

Case for Support

About Us

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring early care and education for children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Through a variety of affordable and innovative early education and voluntary pre-kindergarten programs, the Coalition serves more than 50,000 children ages birth to 12 years old and their families.

Founded in 2000, the Coalition is among 31 similar organizations in the State of Florida established following the enactment of the School Readiness Act, which consolidated Florida's early learning services into one integrated program.

Our Purpose

Education is a crucial component to achieving success, as demonstrated by the following statistics*:

- In today's workplace, only 40 percent of adults who dropped out of high school are employed compared to 60 percent who completed high school and 80 percent who obtained a bachelor's degree.
- 70 percent of individuals with the lowest literacy skills have no full- or part-time employment.
- Adults who lack a high school diploma earn 42 percent less than adults who possess a high school diploma.
- Six of the 10 fastest growing occupations listed by the U.S. Department of Labor in its employment projections through 2012 require an associate's or bachelor's degree.

Yet, many Americans lack the education needed to succeed:

- 10.3 percent of the 36.5 million 16- to 24-year-olds in the United States drop out of school.
- 37 percent of fourth graders and 26 percent of eighth graders cannot read at the basic level.
- More than 40 million Americans ages 16 and older have significant literacy needs.
- More than 20 percent of adults read at or below a fifth grade level – far below the level needed to earn a living wage.

The Coalition is dedicated to ensuring all children and families are offered an equal opportunity to obtain early care and education, providing a path to future success in both school and life.

Our Focus

Our focus is consistently set on the following values:

- **Children** – Children are at the heart of all we do. We believe that all children, regardless of circumstance, are capable of educational excellence and personal growth, and we are committed to ensuring school readiness and lifelong success for each one.
- **Community** – We believe children are the future, and our community is an essential part of their road to success. By working together, we can promote education and support children as they become thriving, productive members of society.
- **Partnership** – We value partnerships and are collaborative in all we do. We work closely with fellow service providers, families, corporations, elected officials, individuals and the community at large to promote the importance of early learning and to secure educational opportunities for all children.
- **Advocacy** – We are a champion for children, promoting positive societal and community change. Our staff and community partners are committed to advancing education throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and are set apart by their passion, strength and dedication to children.
- **Excellence** – When it comes to early learning, quality matters. We are committed to excellence, providing quality programs and services that make a difference in our community. Designed to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of all children, our programs are innovative and offer each child an equal opportunity for a successful future.

Our Impact

We are making a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve.

- The Coalition provided Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) certification to 680 providers serving more than 16,000 children in Miami-Dade, along with 13 private providers and eight school district sites serving approximately 250 children each month in Monroe.
- In fiscal year 2006 – 07, the Coalition served an average of 28,506 children.
- The Coalition completed 6,800 assessments of young children in fiscal year 2006 – 07.
- The Coalition held three highly successful Materials and Curriculum Fairs in fiscal year 2006 – 07, providing thousands of books, curricula and materials to early care and education settings.
- In fiscal year 2006 – 07, the Coalition provided Resource and Referral Services to nearly 5,000 families in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, providing parents with equal access to affordable child care and early education programs.

About the Child Care and Development Fund

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) federal block grant supports low-income families and families temporarily receiving public assistance by providing child care for parents who are working or pursuing an education. CCDF funds also support child care research initiatives.

The CCDF ensures the quality of child care services it funds using several security measures. Child care providers must meet states' health and safety requirements addressing prevention and control of infectious diseases, including immunizations; building safety and minimum health and safety training.

The CCDF requires state contribution as well as a 6 percent local match for the major eligibility category "working poor." Each dollar of this local match draws down \$16 in CCDF (federal/state) funds.

About the Florida Child Care Executive Partnership Program

The Florida Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) Program creates an opportunity for employers and employees to succeed as partners. Financial assistance offered through employer-supported child care offers low-income families increased purchasing power and greater stability.

Funds accrued through the Florida Child Care Executive Partnership serve as a general funding source to help eligible low- to moderate-wage earning families (up to 200 percent federal poverty level) access child care subsidies.

Funds contributed locally are matched dollar-for-dollar by the State and distributed according to the Coalition's priorities. The Coalition is approved for the 2008 fiscal year for up to \$1.1 million from CCEP, dependent on securing local matched dollars.

How You Can Help

There are several ways in which you can help us ensure early care and education and lifelong success for every child:

- Donate to the Child Care and Development Fund.
- Donate to the Florida Child Care Executive Partnership.
- Volunteer your time and talents.
- Advocate on behalf of early care and education.
- Support early care and education centers and the academic success of children.

*Source: http://floridaliteracy.org/about_literacy_facts_and_statistics_data.html

Contact Us

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