



Message from the Early Learning Coalition

This notice is about:

- Important Deadline
- Free Resource(s)
- School Readiness, VPK or other Contract Compliance
- Compliance with State Requirement
- Professional Development Opportunity
- Informational

Dear Early Education Community:

The Early Learning Coalition understands the challenge that childcare providers in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties are having with post-Hurricane Irma recovery. Many programs suffered power outages and significant property damage from the wind and rain from the storm.

As programs struggle to reopen and maintain some semblance of normalcy for the children they serve, many are identifying activities and programs to help the children cope with the effects of the storm.

The Early Learning Coalition has assembled a team of mental health care experts to assist providers and families with the social-emotional needs of children in their programs. The team will visit provider locations and provide training to teachers on disaster recovery and effective ways of addressing children's emotional needs related to their traumatic experiences. To request assistance from the team, **please contact the Warm-Line at (786) 433-3095.**

Some providers have inquired if they may be reimbursed for holding parties or cook-outs for the children in their programs. The Early Learning Coalition is not able to reimburse providers for these type of activities. The funding that providers receive is all derived from tax payer dollars and the usage of these dollars is strictly prescribed by the agencies that regulate and grant the funds. For example, the Early Learning Coalition may not provide funds to pay for food; refreshments; beverages, or entertainment or parties. This is not a complete list, but is meant to provide an example of the restriction on the funds that are paid to providers.

We are subjected to a variety of audits every year, the sole purpose of which is to ensure that we are using tax payer dollars wisely and in the manner for which they were allocated. This means we have to make sure every purchase is allowable, reasonable and necessary.

We thank you for your partnership in this recovery period.



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