



**Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting
June 15, 2021
1 pm.**

Zoom Meeting ID: 934 9672 7269

Passcode: 736654

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I. Welcome & Introductions | Heather Carruthers, Chair |
| II. Approval of Agenda | Heather Carruthers |
| III. Approval of April 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes | Heather Carruthers |
| IV. CEO Update | Evelio Torres |
| V. FL Keys Chamber and other Updates | Sandi Bisceglia |
| A. Public Comment | |
| VI. Partner Updates | |
| A. Child Care Provider Update | Sue Ellen Bennett, Monroe
Advisory Committee Provider
Representative |
| • Public Comment | |
| B. District Head Start/VPK Update | Marla Russell, Early
Childhood Supervisor |
| • Public Comment | |
| C. DCF Updates | Jeff Hurst, DCF |
| • Public Comment | |
| D. Program Updates | Laurie Dunn |
| • Public Comment | |

Mission: 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 needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

VII. Attention Media

Carlos Garcia

A. Public Comment

VIII. Public Comments

Heather Carruthers

IX. Adjourn

Heather Carruthers

Mission: 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 needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.



Monroe Advisory Committee
Meeting
April 13, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting ID: 946 9941 5278; Passcode: 551443

Committee Attendees: Heather Carruthers, Sue Ellen Bennet, Aleida Jacobo, Sandi Bisceglia, Gilda Ferradaz, Lisa Taylor, Bob Eadie

Committee Absentees: Marla Russell

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres, Angelo Parrino, Sandra Gonzalez, Laurie Dunn, Laura Toman, Pamela Hollingsworth, Fiorella Altare Christie, Michele Morgan, Dessiree Aguilera, Adelina Gross, Ana Sejeck, Jackye Russell, Lisa Sanabria, Anabel Espinosa, Lissandra Curbelo

General Attendees: Jonathan Gueverra, Amanda Pinkley, Christine Patterson, Jeff Hurst, Sean Martinez, Chuck Mohr, Jennifer Walker

I. We Welcome and Introductions

Heather Carruthers

- a. H. Carruthers called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- b. Quorum was established with seven (7) voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Heather Carruthers

- o Motion to approve minutes by G. Ferradaz.
- o Motion seconded by S. Bisceglia.
- o Motion unanimously passed.

III. FL. Keys Chamber Connection Updates

Sandi Bisceglia

- a. S. Bisceglia stated that she continues to work with the Monroe County Chambers and they beginning to have in-person meetings, which she will be attending. S. Bisceglia welcomed Stephanie Scuderi to the board.

IV. ELC Updates

Evelio Torres

- E. Torres gave the following update on legislation:

- On April 9, 2021, Commissioner Richard Corcoran signed Executive Order 2021-EO-02 which authorizes the 2021 Summer VPK programs to constitute a minimum of 200 hours (instead of 300 hours) with funding prorated.
- For VPK School Year providers, from January – June 2021, you will be reimbursed for temporary closures due to COVID-19 that are more than the allowable 5-days per program year/session. This payment will be processed after all closures for a quarter have been verified.
- For VPK Summer providers, from May – June 2021, you will be reimbursed for temporary closures due to COVID-19 that are more than the allowable 5-days per program year/session. This payment will be generated after your summer classes have ended and all closures for the summer classes have been verified.
- For SR providers, from May - June 2021, you will be reimbursed for the required parent copayments for all reimbursable days. Do not collect copayment from families for this time period.
- F. Christie gave an update on Florida’s Plan for the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) Funds.
- S. Gonzalez presented an overview of the School Readiness Eligibility process.
- F. Christie stated that the School Readiness Program Assessments (SRPA) would begin.
- L. Dunn gave an update on Monroe County enrollment:
 - 283 children receiving School Readiness funding
 - 364 children with a VPK voucher enrolled
- A. Espinosa gave the following updates on Developmental Screening, Inclusion & Assessments:
 - Management of Developmental Screenings (ASQ-3) has moved to the Single Statewide System (EFS MOD). Effective March 31, 2021.
 - Proposed Implementation of the Special Needs Rate for eligible providers and eligible children. Providers who want more information about the Special Needs Rate or the BPIECE Support Service Program can contact the Warm-Line
- P. Hollingsworth gave an update on PDI:
 - March Sessions: 53; Number of Attendees Monroe: 14
 - YTD Sessions: 588 Number of Attendees: Monroe: 133
 - Child Development Associate Graduation
 - April 23/24, 2021 -Monroe County Early Childhood Conference “It Takes a Virtual Village”
 - Equity Institute Launch
 - Children First Equity and Inclusion Training Series
- J. Russell gave an update on Communications.

V. Monroe County COVID 19 Update:

Bob Eadie

- B. Eadie stated that they are seeing an estimate of 10 new positive cases daily but with fewer hospitalizations.

VI. Monroe County Needs Assessment

Angelo Parrino

- A. Parrino stated that negotiations with NOLO were completed. We will have updates when assessment are finalized.

VII. Partner Updates

- S. Ellen Bennet gave an update on providers in Monroe County. She stated that providers continue to struggle with teacher retention.
- MJ. Walker stated that VPK is still reflecting low enrollment.
- J. Hurst stated that all ratio restrictions were lifted in Monroe County.

VIII. Public Comments

Heather Carruthers

IX. Adjourn

Heather Carruthers

Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

- **Neediest Children**
- **Youngest Children**
- **Providers**

Monroe Updates

Laurie Dunn, Monroe County Supervisor

ldunn@elcmdm.org

Monroe Key Points

School Readiness Monroe Numbers

- 288 children receiving School Readiness funding

Voluntary Prekindergarten Monroe Numbers

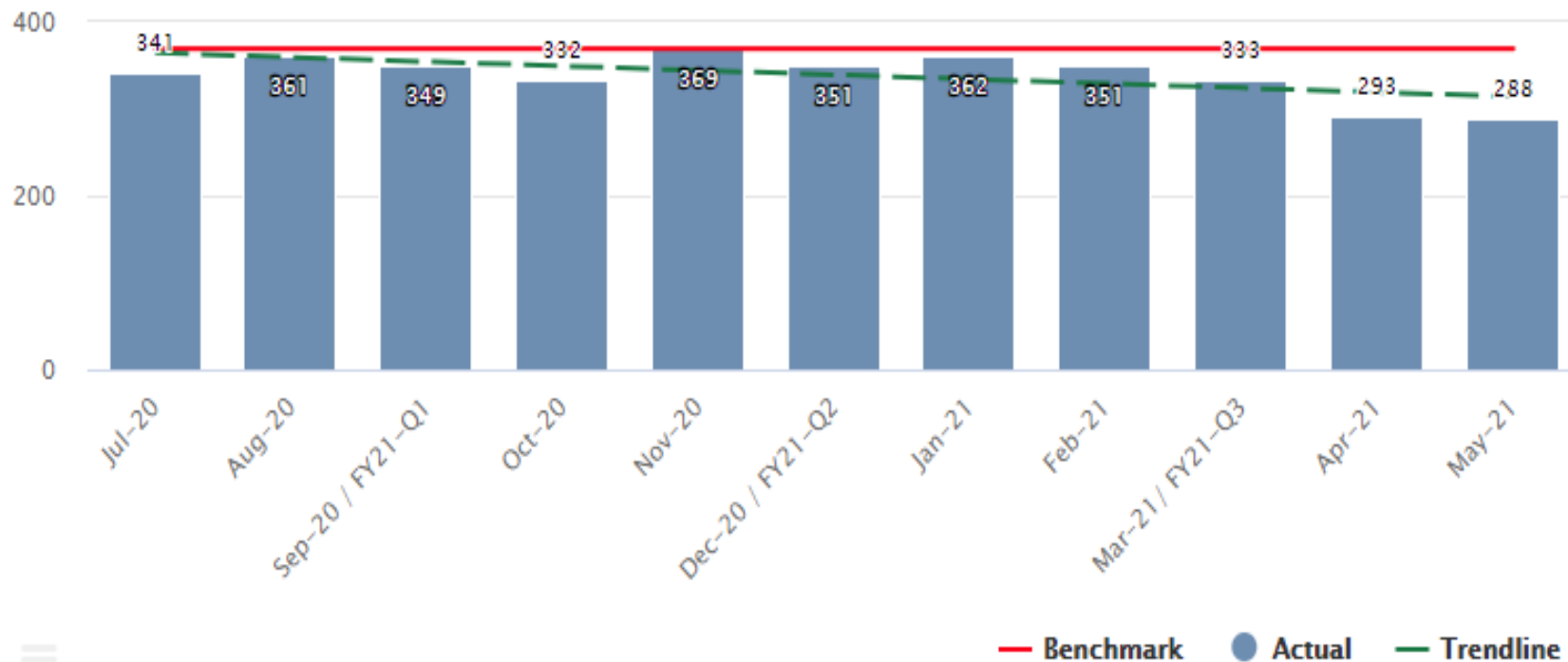
- 361 children enrolled

At Risk Referrals

26 children with an At Risk referral

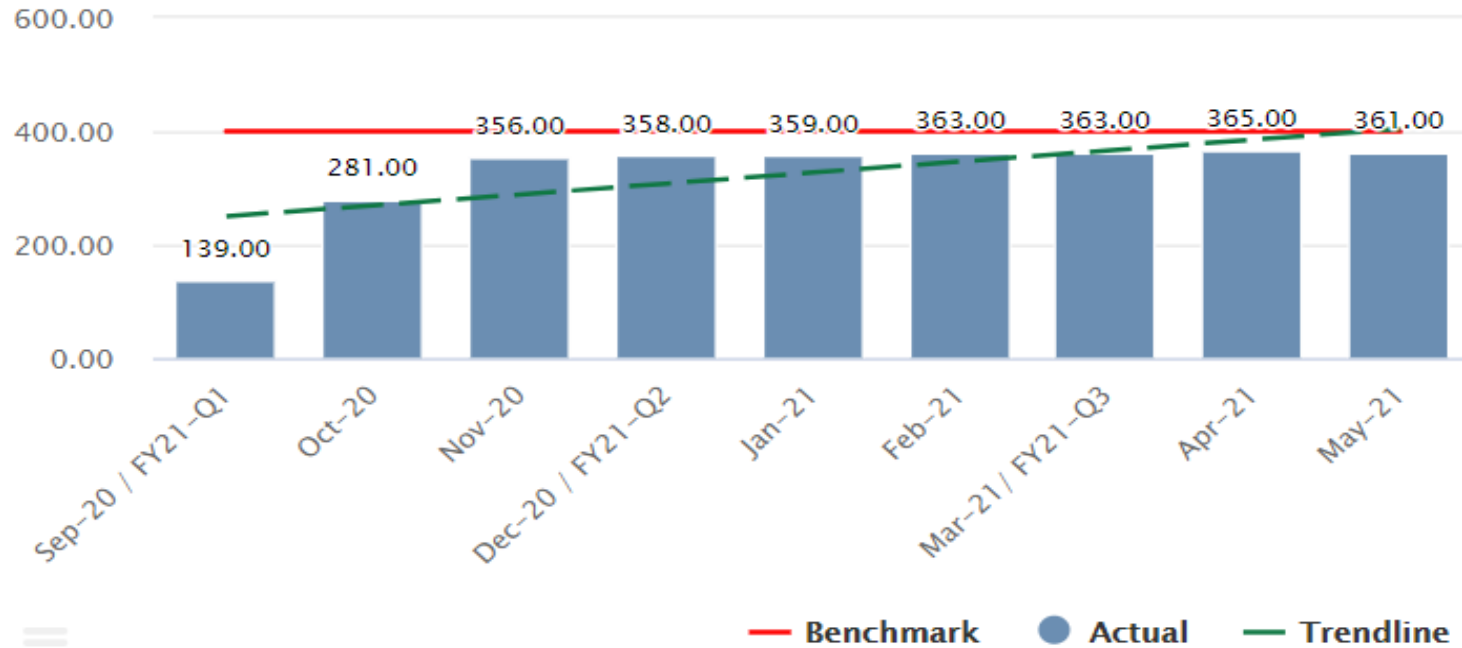
School Readiness Enrollments

SR Enrollments (Monthly)

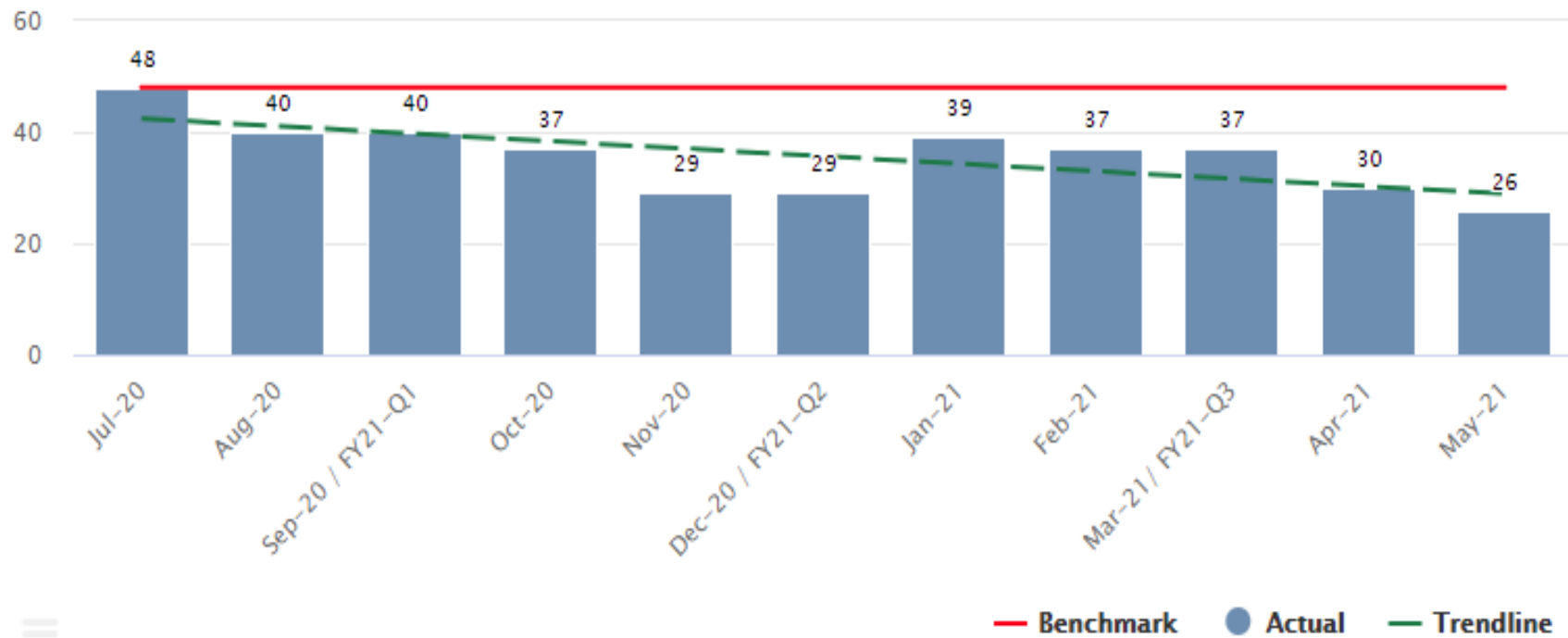


Voluntary Prekindergarten Enrollments

VPK Enrollments (Monthly)



At Risk Referrals (Monthly)



Developmental Screening, Inclusion & Assessment

Lead Manager, Laurie Dunn, *Director*

Lead Specialist, Dessiree Aguilera, *Inclusion and Screening Lead*

Lead Specialist, Amber Keller, *BPIECE Lead*

Key Points

Child Assessment Differential for FY 2020-2021 is complete. One (1) Monroe provider participated.

• **BPIECE (Best Practices for Inclusion Early Childhood Education) Support Services** have begun in Monroe county. Three (3) Monroe providers are currently working toward completion of the BPIECE Support Services.

• **Developmental Screenings** have transitioned to the Statewide Providers Services Portal. All providers are receiving support through this transition.

Inclusion/Assessment Key Point #1 Child Assessment Differential

- We have completed the Child Assessment Differential for FY 2020-2021
- One (1) Monroe provider participated and submitted data timely

**Congratulations to
Burton Memorial Child Care Center for your
participation in the Child Assessment
Differential!**

Inclusion/Assessment Key Point #2 Monroe BPIECE Support Services

- Three (3) early care and education partners are working towards completion!

Keep up the good work!

Kreative Kids Christian Academy
St. James Children's Center
Temple Christian Preschool Inc.

Inclusion/Assessment Key Point #3

Screenings in Monroe

Children

- Screenings for 20 children have been completed since March 31, 2021
 - 20 (twenty) **ASQ®-3**
 - 16 (sixteen) **ASQ®:SE-2**

Early Care & Education Partners

- Six (6) partners have administered screenings in the Statewide Provider Portal
 - Community Cooperative Preschool Inc.
 - 2. Dolphin Montessori Children's House
 - 3. St. Justin's Martyr Preschool
 - 4. Inez Martin Child Care Center
 - 5. Temple Christian Preschool Inc.
 - 6. Kreative Kids Christian Academy

Inclusion/Assessment Key Point #1

Child Assessment Differential

Rule 6M-4.500: Child Attendance and Provider Reimbursements

- (a) An eligible child care provider, as defined in subsection (b) below, shall receive a child assessment differential reimbursement rate of five (5) percent higher than the coalition's approved base reimbursement rate for each care level and unit of care.
- (b) To be eligible to receive the child assessment differential rate, a provider shall complete child assessments with an OEL approved assessment tool conducted by teachers determined reliable as defined by the child assessment tool at least three times per year and submit valid and reliable data to the statewide information system.
- (c) To receive the differential, all eligible school readiness children ages birth to kindergarten entry, who have been enrolled at the provider for at least 60 days, shall be assessed during the eligible assessment periods on all domains as defined by the OEL – approved tool chosen by the provider.
- (d) A roster of all birth to five classrooms must be submitted to the office through the OEL-defined system as required in Form OEL-SR 740 (November 2018), incorporated by reference in rule 6M-4.740, F.A.C., and must indicate all teachers assigned to each classroom. A provider shall maintain at least 75% of teachers reported on the providers birth to five classrooms roster meeting the reliability requirements as defined by the OEL-approved assessment tool to receive the child assessment differential rate.

Child Assessment Differential FY 2021-2022: What Tools are Approved?



- Approved Tools
 - Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG)
 - COR: High Scope Educational Research Foundation
 - Galileo: Assessment Technology Incorporated
- Coalition's Professional Development Institute
 - TSG Accounts (includes access to training and Interrater Reliability)
 - Subscriptions/ Child Profiles

Child Assessment Differential: When are Children Assessed?

AP 1

- August 1-October 31
- School Readiness Child Enrollment Cutoff: September 2

AP 2

- November 1- January 31
- School Readiness Child Enrollment Cutoff: December 3

AP 3

- February 1- April 30
- School Readiness Child Enrollment Cutoff : April 2

Child Assessment Differential: Who is Eligible?

Eligible Providers

- Active School Readiness Contract
- CLASS score of 4.0 or above or Exempt
- 75% of staff have Interrater Reliability in approved tool by July 2, 2021

Eligible Children

- Receiving School Readiness funding
- Enrolled with eligible provider 60 days before end of assessment period (AP)
- Positive consent from parent/guardian
- Age, birth- kindergarten eligibility

Inclusion/Assessment Key Point #2

Special Needs Rate & Best Practices for Inclusion Early Childhood Education (BPIECE) Support Services

School Readiness & Children with Developmental
Delays/Disabilities

Rule 6M-4.500 Child Attendance and Provider Reimbursement: Provider Eligibility

- (7)(a) Reimbursement for Children with Special Needs.
- A child care provider may be reimbursed by the coalition at a higher rate if:
 - Caring for any school readiness child with special needs requiring additional care beyond services required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
 - To receive a special needs rate, **a child care provider must submit a list of the special needs services it is providing for each special needs child, in addition to the routine school readiness services expenditure.**

Rule 6M-4.500 Child Attendance and Provider Reimbursement: Child Eligibility

- (7)(b) Reimbursement for Children with Special Needs.
- A special needs rate shall be reimbursed for a school readiness child that has :
 - A documented physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral condition that requires a higher level of care in the child care setting.
 - The **special need child's condition must be validated by a licensed health, mental health, education or social service professional** other than the child's parent or person employed by the child care provider.

Who is eligible?

Eligible Providers

- Complete BPIECE Support Services
 - Director/Owner
 - At least one (1) teacher
- Submit four (4) CEU Certificates for ELCMDM Inclusion Trainings
- Complete and submit Special Needs Rate Application for each eligible child

Eligible Children

- Children who are eligible for the Special Needs Rate are:
 - Enrolled and attending eligible provider
 - Recipients of School Readiness funding
 - Ages birth – kindergarten eligibility
 - Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP)
- *Contact the Warm-Line for more details!
- 786-433-3095 (Miami-Dade)
- 786-417-4021 (Monroe)

Inclusion/Assessment Key Point #3

Developmental Screening Program

The Ages & Stages Questionnaires[®], 3rd Edition (ASQ[®]-3)

**The Ages & Stages Questionnaires[®]: Social Emotional, Second Edition
(ASQ[®]:SE-2)**

Rule 6M-4.720: Screening of Children in the School Readiness Program

Initial screening. Each early learning coalition shall coordinate with parents or providers to complete initial screening for each child, aged six weeks to age of kindergarten eligibility. Children *shall be screened no later than 45 calendar days* after:

1. His or her first enrollment in the School Readiness program; or
2. Subsequent enrollment after being terminated or withdrawn from the School Readiness program.

What's New with Screenings?

- Single Statewide Information System (EFS MOD) introduced updates to the developmental screening requirement and process on **March 31, 2021**.
 - **The Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social Emotional, Second Edition (ASQ®:SE-2)** was added to screening requirement
 - Families are given the option to complete their child's developmental screening questionnaires (**ASQ®-3 and ASQ®:SE-2**) online after signing Payment Acceptance.
 - Families are given **five (5) days** to complete the screenings or defer completion of the screenings to the provider.
 - If the family defers the screening, or exceeds the five (5) allotted days, the screening(s) will appear on the provider's "Incomplete" queue in the Statewide Provider Services Portal.

Questions and Support Requests

- **Monroe Support Staff**

- Laurie Dunn, *Managing Supervisor*
 - ldunn@elcmdm.org
 - 305.296.5557 x 2298
- Desiree Aguilera, *Quality and Inclusion Specialist*
 - daguilera@elcmdm.org
 - 786-417-4021
- Amber Keller, *Provider Services Specialist- BPIECE Lead*
 - akeller@elcmdm.org
 - 305-978-2894

- **Miami-Dade Support Staff**

- Anabel Espinosa, Ph.D., *Director of Research and Evaluation*
 - asq@elcmdm.org
 - 305-646-7220, ext. 2321
- Aileen Suazo, M.S., *Screening and Evaluation Manager*
 - asq@elcmdm.org
 - 305-646-7220, ext. 2276

**Strategic Plan Priority
Initiative:**

- Funding
- Providers

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) - Phase V Grants

Key Points

Funding

- Office of Early Learning approved \$,120,436,500 in CRRSAA support
- Miami-Dade/Monroe received \$19,302,000 for an estimated 1600 early care and education partners.

Approved for Payment

- 9 programs totaling \$93,000
- 6 Coalition contracted
- 3 Non-contracted

Types of Expenditures Approved

- Salaries/benefits
- Mortgage or Rent
- Minor Repairs
- Insurance
- Health & Safety Supplies
- Classroom or playground Equipment

Phase V Grants

- **Phase V Additional Support Grants for Early Learning/Child Care Providers**
 - The Office of Early Learning has launched Phase V of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act funding, which will provide an additional \$120,436,500 in funds to over 11,600 providers for all Florida's early learning/child care providers.
 - Allocations are based on the capacity data as reported to the Department of Children and Families with the exception, that funding for public/charter school providers is based on number of School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education children served, not DCF capacity.

Criteria for Coalition Contracted Providers

- **CONTRACTED PROVIDERS** (must have a Coalition contract as of May 2021):
 - Early learning/child care provider was operational/open on April 1, 2021 and are providing on-site early learning/child care services; and
 - Early learning/child care provider completes the Phase V grant application, which includes plans and budget for expenditure of funds; and
 - Early learning/child care provider does not receive Head Start Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act funding; and
 - Some portion of the funds **must** be used for staff salaries/benefits.

Criteria for Non-Contracted Providers

- ***NON-CONTRACTED PROVIDERS:***

- Early learning/child care provider was operational/open on April 1, 2021 and are providing on-site early **learning/child** care services; and
- Early learning/child care provider completes the Phase V grant application, which includes plans and budget for expenditure of funds; and
- Early learning/child care provider does not receive Head Start Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act funding; and
- Some portion of the funds **must** be used for staff salaries/benefits; and
- Early learning/child care provider agrees to complete a current fiscal year 2020-21 Child Care Resource and Referral profile in the Florida Early Learning Provider Services Portal, if not previously completed; and
- Early learning/child care provider has not received any Class I Department of Children and Families violations since July 1, 2019; and
- Early learning/child care provider did not have a contract with the early learning coalition that was terminated for cause within the past five years; and
- Early learning/child care provider is not under investigation or has been convicted of child care fraud; and
- Early learning/child care provider is not included on the Florida Child Care Food Program USDA Disqualified List; and
- Early learning/child care provider submits an W-9 for payment.

Grant Allocations

	Providers	\$ / Provider	Allocation
	11,697	\$	120,436,500
Phase V: Additional Support Grants for Early Learning/Child Care Providers			
Private Providers (Contracted and non-contracted)			
Subtotal	10,057	\$	109,293,000
Capacity Range			
0 - 12	3,096	\$ 3,000	\$ 9,288,000
13 - 20	109	\$ 6,000	\$ 654,000
21 - 74	2,479	\$ 10,500	\$ 26,029,500
75 -149	2,656	\$ 15,000	\$ 39,840,000
150+	1,717	\$ 19,500	\$ 33,481,500
VPK and/or SR Public School Providers ₁			
Subtotal	1,640	\$	11,143,500
FY 20-21 Children Served Range			
0 - 12	584	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,752,000
13 - 20	396	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,376,000
21 - 74	641	\$ 10,500	\$ 6,730,500
75 -149	19	\$ 15,000	\$ 285,000
150+		\$ 19,500	\$ -

For the public school district providers, funds are based on the total distinct number of SR/VPK children served in FY 20-21 as opposed to DCF capacity.



Miami-Dade/Monroe

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

A division of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

- Educate All
- Neediest Children
- Providers



Key Points: Professional Development Institute

May Training Sessions/Attendees:

- May Training Sessions : 80
- Monroe: 23
- Fiscal Year To Date Training Sessions: 588
- Monroe: 197

Equity Institute

- ELC Talks: PRIDE: June 17th
- ELC Talks: Confederate Statues, July 15th
- Coalition Team Anti Bias Training with the YES Institute
- Number of Sessions:5
- Number of Participants: 5 83% of Coalition Monroe Team attended

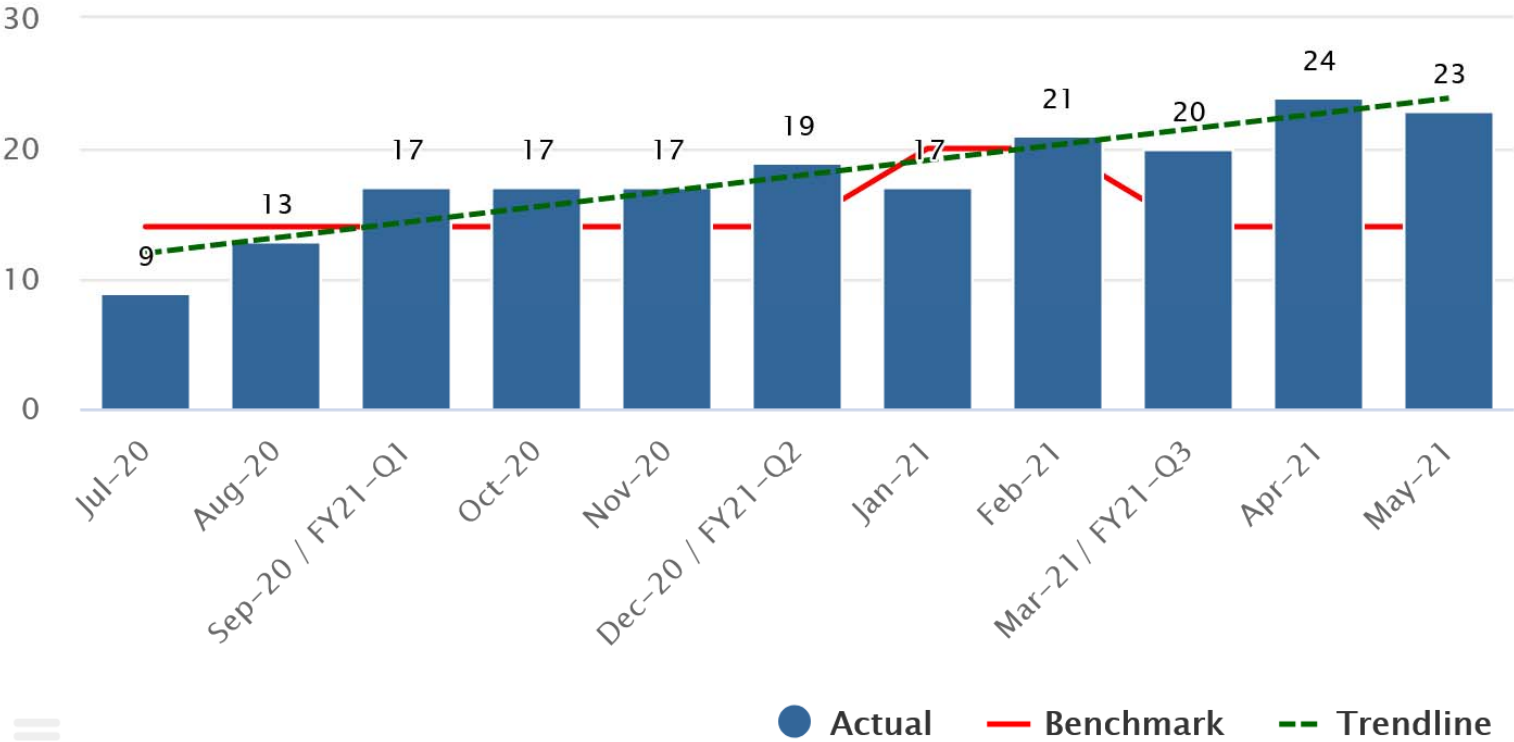
Professional/Workforce Development

- Apprenticeship Program earn a National CDA in 12-18 months
- Internship Program earn the DCF 45 hours in 4 months
- National CDA® Courses with the Professional Development Institute: Registration is Open!
- Preschool/English
- Infant-Toddler/Spanish

Number of Participants Monroe County FYTD



Monroe County Participants (Up is Good)



elc

talks

Through an Equity Lens

elc

talks

PRIDE

Join ELC Talks: Through an Equity Lens as we advocate and raise awareness in celebration of the LGBTQ+ community while acknowledging issues that impede equity and equality.

Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 12:00 noon



[Register Today!](#)

elc

talks

Through an Equity Lens



Join ELC Talks: Through an Equity Lens as we learn about **Confederate Statues and Monuments**; their meaning, origins and their future... Let's learn from the past to build a more equitable future.

JULY 15th 2021 at 12:00 noon

"The past is never dead. It's not even past."

William Faulkner

Coalition Team Anti-Bias Training

Feedback from Coalition Team Members

An open dialogue on gender, orientation, race, and ethnic background diversity in early learning environments, giving participants access to relating powerfully with all families and colleagues.

Number of Sessions: 5

Number of Participants: 5/6 = **83%** of Coalition Team

The same way it takes a village to raise a child, it's the same way we need to be about unconscious bias. From parents, teachers, neighbors, relatives, professionals, media, **we ALL play a role in creating awareness.**

I have learned to be more **empathetic** and less judgmental.

This webinar has been **amazing** and I am glad my job offered us the **opportunity** to take it

This session will help me to be more **understanding** to my providers

As open-minded as I thought I was, I have learned that there is always **room for improvement**, no matter how small it might seem.

During our **team building** session I can address unconscious bias or during my parent meetings

Professional/Workforce Development

- **Apprenticeship Program:** 12 month classroom placement, with a mentor teacher, while earning a National CDA® (Child Development Associate)
- **Internship Program:** 4 month classroom placement, with a mentor teacher, while completing the DCF (Department of Children and Families) 45 hour training requirement



Success
JUST AHEAD





Miami-Dade/Monroe

EARLY CHILDHOOD
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

A division of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

PDI Contact Information

Visit our website: trainings.elcmdm.org

Email us:

Laurie Dunn: ldunn@elcmdm.org

Dessiree Aguilera: daguilera@elcmdm.org

Call us: 305 646-7220 ext.2298

