

Dasiely Cruz

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am interested in applying for the Executive Director position for Escambia Children's Trust. My 20 years of experience extends from classroom teacher, childcare Director and currently Director for The Children's Forum Early Learning Career Center, for 9 years, funded by our local CSC (The Children's Trust) in Miami-Dade County. This grant provides professional development opportunities and supports to the Early Childhood workforce in conjunction with support from system partners and Institutions of Higher Education (IHE). I have built a strong, collaborative and positive relationship with The Children's Trust throughout the years where we have elevated the supports available to the childcare community in Miami. It is through this strong partnership that we have been able to deliver continuity of supports to educators, salary stipends and the opportunity to experience the joys of the Early Childhood Field.

My role as Director requires skilled interpersonal skills, strong communication, data and budget analysis, and collaboration with system partners who share the vision of increasing the professionalization of the ECE field, its workforce and advocate for increased compensation. Yearly workforce studies conducted by the Forum have guided future investments and enhanced a robust professional development system that yields positive outcomes for educators and the children they serve. I have been successful in advocating for and developing new trainings based on community feedback that support over 1400 childcare programs, its Directors and staff. Through ongoing relationships with IHEs and system partners, I have increased equitable access to trainings for all childcare programs in Miami. Thousands of educators have successfully participated in valuable trainings that have increased knowledge, skills and classroom practices.

I have had the pleasure of serving on various committees. One of those is the Together for Children workgroup where its focus is on serving the Northeast Corridor Haitian-Creole families. This workgroup began two years ago and has developed valuable resources in Haitian-Creole for families to understand the supports available to them and their children. I have also been part of the Miami-Dade Grade Level Reading (MDGLR) Campaign. This is a coalition of partners focused on mobilizing a collaborative group of community agencies, leaders and families to intentionally work together toward supporting nurturing caregivers, using rich language and play, and fortifying good nutrition and health to achieve optimal brain development and to ensure school readiness upon entering Kindergarten. I have also been selected for a 2-year fellowship (May 2021-2023) with Build's Initiative- Equity Leaders Action Network (ELAN). This fellowship supports state, county, tribal, and territory leaders to work within early childhood systems to advance policies, practices, programs, and initiatives to intentionally redress racial and economic marginalization and create racial equity. Finally, I have been invited to participate in a workgroup for the Florida Association for Infant Mental

Health's (FAIMH) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion & Belonging Workgroup. This workgroup will focus on bringing about equitable opportunities to diverse childcare programs in addition to trainings and endorsements.

My project management and strong leadership skills have built upon our mission to support ECE systems that promote positive experiences and outcomes for children. I have managed a large team and focus on creating a positive culture and working environment where all team members are valued; their input is solicited and encouraged. I am a visionary and always strive to support my community with an innovative approach while ensuring equitable representation of those disenfranchised. I have been successful in leading my organization with professionalism and commitment, while delivering a high level of customer service. I am a passionate leader and consider my role in this field as a lifelong calling and not just another occupation.

I currently live in Miami, but would be open to relocating. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to influence other communities and continue to serve our most vulnerable populations. I thank you for your time, consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dasiely Cruz', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

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