

**PROPOSED STATEMENT OF WORK
TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN, TAKE STOCK IN COLLEGE, 2023-24**

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Take Stock in Children and Take Stock in College are affiliated non-profit organizations aiming to assist youth in Florida through preparation for and successful completion of post-secondary education.

Take Stock in Children was founded in 1995 with the goal of preparing sixth through twelfth grade students for post-secondary education. Student participants, who are from families with low incomes, sign a contract to meet weekly with their program-provided mentor and participate in program-sponsored college readiness workshops. Students also pledge to abstain from drug use, avoid criminal activity, and maintain good grades throughout their years in the program as they complete high school. After fulfilling these requirements and graduating from high school, they are awarded a scholarship to a Florida state college, university, or vocational/technical school to enable them to continue their education. Take Stock in Children collaborates with affiliate organizations, including school districts, community colleges, and other non-profit organizations, to provide services to student participants. In addition, Take Stock in Children has a partnership with the state of Florida, which matches every privately raised dollar for scholarship funding at a 1:1 rate.

Take Stock in College was launched in 2018 to provide support to Take Stock in College graduates as they navigate their post-secondary education experiences. The aim is to connect Take Stock in College students with campus resources to ensure all students reach degree attainment.

The Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida has as a core value to support equitable education for all students, especially students who are historically underserved. Thus, the mission of the Take Stock programs and Lastinger Center are well-aligned. To support the continuing impact of Take Stock in Children and Take Stock in College, the Lastinger Center proposes external evaluation services of these separate but linked programs.