



# The Children's Trust of Alachua County Application

Name: Karen Yvette Cole-Smith

FIRST MIDDLE LAST

Street Address: 7705 NW 53rd Way

City: Gainesville State: FL Zip: 32653

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## Section 1 – General Information

List all your places of residence for the last ten (10) years:

Address	City & State	Dates: From / To
7705 NW 53rd Way	Gainesville, Florida	March 2005-Present

List all your former and current residences outside of Florida that you have maintained at any time during adulthood:

Address	City & State	Dates: From / To
Ohio State dormitory	Columbus , Ohio	1978-1979
To pursue master's degree at the university		

Have you ever been convicted for violation of any federal, state, county, or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance?  
(Exclude traffic violations for which a fine or civil penalty of \$150.00 or less was paid.)

Yes ☐ No ☒

If "Yes" give details:

Date	Place	Nature	Disposition

## Section 2 – Education and Background

High School: Palm Beach Gardens High Palm Beach Gardens, Florida Year Graduated: 1974  
(Name) (Location)

List all postsecondary education institutions attended:

Name	Dates	Degree Received	Major Field of Study
Bethune Cookman Univ.	1974-1977	B.A. degree	Sociology/Criminology
Ohio State university	1978-1979	M.A. Degree	Sociology/criminology
University of Florida	1985-1989	Ph.d Degree	Sociology /Criminology

Are you or have you ever been a member of the armed forces of the United States? Yes ☐ No ☒

If "Yes" list:

Dates of service: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch or component: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & type of discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

Concerning your current employer and for all of your employment during the last ten years, list your employer's name, business address, type of business, occupation or job title, and period(s) of employment.

Employer's Name & Location	Type of Business	Occupation Title	Period
Santa Fe College	Community College	Executive Director	1989-present

Have you ever been employed by any state, district, or local governmental agency in Florida?

Yes ☒ No ☐

*If yes, identify the position(s), the name(s) of the employing agency, and the period(s) of employment:*

Position	Employing Agency	Period of Employment
Executive Director	Santa Fe College	1989-present
Community Outreach and		
East Gainesville Initiative		

Do you currently hold an office or position (appointive, civil service, or other) with the federal or any foreign government? Yes ☐ No ☒

*If "Yes", please list:*

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Have you ever been elected or appointed to any public office in this state? Yes ☒ No ☐

*If "Yes", state the office title, dates in office, level of government (independent special district, trust, council, committee, city, county, district, state, federal), and whether you were elected or appointed (if appointed, by whom):*

Office Title	Dates in Office	Level of Government	Election or Appointment
Board member (Childrens Trust)	2019-present	Alachua County	Appointed by Gov. Desantis

Note: I am applying for continuation of service on the Children's Trust Board in Alachua County

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If your service was on an appointed board(s), committee(s), or council(s):

(1) How frequently were meetings scheduled: monthly on average

(2) If you missed any of the regularly scheduled meetings, state the number of meetings you attended, the number you missed, and the reason(s) for your absence(s).

Meetings Attended	Meetings Missed	Reason for Absence
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Attended all board meetings for the Children's Trust

Attendance can be confirmed by board chair Mr. Colin Murphy

Has probable cause ever been found that you were in violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III, Chapter 112, F.S.?    Yes ☐    No ☒

If "Yes", give details:

Date	Nature of Violation	Disposition

Have you ever been suspended from any office by the Governor of the State of Florida?

Yes ☐    No ☒

If "yes", list:

Title of Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Reason for Suspension: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Suspension: \_\_\_\_\_ Result: Reinstated \_\_\_\_ Removed \_\_\_\_ Resigned \_\_\_\_

Have you previously been appointed to any office that required confirmation by the Florida Senate?

Yes ☐    No ☒

If "Yes", list:

(1) Title of Office: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Term of Appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Confirmation Result: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been refused a fidelity, surety, performance, or other bond?

Yes ☐

No ☒

*If "Yes", explain:*

License/Certificate	Title/Number	Date Issued	Issuing Authority	Disciplinary Action/Date
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Do you affirm that your personal and business (if applicable) affairs within Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all county regulatory and taxing authorities' rules and regulations?

Yes ☒

No ☐

### Section 3 – References and Experience

State your experiences and interests or elements of your personal history that qualify you for this appointment:

42 years in higher education

More than two decades of directing community outreach efforts in underserved communities

42 years of being a researcher and a professor in higher education

Decades of providing educational presentations in the areas of diversity/multiculturalism

Community advocate for reducing gaps and disparities for minorities in higher education

Interests in educational outreach with a focus on parental empowerment and bridging the digital divide

Please list specifically any degree(s), professional certification(s), or designation(s) related to the subject matter of this appointment:

FREE(Financial/Family resources Educating Everyone, Inc. A corporation organized under the laws of the state of florida , filed on Feb 3, 2012

Documentation number of this corporation is P12000012235

Tracking number:4434597111CC (Professional Certification)

Please list any awards or recognitions you have received relating to the subject matter of this appointment:

For my commitment to education aand advocacy, I have received many awards. Some include the following:

Women of Distinction-Santa Fe college, Alachua Habitat for Humanity Award for dedicated Service, Ida B. Wells Award for education, awareness and advocacy,

Women who make a difference from Girl Scouts council

Please identify all association memberships and offices (including any business, professional, occupational, civic or fraternal organizations) you have held or hold relating in the last 10 years.

Name of the Association	Role	Dates of Membership
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, inc	member	since 1975
The Visonaires, Inc.	member	since 1990

Are you currently serving or have you ever served on an Alachua County Advisory Board?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If "Yes", please list board(s):

Gainesville Thrives Advisory Board (focus on literacy)

Head the East Gainesville Initiative advisory board at Santa fe College

I am currently on the board of the Children's Trust in Alachua County and was nominated and approved by

Governor Ron Desantis. I am re-applying.

Do you know of any reason why you will not be able to attend fully to the duties of the office or position to which you seek appointment? Yes ☐ No ☒

If "Yes", explain:

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List three persons who have known you well within the past five (5) years. Include a current telephone number. Exclude your relatives.

Name	Organization	Phone Number
Dr. Naima Brown	Santa Fe College	1 352 222-7049
Dr. Marie Herring	Dayspring Baptist Church	1352 481 2953
Dr. Hershel Lyons	Retired Education Chancellor in Fla.	1352 246-7633

## Areas of Experience/Advanced Knowledge/Training:

(Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	LGBTQ Issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faith-Based
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Law Enforcement/Juvenile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Economic Diversity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Higher Education
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mental Health/Substance Abuse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Juvenile Justice
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Childhood Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teen Pregnancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drop Out Prevention	<input type="checkbox"/>	After-School/Out Of School Care
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education & Child Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Experience Advocating for Children
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health Prevention for Young People	<input type="checkbox"/>	Children & Teen Health Issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (If other, please explain)		

What contributions do you feel you could make if you were recommended to the Governor to this board?  
Help with providing access to many faith based leaders and churches that can assist with our efforts to help children

With my service on many committees related to helping children, I am willing to share the data and resources with the trust that will positively impact children

Share my skill and expertise with facilitating workshops, trainings and presentations related to child success

Sharing the research in the areas of Sociology and criminology that can impact our efforts to help children,

Will bring training and expertise in diversity, cultural competency and multiculturalism to the trust

Skilled in parent training and parent empowerment which directly impacts children

## Section 4 – Possible Conflict of Interest

Have you, or businesses of which you have been an owner, officer, or employee, held any contractual or other direct dealings during the last four (4) years with any state or local government agency in Florida, including the office or agency to which you have been appointed or are seeking appointment? Yes ☐ No ☒

If "Yes", explain:

Name of Business	Your Relationship to Business	Business Relationship to Agency

Have members of your immediate family (spouse, child, parent(s), siblings(s)), or business of which members of your immediate family have been owners, officers, or employees, held any contractual or other direct dealings during the last four (4) years with any state or local governmental agency in Florida. Yes No ☒

If "Yes", explain:

**Name of Business   Relationship to You   Relationship to Business   Business Relationship to Agency**

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Have you ever had a registered lobbyist or have you lobbied at any level of government at any time during the past five (5) years?      **Yes**      **No** ☒

(1) Did you receive any compensation other than reimbursement expenses?      **Yes**      **No** ☒

(2) Name of agency or entity you lobbied and the principal(s) you represented:

**Agency Lobbied**

**Principal Represented**

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If you agree, please type or write your initials for each of the following statements:

- (1) If appointed, I agree to follow, as applicable to the position, Florida's public records and open meeting laws. KCS
- (2) If appointed, I agree to follow, as applicable to the position, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III, Chapter 112, F.S. KCS
- (3) I affirm that my personal and business (if applicable) affairs within Alachua County are in substantial compliance with all county regulatory and taxing authorities' rules and regulations.

**Yes** ☒      **No**



**Optional: Check the Race/Ethnic Group with which you identify:**

(This information helps us provide diversity on our advisory boards.)

<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	African American	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bi-Racial / Multi-Racial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hispanic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Native American	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/>	White	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

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☒ I understand that this completed application is the property of Alachua County and I hereby certify that the statements made on this application are true and correct (must be read and checked).

To complete the application, please download application, save it to your computer, complete and then submit by email to [www@alachuacounty.org](mailto:www@alachuacounty.org) or fax at 352-264-6703.