



Board of County Commissioners
Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Memorandum

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: Carol Glassman Donaldson Childcare Center

The following document has been prepared by the Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs (OPBA). The information and the attachment were gathered from specified sources and may change if this proposal becomes legislation. Additional updates will be provided as required.

The research included below does not explicitly serve as a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners nor does it support or oppose a particular legislative action. Should you have any questions, please contact us at 305-375-5350.

c: Melissa Adames, Director, Clerk of the Board
Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs

CAROL GLASSMAN DONALDSON CHILD CARE CENTER

A recent Miami Herald series, [Easing the Childcare Crisis](#), discusses the difficulties parents face finding quality childcare that is affordable and accessible. While in the past, childcare was a barrier only for women in the workforce, that is no longer the case. Both parents are employed in more than 60 percent of families with children in the United States. However, only six percent of US companies provide childcare benefits. Childcare benefits come in several forms, such as on-site childcare, flexible employee schedules, predictable employee schedules, back-up childcare assistance and flexible childcare spending accounts.

Miami-Dade County, as an employer, has historically provided several of these benefits. Flexible spending accounts are available to employees as part of the annual open enrollment process. Depending upon the employee's position, both flexible and predictable employee schedules are in place and on-site childcare is available at locations such as the Stephen P. Clark Center and at the Fire Department Headquarters.

On-site childcare at the Stephen P. Clark Center is currently provided by the YWCA at the Carol Glassman Donaldson Center (The Carol Center), located just north of the building. Established in 1989, the Carol Center provides care for children from infants to Pre-K. The County provided the construction costs for the facility and it has been operated by private providers, funded through the tuition fees which are in line with childcare costs across the community. Recognizing that there were County employees who were unable to afford these costs, the Board of County Commissioners approved the creation of the "Child Care Center Trust Fund" to provide scholarships for eligible families and established an annual contribution from the County budget to the trust fund. Over the years, as the provider has changed and departmental personnel have retired, the scholarship program was discontinued, but not the annual allocation to the trust fund. The current balance of this trust fund is \$529,898.

The Board may wish to consider allocating these one-time funds to renovate the Carol Center. Reinstating the scholarship program will encourage more involvement by County employees and their children. The Board may also wish to direct the administration to resolicit for the operations of the Carol Center and consider whether specialized services may be provided along with standard day care.