

A. Abstract

In response to the Request for Proposals regarding Out-Of-School Time Programs, The Urban Development Center, Incorporated (*also known as The UDC*) is pleased to provide the following program proposal to be titled, *YouthFirst Century*. Further, we welcome the opportunity to present evidence-based youth development programs to the Town of Century located in Escambia County, Florida. To provide the most comprehensive proposal possible, The Urban Development Center, Inc. has partnered with The Town of Century through Memorandum of Agreement. It is our intent to propose programs and initiatives that support children and youth in the Town of Century. In furtherance of our proposal, The UDC has extended its partnerships to include local organizations and companies with the pertinent knowledge, skills, and abilities to ensure every effort is made to reach, teach, guide, and improve the quality of life for youth to places of academic, social, emotional, physical, and psychological health. Out of school time (OST) programs are an important setting for supporting student health and academic achievement (Health, 2019, p. 1).

The primary goal of The Urban Development Center, Incorporated's (The UDC's) proposal is to help prepare children and youth for success in school, college, career, and life.

The 7 Key Elements of The UDC's proposal include:

- Workforce Readiness and Preparedness Training to include the tenets of emotional intelligence and transition services
- Work-Based Experience,
- Internships, Apprenticeships, Metrix Learning, and On-the-Job Training Opportunities,
- Life Skills include Home Economics, Mental Healthcare, CPR Certification, and Experiential Learning to inform Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, and
- Technology Training to Include Introduction to, and Certificate-Based Training
- Entrepreneurship: The Young Entrepreneurs Workshop (The YEW) its community's most at
- Tutoring

The UDC's program design is youth focused and guided by The UDC's team considerable expertise and experience in providing training and education services to at-risk, underserved, and vulnerable children and youth. We understand the objectives indicated in the Request for Proposal (RFP) and we have given substantial thought to laying out a roadmap that exceeds the Escambia Children's Trust (ECT) expectations. The UDC understands the unique needs of children and youth that exist in underserved environments. We have developed culturally responsive programming that seeks to make education, training, experience, and exposure (ETEE) relevant, engaging, and interactive. Research shows that high quality afterschool programs improve students' educational outcomes, school attendance, and social and emotional learning (NCSL, 2022).

The UDC and the Town of Century are excited to present in collaboration our response and look forward to our future work to make possibilities a reality for all children and youth residing in the Town of Century.