The Maternal Child Health and Education Research and Data Center (MCHERDC) at the University of Florida is in the process of developing a Community Information System for Alachua County’s Children to serve as a publicly available Community Action Resource Atlas (CARA).

The main goal of this project is to improve understanding of social determinants of health and to reduce health disparities among Alachua County’s children, with a special focus on reducing the number of children entering Foster Care.

CARA will provide open access to protected data and information, it will integrate protected data and information with other community data, it will help measure indicators at a neighborhood level, and it will provide a platform for tracking change over time.

Data contributing partners to date are: the State Department of Children and Families, the Partnership for Strong Families, the Child Abuse Prevention Project, the Early Learning Coalition, the Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, the State Department of Juvenile Justice, the School Board of Alachua County, the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office, the City of Gainesville’s Police Department, the City of Alachua’s Police Department, the City of High Springs Police Department, the Housing and Urban Development federal agency (HUD) and the GeoPlan Center at the University of Florida.

For ideas on how to benefit or to contribute to this project please contact us at: 352.334.1360 or at familydata@health.ufl.edu.