

Early Learning Coalition

of Miami-Dade/Monroe



Message from the Board Chair



Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce myself as the new Board Chair for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, as appointed by Governor Rick Scott in July 2013. I know I have big shoes to fill as the replacement for Octavio Verdeja, Jr., former Board Chair, and I am eager and excited to make positive changes in our community. I took this position because of my belief that I can make a difference for my children and for all our children.

The Board of Directors and staff of the Early Learning Coalition work tirelessly to provide the highest quality of educational opportunities to the youngest members of Miami-Dade and Monroe. I am proud to represent this group of people. The information included in this year's report is only a small portion of the accomplishments we have made and continue to make to ensure our children have lifelong success.

I look forward to serving you during my term as Chair.

Sincerely,
Adrian Alfonso
Board Chair

Message from the President



I am pleased to share with you the 2012-2013 annual report for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. This year brought many challenges and many victories for us, not only as an organization but also as a community. We spent 12 months bettering ourselves and working toward a common goal: providing children and families the opportunity for success in school and in life.

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.

In December 2012, we promised to adopt a service model followed by 21 of 30 Coalitions in the state by providing eligibility, provider payments and child care resource and referral services directly. We committed to making it easier for families to receive our services, and continue to work toward that promise.

Thank you for being our partners in this endeavor. We can only provide a positive and promising future for our children if we work together as a team. We know you share our commitment to excellence and providing high quality services that will make a lasting impact on our community.

I look forward to sharing many more highlights with you in the near future.

Sincerely,
Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision; the ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

— Andrew Carnegie

Early Education. Lifelong Success.

Mission Statement

To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary prekindergarten 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.

Our Vision

To ensure a comprehensive and integrated system providing for all families and their children, beginning before birth to 5 years, the affordable opportunity to enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

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

Board of Directors

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Evelio C. Torres, M.P.A.

Service Delivery Summary

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe (Coalition) serves Miami-Dade and Monroe 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.

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 revamped the Coalition's service delivery model, streamlined processes, eliminated duplication, reduced administrative expenses, created child and family friendly service centers, extended the service hours of eligibility offices to make it more convenient for families, and improved the eligibility scheduling process. More importantly, it created additional child care slots, resulting in increases in child care provider revenue and better outcomes for more children.



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

	SR Children	SR Families	VPK Children	VPK Families
Miami-Dade	34,569	22,873	25,108	24,696
Monroe	1,020	689	496	485
Total	35,589	23,562	25,604	25,181

Total number of providers 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

Program Year Highlights

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. 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 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 were sent home with a book to add to their home library.

The **Voluntary Prekindergarten 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 Coalition 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 Coalition to monitor Year 1, 2 and 3 of Providers on Probation. Coalition 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.



Program Year Highlights

Quality Counts, Miami-Dade's quality rating improvement system, 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. 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 maintained visibility in both state and national arenas relating to research-based best practice in cost modeling and implementation, parent education and community engagement.

The **Curriculum Learning Communities (CLC) Program** 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.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) offers 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 2012-2013, CCR&R provided services to more than 57,000 families in Miami-Dade County.



The Coalition contracted with community agencies for **inclusion services** for children whose **Ages and Stages 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. The Coalition also provided oversight for the **Warm-Line** statewide initiative providing support to all children in early care and education programs.

The Coalition offered a variety of **training opportunities**, including 74 Department of Education training sessions to VPK Providers 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.

The **ELC Goodwill Ambassador Program** was established in order give all employees the opportunity to visit early care and education programs contracted with the Coalition. Employee visitors delivered 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, and more than 6,000 books have been distributed to these programs.

Program Year Highlights

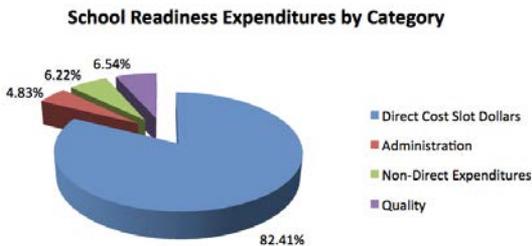
As part of the **National Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives (ECELC)** aimed at combating childhood obesity, the Coalition partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Nemours. The collaborative aligns with First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign and is a **healthy eating and physical activity initiative** which focuses on working with early care and education providers in South Florida to make healthy changes in their policies and practices to support families who want to learn more about the benefits of good nutrition and being active and how they can get their young children to get moving every day. The overall objective of the program is to assist early care and education providers in improving the quality of care they provide to young children with respect to physical activity, screen time, nutrition and breastfeeding support.

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.

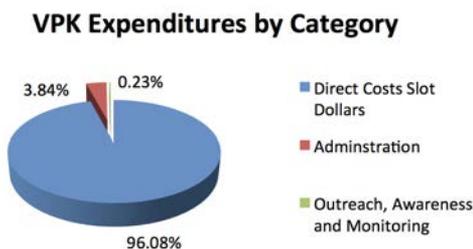
Statewide, approximately three-quarters of children who attended VPK were ready for Kindergarten according to their scores on the Florida Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (FLKRS) in 2012-2013. Locally, 18,248 children (including 2,657 newly enrolled children) using the School Readiness subsidy were given a developmental screening during the 2012-2013 year, which can identify a child who may have special needs and can be referred for additional services.

Fiscal Year 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.



www.elcmdm.org

Miami-Dade Office

2555 Ponce de Leon Boulevard
Suite 500
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-646-7220

Monroe Office

1111 12th Street
Suite 206
Key West, FL 33040
305-296-5557



find us on...

