



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren of Brevard Co., FL., Inc.
123 Barton Blvd., Suite 102
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Community and Economic Development Director
The City of Palm Bay
120 Malabar Rd SE
Palm Bay, FL 32907

RE: 2024-2025 Community Development Block Public Services
Letter of appeal

Dear Ms. Bunt,

I am writing today, to appeal the decision to deny my grant application for The Child First program. I believe that this project is worthy of funding and am confident that we can successfully complete the request in the timeframe allotted by the 2024-2025 Community Development Block grant.

The Child First program was developed to assist at-risk children and the relative caregivers so the child can live in a safe and loving home. The program has been in existence for 30 years and has made a tremendous impact in Brevard County, Florida. Here are some examples of the benefits to the community:

- The at-risk children were able to improve their grades.
- Relative caregivers were able to apply for cash assistance, food stamps and medicaid.
- The relative caregivers were given resources and information from community partners during training courses and support group meetings.
- By receiving assistance from legal counsel, relative caregivers were able to obtain the correct paperwork to keep the at-risk children safe and register them in school and get them medical treatment as needed.
- Referrals were made by the agency, so the at-risk children and relative caregivers were able to receive counselling.



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For the 2024-2025 Community Development Block Grant, we are requesting any funds you can provide to help us keep these at-risk children safe and improve their quality of life.

I believe the Child First Program is important because every at-risk child kept out of the foster care system saves Brevard County \$358.00 a month.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Sterling
Executive Director