



## **Young Children in Duval County Will Benefit from Five Grants from The Community Foundation**

*Nearly \$45,000 will support programs and services to help at-risk children under six*

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – June 29, 2020 The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has made five grants from its Jacksonville Children’s Endowment Fund to support service enhancement for at-risk youngsters between the ages of 0-6 years in our community.

Two grants of \$7,000 each will support the introduction of SAIL into Kindergarten, an evidence-based curriculum that addresses key content areas for rising at-risk Kindergarteners, at **Crawford Early Learning Center** (located at I.M. Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless) and **All About Kids Childcare Center**. The Florida Institute for Education (FIE) at UNF first developed and piloted the curriculum in Duval County, and FIE will be a partner to both childcare centers in delivering immersive learning in literacy, math, STEM, digital literacy, movement and family connection. Eighteen children at the Crawford Early Learning Center and 36 children at the All About Kids Childcare Center will be served.

**Episcopal Children's Services (ECS)** received a \$10,000 grant to equip children on the autism spectrum with deeper social-emotional, communication, and self-regulation skills by training their educators and families in a specialized module of Conscious Discipline.

**Lutheran Services Florida, Inc** received a \$10,000 grant to implement a new parenting curriculum and family engagement tool called Ready Rosie. The program trains parents on principles of positive child discipline and supports them to engage in their child's school readiness transition to kindergarten. The project would support a full-scale rollout possibly impacting 1,403 students served by LSF.

**Duval County Public Schools (Early Childhood Education Department)** received a \$10,000 grant to provide customized summer learning kits to support rising Kindergarteners with numeracy and literacy skills. DCPS analyzed the most recent Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener data (FLKRS) and mapped which childcare centers’ students scored in the bottom third. The program would combine Parent Academy events to train parents on the use of the learning kits, with a total of 250 students served.

“These innovative programs are more important than ever to ensure continued progress in light of the disruption in early learning that took place this spring,” noted Emmanuel Fortune, program director for The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. “We recognize that some of these programs will need to adapt to today’s somewhat different environment and we are offering maximum flexibility to the agencies so that they can fulfill the program objectives.”

### **About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida ([www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org)), Florida’s oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Created in 1964, the Foundation has assets of \$482 million and has made approximately \$550 million in grants since inception.

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**Contact:** Susan Datz Edelman  
VP, Strategic Communications  
904-356-4483 | [sedelman@jaxcf.org](mailto:sedelman@jaxcf.org)