



March 2, 2016

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Jack & Jill Children's Center respectfully submits the attached proposal to the City of Fort Lauderdale for a Commercial Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$400,000 to rehabilitate the building located at 1219/1221 West Broward Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, Florida. This building is owned and operated by Jack & Jill Children's Center. This rehabilitation would allow Jack & Jill to add two Kindergarten classrooms onsite providing services to an additional 40 students.

It is the mission of Jack & Jill Children's Center to break the cycle of poverty for children of high-need working families in Broward County through the provision of high quality early childhood education and family strengthening programs.

The academic success of children in later years depends heavily upon their kindergarten readiness. The first few years of education and preparedness are the most crucial to establishing a solid foundation from which children can adapt to school systems and learn successfully. During this period, children develop primary skills that form the foundations of reading, writing, counting, and social interaction. Children entering their first years of regular schooling have to be prepared to interact with other children, control themselves, and cooperate with their peers.

Researchers universally agree that early education is the key to academic success for disadvantaged children. Because of their family environments, many children arrive in elementary school unprepared to compete with their more advantaged peers, lacking in language and social skills, they are behind before they even begin. High quality early education makes it possible for these children to compete and succeed from the start. Research shows that children who learned more in kindergarten, compared to similar students, were less likely to be single parents, went to college in higher numbers, had higher incomes, and had retirement plans.

In the community surrounding Jack & Jill, the elementary schools are both F rated. The addition of two kindergarten classes would allow us to continue to serve our children and families for an additional year, helping to close the achievement gap between low-income children and their more advantaged peers. Jack & Jill Children's Center has a proven track record of increasing the cognitive development of children enrolled in our program. Last year, children



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graduating from our Pre-K program and entering public school, received 100% on the Broward County School Readiness Assessment.

The money received from the city for the Neighborhood Capital Improvement Project would be used to rehabilitate the building located at 1219/1221 West Broward Blvd. This building is currently formatted as a restaurant space but has been vacant for 5 years. Jack & Jill has been working with Stiles Corporation for the past six months to generate architecture renderings and scope of work quotes on an in-kind basis. Money received from the city would allow us to put these plans into action to have a fully functioning space for the start of the Fall 2017 school year.

The renovation and construction would take place between October 2016 and August 2017. The grand opening of the Kindergarten will be in August 2017.

We are grateful for your consideration of this proposal. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 954.463.8772 x 205 or by email at hsiskind@jackandjillcenter.org.

With gratitude,

Heather Siskind
Executive Director