



Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe 2012-2013 Annual Report

Mission Statement:

To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children’s chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

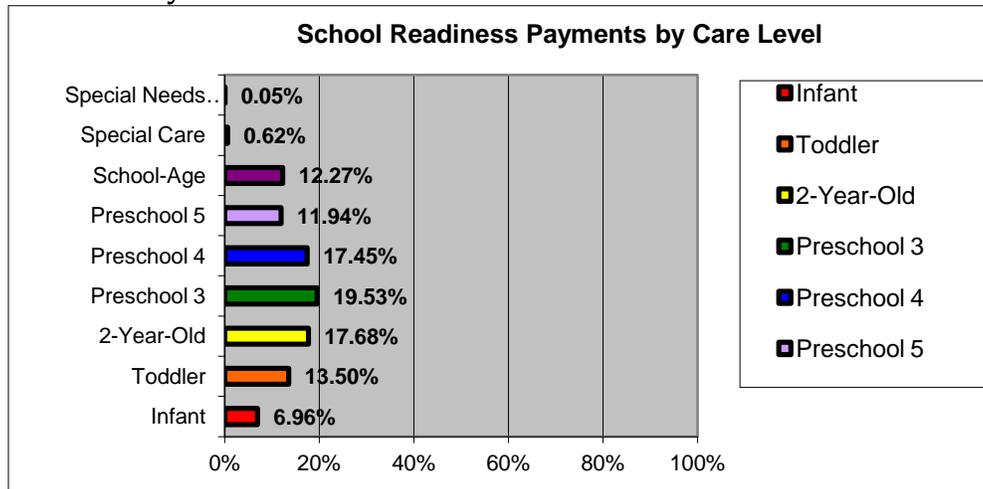
Data Summary: The following information is based on data collected from July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013.

Number of unduplicated School Readiness (SR) children and families:

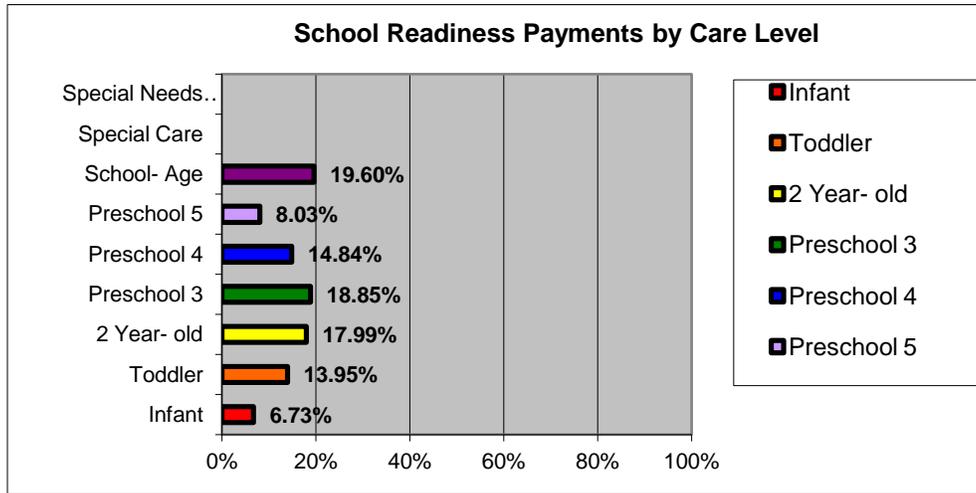
	SR Children	SR Families
Miami-Dade	34,569	22,873
Monroe	1,020	689
Total	35,589	23,562

School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by care level:

Miami-Dade County

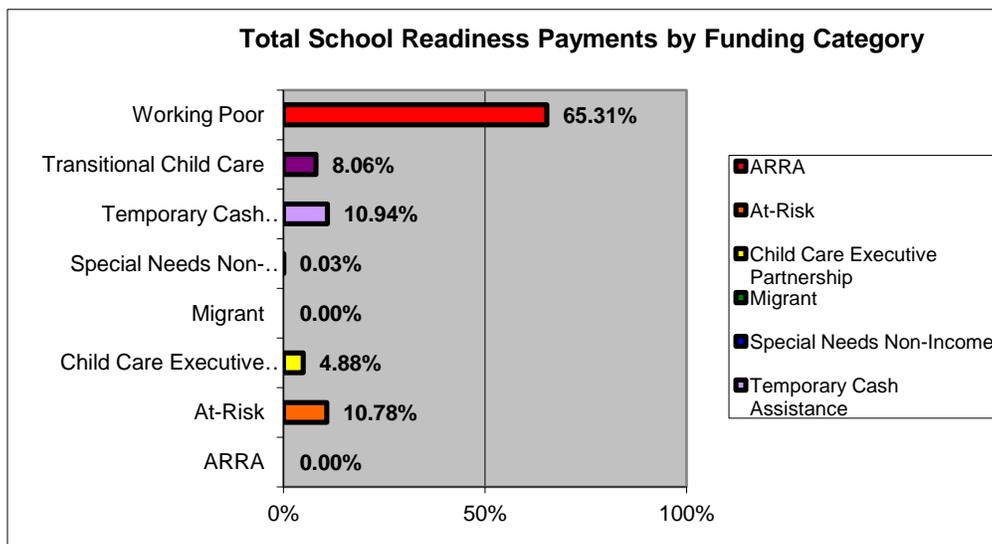


Monroe County

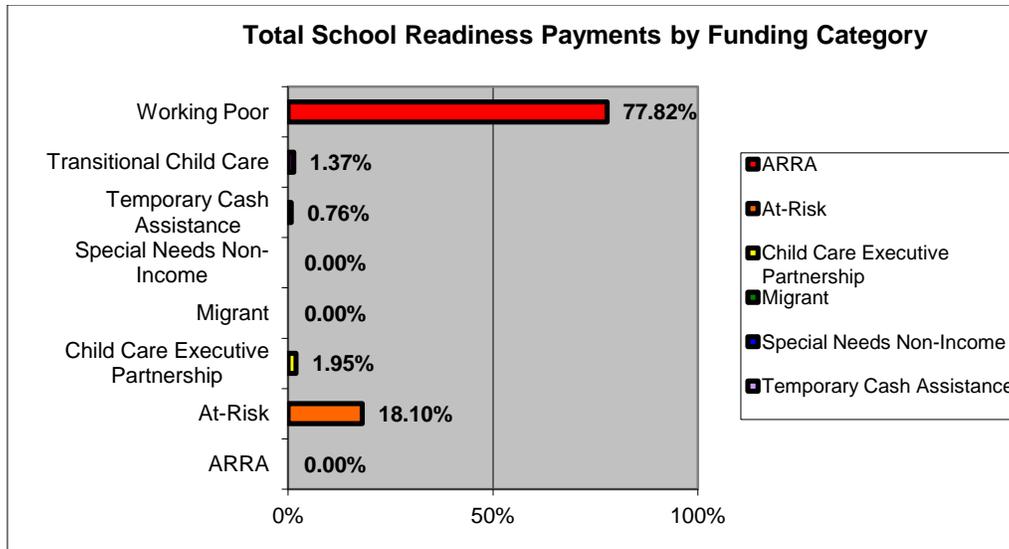


School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by funding category:

Miami-Dade County



Monroe County

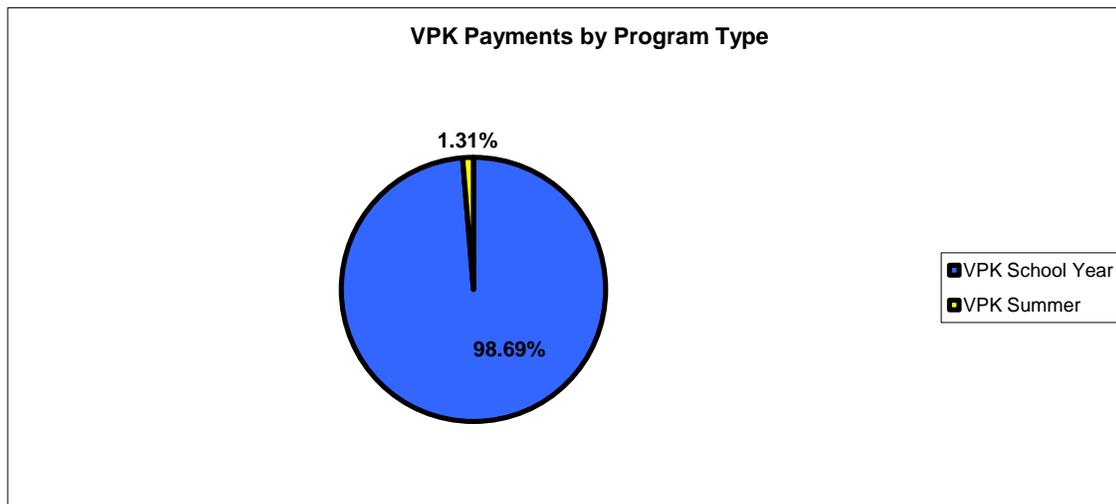


Number of unduplicated Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education children and families:

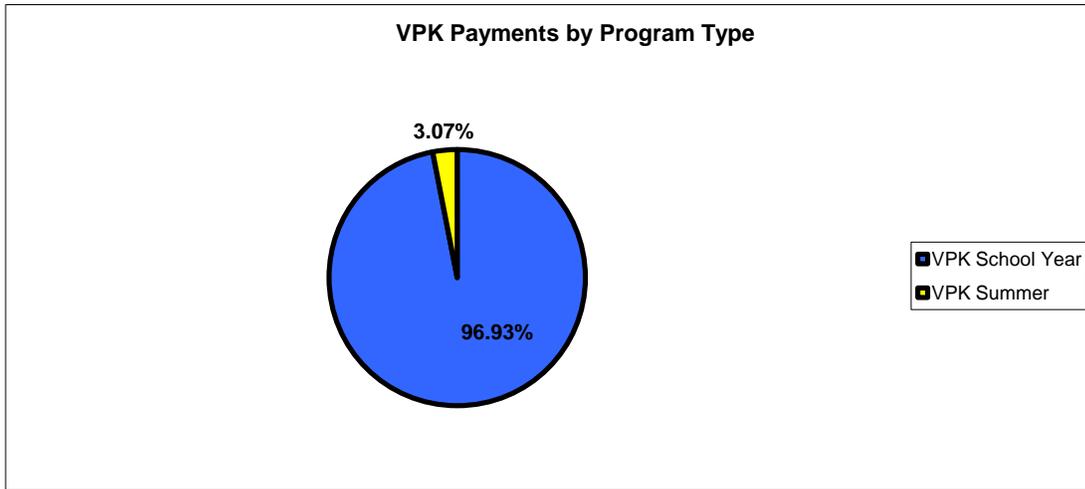
	VPK Children	VPK Families
Miami-Dade	25,108	24,696
Monroe	496	485
Total	25,604	25,181

Total percentage of VPK payments by program type:

Miami-Dade County



Monroe County



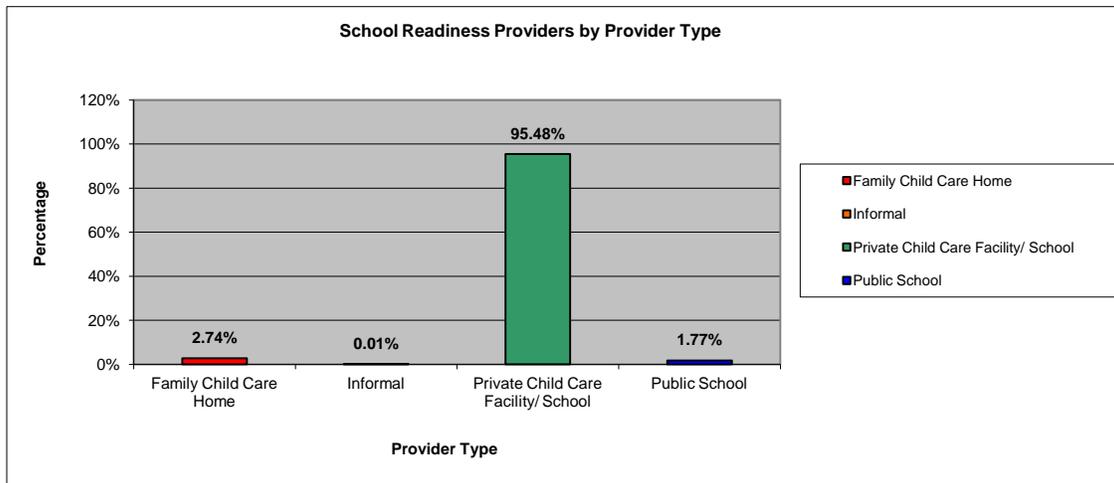
Total number of providers that participate in the Coalition’s early learning programs:

	School Readiness Providers	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Providers
Miami-Dade	1,439	1,036
Monroe	60	25
Total	1,499	1,061

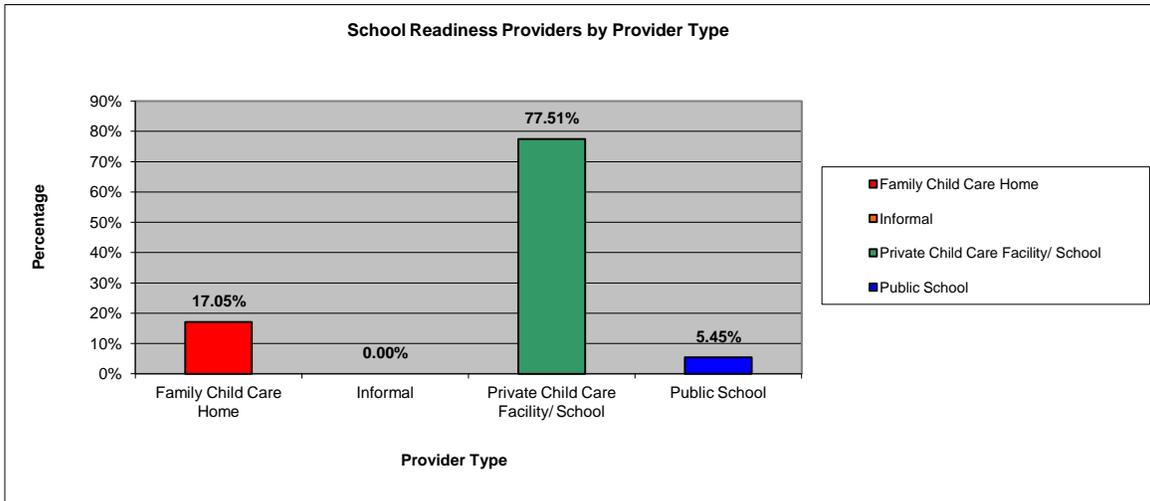
Participating School Readiness providers by provider type:

Note: These numbers reflect those acquired from Report CC075.

Miami-Dade County

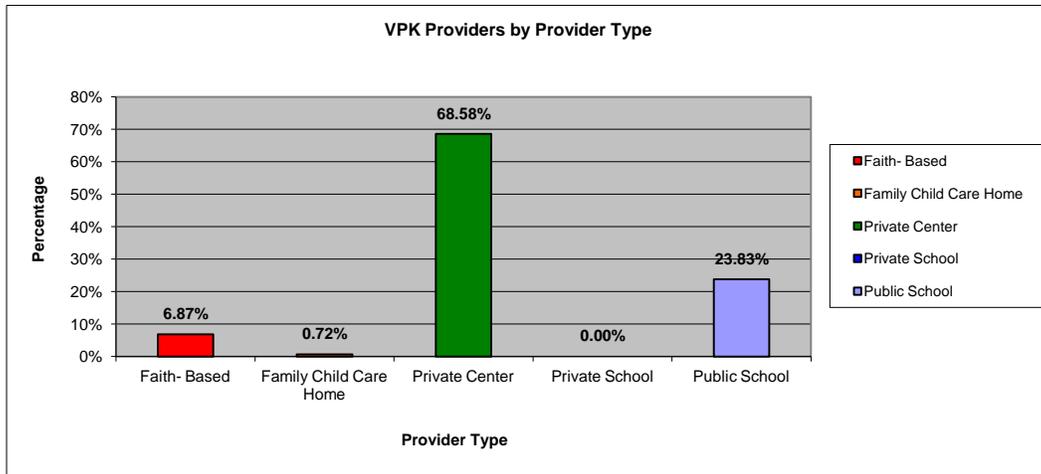


Monroe County

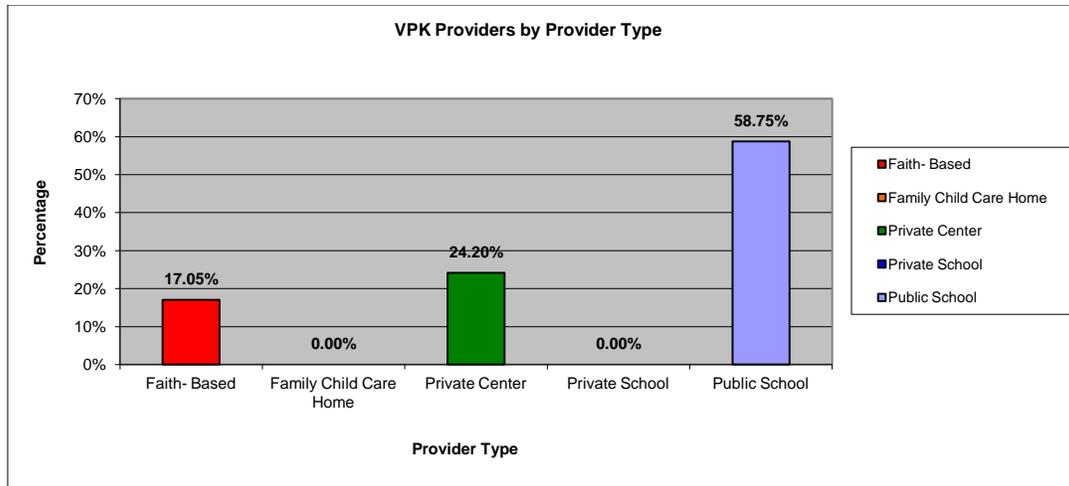


Participating VPK providers by provider type:

Miami-Dade County



Monroe County



Service Delivery Summary:

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe (ELCMDM) serves Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. During the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year, the Coalition served 35,589 children in Miami-Dade and Monroe in the School Readiness program and 25,604 children in VPK in Miami-Dade and Monroe. In addition to the children served, the Coalition contracted with 1,499 School Readiness providers and 1,061 VPK providers in both counties. The services provided to families and children support their efforts toward gaining economic self-sufficiency and provide a platform to prepare children to succeed.

The number of VPK providers in Miami-Dade continues to grow, with a 2.57 percent increase of providers (from 1,010 to 1,036) in 2012-2013 and a 4.59 percent increase in the number of children (from 24,007 to 25,108) served in VPK. In Monroe County, the number of children participating in the 2012-2013 School Year VPK program increased 5 percent to 496 children from the last fiscal year.

The Coalition expended \$89,191,707 in childcare and school-age services, including \$8,479,482 in Gold Seal payments to accredited providers and other provider-focused quality initiatives.

The importance of early literacy was a key theme in the Coalition's outreach programs to children and families. A wide-variety of community events and activities were planned to provide books and materials that encourage reading and to build on the concept of the parent as the child's first teacher.

The Curriculum Learning Communities (CLC) Project helps early learning programs implement developmentally appropriate curricula. During the 2012-2013 year, 55 family child care homes and early care and education centers completed the program using Creative Curriculum or HighScope Curriculum.

In December 2012, the Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe approved a plan to transition services in-house by July 1, 2013, in order to achieve significant efficiencies. The plan would revamp the Coalition’s service delivery model, streamline the processes, eliminate duplication, reduce administrative expenses, create child and family friendly service sites, extend the service hours of eligibility offices to make it more convenient for families, and improve the eligibility scheduling process. More importantly, it would create additional child care slots, resulting in increases in child care provider revenue.

The plan is also in keeping with guidance from Florida's Office of Early Learning and Florida law:

"Any necessary reductions will be made to administrative expenditures before services provided to Florida's children are impacted" -- FOEL Guidance

"It is the intent of the legislature that the administrative staff for the school readiness programs be kept to the minimum necessary to administer the duties of the Office of Early Learning and Early Learning Coalitions" --- Section 411.01(2)(d), Florida Statutes

Under this plan, the Early Learning Coalition will adopt the service model followed by 21 of 31 Coalitions in the state by providing eligibility, provider payment and child care resource and referral services directly. Services will be provided in strategically placed offices throughout the county to make sure that families have access where they work and live. In addition, the Coalition will assist providers directly with child developmental screenings and assessments (ASQ). The Coalition will continue to work in partnership with a number of community agencies that provide other services, including training and support for the Quality Counts program.

Quality Activity Summary:

Activity	Narrative
What opportunities are offered by the Coalition for	<u>Miami-Dade:</u> Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) offers

<p>comprehensive consumer education?</p>	<p>comprehensive consumer education to families in Miami-Dade County, including childcare resources, VPK services, Head Start, school-age options and community resources and services. During 2012-13, CCR&R provided services to more than 57,000 families in Miami-Dade County.</p> <p>Miami-Dade's quality rating improvement system, Quality Counts, provides information for parents regarding the names of programs participating in the initiative along with their corresponding quality rating level. Parents and caregivers in the community are also provided with a summary of what focus areas contribute to determining the quality rating level. This allows for parents and caregivers to make informed decisions about the best care and education for their child.</p> <p>Because accreditation is another indicator of quality, QC uses its website to link families to accredited programs in Miami-Dade by simply selecting a zip code of choice. Additionally, the Coalition encourages families to visit its website and learn more about how to choose quality child care by using <i>A Quality Checklist For Evaluating Early Learning Programs</i>.</p> <p>Quality Counts sponsors numerous director-level seminars on such topics as building and maintaining enrollment, positive behavior support and managing change within the program.</p> <p>Monroe: In Monroe county, one of the Coalition's contracted providers, Wesley House Family Services (WHFS) offers a direct resource to families who reside in the Florida Keys. WHFS offers a host of consumer-based resources to families that include child care and family support services, VPK, the Inez Martin Child Development Center and more.</p>
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	<p><u>Publications</u></p> <p>Parent Link The ELCMDM publishes an e-newsletter that focuses on parenting, such as a column written by the Coalition’s Director of Research and Evaluation, community event listings including free workshops, and other helpful articles.</p> <p>News Alert The ELCMDM publishes a monthly e-newsletter targeted to early care and education providers. This includes information about available resources, trainings, scholarships and other opportunities for the provider communities in both counties.</p> <p>Community Publications The ELCMDM contributed to community publications in order to increase parent outreach and education. Articles were published in Sprinkles Magazine, Macaroni Kid and others. Topics included transition to kindergarten; choosing developmentally appropriate toys for children; how to incorporate science and math into household activities like cooking; and how to choose a quality program for children.</p>
<p>Provide a list of grants or loans to providers to assist in meeting State and local standards.</p>	<p>The Coalition, through Quality Counts, funds grants for materials to providers to assist them in meeting both Quality Counts standards and licensing standards, including those related to health and safety.</p>
<p>Describe the process for monitoring compliance with licensing and regulatory requirements.</p>	<p><u>Miami-Dade:</u> The ELCMDM Quality Assurance Unit conducts periodic monitoring of all its service contracts to review the extent to which contractors are meeting all agreed upon benchmarks and deliverables as established by contract and funding procedures.</p> <p>This process encompasses administrative and programmatic standards to which ELC’s contractors must</p>

adhere to according to the ELC's standard contract, its attachments, Florida Statutes (F.S. 411 and F.S. 1002), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C), OMB Circular A-133, federal regulations and ELC-approved policy. All core ELC [sub-recipient], early learning and education quality initiatives, and various professional consultant services are subject to quarterly and/or annual monitoring unless otherwise specified or deemed necessary.

The Quality Assurance Unit prepares and updates a monitoring schedule each year to ensure every contract is properly monitored. The Quality Assurance Unit shall also review and update the Quality Assurance Annual Plan to reflect OEL requirements as needed.

The monitoring process entails in-house desk and on-site reviews. During the in-house desk review, the QA monitor will look at documentation and reports already in the possession of the ELC's contract file or those obtainable from the respective program director.

Performance-based contract deliverables are utilized as verification of services rendered. Monitors also review audits or attestation from ELC program staff/directors to obtain information regarding continuing problems or unresolved findings.

During on-site reviews the QA monitor visits contractor sites, interviews key staff and reviews case files and other documentation needed to verify the provision of services that is in the possession of the contractor.

The QA monitor reviews and identifies the quantity of services, documents any shortcomings and investigates

	<p>current document processes. During a visit, the QA monitor holds an entry interview to explain to the contractor the purpose and requirements of the monitoring and provides general preliminary findings once the monitoring is complete.</p> <p>More than 50 percent of VPK providers and a smaller percentage of VPK providers on probation (POP), School Readiness provider curriculums and/or attendance sheets are also monitored by the Quality Assurance Department at the ELC.</p> <p><u>Monroe:</u></p> <p>In Monroe, Early Learning Coalition staff work closely with the DCF licensing representative to ensure providers comply with licensing requirements and provide technical assistance as needed. Regular licensing updates are provided at scheduled provider workshops.</p> <p>In Monroe, 100 percent of VPK private providers and 100 percent of School Readiness unlicensed providers are monitored by the ELC. Monroe ELC staff monitors 100 percent of district VPK providers.</p>
<p>Provide a list of available professional development opportunities that the coalition offers, including training, education, and technical assistance</p>	<p><u>Miami-Dade:</u></p> <p>Trainings provided during FY 2012-2013 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brain Development • Bullying • Building Observational Skills • Nutrition and Obesity • Enhancing Brain Development Through Social Emotional Engagement • Bonding and Learning with Music • <i>Si, Yes I'm Learning</i> in two languages • Developmental Milestones: What's Typical and What's Not? • Social-Emotional Development in the context of

relationships

- Social Emotional teaching strategies
- Pyramid Model Overview
- Pyramid Model series (English and Spanish)
- Outcome Driven Training (ODT)
- Florida Developmental Standards for Four Year Olds; conducted 23 sessions with 454 participants in total
- How to Administer the VPK Assessment: conducted 43 sessions with 1,059 participants in total
- VPK Assessment Instructional Implications: conducted 7 sessions with 108 participants in total
- Integrating the Standards: Phonological Awareness: conducted 1 session with 10 participants
- Best Practice in Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) for Family Child Care Homes
- Developmentally Appropriate Practice for a Diverse Community
- QRIS for Children in Poverty
- Leading for Equity and Change

Many other topics specific to inclusion and early childhood development are available upon request. Providers also had access to trainings through the Quality Counts program.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance to support quality rating and improvement was offered to all providers who participated in Quality Counts.

Monroe:

Klaus-Murphy Foundation Teacher Scholarship Grant:

Five teacher scholarship recipients completed the 10 month/120-hour Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC) training program through Wesley House Family Services.

	<p>Monroe Classroom Mentoring Program: The ELC funds two (2) classroom mentors to provide direct classroom support to teachers, thereby increasing the quality of early care and education. Support may include instructional practices, lesson planning, curriculum training and materials, modeling appropriate adult-child interactions, addressing challenging behaviors, inclusion strategies, etc. Additionally, targeted individual, small and/or large group trainings help meet the needs of provider staff. Accreditation assistance provides guidance to providers through this process.</p>
<p>Describe initiatives by the coalition to improve salaries and other compensation for child care providers.</p>	<p><u>Miami-Dade:</u> The Coalition, in partnership with The Children’s Trust, funds WAGE\$, a program that provides biannual education-based salary supplements to childcare practitioners and is designed to increase stability of teachers and improve child care quality by reducing turnover and encouraging continued education of child care teachers. WAGE\$ is a benefit to teachers working at child care programs participating in Quality Counts. The value of each WAGE\$ salary supplement is determined by the level of education of the teacher beginning with a Child Development Associate (CDA) through a master’s degree.</p> <p><u>Miami-Dade and Monroe:</u> The Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program creates an opportunity for employers and employees to succeed as partners. Its mission is to promote a relationship between early care and education businesses to ensure employers provide safe, high quality and enriching childcare options for their employees. Through federal and state funding, the Coalition will provide 50 percent of the cost for each child’s participation in the childcare program. The employer, a CCEP participant, will match the other 50 percent with matching funds.</p> <p><u>Miami-Dade:</u></p>

	<p>In 2012-2013, 310 providers and 1,263 children participated in the CCEP program.</p> <p><u>Monroe:</u> In 2012-2013, 14 children and 5 providers participated in the CCEP program.</p>
<p>Describe activities to support a Quality Rating System.</p>	<p><u>Miami-Dade:</u></p> <p>The Coalition is responsible for oversight of the county’s Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) known as Quality Counts. The Coalition’s implementation team subcontracts with multiple partners to support the QRIS, including a comprehensive data system, technical assistance, reliable environmental and classroom assessments, training, career advising, wage supplements, materials, financial incentives and access to shared services.</p> <p>There are currently more than 480 diverse programs (centers, family homes, public schools and Head Start/Early Head Start classrooms) voluntarily participating in Quality Counts. Additionally, the Coalition maintains visibility in both state and national arenas relating to research-based best practice in cost modeling and implementation, parent education and community engagement.</p> <p><u>Monroe:</u> The Quality Rating System launched in Monroe County in January 2012 is fully operational mirroring that of Miami-Dade with plans to double the number of participating programs in 2014.</p> <p>Technical Assistants provided trainings based on ERS Guidelines in Hand washing Procedures (11 participants), Diaper Changing Procedures (12 participants) and Safe Sleeping for Infants (2 participants). Trainings were conducted based on low scoring items in ITERS-R, ECERS-R and CLASS assessment reports from Devereux</p>

	Florida.
<p>Provide information on activities in support of early language, literacy, pre-reading, and early math concepts development.</p>	<p><u>Miami-Dade:</u></p> <p>The Coalition in collaboration with the Early Childhood Initiative, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the University of North Carolina and The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation conducted a year-long training and research study for Dual Language Learners (DLL) in 10 community child care centers and 10 Miami-Dade County Public School classrooms to identify and provide strategies to assist language and literacy comprehension for four-year old children where English is a second language. Support implementation included curriculum modifications, intensive paper management such as consents and stipends and weekly conference calls.</p> <p>Coalition/DLL Project Visits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center Visits and TA : 351 • Community of Practice Meetings: 6 <p>Read to Learn: The Coalition is one of several early learning partners in this communitywide initiative to ensure all children read at or above grade level by the third grade. Led by The Children’s Trust, in partnership with The Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, the program works in two ways: 1) Provides guidelines for parents/caregivers to help children succeed in school and life; and 2) A monthly book club where parents/caregivers are encouraged to register their children to receive free books before the age of three. The Coalition’s role is to donate books for this initiative, help promote the message to the public, while encouraging parents/caregivers to join the monthly book club.</p> <p>ReadingPals: The ELCMDM joined the United Way of Miami-Dade as a local partner for the ReadingPals Program. This 3-year initiative brings together community volunteers to help young children improve their literacy skills. The program offers trainings for participating teachers and volunteers that utilize the VPK assessment to</p>

	<p>identify intentional interventions for children.</p> <p>Miami Book Fair International: The ELCMDM participated in Miami Dade College’s Miami Book Fair International. A reading and learning program was established as one of six pop-up venues for children to visit in Children’s Alley. Here children had the opportunity to read books, participate in activities tied to the stories, and take home a free book for their home library.</p> <p>Monroe:</p> <p>DOE Developmental Standards for Four-Year Olds: One training session on the standards was provided Keys-wide to private and district VPK instructional staff.</p> <p>To support early language and literacy, WHFS Inclusion Specialists serves on a Dual Language Learners Workgroup organized by the regional Technical Assistance and Training System (TATS). This group created a video resource available for supporting language development for bilingual learners. A classroom checklist for dual language learners was distributed by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and shared with providers in Monroe County. In addition to individual resources supporting development by way of improvement plans initiated as a result of ASQ-3 scores, numerous shapes and sorting puzzles were distributed from the WHFS resource library to providers to support early math concepts and development.</p> <p>Technical Assistants engaged providers in various national literacy promotions to support the importance of reading, including Read Across America and the celebration of Dr. Seuss’ birthday.</p>
<p>What activities has the coalition implemented to promote inclusive child care?</p>	<p>Miami-Dade:</p> <p>The Coalition has contracted inclusion services through Miami-Dade County for children whose Ages and Stages</p>

Questionnaire-3 results indicate a concern in one or more areas of development. Services include child observation, a teacher interview to confirm the concern, individual intervention plans, rescreening to determine progress, intensive intervention plans created with families, family support and at-home strategies and assistance with community referrals.

Also, the Coalition funds **Strategies To Enhance Programs (STEPS)**. Two Inclusion Specialists provide inclusion services to Quality Counts providers. These services include review of child observations, provision of home-school and classroom strategies, referrals and providing guidance and information on community resources and available educational programs.

STEPS Visits

- Developmental Screenings: 24
- Child Observations: 12
- Center Visits: 66
- Parent Meetings: 15
- Referrals & Community Resources: 13
- Technical Assistance Activities: 134

Coalition staff serve as co-chair for the Young Children with Special Needs and Disabilities, a community council serving families with children with disabilities with resources and advocacy.

The ELC provided oversight for the **Warm-Line** statewide initiative providing support to all children in early care and education programs

Other activities that ELC staff participated in to promote inclusive child care and provide professional development to the field of early childhood education:

- Participated in the Association of Early Learning Coalitions and Partnering for Success conferences

- Pilot support for the Special Instruction Program (SIS) with both DOE and OEL. Successfully enrolled 4 children in the program.
- Participate in the Dade County Infant Mental Health Committee, meets quarterly
- Works in collaboration with 'Help Me Grow' initiative
- Participated in the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Committee sponsored by Healthy Start
- Mentor for the University of Miami Emerging Transformational Leadership program focusing on systems of change in the disabilities arena
- NAEYC National Conference: 2 presentations
- One Goal Summer Conference: 3 presentations
- Teenage Parent Expo Conference: 1 presentation
- National Black Child Development Institute National Conference: 1 presentation
- Read and Rise Implementation. A program to promote parent literacy engagement, 30 communitywide trainings
- 2 staff became certified Observers and Train the Trainers for Pre-K CLASS
- CLASS Observer for Making the Most of Classroom Interactions Train the Trainer (MMCI)
- Provided VPK Standards trainings communitywide
- Participation in the Technical Assistance and Training System (TATS) quarterly regional meetings.
- Presented at several other ELC conferences in Florida

Monroe:

Ages and Stages Questionnaire Training (ASQ-3)

Training: The ELC Early Learning Specialist for Inclusion and Assessment provided on-going training for ASQ-3 and Creative Curriculum administration.

Inclusion trainings by the Specialist included:

- Social Emotional Development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory issues • Challenging Behaviors • Self-regulation • Various developmental topics related to early childhood skill development • Professional Development for classroom teachers and individual improvement plans • ASQ-3 strategies and interventions • Community agency screening and assessment support and intervention support availability <p>Participation in the Technical Assistance and Training System (TATS) quarterly regional meetings.</p> <p>Participation in the Dual Language Learners workgroup; developed the bilingual support group at WHFS to support bilingual education to support Spanish speaking clientele.</p> <p>The ELC Managing Director for Monroe County, WHFS Inclusion Specialist, Monroe County School District Head Start, Child Find and ESE representatives and Early Steps representatives participated in the Monroe County Interagency Transition Taskforce and regional TATS (Technical Assistance and Training System) quarterly meetings.</p> <p>The ELC provided oversight for the Warm-Line statewide initiative providing support to all children in early care and education programs.</p>
<p>How does the coalition conform to Healthy Child Care America and other health activities including those designed to promote the social and emotional development of children?</p>	<p><u>Miami-Dade:</u></p> <p>Efforts provided by STEP's staff and the program director include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ad hoc social-emotional workgroup on behalf of Young Children with Special Needs and Disabilities. This workgroup including 2 STEPS specialists, conducted countywide training sessions to promote the Center on Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) Pyramid

Model in both English and Spanish.

- STEP's Specialists have been working on translating the CSEFEL Pyramid Model Modules into the Outcome Driven Training (ODT) format; providing community training on the ODT program modules.
- The STEP's Program supports the Quality Counts initiative with project that aligns the social and emotional competence by way of the CLASS assessment and Positive Behavior Support.
- STEP's has developed the CLASS Crossover document to support classroom improvement and teacher Professional Development.
- STEP's Specialists participated in the annual Head Start Pre-Conference through three sessions: the Pyramid Model (attended by approximately 100 participants); Building Observational Skills; and Challenging Behaviors.

Monroe:

Wesley House Family Services, in partnership with the ELC, provided trainings that focused on social/emotional development of young children. WHFS Inclusion and Assessment Specialist supported providers and parents throughout the Keys with social/emotional resources from the Center for Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (CSEFEL). They also provided a library of social emotional books and planning activities for teachers to borrow. Both the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (3rd Edition), ASQ-3's and the Creative Curriculum Assessment Tools have social and emotional components as well.

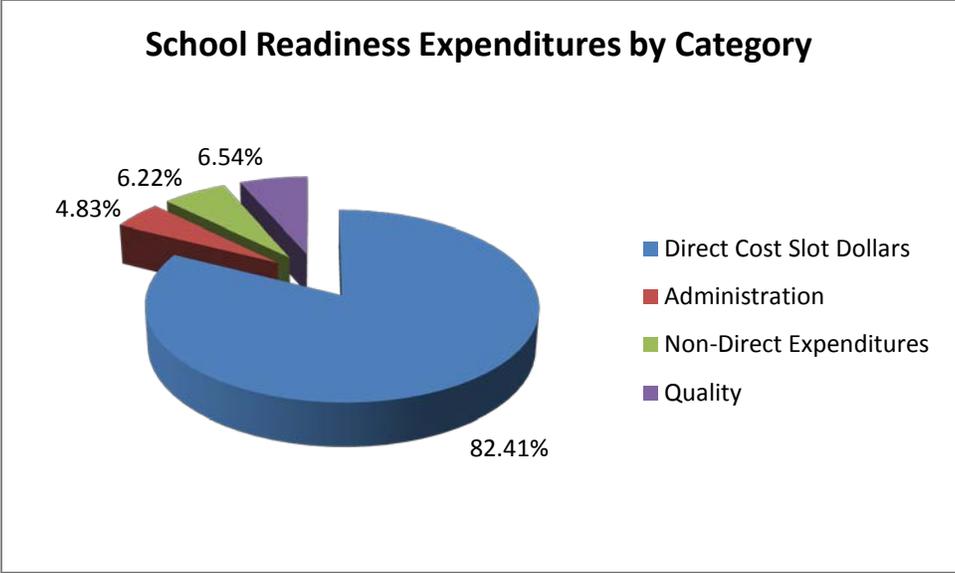
Childhood Obesity Prevention Project:

Florida Keys Area Health Education Center (AHEC) received funding from a Blue Foundation grant to provide obesity prevention programming to preschool children through a comprehensive nutrition, physical activity and interactive health education program.

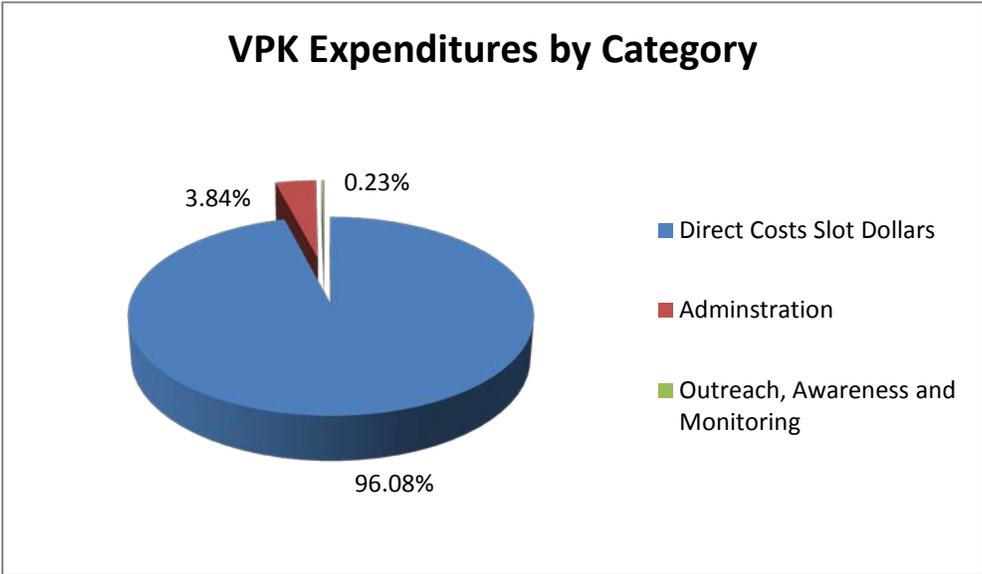
	<p>School Readiness Child Health Screening Project: In a partnership with Florida Keys AHEC, a comprehensive child health screening and follow-up medical care project provided exams to 416 School Readiness children, ages birth to 5, at 20 centers and 23 family child care homes. Funding for this project included a \$35,000 grant from the Monroe County Human Services Advisory Board and a \$7,500 contribution from the ELC.</p>
<p>Please describe other quality activities that increase parental choice, and improve the quality and availability of child care. (§98.51(a)(1) and (2))</p>	<p><u>Miami-Dade:</u> The Coalition provides information to parents on selecting quality childcare, including a provider checklist. One of the Coalition’s monthly newsletters, <i>Parent Link</i>, publishes articles regarding the importance of selecting quality childcare, the components that make up high quality settings, and a listing of free community events and workshops designed for parents.</p> <p><u>Monroe:</u> Wesley House Family Services and the DCF licensing representative worked closely with registered family homes to determine feasibility to become licensed and to assist with this process. As of June 2013, there were 11 licensed family homes.</p>

Fiscal Summary

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the coalition’s total **School Readiness Program** operating budget was **\$108,223,456.00**. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the coalition’s total **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program** operating budget was \$59,167,337. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



Program Year Summary:

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is dedicated to ensuring quality early education and lifelong success for children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. While our Coalition is one of 31 similar organizations in Florida, we are the state’s largest—serving more than 50,000 children—as well as the most demographically and

geographically diverse. Through a community-based, collaborative approach, we are committed to promoting early learning, advocating on behalf of children and preparing every child for success in both school and life. Our continued leveraging of local partnerships to deliver services has been successful. Additionally, the low administrative costs and substantial investments from our community partners have placed us at a great advantage in helping us serve the thousands of children and families in both counties.

While we serve a large and growing population of children, families, and providers, our biggest priority is to ensure child care slots are not sacrificed in the process. By making the most of our budget, we can serve more children and those who support them, including families and providers.

Program Area Highlights:

School Readiness Program

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe provides the School Readiness Program for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. The Coalition's Board of Directors is committed to promoting high quality school readiness programs that provide opportunities for children to achieve lifelong educational success and become productive members of society.

In Miami-Dade, the Coalition contracted with Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services to deliver the client eligibility, provider payments, and with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) services. Wesley House Family Services was contracted to provide the same services in Monroe County.

The Coalition and Child Development Services (CDS) both maintained web links to the Single Point of Entry (SPE)/Unified Waiting List (UWL) via their respective websites. Families were able to apply for both School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) services through the SPE. During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Coalition provided services to more than 35,000 children in School Readiness and more than 25,000 children in VPK. This represents an early care and education provider base of more than 1,500 providers in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

The Board of Directors has a strong commitment to early literacy and learning gains and has set a priority on the funding of services to children ages birth to 5 years to support this commitment. The Coalition has participated in numerous community outreach events to promote the importance of early literacy, engage with parents, and

offer one-on-one assistance to child care providers in both counties. Visitors to all Coalition community events are sent home with a book to add to their home library.

Among the events the Coalition has participated in are:

- **Children’s Week:** Children’s Week is a statewide celebration aimed at promoting the health, safety and well-being of children. This event is a great opportunity to bring thousands of parents, children, professionals, advocates, community leaders and concerned citizens together to share valuable knowledge and information about children’s issues across the state. The Coalition hosts its annual event at the Miami Children’s Museum, with free admission for families. Community partners are invited to attend to share resources and information with families.
- **Day of the Young Child:** Miami Dade College Homestead Campus hosted its annual family event with a “Go Green” theme this year. The Coalition sat on the Planning Committee for the event. Families were able to explore many science-based activities and programs and gather information from community partners.
- **The Children’s Trust Family Expo:** One of the biggest events of the year, The Children’s Trust Family Expo draws a crowd of thousands of families to the Fair Expo Center. The Coalition participated in the event and distributed valuable information to parents about programs available to them.
- **Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!:** The Early Learning Coalition, the Just Read, Florida! Office at the Florida Department of Education and the Daytona International Speedway teamed up to bring the Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! Race Car to two of our childcare providers. The purpose of this tour was to motivate students and educators to create excitement about Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! and the challenge to "Take the Lead and Read."
- **Back to School Events:** Several Miami-Dade elected officials hosted back-to-school events where backpacks and school supplies were donated to hundreds of low-income families in high need communities. The Coalition was an invited participant at several of these events held during the summer. Coalition staff attended to provide information about the VPK and School Readiness programs, ELIS, Quality Counts, and issued books to children between birth and 5 years.

Training and Outreach

The Coalition offered 74 DOE training sessions to VPK Providers, including Standards for Four Year Olds; How to Administer the VPK Assessment; VPK Assessment Instructional Implications; and Integrating the Standards: Phonological Awareness.

Approximately 1,631 VPK teachers, teacher assistants and directors attended these sessions offered throughout Miami-Dade County.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

The VPK program provides access to early education to every 4-year-old resident of Florida. The VPK programs in Miami-Dade and Monroe have continued to increase every year in the number of children participating and in the number of providers delivering the program. The Coalition's staff works closely with providers to offer training and technical assistance that will enhance the quality of services provided in the VPK classrooms.

The ELC was awarded a **Voluntary Prekindergarten Assessment Implementation Grant** to provide targeted trainings to VPK Providers on Probation. These training included sessions for Standards for Four Year Olds; How to Administer the VPK Assessment; VPK Assessment Instructional Implications; and Integrating the Standards: Phonological Awareness.

The Grant also allowed the ELC to monitor Year 1, 2 and 3 of Providers on Probation. ELC staff monitored completion of VPK Assessment Periods 1, 2 and 3. Monitors also verified that scores for Assessment Periods 1, 2 and 3 were entered online at Bright Beginnings. Monitors assisted Providers on Probation with entering scores when necessary, and also assisted them in completing their DOE Improvement Plans in response to their readiness rate.

Ambassador Program

The ELC Goodwill Ambassador Program was instated in order give all employees the opportunity to make visits to early care and education programs contracted with the Coalition. Employee visitors deliver books and various informational resources to providers on their visits. These visits help ensure we are continuing to improve the relationships between providers and the organization. More than 700 providers have been visited to date, and more than 6,000 books have been distributed to these programs.

Healthy Eating and Exercise Initiative

As part of a **Healthy Eating and Exercise Initiative** aimed at combating childhood obesity, the ELCMDM partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Nemours. The collaborative will work with early care and education

providers in South Florida to support families who want to want to learn more about the benefits of good nutrition and exercise and how they can get their young children to participate. The overall objective of the program is to assist early care and education (ECE) providers in improving the quality of care they provide to young children with respect to physical activity, screen time, nutrition and breastfeeding support.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)

CCR&R serves as the “front door” for all services provided by the Coalition and its contracted providers. In addition to Coalition funded services, families are able to access all of the services provided by Miami-Dade County, as CCR&R is linked with the County’s 311 service center network, which contains the compendium of all available county resources.

Some of the activities performed by CCR&R staff include:

- Providing resources for families and providers (Voluntary Pre-kindergarten, financial assistance, School Readiness, Inclusion services/Warm Line, Florida Kid Care Insurance, Child Care Executive Partnership, employer initiatives, and other community resources)
- Facilitating provider outreach, training, and recruitment
- Providing community outreach and collaboration
- Ensuring new providers are entered into Enhanced Field System (EFS) database
- Ensuring established provider’s information is maintained and updated in EFS

The CCR&R unit maintains the broad database of information related to all providers in Miami-Dade County. Staff is responsible for entering new providers into EFS and for the annual update of existing provider information.

Providers also contact CCR&R to provide updated information anytime there are major changes in their business operations, and this information is entered into EFS.