



September 14, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation & Excellence (INIE) has endorsed passage of the referendum to establish the Leon County Children's Services Council (CSC) on the November 3 general election ballot. The CSC will provide a significant and sustained boost to improve and strengthen the lives of children in this community for years to come.

As in other Florida communities with successful and effective CSCs, this new organization will fund local community providers through a competitive review process that can generate meaningful positive, documented outcomes. The CSC's sole purpose will be to invest in children's well-being by maximizing resources and ensuring accountability, making it a unique umbrella community organization for Leon County.

The establishment of a Leon County CSC will provide consistent, targeted funding to address identified three priority areas:

- Success in school and life (i.e., investing in programs that increase school performance and reduce juvenile crime);
- Healthy children and families (i.e., promoting physical, mental, and oral health education and programs to optimize individual and community health and resiliency); and
- Stable and nurturing families and communities (i.e., promoting stable families, including food instability, youth development, and economic opportunities).

The INIE Board of Directors believes that the committee has identified critical, underserved needs in our community. The CSC model is an ideal method for driving improvement across those areas of need.

Our members, which include more than 100 nonprofit organizations in Leon County, have consistently acknowledged the importance of addressing these priorities. We are confident that a CSC will support the mission of our members and elevate our entire community.

The CSC model includes strict accountability standards to maximize the value and impact of every tax dollar. Upon its passage, INIE is prepared and willing to support the Leon County CSC by strengthening CSC-funded agencies' administrative and operational capacity.

The INIE Board of Directors urges its members and all residents in Leon County to embrace this opportunity to invest in our children's future by voting "Yes" for passage of the Children's Services Council referendum on this November's ballot.

Ryan Cohn
Board Chair, Institute for Nonprofit Innovation & Excellence

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