

INSTITUTE FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION



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PROJECT LANDING



PROJECT RESTART



PROJECT YOUTHBUILD



March 10, 2015

City of Gainesville-City Hall
 Attention: Mr. Russ Blackburn, City Manager
 200 East University Avenue
 Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Mr. Blackburn:

I hope this finds you doing well. The Institute for Workforce Innovation (IWI) would like to propose utilizing the former offices of Dr. Banks and Dr. Cosby, located at 635 NW Sixth Street, as the IWI and Project YouthBuild program headquarters. IWI would be responsible for coordinating and funding renovations necessary to obtain a certificate of occupancy. Improvements would include, but not be limited to: installation of HVAC system, electrical service, plumbing service, total interior remodel, replacement of existing windows, all new floor coverings, painting and landscaping of exterior. IWI would like to negotiate a low rate, long-term lease in exchange for these improvements.

IWI has operated Project YouthBuild since 2009 through a grant directly from the U.S. Department of Labor. Our goal is to improve the lives of young people living in Gainesville. Project YouthBuild is an intensive 7-month program where students earn their high school diploma, build and rehabilitate affordable housing, earn nationally recognized construction certifications, and develop leadership, life, and employability skills. Our students:

- Are Between the Ages of 16 & 24
- Come From Low-Income Households
- Have dropped out of High School
- Desire an Opportunity to Transform Their Lives

We are outgrowing our current location and securing the 635 NW Sixth Street site would greatly enhance our ability to serve young people from the City of Gainesville. It's proximity to the newly constructed police headquarters offers great opportunities for collaboration through mentoring and community outreach. Renovations listed above would put this vacant building back into productive use to serve the community and preserve a landmark building that served so many people over the years. Thank you for consideration of our request and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 352.215.8157 with any questions.

Thank you,

 Jonathan Leslie, Executive Director