**Community Literacy Collaborative: *Collective Impact Initiative for Alachua County***

**Strategic Implementation Framework** *Community Discussion Draft: June 23, 2025*

# Executive Summary

Alachua County stands at a pivotal moment to transform its literacy landscape through coordinated community response. Building on evidence-based recommendations from the Alachua County Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment (ACCLNA), this initiative addresses longstanding challenges of fragmented efforts and underserved populations by establishing a comprehensive, sustainable framework for literacy achievement across all age groups.

The initiative recognizes literacy as fundamental infrastructure for economic development and community livability—affecting employment opportunities, civic engagement, and quality of life for all residents. By leveraging existing local expertise and resources while addressing historical coordination gaps, this framework creates pathways for measurable, replicable impact. In this initial round of implementation the model will rely on a wide range of existing providers and partners doing liter support and instruction to participate, evaluate, and expand services to meet community goals and priorities.

# Strategic Priority Areas

The ACCLNA Report identified three critical intervention points that form the foundation of our approach:

**Enhanced Awareness and Communication** - Developing unified messaging and community engagement strategies that position literacy as essential community infrastructure, comparable to transportation or utilities in its impact on economic vitality and resident well-being.

**Focused Support** - Targeting resources and interventions toward demonstrably effective programs in school and out of school and to identified populations with highest need.

**Expanded Professional Learning** - Building capacity among educators, community organization staff, and volunteers through evidence-based training that creates sustainable expertise within our local ecosystem.

# Organizational Framework

## Four-Team Collaborative Structure

The initiative employs a multi-stakeholder approach involving the School Board of Alachua County (SBAC), Alachua County Public Schools (ACPS), Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), and the Children's Trust of Alachua County (CTAC) to engage local community partners, local experts, practitioners, businesses, and resident representatives to create the literacy collaborative. Using a research-based model for coordinated community response (CCR) that relies on experts, practitioners, stakeholders, and community partners working together to achieve common goals. The CCR structure will build toward collective impact for literacy for life across ages, neighborhoods, and needs. Through a series of community workshops we will define literacy, identify community goals, and recruit the local experts, practitioners, and stakeholders who can engage in the coordinated response over the next 24 months.

**Team 1: Design, Training, and Evaluation** This expert-led team develops and adapts evidence-based learning programs for both school and community settings. Responsibilities include conducting train-the- trainer sessions, implementing rigorous evaluation protocols, and creating replication strategies based on demonstrated outcomes. Team 1 ensures all programming meets community goals and research standards for effectiveness.

**Team 2: Implementation and Partnership Support** Working directly with community organizations, this team pilots programming across key demographics: pre-K children, school-aged students, adults, and targeted populations with specific needs. Team 2 coordinates parallel implementation of ACPS to ensure curriculum alignment and provides ongoing support to community partners. Practitioner representation ensures ground-level buy-in and realistic implementation expectations and capacity building guidelines. This team can also help identify gap needs that will be recruited in round two of implementation.

**Team 3: Community Advisory Council** Representing a cross-section of target populations and community demographics, this group provides strategic guidance, feedback, and advocacy support. The Advisory Council includes representatives from operational teams and works to identify community champions while ensuring programming remains responsive to resident needs and funders goals.

**Team 4: Coordination and Strategic Communication** Managing external engagement and internal coordination, this team coordinates the efforts of Teams 1-3 as outlined in the Priority Areas.

Responsibilities include partner recruitment, meeting structure development, community-facing resource development (digital platforms, physical hubs), and accountability coordination with contracted staff. Team 4 also manages data reporting and stakeholder communication that is developed from Teams 1 and 2 and disseminated through Team 3.

# Implementation Assets and Strategic Considerations

## Community Infrastructure Development

**Resource Hubs**: Partnership with Alachua County Library District (ACLD) creates distributed access points through existing library branches and community centers, leveraging established community trust and accessibility.

**Local Expertise Utilization**: The University of Florida provides specialized programming including UFLI (UF Literacy Institute), Great Leaps, and New Worlds initiatives. Student implementers offer scalable training capacity while faculty provide evaluation expertise. ACPS lead teachers and high-performing community partners contribute proven methodologies.

## Professional Capacity Building

## Contracted Expertise: Dedicated literacy, evaluation, and practitioner specialists ensure program quality and measurable outcomes. These positions provide continuity and accountability while building local capacity for long-term sustainability.

**Strategic Messaging**: Early stakeholder engagement develops unified communication approaches that frame literacy as economic development infrastructure, emphasizing collective benefit rather than targeted charity.

## Comprehensive Community Engagement

**Leadership Development**: Identification and cultivation of visible community champions who can advocate for literacy initiatives and lead resource development for complementary programs (technology access, educational materials, financial literacy integration).

**Stakeholder Mapping**: Systematic engagement of potential partners, funders, and participants ensures broad-based support and sustainable resource commitment.

**Community Based Literacy Activity Structure:**

*Literacy Support Programs:* Programs that offer support services and resources to adults, caregivers, and children to increase their access to and confidence in literacy activities in the home. This could also include volunteer-based programs that provide reading supports and activities to children and adults in schools or community settings that incorporate Team 1 Activities designed for this level of interaction.

*Literacy Skill-Building:* Programs that provide direct instruction in out-of-school, in-school, or in the community to students at any age/grade level that is focused on literacy improvement and achievement of grade level reading. This may include activities from tutoring to traditional curriculum delivery.

# Addressing Historical Challenges

Alachua County possesses exceptional assets for literacy improvement: strong educational institutions, diverse community organizations, engaged civic leadership, and demonstrated pockets of excellence. However, previous efforts have been hindered by predictable coordination challenges that this framework directly addresses.

**Collaboration Deficits**: The four-team structure creates formal mechanisms for ongoing coordination while respecting organizational autonomy and expertise areas.

**Resource Misalignment**: Centralized coordination ensures resources flow to evidence and practice-based programs with demonstrated impact rather than supporting ineffective approaches.

**Organizational Silos**: Cross-team representation and shared accountability structures break down traditional barriers between educational, governmental, and community sectors.

**Population Access Gaps**: Targeted outreach and distributed service delivery ensure that communities receive prioritized attention and effective programming.

**Effort Fragmentation**: Unified messaging, shared evaluation metrics, and coordinated implementation timelines create coherent community-wide impact rather than scattered individual initiatives.

# Expected Outcomes and Next Steps

This framework positions Alachua County to become a replicable model for community-wide literacy improvement. By combining local expertise with proven methodologies and addressing coordination challenges systematically, the initiative creates conditions for sustainable, measurable progress across all demographic groups.

The collaborative structure ensures accountability to both participants and funders while building the relationships and systems necessary for long-term success. Success metrics will include not only individual literacy gains but also community-level indicators of economic development, civic engagement, and quality of life improvements.

Community input on this framework is essential for refinement and successful implementation. Stakeholder feedback will inform final program design and launch strategies, ensuring the initiative reflects community priorities and builds on existing strengths while addressing identified gaps.

**Timeline**

Round One Implementation will begin in summer 2025 with 2-3 workshops that will ratify the framework, identify goals, and recruit partners. Fall and winter will begin the development of curriculum strategies, train the trainer sessions for Team 2 and Advisory Council meetings. Team 4 will develop tools and messaging building toward roll out by Spring Break 2026. ACPS and community partner training will begin in spring and continue through summer, with full implementation fall 2026.