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1  
 2 An act relating to children's initiative projects;  
 3 amending s. 409.147, F.S.; revising legislative  
 4 findings and intent; revising definitions; revising  
 5 the objectives for specified working groups within the  
 6 Florida Children's Initiatives; providing that such  
 7 initiatives are administratively housed in the  
 8 Department of Children and Families; exempting such  
 9 initiatives from control, supervision, or direction by  
 10 the department or any other state department;  
 11 requiring such initiatives to be managed by not-for-  
 12 profit corporations; conforming provisions to changes  
 13 made by the act; providing an effective date.

14  
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16  
 17 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1), subsection  
 18 (2), paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (3), subsection (4),  
 19 paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (5), paragraphs (a), (b),  
 20 (c), (d), (f), and (g) of subsection (6), and subsections (7)  
 21 through (14) of section 409.147, Florida Statutes, are amended  
 22 to read:

23 409.147 Florida Children's Initiatives.—

24 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

25 (a) The Legislature finds that:

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26 | 1. There are neighborhoods in this ~~the~~ state where the  
27 | infrastructure and opportunities that middle-class communities  
28 | take for granted are nonexistent or so marginal that they are  
29 | ineffective.

30 | 2. In many instances, children living in these  
31 | neighborhoods are not read to by an adult on a regular basis and  
32 | attend a prekindergarten education program at a much lower rate  
33 | than children in other communities. These children experience  
34 | below-average performance on standardized tests and graduate  
35 | from high school in fewer numbers. Most of these children are  
36 | eligible for the free or reduced-price school lunch program.

37 | 3. Children in these neighborhoods often suffer from high  
38 | rates of asthma, a higher risk of lead poisoning, higher rates  
39 | of childhood obesity, ~~and~~ inadequate health care, and they are  
40 | routinely exposed to violence and crime.

41 | 4. In spite of these obstacles, these neighborhoods are  
42 | many times home to strong individuals and institutions that are  
43 | committed to making a difference in the lives of children and  
44 | their families.

45 | (2) POLICY AND PURPOSE.—It is the policy of this state to  
46 | provide the necessary means to assist local communities, the  
47 | children and families who live in those communities, and the  
48 | private sector in creating a sound educational, social, and  
49 | economic environment. To achieve this objective, the state  
50 | intends to provide investments sufficient to encourage community

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51 partners to commit financial and other resources to severely  
 52 disadvantaged areas. The purpose of this section is to establish  
 53 a process that clearly identifies the severely disadvantaged  
 54 areas and provides guidance for developing a new social service  
 55 paradigm that systematically coordinates programs that address  
 56 the critical needs of children and their families and for  
 57 directing efforts to rebuild the basic infrastructure of the  
 58 community. The Legislature, therefore, declares the creation of  
 59 Florida Children's Initiatives, through the collaborative  
 60 efforts of government and the private sector, to be a public  
 61 purpose.

62 (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

63 (c) "Planning team" means a Florida Children's Initiative  
 64 planning team established under this section.

65 (d) "Resident" means a person who lives in or operates a  
 66 small community-based business or organization within the  
 67 boundaries of a Florida ~~the~~ Children's Initiative.

68 (4) FLORIDA CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE NOMINATING PROCESS.—A  
 69 county or municipality, or a county and one or more  
 70 municipalities together, may apply to the Ounce to designate an  
 71 area as a Florida Children's Initiative after the governing  
 72 body:

73 (a) Adopts a resolution that:

74 1. Finds that an area exists in such county or  
 75 municipality, or in the county and one or more municipalities,

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76 that chronically exhibits extreme and unacceptable levels of  
 77 poverty, unemployment, physical deterioration, as well as  
 78 limited access to quality educational, health care, and social  
 79 services.

80 2. Determines that the rehabilitation, conservation, or  
 81 redevelopment, or a combination thereof, of the area is  
 82 necessary for ~~in the interest of~~ improving the health, wellness,  
 83 education, living conditions, and livelihoods of the children  
 84 and families who live in the county or municipality.

85 3. Determines that the revitalization of the area can  
 86 occur only if this ~~the~~ state and the private sector invest  
 87 resources to improve infrastructure and the provision of  
 88 services.

89 (b) Establishes a ~~children's initiative~~ planning team as  
 90 provided in subsection (5).

91 (c) Develops and adopts a strategic community plan as  
 92 provided in subsection (6).

93 (d) Identifies or creates a not-for-profit corporation ~~not~~  
 94 ~~for profit~~ as provided in subsection (7).

95 (5) FLORIDA CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE PLANNING TEAM.—

96 (a) After the governing body adopts the resolution  
 97 described in subsection (4), the county or municipality shall  
 98 establish a Florida Children's Initiative planning team.

99 (c) The planning team shall:

100 1. Develop a planning process that sets the direction for,

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101 builds a commitment to, and develops the capacity to realize the  
 102 Florida Children's Initiative concept.

103 2. Develop a vision of what the Florida Children's  
 104 Initiative will look like when the challenges, problems, and  
 105 opportunities in the Florida Children's Initiative are  
 106 successfully addressed.

107 3. Identify important opportunities, strengths,  
 108 challenges, and problems in the Florida Children's Initiative.

109 4. Develop a strategic community plan consisting of goals,  
 110 objectives, tasks, the designation of responsible parties, the  
 111 identification of resources needed, timelines for implementation  
 112 of the plan, and procedures for monitoring outcomes.

113 (6) FLORIDA CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY  
 114 PLAN.—After the governing body adopts the resolution described  
 115 in subsection (4), the working groups shall develop objectives  
 116 and identify strategies for each focus area. The objectives,  
 117 specified by focus area, for a working group may include, but  
 118 not be limited to:

119 (a) Early development and care of children.

120 1. Providing resources to enable every child to be  
 121 adequately nurtured during the first 3 years of life.

122 2. Ensuring that all schools are ready for children and  
 123 all children are ready for school by the time they reach  
 124 kindergarten.

125 3. Facilitating enrollment in half-day or full-day

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126 prekindergarten for all 3-year-old and 4-year-old children.

127 4. Strengthening parent and guardian relationships with  
128 care providers.

129 5. Providing support and education for families and child  
130 care providers.

131 (b) Education of children and youth.

132 1. Increasing the level and degree of knowledge and  
133 accountability of persons who are responsible for the  
134 development and well-being of all children in each Florida ~~the~~  
135 Children's Initiative.

136 2. Transforming ~~Changing~~ the structure and function of  
137 schools to increase the quality and amount of time spent on  
138 instruction and increase programmatic options and offerings.

139 3. Creating a safe and respectful environment for student  
140 learning.

141 4. Identifying and supporting points of alignment between  
142 a Florida ~~the~~ Children's Initiative community plan and the  
143 school district's strategic plan.

144 (c) Health and wellness.

145 1. Facilitating enrollment of all eligible children in the  
146 Florida Kidcare program and providing full access to high-  
147 quality drug and alcohol treatment services.

148 2. Eliminating health disparities between racial and  
149 cultural groups, including improving outcomes and increasing  
150 interventions.

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151           3. Providing fresh, good quality, affordable, and  
152 nutritious food within a Florida ~~the~~ Children's Initiative.

153           4. Providing all children in a Florida ~~the~~ Children's  
154 Initiative with access to safe structured and unstructured  
155 recreation.

156           (d) Youth support.

157           1. Increasing the high school graduation, postsecondary  
158 enrollment, and postsecondary completion rates among  
159 neighborhood youth ~~rate~~.

160           2. Increasing leadership development and employment  
161 opportunities for neighborhood youth.

162           (f) Adult education, training, and jobs.

163           1. Creating job opportunities for adults that lead to  
164 career development.

165           2. Establishing a career and technical school, or a  
166 satellite of such a school within a Florida ~~in the~~ Children's  
167 Initiative, which includes a one-stop career center.

168           (g) Community safety.

169           1. Providing a safe environment for all children at home,  
170 in school, and in the community.

171           2. Eliminating the economic, political, and social forces  
172 that lead to a lack of safety within the family, the community,  
173 schools, and institutional structures.

174           3. Assessing policies and practices, including sentencing,  
175 incarceration, detention, and data reporting, ~~in order~~ to reduce

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176 youth incarceration, violence, crime, and recidivism.

177 (7) FLORIDA CHILDREN'S INITIATIVES INITIATIVE

178 CORPORATION.—

179 (a) The Florida Children's Initiatives as specified in  
 180 subsections (9)-(13) are administratively housed within the  
 181 department. However, these initiatives are not subject to  
 182 control, supervision, or direction by the department or any  
 183 other department of this state.

184 (b)~~(a)~~ After the governing body adopts the resolution  
 185 described in subsection (4), establishes a ~~the~~ planning team as  
 186 provided in subsection (5), and develops and adopts a ~~the~~  
 187 strategic community plan as provided in subsection (6), the  
 188 county or municipality shall either identify an existing,  
 189 qualified not-for-profit corporation or create a not-for-profit  
 190 corporation not for profit which shall be registered,  
 191 incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter  
 192 617. The purpose of the not-for-profit corporation is to  
 193 facilitate fundraising, to secure broad community ownership of  
 194 the ~~children's~~ initiative, and, if the area selected by the  
 195 governing body is designated as a Florida Children's Initiative,  
 196 to:

197 1. Begin to transfer responsibility for planning from the  
 198 planning team to the corporation.

199 2. Begin the implementation and governance of the  
 200 strategic ~~children's initiative~~ community plan.



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201           3. Update the strategic community plan every 5 years to  
 202 reflect, at a minimum, the current status of the area served by  
 203 the Florida Children's Initiative; the goals, objectives, and  
 204 strategies for each focus area; and the tasks required to  
 205 implement the strategies for the upcoming year.

206           ~~(c)-(b)~~ The Ounce must provide technical assistance to the  
 207 corporation to facilitate the achievement of the plans created  
 208 under subsection (6).

209           (8) REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING STATE FUNDING.—Unless  
 210 otherwise specified in the general appropriations act:

211           (a) State funding for Florida Children's Initiatives must  
 212 be awarded through a performance-based contract that links  
 213 payments to the achievement of outcomes directly related to the  
 214 goals, objectives, strategies, and tasks outlined in the  
 215 strategic community plan.

216           (b) This act is intended to support the development of a  
 217 network of Florida Children's Initiatives focus areas in  
 218 disadvantaged neighborhoods throughout this state. To that end,  
 219 counties that do not currently have a Florida Children's  
 220 Initiative and are trying to establish an initiative have  
 221 priority for designation by the Ounce ~~funding available under~~  
 222 ~~this subsection.~~

223           (9) ~~CREATION OF MIAMI CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE, INC.—~~

224           (a) There is created within the Liberty City neighborhood  
 225 in Miami-Dade County a ~~10-year~~ project called the Miami

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226 Children's Initiative ~~that shall be~~ managed by an entity  
 227 organized as a not-for-profit corporation ~~not for profit~~ which  
 228 ~~shall be~~ registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in  
 229 compliance with chapter 617 and this section. ~~An entity may not~~  
 230 ~~be incorporated until the governing body has adopted the~~  
 231 ~~resolution described in subsection (4), has established the~~  
 232 ~~planning team as provided in subsection (5), and has developed~~  
 233 ~~and adopted the strategic community plan as provided in~~  
 234 ~~subsection (6). The corporation shall be known as the Miami~~  
 235 ~~Children's Initiative, Inc., and shall be administratively~~  
 236 ~~housed within the Department of Children and Families. However,~~  
 237 ~~Miami Children's Initiative, Inc., is not subject to control,~~  
 238 ~~supervision, or direction by the Department of Children and~~  
 239 ~~Families in any manner. The Legislature determines, however,~~  
 240 ~~that~~ Public policy dictates that the Miami Children's Initiative  
 241 operates ~~corporation operate~~ in the most open and accessible  
 242 manner consistent with its public purpose. Therefore, the  
 243 Legislature specifically declares that the Miami Children's  
 244 Initiative ~~corporation~~ is subject to chapter 119, relating to  
 245 public records, chapter 286, relating to public meetings and  
 246 records, and chapter 287, relating to the procurement of  
 247 commodities or contractual services.

248 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass an area that  
 249 is large enough to include all of the necessary components of  
 250 community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places

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251 of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and  
 252 common space, yet small enough to allow programs and services to  
 253 reach every willing member of the neighborhood.

254 (10) ~~CREATION OF THE NEW TOWN SUCCESS ZONE.~~—

255 (a) There is created within the City of Jacksonville  
 256 Council District 9 in Duval County a ~~10-year~~ project called the  
 257 New Town Success Zone ~~that shall be~~ managed by an entity  
 258 organized as a not-for-profit corporation ~~not for profit that is~~  
 259 registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance  
 260 with chapter 617 and this section. ~~The New Town Success Zone is~~  
 261 ~~not subject to control, supervision, or direction by any~~  
 262 ~~department of the state in any manner. The Legislature~~  
 263 ~~determines, however, that~~ Public policy dictates that the New  
 264 Town Success Zone operates ~~corporation operate~~ in the most open  
 265 and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose.  
 266 Therefore, the Legislature declares that the New Town Success  
 267 Zone ~~corporation~~ is subject to chapter 119, relating to public  
 268 records, chapter 286, relating to public meetings and records,  
 269 and chapter 287, relating to the procurement of commodities or  
 270 contractual services.

271 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass an area that  
 272 is large enough to include all of the necessary components of  
 273 community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places  
 274 of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and  
 275 common space, yet small enough to allow programs and services to

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276 reach every member of the neighborhood who is willing to  
 277 participate in the project.

278 (11) ~~CREATION OF THE~~ ORLANDO PARRAMORE KIDZ ZONES ~~ZONE.~~-

279 (a) There is created within the City of Orlando in Orange  
 280 County a ~~10-year~~ project called the Orlando Kidz Zones managed  
 281 by an entity organized as a not-for-profit corporation ~~not for~~  
 282 ~~profit that is~~ registered, incorporated, organized, and operated  
 283 in compliance with chapter 617 and this section. ~~The Parramore~~  
 284 ~~Kidz Zone program is not subject to the control, supervision, or~~  
 285 ~~direction of any department of the state. The Legislature~~  
 286 ~~determines, however, that~~ Public policy dictates that the  
 287 Orlando Kidz Zones operates ~~corporation operate~~ in the most open  
 288 and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose.  
 289 Therefore, the Legislature ~~specifically~~ declares that the  
 290 Orlando Kidz Zones ~~corporation~~ is subject to chapter 119,  
 291 relating to public records, chapter 286, relating to public  
 292 meetings and records, and chapter 287, relating to the  
 293 procurement of commodities or contractual services.

294 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass the Orlando  
 295 neighborhoods of Parramore, Mercy Drive, and Englewood. All  
 296 three of these neighborhoods are ~~an area that is~~ large enough to  
 297 include all of the necessary components of community life,  
 298 including, but not limited to, schools, places of worship,  
 299 recreational facilities, commercial areas, and common space, yet  
 300 small enough to allow programs and services to reach every

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301 member of the neighborhoods ~~neighborhood~~ who is willing to  
 302 participate in the project.

303 (12) ~~CREATION OF~~ THE TAMPA SULPHUR SPRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD OF  
 304 PROMISE (SSNOP) ~~SUCCESS ZONE~~.—

305 (a) There is created within the City of Tampa in  
 306 Hillsborough County a ~~10-year~~ project called the Tampa Sulphur  
 307 Springs Neighborhood of Promise (SSNOP) ~~that shall be~~ managed by  
 308 an entity organized as a not-for-profit corporation ~~not for~~  
 309 ~~profit that is~~ registered, incorporated, organized, and operated  
 310 in compliance with chapter 617 and this section. ~~The Tampa SSNOP~~  
 311 ~~Success Zone is not subject to control, supervision, or~~  
 312 ~~direction by any department of the state in any manner. The~~  
 313 ~~Legislature determines, however, that~~ Public policy dictates  
 314 that the Tampa SSNOP operates ~~corporation operate~~ in the most  
 315 open and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose.  
 316 Therefore, the Legislature declares that the Tampa SSNOP  
 317 ~~corporation~~ is subject to chapter 119, relating to public  
 318 records, chapter 286, relating to public meetings and records,  
 319 and chapter 287, relating to the procurement of commodities or  
 320 contractual services.

321 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass an area that  
 322 is large enough to include all of the necessary components of  
 323 community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places  
 324 of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and  
 325 common space, yet small enough to allow programs and services to

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326 reach every member of the neighborhood who is willing to  
 327 participate in the project.

328 (13) ~~CREATION OF~~ THE OVERTOWN CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
 329 COALITION.—

330 (a) There is created within the City of Miami in Miami-  
 331 Dade County a ~~10-year~~ project called the Overtown Children and  
 332 Youth Coalition ~~that shall be~~ managed by an entity organized as  
 333 a not-for-profit corporation ~~not for profit that is~~ registered,  
 334 incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter  
 335 617 and this section. ~~The Overtown Children and Youth Coalition~~  
 336 ~~is not subject to control, supervision, or direction by any~~  
 337 ~~department of the state in any manner. The Legislature~~  
 338 ~~determines, however, that~~ Public policy dictates that the  
 339 Overtown Children and Youth Coalition operates ~~corporation~~  
 340 ~~operate~~ in the most open and accessible manner consistent with  
 341 its public purpose. Therefore, the Legislature declares that the  
 342 Overtown Children and Youth Coalition ~~corporation~~ is subject to  
 343 chapter 119, relating to public records, chapter 286, relating  
 344 to public meetings and records, and chapter 287, relating to the  
 345 procurement of commodities or contractual services.

346 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass an area that  
 347 is large enough to include all of the necessary components of  
 348 community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places  
 349 of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and  
 350 common space, yet small enough to allow programs and services to

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351 reach every member of the neighborhood who is willing to  
 352 participate in the project.

353 (14) IMPLEMENTATION.—

354 (a) The Miami Children's Initiative, Inc., the New Town  
 355 Success Zone, the Orlando Parramore Kidz Zones Zone, the Tampa  
 356 SSNOP ~~Success Zone~~, and the Overtown Children and Youth  
 357 Coalition have been designated as Florida Children's Initiatives  
 358 consistent with the legislative intent and purpose of s. 16,  
 359 chapter 2009-43, Laws of Florida, and as such shall each assist  
 360 the disadvantaged areas of this ~~the~~ state in creating a  
 361 community-based service network and programming that develops,  
 362 coordinates, and provides quality education, accessible health  
 363 care, youth development programs, opportunities for employment,  
 364 and safe and affordable housing for children and families living  
 365 within their boundaries.

366 (b) ~~In order~~ To implement this section for the Florida  
 367 Children's Initiatives listed in this section ~~Miami Children's~~  
 368 ~~Initiative, Inc.~~, the department ~~of Children and Families~~ shall  
 369 contract with a not-for-profit corporation, to work in  
 370 collaboration with the governing body to adopt the resolution  
 371 described in subsection (4), to establish the planning team as  
 372 provided in subsection (5), and to develop and adopt the  
 373 strategic community plan as provided in subsection (6). The not-  
 374 for-profit corporation is also responsible for the development  
 375 of a strategic business plan and for the evaluation, fiscal

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376 | management, and oversight of the Florida Children's Initiatives  
377 | ~~Miami Children's Initiative, Inc.~~

378 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.