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AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION'S OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007

The Agency for Workforce Innovation is Florida's lead state workforce agency, directly administering the state's Unemployment Compensation, Workforce Development Services and Early Learning programs. The Office of Early Learning is a division within the Agency, providing oversight of Florida's school readiness programs, and is the lead entity for implementing the state's successful Voluntary Prekindergarten program. Led by our Governor, the Agency for Workforce Innovation serves the people of Florida by working to support families and ensuring children have quality early learning opportunities. The Agency's mission is to *advance the economic well-being and self-sufficiency of all Floridians through premier early learning and workforce services*. The Agency houses three critical divisions— or business lines— that provide services to Florida's families and children:

Unemployment Compensation—Through the unemployment insurance program, the Agency provides temporary wage replacement benefits to Floridians who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. In the Unemployment Compensation office, we resolve disputed unemployment compensation claims and tax liability protests. This division also reviews claims, benefit payments, and warrants as well as responds to calls from claimants, employers, and other Floridians. Additionally, this division bears responsibility for detecting and preventing unemployment fraud and overpayments.

Workforce Services—The Agency for Workforce Innovation is the Governor's agency for disbursement of federal workforce funds. Through our Workforce Services office, we administer many programs that help the employed, as well as the unemployed and the underemployed. This division is responsible for providing One-Stop Program Support services (workforce program information, guidance and technical assistance) to the Regional Workforce Boards, as well as providing Labor Market Statistics information to our workforce partners and the general public. Additionally, the Agency is the administrative entity to Workforce Florida, Inc., and works closely with Workforce Florida, Inc. to administer workforce programs across the state.

Early Learning—The Agency's Office of Early Learning is responsible for implementation of the state's Child Care Resource and Referral, School Readiness, and Voluntary Prekindergarten programs. These programs support families as they seek employment or work. Child Care Resource and Referral is a free program and staff is dedicated to helping families find answers to their questions regarding how to identify quality child care programs and how to locate a provider that meets the needs of each family. The School Readiness program is a financial assistance program that assists parents in paying for child care services so they can work. The Voluntary Prekindergarten program is free for the state's four-year-old children. This high quality program prepares children to be ready to learn when they enter kindergarten. The Agency works with 31 local early learning coalitions to ensure services to families and children are available, accessible and affordable.

Office of Early Learning Results in Brief

The past year brought change for the Agency for Workforce Innovation's Office of Early Learning and its partners. After a review of programs and partnerships, the following Agency priorities were established:

- Building a culture that embraces and fully integrates all Agency services
- Increasing public awareness of Agency services
- Eliminating duplicated services and improving partnerships
- Enhancing accountability and integrity

Administering Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) education program continues to be a source of pride for the Agency and for the state. A total of 123,567 children participated in the 2006–2007 VPK program, representing an increase of 17,671 children over the 2005–2006 VPK program.

School Readiness (SR) is the largest program administered by the Agency. In the 2006–2007 fiscal year, 257,956 SR children were served in private centers (83%), public schools (4%), family child care homes (12%), and informal care settings (1%).

Other 2006–2007 Agency accomplishments include

- Partnering to deliver a combination of SR and VPK services with 31 early learning coalitions (local entities responsible for coordination and delivery of SR and VPK services), Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA, a statewide not-for-profit organization that serves migrant families), and almost 16,000 early learning providers throughout Florida;
- Providing Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) services to nearly 220,000 parents across the state;
- Expanding service access to 23,000 low-income children through the Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP);
- Improving guidance and communication with early learning coalitions;
- Delivering quality initiative training opportunities to more than 1,000 coalition and community partner staff;
- Providing Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Early Childhood® scholarships to more than 3,800 recipients;
- Serving more than 2,100 children from over 1,900 families in 14 counties with the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program through the HIPPY USA organization.

2006–2007 Year in Review: Programs and Services

The Agency for Workforce Innovation (the Agency) partners with early learning coalitions and other state agencies, including the Department of Education and the Department of Children and Families, to coordinate a comprehensive early learning system, and improve early learning programs and services for Florida's families and children. These partnerships are valuable as the Agency continues to work toward a world-class system. for Florida.

As the State Administrator for the federal Child Care Development Fund, the Agency for Workforce Innovation's Office of Early Learning is responsible for the quality, availability, and affordability of care in Florida. This is done to ensure early educational programs prepare children for success in school and in life. Administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) directly aligns with this responsibility. The Office of Early Learning also provides support services to low income working families through our School Readiness program and to all Florida families through the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) program. As reflected in the background section of the report, the Agency for Workforce Innovation is responsible for the vast majority of the activities associated with the VPK and SR programs, accounting for 98 percent of the total

early learning system funding. To accomplish this, the Agency works with 31 early learning coalitions serving all 67 counties in Florida. Per state statute and federal regulations, the Agency and the early learning coalitions are responsible for

- Maintaining the quality, accessibility, and affordability of child care options in Florida;
- Improving the educational quality of both SR and VPK;
- Establishing program standards and outcomes;
- Allocating and distributing funding;
- Enrolling children;
- Recruiting, paying, and supporting providers;
- Conducting fiscal and administrative oversight.

Florida's early learning system is responsible for supporting the workforce with child care options; for distributing federal and state funds for child care; for guiding quality programs; and for coordinating a multi-level birth-5 system to benefit children, families, communities, and the state. The Agency is responsible for providing support services to children and families to ensure that Florida has a prepared and ready workforce now and in the future. Early learning is a system to ensure that children have quality care to promote their development as learners and to ensure that parents are able to work by having quality care for their children. Success in education leads to success in the workforce. The Agency contributes to the strength and development of our state through the administration of quality early learning programs and through meaningful collaborations with our stakeholders and partners.

Voluntary Prekindergarten's Second Year Sees Record Enrollment

In its second year of implementation in 2006–2007, Florida's VPK program served 124,390 four-year-olds (55 percent of all four-year-olds) in either the 540-hour school-year program or the 300-hour summer program. More than 5,000 early learning providers offered VPK at private centers and schools, family child care homes, and public schools.

The Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS), administered by the Florida Department of Education (DOE), measures each kindergartener's school readiness in seven areas: language and literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, social and personal skills, physical health and fitness, and the creative arts. Kindergarteners are screened each fall. Data from the FLKRS administered in fall 2006 indicated that children who participated in the first year of VPK performed better in kindergarten than children who did not participate in the program. Further, children who attended the VPK program less than 85 percent of the time still scored higher on the FLKRS measures than children who had no exposure to the program.

Early results of the 2007 administration of FLKRS released in December 2007 showed increases in each of the measures. Specific gains made by the 2006–2007 VPK graduates are not available at this time.

Florida's VPK program is jointly administered by the Agency, the DOE, and the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The Agency administers the day-to-day operations of the program including policy development, financial management, and oversight of the 31 early learning coalitions. The DOE oversees performance standards, curricula, and professional development. The DCF provides oversight of child care licensing and regulation, administers Florida's Gold Seal Quality Care program, and issues credentials for child care personnel.

Voluntary Prekindergarten Improvement Process Helps Struggling Providers

The State Board of Education's School Readiness Rate provides a standard of achievement for VPK programs. The readiness rate uses FLKRS results to measure the performance of each VPK program in helping children

prepare for kindergarten. Florida law allows the State Board of Education to establish a minimum readiness rate score so that no more than 15 percent of providers fall into the low performing category. Of the 3,772 VPK programs in operation in the first year, 3,216 scored above the minimum readiness rate of 200. All VPK programs earning a readiness rate of greater than 200 (201 or higher) out of 300 possible points are considered satisfactory providers of the VPK program. A total of 556 program providers scored below the minimum rate for the 2005–2006 program year.

As of December 31, 2007, each of the low-performing providers (those who earned a rate of 200 or below) had submitted an improvement plan to their coalition or school district. Support is available to low-performing providers through the Agency, coalitions, DOE, DCF, community colleges, and private provider networks. Providers identified as low performing for three consecutive years will no longer be eligible to provide the VPK program.

The 2005–2006 VPK Provider Readiness Rate, set by the State Board of Education in June 2006, marked the culmination of the first year of implementation of the VPK program in Florida. For information on customer satisfaction with the VPK program, please see *Appendix A—VPK Parent Satisfaction Survey*. Additional information about the improvement process and the readiness rate calculation is available at www.ImproveVPK.org.

School Readiness Services Provide Supports for Families in Need

The SR program has two primary purposes. One is to ensure children are ready to learn when they enter kindergarten thereby increasing their chances of future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The other is to help parents become economically self-sufficient by providing financial assistance for child care so parents can work or participate in educational and training activities. Services offered by the school readiness program include the following:

- Extended-day, extended-year, and school-age care for children
- Appropriate protection and child care for at-risk children
- Services based on the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of a child
- Involvement of parents as their child's first teacher
- Preparation for children to become ready for school
- Provision of family support and community resources for parents

Although the Agency strives to realize these goals, the real services begin at the local level. Early learning providers deliver the services that make the difference in the lives of children and families. At the same time, coalitions provide training, technical assistance, and resources to support and improve the quality of early childhood environments.

Coalitions partnered with 15,728 providers to deliver SR and VPK services during 2006–2007. There are many other collaborators at the local level who make contributions to this important work, including the individuals serving on coalition boards. In addition, Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) provides migrant early learning services in 21 counties throughout Florida.

Early Learning Advisory Council Guides Program Efforts

The Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) brings together partners to develop and establish community action plans that deliver the vision of Governor Crist. Responsibility for school readiness lies not with children, but with their caregivers and the systems supporting them. ELAC helps guide early learning efforts and quality improvements, and works to ensure the Agency meets the diverse needs of Florida's local communities. This

work epitomizes the greatness of this state—citizens working with government toward the common goal of making Florida the premier early education state with the highest quality services for children and families.

Established by section 1002.77, Florida Statutes, ELAC's purpose is to submit recommendations on Florida's early learning policy, including the administration of VPK, SR, and CCR&R programs, to the Governor's Office through the Agency. ELAC seeks to run the coalitions like businesses, to effectively manage the money spent by the state, and to ensure Florida's children are prepared to enter school.

Florida Child Care Resource and Referral Network Informs Families

Florida's CCR&R Network is dedicated to helping families identify and select quality early learning programs. These services are free to anyone that resides in or seeks early learning services in Florida. Trained staff provide consumer education on quality indicators for early learning and referrals to early learning programs that are customized to meet individual family's needs, as well as referrals to other services within their local communities.

CCR&R serves two fundamental purposes: to help parents identify and select quality programs which best meet their children's needs and to provide technical assistance to providers in an effort to improve the quality, availability, and affordability of child care. These goals are accomplished by providing information and resources to families, child care professionals, government entities, and other individuals regarding state programs and services available through quality early learning options, and work/family solutions.

Coalitions provide CCR&R services in all 67 counties in the state. In 2006–2007, ten coalitions directly operated CCR&R in-house and another 21 coalitions contracted for these services. More than 220,000 parents and families across the state accessed CCR&R services during the same time period.

Parental choice continues to be an absolute priority for CCR&R. To ensure that parents are aware of their child care options, each CCR&R office maintains a database of all legally operating providers in its service area. The CCR&R database contains providers that are licensed, license-exempt, faith-based, registered family child care homes, and non-traditional. The CCR&R Network Office develops written materials and brochures designed to assist families in choosing early childhood programs. These materials also support CCR&R coordinators, specialists, and inclusion specialists in their work.

Warm Line Services Support Families with Special Needs

Section 402.3018, Florida Statutes, establishes the "Warm-Line" for the purpose of providing assistance and consultation to all early learning programs regarding health and developmental issues of the children they are serving, particularly children with disabilities and other special needs. Inclusion specialists are designated by coalitions to carry out the Warm-Line program. The work of inclusion specialists frequently involves addressing challenging behaviors, making accommodations for children with disabilities, identifying developmental "red flags" through screening and assessment, and educating communities about the benefits of including children with disabilities in classrooms with typically developing children.

In 2006–2007, there were 7,144 total incoming calls to local Warm-Lines. These calls resulted in 16,014 instances of technical assistance provided to early learning programs, family child care homes, Head Start programs, VPK classrooms, and school-age programs. The inclusion specialists provided help with screening, assessment, quality enhancement, and family referrals for additional intervention services.

Building Florida's Early Learning Information System

During 2006–2007, the Agency continued efforts to implement a new Early Learning Information System (ELIS). The completed ELIS will be a web-based data system that accesses, manages, stores, and shares programmatic, administrative, financial, and outcome data. ELIS will replace the sixteen-year-old information system that currently supports the work of thousands of child care professionals throughout the state. Over 300,000 children and their families access the resources of Florida's early learning programs each year. ELIS's

implementation means ensuring accountability for an annual budget of \$1.07 billion, strengthening the early learning programs, and increasing access to these resources. Design and implementation will begin in July 2008 with a targeted project completion date of June 2010.

The ELIS project team has recently completed visits with the 31 coalitions and the RCMA to better understand the current and future core business processes that the system must support. Visits included facilitated sessions with nearly 400 staff members from coalitions and service providers as well as representatives from licensing, education, workforce, protective services, law enforcement, and training programs. The team also met with a wide range of child care providers to learn their specific resource and technology requirements for the future.

Florida's Quality Initiative Assists Coalitions and Providers

The Agency provides training and technical assistance to coalitions and providers through a contract with Training and Technical Assistance Services (T/TAS) at Western Kentucky University. These services include strategic planning facilitation, board development, and presentations at numerous workshops and conferences.

The Florida State University Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy (the Center) has worked as a subcontractor to establish a statewide infant/toddler network. The Center provides training and ongoing communications with infant/toddler specialists around the state. The Center also developed a new curriculum aligned with the *Florida Birth to Three Learning and Developmental Standards*.

Agency Improves Program Guidance and Communication

The Agency uses several mechanisms to provide guidance and communication with coalitions regarding program and fiscal requirements and expectations. Agency staff provides local support and technical assistance for programmatic and fiscal operations. The **Coalition Services and Statewide Contracts Unit** provides coalition support; conducts eligibility monitoring; analyzes and processes grants; collects coalition annual reports and Contingency of Operation Plans (COOP); processes monthly invoices; reviews coalition plans and plan amendments; and develops, coordinates, and implements statewide training.

The **Fiscal Support Unit** provides technical assistance to coalitions, statewide contractors, and Agency staff on fiscal operations, accounting issues under program compliance, fraud reporting, and determination of improper payments.

The **Accountability, Research & Data Quality Section** conducts performance reviews examining coalition operations, producing program analyses based on independent surveys and data collection, and providing ongoing data quality feedback and instructional assistance. Instructional assistance is provided through general guidance and coalition-specific edit reports that identify potential data issues. Edit reports improve Enhanced Field System (EFS) data quality, business processes, and program and fiscal oversight. They are also used to prepare data for conversion to the completed ELIS system. As part of the data instruction and edit report process, over \$377,000 in adjustments were entered in EFS to recoup overpayments made to providers in the 2006–2007 program year.

The **Program and Policy Section** provides greater clarity and direction to coalitions by finalizing policies and promulgating rules. In 2006–2007, the VPK rules were amended and the VPK Pilot Project for Child Registration Rule was adopted. Additionally, the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan for 2008–09 was submitted and approved by the federal Child Care Bureau. The Program and Policy sections also provided guidance to both internal and external customers through the OEL Questions mailbox, subject-matter experts, and technical assistance papers.

The Program section develops the Standard Levels of Service, which serve as program guidance for all Early Learning Coalitions in carrying out the CCR&R, SR, VPK and inclusion programs. They also provide CCR&R technical assistance and training for all coalitions and contractors and develop materials and brochures for families and providers.

The Redlands Christian Migrant Association Supports Rural and Migrant Communities

The Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization that works in partnership with a variety of public and private entities. These include federal and state agencies, Florida growers, community foundations, social service agencies, and concerned individuals. The RCMA provides child care, Head Start programming, dropout prevention, health outreach, and advocacy services for low-income rural families including migrant, seasonal, and former farm workers throughout Florida.

By working with these diverse partners, RCMA:

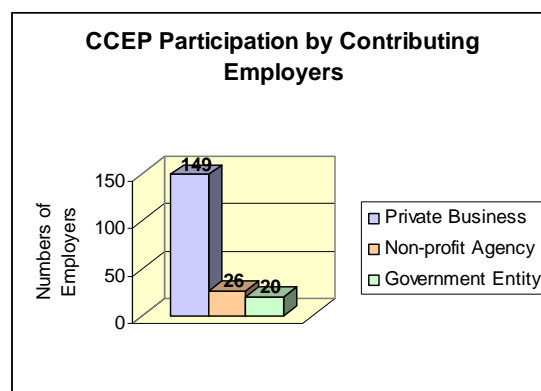
- Creates and fosters opportunities for children of migrant farm workers and other low-income, rural families;
- Maximizes the choices in their lives by providing quality child care, support services, and educational opportunities;
- Improves the health and general welfare of children and their families;
- Involves parents in the educational process and in public policy decisions that affect their children and families;
- Increases public awareness of the lifestyle of migrant and seasonal farm workers;
- Provides opportunities for and encouraging the professional development of RCMA staff hired from the communities served.

Florida Child Care Executive Partnership Leverages Private Sector Support

The Florida Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program is a public/private partnership program that helps employers meet the needs of a growing segment of their workforce—working parents. Through this program, federal and state funding is “matched” with contributions from local governments, charitable foundations, and private businesses on a dollar-for-dollar basis to provide child care services to participating families.

The CCEP program enables communities to expand child care funding for lower-income working families, provide access to School Readiness services to more children, and help employers increase profits by providing valuable benefits for employees.

The following chart represents CCEP participation by the number of participating employers for fiscal year 2006–2007:



Even Start Promotes Family Literacy

The William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program is a federally-funded program designed to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and illiteracy by integrating the areas of adult literacy and education, parent education, early childhood education, and interactive literacy between parents and their children into one program. The program seeks to provide high quality, intensive instructional opportunities that promote adult literacy, encourage parents to be involved in their child's educational growth, are developmentally appropriate, and prepare children for success in regular school programs.

The Even Start program uses the Early Literacy and Learning Model (ELLM), which is a research-based early literacy curriculum and instructional support system for children in preschool, kindergarten, and first grade, their families, and their teachers. ELLM is made up of five component areas: literacy curriculum, family involvement, professional development, working partnerships, and research and development.

In 2006–2007, there were 18 Even Start programs throughout Florida serving a total of 615 families. Florida's Even Start program is focused on ensuring that Even Start families are provided with all of the services required to achieve their goals. Even Start is committed to continuing its purpose of impacting generations of Florida's citizens by providing families with the tools needed to become self-sufficient citizens.

Head Start State Collaboration Office Builds Multi-Agency Partnerships

The Head Start State Collaboration Office in Florida is a collaborative project of the Agency, the Office of the Governor, the Florida Head Start Association, and the Florida Institute of Education at the University of North Florida. This partnership provides a framework for advancing the development of system-building initiatives and multi-agency agreements.

The project's goals and objectives are focused on building a seamless system of comprehensive early care and education services for young children and their families. The Agency provides support to the Florida Head Start State Collaboration Office by furnishing part-time personnel, office space, technology services, and general office support.

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters Supports At-Risk Families

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPA USA, HIPPA) is a home-based program for at-risk families with children ages three through five. Funded through the Agency, the program provides educational enrichment activities for children, and links to community resources and organizations for families.

During 2006–2007, HIPPA programs operated in 14 Florida counties and delivered services to more than 2,100 children and approximately 1,900 families. A longitudinal study is underway to demonstrate the program's influence on children's academic performance. Initial findings from a telephone survey found that HIPPA children in Florida were acquiring greater pre-academic skills such as recognition of the alphabet, counting to ten, and writing their first name than children in a national sample.

Scholarship Program Supports Professional Development

The Teacher Education and Compensation Helps project (TEACH Early Childhood Scholarship Program, the TEACH project), operated by The Children's Forum, was first implemented in Florida in 1998. The TEACH project provides scholarships, cash incentives, and paid time off to encourage early learning practitioners to return to school for additional coursework in early learning. The average national annual turnover rate of early learning employees is 30 percent. The average annual turnover rate of Florida's TEACH recipients is 13 percent, which contributes to creating a more stable, familiar environment for children.

The TEACH project received \$3 million of its approximately \$4 million in funding from the Agency. The project combines financial support for education with a commitment for increased compensation from the sponsoring

organization and a pledge by the participant to work at the sponsoring agency for an additional year after his or her contract year ends.

The VPK program has sparked the TEACH project's rate of growth; over the past three years the project has grown significantly, with 11,510 recipients signing 16,133 contracts since the program's inception in Florida. With additional funding from other local partners, 3,824 participants took part in the TEACH project in 2006–2007. Forty-five percent of recipients were working toward their associate's degree, and 38 percent were working toward their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

TEACH Recipients by Degree Goal 2006–2007

Degree/Credential	Number	(%)
Associates Degree (AS)	1,721	45
Bachelor of Science (BS)	38	1
Child Development Associate Director Credential Renewal (CDAR)	229	6
Child Development Associate National (CDAN)	191	5
Child Development Associate (CDA)	1,454	38
Director's Credential (DC)	191	5
Total	3,824	100

Financial Review

Funding

In fiscal year 2006–2007, the Agency received \$1.07 billion in funding, 64 percent of which was allocated for the SR program and 36 percent for the VPK Program. Four budgeted funds contribute to Florida's early learning programs—Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), Welfare Transition Trust Fund (TANF), State General Revenue, and Employment Security Administration Trust Funds. Approximately 45 percent of all funds were federal grants. Funds from the federal CCDF provided over one-third of the budget.

The State also uses funds from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant (TANF) to support early learning initiatives and receives \$1 million in federal dollars to provide the Even Start Family Literacy program. As a condition of federal funding, Florida must provide a specific amount of “match” and “maintenance of effort” (MOE) for the program. During 2006–2007, the State provided about \$195 million from general revenue. Federal funds and some state funds are used for SR services. All VPK services are financed with state general revenue.

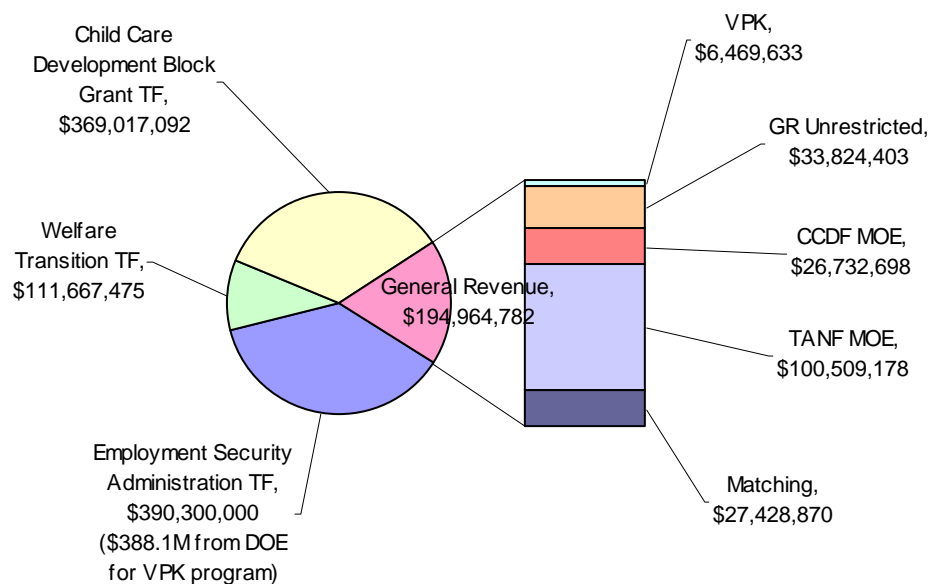
The following table details the Agency’s funding for fiscal year 2006–2007:

Early Learning Funding 2006–2007	
General Revenue	\$194,964,782
TANF MOE	\$100,509,178
CCDF MOE	\$26,732,698
CCDF Matching	\$27,428,870
GR not Match or MOE	\$33,824,403
VPK	\$6,469,633
Federal	\$482,184,567
CCDF	\$369,017,092
TANF	\$111,667,475
Even Start	\$1,000,000
Social Services TF	\$500,000
Other	\$388,800,000
VPK Direct Services	\$388,100,000
Local Funds	\$700,000
Total Funds	\$1,065,949,349

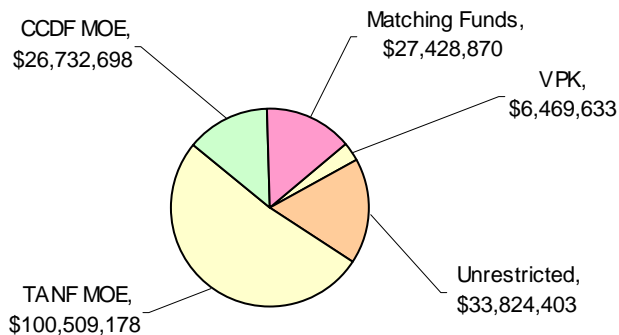
Budget

Designated as the lead agency for oversight of the federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) by the Governor and as the administrator of operational requirements for the Florida VPK program, the Agency is responsible for safeguarding and maximizing the returns on these federal and state investments. The following charts show the distribution of funds from these sources.

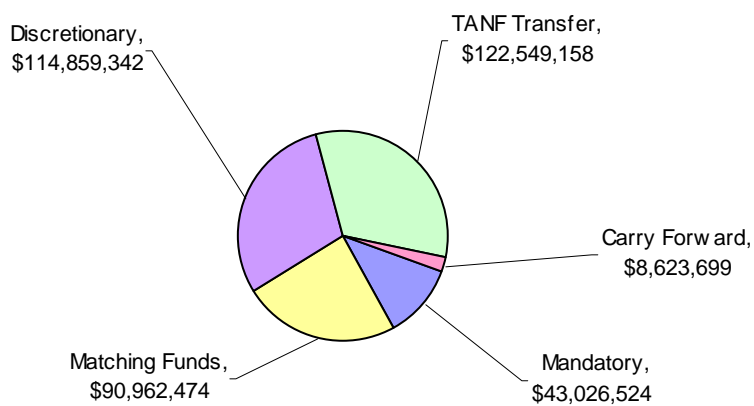
Distribution of Federal and State Funds for Early Learning



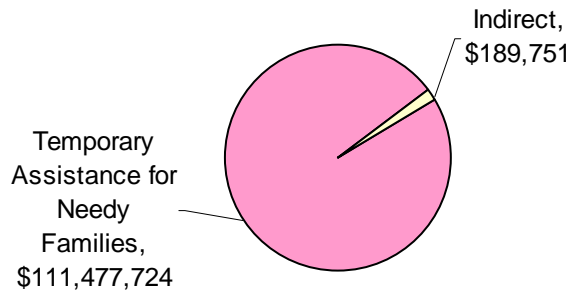
Distribution of General Revenue Funds for Early Learning



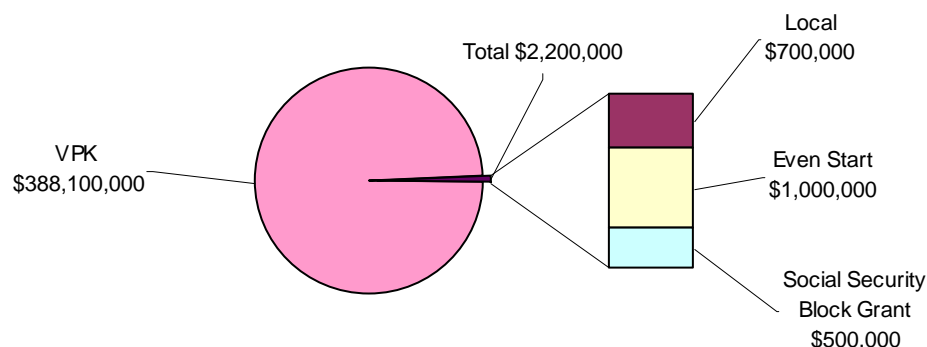
Distribution of Child Care Development Fund for Early Learning



Distribution of Welfare Transition Trust Fund for Early Learning



Distribution of Employment Security Administration Trust Fund for Early Learning



Coalitions

The 31 local early learning coalitions' many accomplishments throughout 2006–2007 positively impacted the children and families of Florida. *Appendix D—Coalitions At A Glance* contains additional information regarding the coalitions' median income and population data.

The Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County introduced the Tenure and Professional Development Incentive program which addresses the challenges of teacher turn-over and education enhancement among contracted providers. Their “Academy Awards” Provider Appreciation Night was a huge success with representatives from over 100 providers in attendance. Attendees walked in on the “red carpet” and had their pictures taken. Seven programs received an “Oscar for Excellence” for an outstanding program component (i.e., outdoor environment, family involvement). The ELC Bucks program was started, which rewards provider staff for attendance at trainings geared towards quality enhancement by providing educational materials.

The Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region consists of Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla Counties. The coalition featured the ELVIS (Early Learning Voluntary Instruction and Support) project that brings together community members and early learning programs to assist young children in becoming avid readers and creative thinkers. Volunteers visited child care centers and family child care homes. Each volunteer received training in development of early literacy skills and how to use their literacy kits. They met with their assigned group of children for one and a half hours a week for an eight week period. Children who participated in the program were given a pre- and post-assessment in the areas of emergent literacy, language and communication, cognitive development, and general knowledge to determine the program's impact.

The Early Learning Coalition of Brevard County's special initiatives included distribution of mini-grants to child care providers to enhance program quality, with a focus on infants and toddlers. These mini-grants provide an opportunity to work with owners, directors, and teachers to assess, mentor, and implement programs that assist teachers in providing the highest quality learning opportunities possible to the children they serve. Assistance was given to providers through the purchase of small playground equipment and mulch to address new county requirements for child care facilities. Without the assistance of the coalition, many providers would not have been able to afford such purchases. Local outreach activities such as magazine and newspaper ads and billboards resulted in an increase of 221 VPK children.

The Early Learning Coalition of Broward County offered special programs and mini-grants to support quality and best practices and help providers successfully reach their quality benchmarks. The lending resource library

offered early childhood materials, including big books, curriculum guides, records, video and cassette tapes, professional journals, toys, classroom equipment, puzzles, puppets, and assessment tools. A trained SR Coach and two resource assistants were available to help providers and parents in the selection of materials that are appropriate for the needs of their children. The library also provided internet access and laminating services to the community. In addition, weekly arts and crafts, music and movement for children with special needs, and story time sessions were offered by the library.

The Early Learning Coalition of Clay, Nassau, Baker, and Bradford Counties (CNBB) provided an integrated system of services to prepare at-risk children for success in kindergarten. The coalition adopted a developmentally appropriate curriculum to use in selected public, faith-based, private, school-based, and Head Start programs. Additionally, CNBB used an inclusive and collaborative teacher training and modeling approach in classrooms to provide preschool teachers with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and develop skills. Highly qualified teachers, many with master's level degrees, worked with classroom teachers in their preschool settings. The coaches modeled teaching methods and further supported the professional development of the classroom teacher by helping with lesson plans, classroom management and other tools.

The Early Learning Coalition of Duval County held a "Get Acquainted Party" for new VPK directors to invite them to participate in the VPK Director's Network. Eighteen new VPK directors attended the event hosted by one of the VPK providers. The network was funded by a grant from the Rice Foundation to support a grassroots organization to improve the business and program practices of the VPK/Child Care Directors. Network meetings were held at different VPK sites with trainings provided based on director feedback. The United Way of Northeast Florida began working with the coalition to bring the program goal of Early Childhood Success to fruition. The Success by 6 program seeks to provide scholarships to families who do not qualify through the school readiness programs. A VPK Open House was held for Duval County providers.

The Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County used quality funds for two major initiatives: nursing services and Wee Read. Partnering with the school district, Head Start, and the Department of Health, coalition nurses administered screenings for hearing, vision, height, weight, and body mass index (BMI) to three- and four-year-old children. Wee Read uses a three-prong plan targeting early education and care providers, parents, and children in order to improve reading readiness. This community initiative was established to guide the community to achieve a literate workforce to enhance economic development. The coalition is a certified provider of continuing education units. All trainers paid with coalition funding formed a Trainers' Cadre under the leadership of the Professional Development Coordinator and met monthly.

The Early Learning Coalition of Flagler and Volusia Counties implemented a pilot project, Reading Makes Me Smile (RMMS), to inform early childhood educators of methods used to engage, encourage, educate, and empower families in literacy activities. Participating early childhood educators received on-site family involvement training, RMMS program promotional materials, and an activity tote filled with supplies to create stories and literacy books for classroom use. A Family Involvement Department was added that oversees the coalition's home visitation program which reinforces the "learning begins at home" concept. The coalition adopted a new kite logo that signified its desire to soar to new heights through community partnerships, commitment to quality, and dedication to the families served.

The Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Gateway includes Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee, and Union counties. The coalition recognizes that parents are their children's first teachers and emphasized the importance of parental involvement by sponsoring nine parenting conferences and trainings. In collaboration with WUFT-TV, the coalition hosted eight parent orientations throughout the service area and distributed "Parenting Counts" information to many parents. The expansion of the provider resource training room included the addition of a die cut machine, die cut materials, a new laminator, consumable materials, and other quality enhancements for providers' use, as well as screening and assessment tools necessary for providers to complete yearly assessments of children.

The Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland includes the counties of Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands. The coalition's "Start with the Arts" literacy program consisted of an initial two-hour training to

introduce the program and four on-site visits with participating child care providers. Participants were given curriculum, four books, handouts, and on-site technical assistance. Teachers were given the opportunity to gain knowledge of how to use visual arts, drama, dance, and movement and music in their daily lesson planning. The coalition offered courses at minimal or no cost to providers, including: Beyond Centers and Circle Time, Music and Movement in Multicultural Settings (M3), Legal Issues, Infant and Toddler Child Development Associate Equivalency (CDAE) courses, pre-school CDAE courses, first aid and CPR courses, and state mandated courses.

The Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County refined its monitoring tool in 2006–2007 and contracted with experienced monitors to assist with site visits. The coalition implemented a monitoring system to help ensure VPK providers meet and maintain program standards as they mature. Each VPK provider receives at least two monitoring site visits during the fiscal year. This far exceeds the state’s minimum requirement of one monitoring visit for 50 percent of participating providers per fiscal year. The coalition’s VPK Provider Retention Awards recognized the value of teacher retention and its positive effects on children during their early developmental years. Monetary retention awards for lead VPK teachers were given to those who taught in the VPK classroom the entire VPK program year.

The Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin, and Okeechobee Counties purchased developmental screening and assessment tools for providers to fulfill the recommendations of the coalition’s ad hoc Assessment Committee. The providers were trained on the use of new assessment instruments and guided through the new screening and assessment requirements. Additionally, Palm Pilots were purchased so assessment data could be entered electronically as a child was assessed by the provider. The data was transferred to a website that generates a customized profile and a parent resource report for each child. The coalition’s inclusion specialist offered training to providers with regard to caring for special needs children. Training programs offered included: Inclusion Overview; Warm Line Procedures and Child Development; and Conscious Discipline.

The Early Learning Coalition of Lake County implemented the Helping Hands Program that provided identification, observation, assessment, and intervention for children with behavioral challenges. The early learning specialists worked both in the home and the child care facility, providing technical assistance to teachers, parents and guardians, and extended family members. “Parent Empowerment” and “Grandparent Empowerment” nights focused on positive parenting. The coalition partnered with the Children’s Services Council to offer SR resources to children and adults via the Big Blue Bus, a portable classroom full of literacy activities, computers, curricula, and other activities. During 2006–2007, the ELC of Lake County Board of Directors founded Florida’s first Early Learning Coalition Foundation.

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County contracted with Manatee Community College in an exciting new scholarship program for SR teachers providing the benefit of a strong educational program at no cost to the teachers. The coalition also started a new quality initiative program, Training Incentives Points (T.I.P.), directed toward center and home based child care providers who deliver services to Manatee County SR children ages birth–five. The purpose of the program was to encourage provider participation and commitment to continuing education and training. Eligible providers had an opportunity to earn cumulative points as they received ongoing education. The points could be used to “purchase” materials of the provider’s choice. The material choices supported the environment rating scale(s) used to enhance program quality.

The Early Learning Coalition of Marion County funded 15 summer enrichment programs throughout Marion County which provided children ages four through 12 years old with fun learning experiences focused on literacy, math, science, and physical activities. The coalition completed the second year of Partners in Education and Research for Kindergarten Success (PERKS), a three-part project funded in part by a grant from the Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program of the U.S. Department of Education through The Children’s Forum. PERKS is designed to improve the knowledge and skills of early childhood teachers working in “high-need” areas of the community in order to enhance the school readiness of young children.

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties held three highly successful Materials and Curriculum Fairs that provided thousands of books, curricula, and materials to local providers. In order to more efficiently manage participation in the SR program, the coalition worked with Miami-Dade County Department

of Human Services' Child Development Services (CDS) bureau to establish a new procedure for placing families on the waitlist. The coalition created a "Ready-Pool" of families who have been determined eligible for SR services, but have not received permission to actually enroll their children with providers of their choice. To address the needs of teen parents and their children, the coalition supported the Service Partnership for Teen Parents and Their Children in its work to develop a comprehensive and integrated system of care for that population.

The Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast recognized that going through the accreditation process enhanced the quality of an early education and care facility. The coalition devoted funds to a mini-grant program to assist SR providers with accreditation fees and associated costs. This investment helped SR children prepare for school. The coalition also implemented a Provider Recruitment/Expansion Program to assist new providers in the community with becoming early learning providers and assisting existing providers with expanding their businesses to serve more children. The coalition was a key sponsor and participant in the Child Abuse Prevention Task Force Safety Fair. Through a partnership with Seminole County Emergency Services over 30 providers participated in a hands-on emergency preparedness workshop.

The Early Learning Coalition of Northwest Florida consists of Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, and Washington Counties. The coalition created and implemented the Family Achievement Plan (FAP); which reflects the coalition's strategy for supporting families/parents as their children's first and lifelong teachers and in helping families become self-sufficient. The FAP extended the parent interview process from a 15 minute eligibility process to a two-hour parent support and education opportunity. The coalition offered Saturday staff development trainings after realizing that many program staff were less receptive to training because of tiredness from a full day of work on weekdays. Saturday training allowed staff to attend the same training together and reduce the cost of travel while building team dynamics.

The Early Learning Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties launched the Technical Assistance Ladder for Quality Improvement initiative that was fashioned after the coalition's Star Award Pilot Program (which had previously received a Best Practices Award from The Children's Forum). The coalition conducted visits to participants to perform pre- and post-assessments, provide technical assistance, and engage in information gathering for the development of the initiative. The First Start Family Literacy Program included the distribution of materials to each participating family to encourage parent and child interaction, parent literacy improvement, and parenting skills. The program included field trips to libraries to provide an infusion of literacy materials into homes at little cost and to grocery stores to encourage healthy choices.

The Early Learning Coalition of Orange County, through a contract with Orange County Public Schools, implemented the Migrant program that provides early intervention services to special populations in a home visitation format. In this program, the child's first language is supported while English is introduced and reinforced. The coalition hosted its first Emergency Preparedness Conference which addressed topics such as fire safety, crime prevention, immunizations, environmental health, facility emergency management planning, and helping children cope with disasters. Curriculum is one of the most important elements in providing quality care for children, the Curriculum Campaign ensured every provider serving coalition-subsidized, working-poor families is using a coalition-approved curriculum or has undergone a curriculum review.

The Early Learning Coalition of Osceola County, as part of an ongoing effort to provide parents with resources, sponsored a monthly newsletter that was mailed directly to the homes of all families enrolled in the SR program and families currently on the waitlist. The newsletters were also sent to all SR and child care providers so that they could share with parents who may not be enrolled in the SR program. The newsletter, "Helping Children Learn," is designed to provide fun, educational activities and ideas that parents can use to help their young children flourish educationally. Because the county's population is culturally diverse, the coalition has established Latino initiatives that include the availability of bilingual trainings, staff, and interpreter services. A future goal is translation of resources.

The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County offered professional development initiatives to stimulate, guide, reward, and recognize educational gains made by provider staff. Professional development included:

scholarships, career coaches to assist child care staff, participation in the Child Care WAGE\$® FLORIDA Project (an education-based salary supplement that benefits early childhood teachers working with children ages birth to five), and professional development requirements incorporated into the Four-Star Quality Improvement system. The Continue to Care (CTC) initiative is available for children enrolled in child care programs participating in the Quality Improvement System. The program is offered to high-risk children whose parents may no longer be eligible for a school readiness subsidy.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties has successfully transitioned to one service provider for both counties which resulted in improved service delivery for the children, parents, and families of Pasco and Hernando counties. The coalition stressed improving the quality of service in the 2006-07 program year through initiatives such as active parenting training where 144 parents received training and literacy materials to strengthen their role as their children's first teachers. Operation Backpack allowed more than 500 families to receive approximately \$5,000 worth of literacy books and supplies. The award of \$33,500 in mini-grants to providers in Pasco County led to improved quality of care through supporting accreditation, increased training, and the purchase of equipment.

The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County continued to fund the Florida First Start program, a home visitation program for children from birth through age five who demonstrate risk factors related to school failure. The program received a small funding increase which allowed for the addition of one bilingual staff member. The coalition negotiated a mutual agreement with the St. Petersburg College Foundation. By depositing teacher scholarship funding in the coalition's established Foundation account, the funds were then matched by the State on a dollar for dollar basis. Screening Eyes and Ears of Kids (SEEK) is a program that provided Pinellas County Health Department vision and hearing screenings for all children with signed parental permission slips at early education and care sites.

The Early Learning Coalition of Polk County hosted Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) training where participants were trained to assess classrooms and give technical assistance using the ECERS. A grant from Publix Super Market Charities helped defray the cost of this training. The coalition required providers to demonstrate that they had coalition-approved curriculum and had accurately completed a self assessment. In addition, any providers not licensed by the Department of Children and Families and receiving SR funding had to pass a Coalition Health and Safety Standards Inspection. The coalition awarded \$30,000 worth of provider grants that included a choice of packages for Health & Safety, Literacy, Science, Match, Preschool, Infant/Toddler, Family Child Care Homes, or Curriculum.

The Early Learning Coalition of Putnam and St. Johns Counties held three evening meetings to accommodate the schedules of providers to receive their feedback and input and address their concerns. During Children's Week, providers were encouraged to participate in the annual hanging of the hands by sending in children's hand artwork to Tallahassee so that the artwork can serve as a symbolic reminder to the legislators of Florida of the need for supporting early childhood education. The coalition continued to support an ongoing program to distribute educational and promotional materials in diaper bags to every new mother at the hospitals in the two counties. The materials include baby's first books, developmental milestones books, literature on brain development, and what to look for in choosing childcare.

The Early Learning Coalition of Santa Rosa County participated in the Northwest Florida Infant Mental Health Initiative; "Cram the Van," a collaborative project with the United Way of Santa Rosa County and Sandy Sansing Chevrolet that distributed school supplies to needy children; and "Coats for Kids," a unique program where community churches and civic organizations collected coats to distribute to families in need. The Behavior/Inclusion Specialist made contacts with providers and parents about social-emotional development and character development in early childhood, and provided training sessions for providers related to special needs that included: eating disorders, autism and speech, a session on Character Counts, and behavior management training sessions. "The Lunch Bunch" provided backpacks with clothing, toys, toiletries, and pillows for protective services children.

The Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County successfully implemented the Substitute, Training, and Recruitment (STAR) program to help ensure high-quality substitute teachers for child care centers are available in the community. The “Building Better Behavior” project expanded upon the existing targeted intervention program to more specifically address children with challenging behavior who are increasingly difficult to maintain in the classroom environment and at risk of losing their placement. Through a contract with the Sarasota County Technical Institute’s Early Childhood Education Department, an intensive mentoring program continued. Coalition assistance is customized for providers but typically included room arrangement; selecting age appropriate toys; implementing research-based, age appropriate curricula; and providing trainings to teachers based on the center’s needs.

The Early Learning Coalition of Seminole County launched the Strokes of Genius grant project under which centers were chosen to participate in a three-year program aimed at increasing kindergarten readiness. Participants received developmentally appropriate equipment, character development curriculum, vision and hearing screenings and an opportunity to consult regularly with an experienced and degreed child care professional. In May 2007, the coalition was excited to roll out the “VPK Summer Play” initiative which provided every graduate of the 540 hour school year program with a summer activity calendar and a backpack full of supplies to encourage continued growth. This initiative provided parents with the tools necessary to continue the VPK experience throughout the three-month summer break; keeping the skills learned during the year sharp for kindergarten.

The Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County offered special programs like "Kinderdance" instruction that taught children the important role that music has in their lives while they participated in new musical activities that helped to develop many early childhood motor and coordination skills. Children participated in fun, developmentally appropriate activities that promoted fine and gross motor, social, and emotional skills. “Sign language for children” exposed children to a “second language;” studies have shown that children who learn American Sign Language at an early age score much better on vocabulary and language tests than their peers. Discipline-based art education introduced the concept of creative expression and self-discovery to children as they learned art techniques of famous artists.

The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida includes Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties. The coalitions’ Health and Development Services program supports healthy and safe child care, and identifies and addresses medical obstacles to learning through consultations, training, vision, and hearing screening services, and networking. The First Annual Southwest Florida Docs for Tots initiative brought the president, founder, and national spokesperson of Docs for Tots, Dr. George Askew, to southwest Florida to speak to physicians on how the medical community can join in partnership with the coalition to advocate for high quality health and education services for all children. The event was produced in partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University and funded by the SureSight Vision and EuroScan hearing equipment vendors.

Looking Forward

Florida welcomes nearly 600 newborns every day and is currently home to more than one million children younger than five. Of these, approximately 600,000 attend some type of early learning program. With so many of our children in child care, quality early learning options are a high priority because children are counting on us to make sure they have every advantage and opportunity available for success in school and in life.

Communities are also counting on us because Florida's economic success, productivity, public health, social welfare, and workforce development are also dependent on high-quality early learning and care options for families. The Agency works to strengthen early learning structures for the benefit of children, families, local communities, and the state of Florida.

The Agency is legislatively charged with the development and implementation of the VPK Program and the oversight of federal and state funds for the SR program. The Agency serves the great people of Florida by working to support families and to ensure children have quality care and early learning opportunities. The Agency leads the state in prioritizing quality early learning opportunities for all children. Our focus for the coming year includes the following:

Development of Multidisciplinary Partnerships. The quality and accessibility of early care and education affects the prosperity and development of individuals, families and communities. The Agency is focusing on sharing information and strengthening connections across business, governmental, medical, social, and community lines in order to improve child and community outcomes. In 2008, the Agency will host the multidisciplinary Governor's Summit on Education, Workforce, and Economic Development and will continue to be active on the state's Children and Youth Cabinet.

Collaboration and Service Integration. Several agencies including DCF, DOE, the Department of Health (DOH), and the Agency, along with county government in seven counties, are working together to develop a comprehensive approach for streamlining processes in early care and education. This will result in a seamless system of services for families, increased accessibility to state programs, and improved family support services.

Early Learning Workforce Development. More than half of the professionals in Florida's early learning system have a high school diploma or less as their highest educational achievement. The challenges to educate and develop the workforce, and provide sufficient compensation to retain them once trained, are significant issues. As such, the Agency will continue to work towards a comprehensive professional development system. The system will address career development pathways, core competencies for instructors, funding for education, and accessibility to higher education programs.

Data Systems and Technology. The Agency is making tremendous headway in a three-year process to develop and deploy a new comprehensive statewide information system (ELIS) that will enhance services, data collection, financial management, and performance tracking. The project has already greatly enhanced understanding of the complex service delivery system in our state, which will lead to process improvement. Critical features will include the expanded use of electronic background and fingerprinting systems for child care staff and utilization of automated tracking for child attendance in early learning programs.

Agency for Workforce Innovation's Office of Early Learning
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Appendix A—VPK Parent Satisfaction

A survey of parents whose children were in the school-year program showed that 95 percent were very satisfied (80%) or satisfied (15%) with VPK services. Parents' awareness of the program improved in the second year of implementation, with more reporting that they had received important information to help them make better decisions.

2006–2007 VPK Parent Satisfaction Survey

Survey Answer	Result (%)
Parents felt that VPK helped prepare their child for kindergarten.	92
Parents felt their children had learned new skills because of VPK.	91
Parents were able to enroll their child in their first choice of provider.	87
Parents reported saving money.	89
Parents would recommend the program to other parents.	98

Appendix B—ELAC Members 2006–2007

Name (Coalition)

Wenda Lewis (Alachua)	Chris Jensen, Jr. (Big Bend)
Shannon Smithwick (Brevard)	Harry Duncanson (Broward)
Donald Neal (Clay, Nassau, Baker, Bradford)	Antonia Crawford (Duval)
Meri Asmar (Escambia)	Deborah Denys (Flagler/Volusia)
Andrew Bible (Florida's Heartland)	John Wheeler (Florida's Gateway)
Melody Jurado (Hillsborough)	Jerry Roden (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee)
William Pruitt (Lake)	Brian Murphy (Manatee)
Carroll Lewis (Marion)	Octavio Verdeja (Miami-Dade/Monroe)
Michelle Finnen (Nature Coast)	Steve Southerland (Northwest)
Sandra Sims (Okaloosa/Walton)	Richard Morrison (Orange)
Charles Rogers (Osceola)	Traver Gruen-Kennedy (Palm Beach)
Lisa Hammond (Pasco/Hernando)	Vacant (Pinellas)
Artemas Holmes (Polk)	Nancy Pearson (Putnam/St. Johns)
Jill Sport (Santa Rosa)	Vacant (Sarasota)
Michael Gotschall (Seminole)	Sabra Cecil (Southwest)
Anthony Loupe (St. Lucie)	Terry Curry (Senate)
Robert Fernandez (House of Representatives)	

Appendix C—CCEP Highlights and Membership

CCEP’s budget for fiscal year 2006–2007 provided \$15,000,000 for 21,000 children served. Participants included 51 counties represented by 23 coalitions, 149 businesses, 26 non-profit agencies, and 20 government agencies.

CCEP Board of Directors

Name	Affiliation
Joel L. Rosen, Chair	A.J. Enterprises
Linda L. Bolton, Vice Chair	Bolton Associates, Inc.
Willie Johnson	Willcher Consulting, Inc.
Gloria J. Koach	Community Activist
Dr. Wendi F. Siegel	Early Childhood Education Professional

Appendix D—Coalitions-at-a-Glance

The following charts include data from the 2006 American Community Survey (ACS) (median household income and number of children under 5); 2006 Census (population); and the Agency for Workforce Innovation (number of children served in SR and paid number of children served in VPK for the school year and summer).

Single County Coalitions

County/Coalition	Median Household Income	Population	Children under 5	Children in SR	Children in VPK
Alachua	\$36,899	227,120	13,232	4,286	1,504
Brevard	\$46,335	534,359	26,962	7,170	3,662
Broward	\$50,499	1,787,636	117,756	18,711	12,277
Duval	\$45,756	837,964	63,745	13,334	7,922
Escambia	\$42,535	295,426	19,947	5,074	2,121
Hillsborough	\$46,766	1,157,738	82,174	19,870	7,974
Lake	\$41,871	290,435	15,528	3,669	1,886
Manatee	\$45,272	313,298	18,507	3,902	1,961
Marion	\$40,062	316,183	16,432	5,646	2,131
Orange	\$48,986	1,043,500	78,834	17,094	8,409
Osceola	\$44,951	244,045	17,599	2,838	2,371
Palm Beach	\$51,677	1,274,013	76,527	13,306	7,012
Pinellas	\$41,945	924,413	47,332	13,157	5,685
Polk	\$41,150	561,606	37,918	9,782	2,845
Santa Rosa	\$53,086	144,561	8,794	1,808	621
Sarasota	\$48,416	369,535	15,837	1,814	1,756
Seminole	\$56,757	406,875	24,447	3,519	3,380
St. Lucie	\$44,974	252,724	15,009	4,205	1,793

Multiple County Coalitions

The coalition name is in bold letters, followed by a shaded area including the names of the constituent counties. An asterisk (*) indicates 2004 Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

A dagger (†) indicates that the total includes 1,077 children served by the Redlands Christian Migrant Association.

Coalition	Median Household Income	Population	Children under 5	Children in SR	Children in VPK
Big Bend		383,336	23,908	7,005	3,059
Gadsden*	\$31,070	46,658	3,443	1,398	481
Jefferson*	\$33,962	14,677	813	287	68
Leon	\$41,516	245,625	15,272	4,070	1,961
Liberty*	\$30,451	7,782	461	153	122
Madison*	\$28,230	19,210	1,136	389	119
Taylor*	\$31,784	19,842	1,173	318	134
Wakulla*	\$39,849	29,542	1,610	390	174
Florida's Heartland		316,361	14,858	3,412	1,579
Charlotte	\$44,166	154,438	5,576	947	685
Desoto*	\$28,638	35,315	2,297	439	170
Highlands	\$32,894	97,987	4,524	1,334	586
Hardee*	\$28,669	28,621	2,461	692	138
CNBB		293,953	17,491	3,870	2,251
Clay	\$60,450	178,899	11,224	1,919	1,436
Nassau	\$55,925	66,707	3,262	722	356
Baker*	\$41,589	25,203	1,885	632	205
Bradford*	\$34,107	28,384	1,603	597	254
Flagler, Volusia		579,659	28,447	7,667	3,414
Flagler	\$44,461	83,084	2,889	859	529

Coalition	Median Household Income	Population	Children under 5	Children in SR	Children in VPK
Volusia	\$40,881	496,575	25,558	6,808	2,885
Florida's Gateway		152,766	10,119	3,303	1,131
Columbia	\$40,834	76,170	6,054	2,015	537
Hamilton*	\$26,411	14,215	899	305	94
Lafayette*	\$27,896	8,045	4,639	35	90
Union*	\$33,821	14,842	740	241	114
Suwannee*	\$31,744	39,494	2,563	707	296
IRMO		309,899	13,740	3,807	1,964
Indian River	\$43,685	130,100	5,619	1,300	839
Martin	\$50,939	139,393	5,132	1,597	833
Okeechobee*	\$31,332	40,406	2,989	910	292
Miami-Dade, Monroe		2,476,945	167,698	45,686	18,036
Miami-Dade	\$41,237	2,402,208	163,760	44,506	17,651
Monroe	\$52,069	74,737	3,938	1,180	385
Nature Coast		277,726	11,788	3,414	1,689
Dixie*	\$26,999	14,964	831	183	126
Gilchrist*	\$32,644	16,865	998	285	149
Levy*	\$29,314	39,076	2,189	852	284
Citrus	\$34,973	138,143	5,026	1,449	700
Sumter*	\$37,523	68,768	2,744	645	430
Northwest Florida		292,515	18,239	5,551	1,842
Bay	\$45,098	163,505	11,078	3,172	1,142
Calhoun*	\$27,521	13,410	759	262	58

Coalition	Median Household Income	Population	Children under 5	Children in SR	Children in VPK
Franklin*	\$30,678	10,264	605	106	76
Gulf*	\$32,893	14,043	646	133	92
Holmes*	\$28,694	19,285	1,129	467	159
Jackson*	\$31,022	49,288	2,789	906	211
Washington*	\$30,138	22,720	1,233	505	104
Okaloosa, Walton		232,561	15,902	3373	1,664
Okaloosa	\$54,422	180,291	12,963	2,719	1,459
Walton*	\$37,350	52,270	2,939	654	205
Pasco, Hernando		510,174	25,651	7,411	4,047
Pasco	\$41,939	450,171	24,411	5,270	2,916
Hernando	\$40,347	165,409	7,517	2,141	1,131
Putnam, St. Johns		243,307	13,630	3,555	1,423
Putnam	\$30,771	74,083	5,348	2,157	533
St. Johns	\$55,715	169,224	8,282	1,398	890
Southwest Florida		937,682	56,370	6,753	5,842†
Collier	\$55,888	314,649	20,077	1,507	1,873
Glades*	\$31,973	11,230	422	68	17
Hendry*	\$32,197	40,459	3,458	495	216
Lee	\$48,553	571,344	32,413	4,683	3,736

†Total includes 1,077 children served by Redlands Christian Migrant Association.