economic self sufficiency:** CIC provides vocational and mentoring programs made up of volunteers, staff, and churches providing budgeting skills for our young adult population ensuring job stability and banking investments. Our goal is when children leave CIC, students will have a high school diploma, know how to budget a savings account, obtain a driver's license, car insurance, and a dependable vehicle. Our greatest desire is to see our high school graduates become enrolled in college, and graduate college.

**7. Reduction of substance abuse:** CIC provides mentors, role models, and special speakers to help reduce and prevent substance abuse for children who are at risk due to prior unstable home environments. As we mentor our children to become young adults, we reduce the chances significantly for substance abuse by raising substance awareness, and then devastating realities that come as a result of substance abuse.

**Who will carry out those activities?**

- Children's Neighborhood Operations Director, Saraha Traver
- Program Supervisor, Tammy Middleton
- Education Liaison Academic Development Tutoring Evaluation Activities, Melissa Parsons
- Transitional Living Coordinator, Jeff Stovall

**Anticipated Outcomes:** What will the outcomes of your project be? How will you measure success for the project? Which ECT indicators will the project address?

The main outcome is to provide a safe and loving home for abandoned, abused, and neglected children for however long they need a home. Our goal is to see every child that we have the privilege to impact become citizens of our community who will not only defy the odds, but eventually be bold enough one day to share their stories and advocate for others who have experienced abuse, neglect, trauma, and setbacks. Children in Crisis believes what we model and models what we believe. And by doing this, our actions of care are our words of affirmation to our children in The Children’s Neighborhood. Children in Crisis measures its success every time a child chooses to move forward regardless of their emotional and physical setbacks in life. Most children that arrive at Children in Crisis are fighting against some type of odds in life, but when children take these unfortunate circumstances and keep moving forward they are teaching the world how to win in life. Children in Crisis has a powerful presence in our surrounding communities, and due to our track record and influence, we are recognized as a beacon of hope for children as the only Circuit One Emergency Shelter resource in our surrounding four counties. Children in Crisis believes that our mission aligns perfectly with ECT in that we ensure that children are healthy, successful in school, protected from neglect and abuse, and are educated to avoid risky behaviors and relationships with other peers and or adults.

## FUNDING INFORMATION

Is your agency currently receiving other funding from the ECT?  Yes  No

Have you spoken to an ECT team member regarding your request?  Yes  No

Other Funding Source(s): Various local events and fundraisers

Other Funding Amount: \$

Total Project Budget: \$1,126,411

Amount Requested from ECT: \$7,5000

- Attach a Detailed Project Budget (please use one of the following file formats: DOC, DOCX, XLS, XLSX, TXT)



- Attach any Additional Information that you would like to be considered by ECT.

The undersigned confirms that the proposed project:

- Addresses identified gaps in services or community needs identified in the Trust's needs assessment
- Is typically administered in Escambia County solely by the applicant(s)
- Provides a specialized or unique service or product that does not lend itself to a competitive proposal process

Joshua Bugby

Development Director

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Name of Authorized Official

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Title

Joshua Bugby

04/21/2023

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Signature of Authorized Official

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Date Signed



# ReadyKids!

Prepared for Day One of Kindergarten and Beyond

## Board of Directors

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Amy Thurman  
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Mary Anderson  
Early Literacy Consultant

ReadyKids!  
P.O. BOX 71  
Pensacola, FL 32591  
850.433.6893  
www.ReadyKidsFL.org

Tammy Greer, Executive Director  
Escambia Children's Trust  
1100 College Blvd.  
Bldg. 11, Ste. 1100F  
Pensacola, FL 32504

April 10, 2023

Dear Ms. Greer,

Last summer, our team at ReadyKids! designed and implemented our brand-new Summer Bridge Program, *Kindergarten, Here We Come*, which was made possible by Escambia Children's Trust funding. It is with great gratitude that we submit a sponsorship request for your consideration to implement that program again this summer. Planning is underway for three family workshops to be hosted at Global Learning Academy on June 10, 13, and 14. The workshops will be open to all families who have rising kindergarteners with a deliberate call for those families who have not participated in a formal education program and/or who are underprepared. One workshop will be offered fully in Spanish. Additional details are included in accompaniment to this letter.

Since 2007, our mission has been to maximize children's potential through increased school readiness. Our vision is that every student in our community starts kindergarten ready to learn. Our staff, Board of Directors, and dedicated volunteers are all intimately familiar with the importance of school readiness and the ongoing negative outcomes students experience when they come to school not ready to learn. This is why our programming is laser-focused on serving families with pre-kindergarten aged children.

We are grateful for the Escambia Children's Trust's recognition of this critical issue facing our community and appreciate the opportunity to submit this request. If different or additional information would be helpful, I am more than happy to oblige.

Thank you for your consideration and for the vital role you play in improving outcomes for children in our community.

With sincere gratitude,

**Ruthie Noel**  
Executive Director, ReadyKids!  
[director@readykidsFL.org](mailto:director@readykidsFL.org)

### **Sponsorship Request Summary:**

As data has consistently shown, more than half of the children entering kindergarten in Escambia County are “not ready” to learn by state standards. The low participation rate of families in Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK), long waitlists for Head Start and private daycare classrooms, and the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have culminated in a community-wide crisis that requires immediate attention and action. In 2022, ReadyKids! responded with the implementation of a kindergarten transition program designed to improve readiness outcomes for children and families, *Kindergarten, Here We Come*. The goal of the program is two-fold: To introduce parents/caregivers to the concept of school readiness and equip them to best prepare their student at home *and* to introduce children to a formal early education setting to help prepare them for their first day of kindergarten. In total, we served 26 parents/caregivers and 17 incoming kindergartners across three workshops held at The Fricker Center, Montclair Elementary, and O.J. Semmes Elementary. Of the students we served, 48% did not attend pre-k or have experience in a formalized education setting. Of the 26 parents/caregivers who completed our evaluation survey, 100% reported “I now have a better understanding of what it means for my student/child to be ‘ready’ for school.” and “I now have a better understanding of how I can help my students/child practice readiness at home.”

This year, the program will again be delivered in a workshop format through collaborative efforts with Escambia County Public Schools. We will host the workshops



on three separate dates in June 2023 at Global Learning Academy with one workshop offered fully in Spanish. The school district has agreed to assist with the promotion of the workshops through all of their various communication channels which we believe will encourage significantly higher attendance than 2022. Another new component this year will be onsite kindergarten registration assistance for the families who attend.

**Program Design:**

ReadyKids! and the Escambia County Public Schools will offer workshops for Escambia County families with children who will be entering kindergarten for the first time in August of 2023 and who are unprepared/underprepared for kindergarten and/or have not previously attended an early learning program or VPK. Families will be served food, transportation and childcare for siblings will be provided, each family will receive a gas or grocery gift card for attending, and they will be further incentivized to attend by the chance to win a “big ticket” door prize (e.g., tablet or laptop).

**Number of children to be served:** Minimum 60; Maximum 150

**Location:** Global Learning Academy

**Dates:** Saturday June 10 (Breakfast timeframe); Tuesday June 13 (Dinner timeframe); Wednesday June 14 (Lunch timeframe)

**Program Hours:** Two-hour workshop offered three times (6 hours total)

## **Program Components:**

### Ready for Kindergarten! Parents/caregivers workshop

- Explore what it means to be “ready” for school
- Plan for family routines that support strong health and habits
- Discover the building blocks of “readiness” and what children in kindergarten learn at the start of the year, middle of the year, and by the end of the year
- Learn to play powerful learning games and activities that build the skills needed to be ready for kindergarten
- “Know-Before-You-Go” overview of day 1 of Kindergarten in ECPS and opportunity to register onsite
- **Outcomes:**
  - Families feel empowered and prepared for the first day of school by understanding what skills are most important for their student to know on day one
  - Families familiarize themselves with the kindergarten registration process, supplies and materials list, school day schedule including bus route and/or drop off information
  - Families understand what resources are available in the community to launch and support their child’s educational journey (e.g., where to acquire school supplies, specialist services, dental and medical screenings, etc.)

- Evaluation:
  - Post workshop surveys to measure individual learning gains
  - Increase in kindergarten registration numbers

#### Kindergarten Kick Off: Student workshop

- Rising kindergarten students gain exposure to and practice classroom skills under the supervision and direction of certified kindergarten teachers.
  - Executive Function skills: Practice listening to directions, lining up, sitting patiently, raising hands, activity transitions, independent self-care (restroom, handwashing)
  - Social-Emotional skills: Practice sharing, taking turns, getting along with others and treating others kindly
  - Academic Foundation skills: Practice recognizing and pronouncing letters, numbers, colors
- Outcome: 60 – 150 Students understand and practice basic classroom behavior expectations
- Evaluation: Sticker chart: Students receive a sticker for every skill they practice on their skills list
- Student workshops will be limited to 10 children per certified teacher

#### **Personnel Capacity**

- Childcare: Head Start teachers contracted through Community Action Program Committee (CAPC)
- Workshop Planning and Facilitation: ReadyKids! Staff and Certified teachers

- Transportation: Rideshare scheduled as-needed
- Administration: ReadyKids! Staff

### **Demonstrated Experience and Qualifications**

The staff who will implement the proposed project are early education experts in their respective areas:

- The workshop content for parents and caregivers is an evidence-based family engagement resource provided with the Teaching Strategies Gold software, ReadyRosie.
  - ReadyRosie is an early education tool that helps families, schools, and communities across the nation deepen and scale their family engagement efforts. These tools leverage the power of video modeling, family workshops, and mobile technology to build powerful partnerships between families and educators.
  - The content advisors and developers of this family curriculum are experts in family education, family engagement, education, early childhood, literacy, math, science, social emotional learning, dual language learners, media, and parenting.
  - The ReadyRosie subscription is purchased and provided to Escambia County families by ReadyKids! in collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
- The workshop content for rising kindergarten students was developed by certified teachers here in Escambia County Public Schools.

- Workshop facilitation: The parent/caregiver workshops and the student workshops will be facilitated by certified teachers.
- The administration of the program will be coordinated by the ReadyKids! staff:
  - Family Engagement Coordinator Mindi Crain holds a master's degree in Social Work and has helped prepare pre-k students for school as a ReadyKids! team member since 2017.
  - Program Director Kristy Craig is an expert in the early literacy ReadingPals program including program and staff management, site coordination, volunteer recruiting, training, and retention, and event planning and execution. Kristy has also been part of the ReadyKids! mission of preparing pre-k students for school since 2017.
  - Executive Director Ruthie Noel holds a master's degree in Industrial-Organizational Psychology and has over 15 years of professional childcare and early education experience including Montessori classroom instruction, DCF training, and trauma intervention and emotional first aid.
  - All ReadyKids! staff members passed a Level II background check through the Escambia County Public Schools and have completed the Know Child Abuse training.



**Cost Effectiveness:**

The budget provided is estimated based on hosting three (3) workshops and serving 150 families/children (maximum).

**Kindergarten, Here We Come 2023**

Line Item	Budget
<b>Food &amp; Bev</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Program Supplies</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>
Printing	\$200.00
Resource bags	\$300.00
Children's take-home books	\$700.00
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>\$7,000.00</b>
Childcare for siblings	\$700.00
Certified Teachers	\$1,000.00
Transportation (Bus drivers or Lyft/Uber/taxi)	\$300.00
Administration	\$5,000.00
<b>Incentives</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
Gift cards	\$1,500.00
"Big ticket" door prize (e.g., tablet or laptop)	\$500.00
<b>Marketing</b>	<b>\$2,100.00</b>
Print advertising	\$1,300.00
Social media advertising	\$300.00
TV/Radio advertising	\$300.00
Printing/copying/mailing	\$200.00
<b>Total estimated cost:</b>	<b>\$14,300.00</b>