

# Case For Support

## About the Child Care and Development Fund

The CCDF federal grant supports low-income families 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 by using security measures. For example, child care providers must meet health and safety requirements.

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

## 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



## Our Purpose

The Coalition is dedicated to ensuring all children and families receive equal access to high-quality early care and education. Education is a crucial component to achieving success as demonstrated below:

- Unavailable or unstable child care leads to employee absences costing U.S. businesses \$3 billion annually
- For every dollar invested in early learning programs up to \$16 is returned
- For every child who participates in a high-quality preschool program, more than \$70,000 is saved by reducing future youth violence and crime
- The early years are the learning years. The most important growth and development in the brain happens by the age of five. Talking with preschoolers every day could mean the difference between their knowing 3,000 or 15,000 words by the time they enter kindergarten
- Participation in child development programs increases graduation rates and access to higher learning
- Early learning programs increase children's cognitive and socio-emotional development, increasing their chances of leading healthy, productive lives

## Our Focus

**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. We are committed to ensuring school readiness and lifelong success for each one.

**Community** – We believe the community plays an essential role in our children's success. By joining forces we promote education and support children as they become productive members of society.

**Partnership** – We value collaborative partnerships. Our fellow service providers, families, corporations, elected officials, and the community at large work closely with us to promote the importance of early learning and secure educational opportunities for all children.

**Advocacy** – We are a champion for children. Our staff and community partners are dedicated to advancing early care and education throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

**Excellence** – When it comes to early learning, quality matters. We are committed to excellence, providing high-quality programs and services that make a difference in our community.

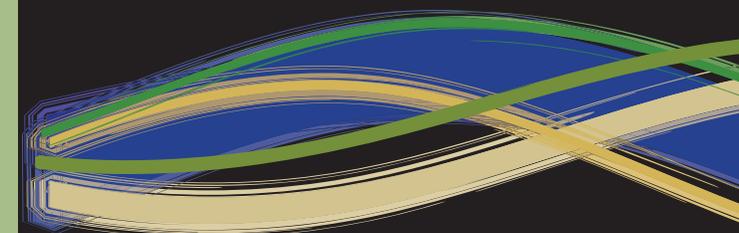
## Our Impact

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

- The Coalition provided Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) certification to 885 providers serving just over 18,000 children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties
- In fiscal years 2006–08, the Coalition served 123,218 children.
- The Coalition completed 18,511 screenings of young children in fiscal years 2006 – 08.
- The Coalition held highly successful materials and curricula fairs in fiscal years 2006 – 08, providing thousands of books, curricula and materials to early care and education settings.
- In fiscal years 2006 – 08, the Coalition referred 10,817 families in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties to Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) which provides parents with equal access to affordable child care and early education programs.



*Early education.  
Lifelong success.*



# About Us Our Service Areas



[www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org)

#### **Miami-Dade:**

2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 5th Floor.  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

#### **Monroe:**

1100 Simonton Street. Suite 1-204.  
Key West, Florida 33040



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 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 thirty-one similar organizations in Florida established following the enactment of the School Readiness Act, which consolidated the state's early learning services into one integrated program.

#### **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)**

VPK offers all 4-year-old children a jump start on reading, math, language, and social skills. Qualified VPK teachers utilize developmentally appropriate curricula to educate children, preparing them for kindergarten and inspiring them to learn. This FREE program is offered during the school year as well as summer.

#### **School Readiness**

School Readiness programs provide early education opportunities to children ages birth to 5 years old, particularly children whose parents are economically disadvantaged; children who have been determined to be at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation; and children with disabilities. Programs are extended to children ages 6 - 12, as needed.

#### **Quality Counts**

Quality Counts is a voluntary rating system that reviews early learning programs according to clearly defined, high-quality standards using a five-star method of evaluation and offers supports and incentives to help providers reach their goals.

#### **Inclusion Services**

Inclusion services provide assessment-based individual intervention plans. These services are designed to maximize the progress of children who may have early learning difficulties. Children with special needs or those at-risk for developmental delays have the opportunity to learn academic and social skills in the context of a classroom with their typically developing peers. This service area is guided by the Inclusion Task Force, a collaboration of parents, providers and community agency experts committed to excellence throughout Miami-Dade County.

#### **Child Developmental Screenings and Assessments**

The Coalition, through its community partners, completes child development screenings and assessments for children ages 2 months to 5 years old. Referrals to appropriate services are made when developmental concerns are identified. This service area is guided by the Assessment Task Force, a collaboration of parents, providers and community agency experts committed to excellence throughout Miami-Dade County.

#### **Technical Assistance and Mentoring**

The Coalition offers support services to early care and education providers, including one-on-one mentoring and professional development trainings, ensuring child care staff are equipped to prepare children for success in kindergarten and beyond.

The Coalition also provides technical assistance such as accreditation and curriculum enhancement to enrich the quality of care and education provided to children in early education programs.

#### **Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP)**

The CCEP program creates an opportunity for employers and employees to succeed as partners. Financial assistance is offered to low-income families through employer-supported child care.

*Early education. Lifelong success.*

