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Strategic Plan
Children First: The Strategic Plan for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe 2022-2027

OUR VALUES

- **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, and we are committed to ensuring school readiness and lifelong success for each one.

- **COMMUNITY** - We believe children are the future, and our community is an essential part of their road to success. By working together, we can promote high quality early education and support children as they become thriving, productive members of society.

- **PARTNERSHIP** - We value partnerships and are collaborative in all we do. We work closely with fellow service providers, families, corporations, elected officials, individuals, and the community at large to promote the importance of early learning and to secure educational opportunities for all children.

- **ADVOCACY** - We are a champion for children, promoting positive societal and community change. Our staff and community partners are committed to advancing early education throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and are set apart by our collective passion, strength and dedication to children.

- **EXCELLENCE** - When it comes to early learning, quality matters. We are committed to excellence, providing quality programs and services that make a difference in our community. Designed to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of all children, our programs are innovative and offer each child an equal opportunity for a successful future.

- **CUSTOMER SERVICES** - We strive to meet the needs of our parents, families, providers and partners by providing comprehensive customer service in a professional, timely and courteous manner.

- **EQUITY** - Equity, inclusion and cultural competence is embodied in our values, practices and programming so that children, parents, families and providers may fully benefit from our priority initiatives, while keeping children first.
TARGET HIGH NEED AREAS
Advocacy Committee
Opportunity
Current reimbursement rates are inequitable and negatively impact child care partners in high need areas.

Outcome Measure
• Every provider receives the same rate regardless of their private rate or area they serve.

INCREASE ENROLLMENT IN EARLY LEARNING COALITION PROGRAMS
Advocacy Committee
Opportunity
Increased wages offered by employers has resulted in a benefits cliff with fewer families qualifying for the School Readiness program, leading to decreased enrollment.

Outcome Measure
• School Readiness enrollment increases by 5% within 12 months of state policy change.

INCREASE AWARENESS IN EARLY LEARNING COALITION PROGRAMS
Executive Committee
Opportunity
Increase awareness of Early Learning Coalition programs so families who may qualify and do not currently have their children enrolled in the program become aware, apply for the programs, and enroll their children.

Outcome Measures
• Dashboard reflects increased inquiries.
• Families confirm via survey that outreach efforts led them to apply for services.
• Voluntary Prekindergarten enrollment increases by 5% within 12 months of outreach campaign launch.
• Early Head Start enrollment increases to 750 children with a waitlist.

PROVIDE ENHANCED RESOURCES TO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
Program Committee
Opportunity
Historically, a low percentage of families with children identified as having concerns accept additional services and connect to the first level of intervention.

Outcome Measures
• At least 90% of families with children identified as having concerns respond to communication attempts.
• After baseline is established, pre and post questionnaires reflect increased insight by parents of developmental milestones, screening process and available services.
• A 5% increase in the number of families that accept additional services.

Opportunity
There are children with special needs who are not receiving the services they need.

Outcome Measures
• More than 10% of partners participate in and complete the BPIECE program.
• More than 10% of partners who have completed the BPIECE are accessing the Special Needs Rate.
• A % of partners that receive the rate are implementing enhanced services.

ENHANCE SERVICES FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS
Program Committee
Opportunity
Enhance services for infant and toddlers.

Outcome Measures
• To be determined after needs assessment is conducted and action plan is formulated and approved by Program Committee.

SUPPORT EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PARTNERS
Provider Services Committee
Opportunity
Early learning programs have historically faced workforce challenges. To deliver high-quality early education services, programs must be able to recruit and retain highly qualified and committed staff and provide ongoing professional development.

Outcome Measures
• Increased % of participants registering for training courses.
• Increased % of participants completing training courses.
• 85% participant satisfaction with courses (IACET Standard).
• Board approved reimbursement rate remains above state average.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT
Program Committee
Opportunity
Promote parent engagement as essential for a child’s development because parents serve as a child’s first teacher.

Outcome Measures
• 85% participant satisfaction with parent engagement activities.
• 85% participants gain knowledge/insight.

*requires State policy change
2022 Legislative Highlights

**Positive Outcomes**

*Payment Rate Equity for Providers Serving High-Need Communities*

- Effective 07/01/22, we will be able to pay all providers, regardless of the community they serve, the same board approved rate to help us achieve countywide payment and quality equity.

- Department of Education (DOE) will issue guidance or administrative rule to govern this new policy.

*Funding Increase for the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program*

- **Base Student Allocation (BSA):**
  - School Year BSA increased from **$2,486** to **$2803** ($317 increase)
  - Summer BSA increased from **$2,122** to **$2393** ($271 increase)

- **$4,042,600** provided for implementation of VPK Program Assessments

- **$100,000,000** Additional Payment Program to increase the VPK BSA for providers attesting to increase wages to $15/hr.

**Challenges**

*Comparison of 2021 and 2022 General Appropriations Act*

- The new funding methodology shifted part of our School Readiness (SR) base budget to other coalitions across the state.
  
  - SR Allocation will decrease from $130,005,929 in FY 21/22 to $112,234,696 in FY 22/23 ($17,771,223 decrease)*

- Investment in quality and program supports will be impacted.

- None of the 30 Early Learning Coalitions (ELC) voted in support or opposition of the bill used as the basis for the new methodology.

- We have not seen the data used to support the new methodology.

* not including Gold Seal, which will be allocated separately in 22/23
The Good News

Funding Increase for the VPK Program
• Base Student Allocation
  ▪ School Year BSA increased from $2,486 to $2,803 ($317 increase)
  ▪ Summer BSA increased from $2,122 to $2,393 ($271 increase)
• $4,042,600 provided for implementation of VPK Program Assessments
• $100,000,000 Additional Payment Program to increase the VPK BSA for providers attesting to increase wages to $15/hr.

Payment Rate Equity for Providers Serving High-Need Communities
• One of our top three policy goals was accomplished. Effective July 1, 2022, we will be able to pay all providers, regardless of the community they serve, the same board approved rate to help us achieve countywide payment and quality equity. The current system limits our reimbursement rate to the private pay rate, so providers serving lower income areas have been reimbursed less than providers in middle income areas. This has been going on for decades. Fixing this inequity in our provider reimbursement system has been one of my highest priorities for several years and an uphill battle. It was accomplished through a team effort of partners from all over the state. Thank you for your support of our legislative agenda. Note: DOE will issue guidance or administrative rule to govern this new policy.
The Challenge

The new funding methodology shifted part of our School Readiness base budget to other coalitions across the state. The following slides shows a table that compares the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for 2021 and 2022 (both in real dollars and as a percentage) for each Early Learning Coalition and two supporting screenshots of the 2021 GAA and the 2022 GAA.

A few important points:

• The increase/reduction to the base budget of several ELCs is significant.
• Gold Seal will be allocated separately, not included in the base as in previous years.
• The legislature allocated sufficient nonrecurring funds to backfill the FY 2022-23 budget and help coalitions transition to their new base budget.
  ▪ There is the hold harmless provision which means our budget will remain whole for next year, plus we can expect several additives via budget amendments and the redistribution of surplus SR dollars that takes place at the end of the fiscal year. What happens in FY 2023-24 will be determined in the 2023 legislative session.
• We will not reap the benefits of any new dollars allocated for the School Readiness program like some other ELCs.
  ▪ Investment in quality and program supports will be impacted.
• None of the 30 coalitions voted to support or oppose the bill (or any of its amendments) that was used as the basis for the new methodology.
  ▪ Same for our statewide association.
• We have not seen the data used to support the new methodology. We will review it as soon as it is made available.
• Reversing the allocations will not be easy
  ▪ Coalitions (and their legislators) that gained funding from the new methodology may challenge any reversal.
## Comparison of 2021 and 2022 General Appropriations Act (does not include Gold Seal)

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<td>Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, Union, Suwannee</td>
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Communications Updates

Michelle Meilan M.Ed.
Quality Assurance and Communications Director
mmeilan@elcmdm.org

Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

• Target High Need Areas
• Increase Enrollment In Early Learning Coalition Programs
• Increase Awareness In Early Learning Coalition Programs
• Support Early Care And Education Partners
• Parent Engagement
Communications Key Points

Out and About
• Community Events

Outreach Efforts
• Patient Point Ads
• Banners
• Ads in Local Publications

Monroe Centered Social Media Campaign Continues
• Keys Weekly Ads
• Timeout Magazine
• Chamber Events
Children’s Week

Evelio Torres, Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, Michelle Meilan, Victor Caballero
Early Educator Internship Program (2/14/2022)

Internship Program Flyer sent out in the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce e-newsletter
Banner Placements in Monroe
Banner Placement in Miami-Dade

Need help paying for childcare/early learning?

Early Education, Lifelong Success.
Patient Point Ads

Need help paying for childcare/early learning?

Ask us about:
- School Readiness
- Voluntary Prekindergarten
- Early Head Start
- Warm-Line
- Child Care Resource & Referral

For more information visit elcmdm.org or scan the code

Early Education. Lifelong Success.

305-646-7220
www.elcmdm.org

Need help paying for childcare/early learning?

Ask us about:
- School Readiness
- Voluntary Prekindergarten
- Early Head Start
- Warm-Line
- Child Care Resource & Referral

For more information visit elcmdm.org or scan the code

305-646-7220
www.elcmdm.org
Coconut Grove Arts Festival (2/2022)
Children’s Week Miami Event (2/26/22)
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce presents the *Sand in My Shoes Award* to life long early education advocate, David Lawrence Jr. (3/1/2022)
Islamorada Chamber of Commerce (3/23/2022)
Aguamarina Visit (3/28/2022)
American Rescue Plan Act Grants

Fiorella Altare Christie, Vice President of Quality Initiatives
faltare@elcmdm.org
American Rescue Plan Act Grant

Child Care Stabilization Grant Program funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Grant Priorities

- Stabilize and support Florida’s entire network of early learning providers
- Expand access to high-quality providers for families where cost is the primary barrier
- Invest in quality
- Invest in the early learning workforce and take steps to transition Florida’s early learning workforce into the early learning profession
- Strengthen Providers

Applications are open until June 30, 2022.
Eligibility

Early learning/child care providers must meet the following eligibility criteria:

They were licensed, registered or regulated under the appropriate state or local law on **or before March 11, 2021.**

OR

They meet Child Care and Development Fund health and safety requirements including completion of comprehensive background checks.

AND

• Early learning/child care provider agrees to complete a current fiscal year Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) profile in the Florida Early Learning Provider Services Portal, if not previously completed; and
• Early learning/child care provider did not have a contract terminated for cause within the past five years and provider is in good standing with the early learning coalition; 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 (CCFP) USDA Disqualified List; and
• Early learning/child care provider submits an IRS Form W-9 for payment and direct deposit forms (as required by coalition), if not previously submitted; and
• Early learning/child care provider completes the **ARPA Stabilization Subgrant – Round I Application**, which includes child counts, monthly operating expenses, and budget for funds use.
Grant Amount

- Early learning/child care providers will receive base subgrants based on their enrollment at time of application, with a minimum of $12,000 per provider. Base subgrants will be calculated depending on the age of enrollments as indicated below.
  - Infants and Toddlers: $867 per child
  - Children 2 – Kindergarten Entry: $702 per child
  - School-Age: $540 per child

- Providers will receive an additional award of $70.20 per School Readiness child enrolled at the time of application. In addition, providers will receive supplemental bonuses calculated as percentages of their base subgrant according to the rates on the chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bonus Category</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Bonus Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality Services</td>
<td>Gold Seal or CLASS Score of 5.00 and higher in an area with a child care infrastructure deficit (desert)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLASS Score of 4.00 – 4.99 – SR Contracted ONLY</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CLASS Score of 5.00 and higher – SR Contracted ONLY</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Traditional Hours</td>
<td>Gold Seal</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes Nights and/or Weekend Care</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Investment</td>
<td>Provider agrees to use at least 25% of total grant amount on staff above and beyond normal payroll and benefits at time of application (bonuses, wage increases, health care, retirement, educational advancements, or tuition reimbursement)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Allowable Expenses

- Payroll/Benefits, Other Personnel Costs
- Rent or Mortgage, Business Operating Costs and Facility Expenses
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Cleaning Supplies and Services
- Professional Development related to Health and Safety Practices
- Mental Health Supports for Children and Child Care Employees
- Equipment and Supplies in Response to COVID-19
- Goods and Services to Maintain/Resume Child Care Services
- Workforce Investment
- Copayments or Tuition Waivers
## Grants Approved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Base Grant Amount</th>
<th>Bonus Amount</th>
<th>Total Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Mother's Care Learning Center</td>
<td>$27,799.20</td>
<td>$8,339.76</td>
<td>$36,138.96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arelys Orozco Large Family Day Care Home</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
<td>$1,800.00</td>
<td>$13,800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brilliant Kids Preschool</td>
<td>$34,057.80</td>
<td>$17,028.90</td>
<td>$51,086.70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carousel of Love LLC</td>
<td>$25,174.20</td>
<td>$3,776.13</td>
<td>$28,950.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dalia Fernandez Large Family Day Care Home</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
<td>$1,800.00</td>
<td>$13,800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devon Aire Kiddy College Inc</td>
<td>$90,225.00</td>
<td>$27,067.50</td>
<td>$117,292.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doral Preschool Corp</td>
<td>$75,924.60</td>
<td>$22,777.38</td>
<td>$98,701.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growing Days Childcare and Learning Center</td>
<td>$93,048.00</td>
<td>$32,566.80</td>
<td>$125,614.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kids for Kids Academy</td>
<td>$125,263.20</td>
<td>$43,842.12</td>
<td>$169,105.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kidzone Learning Center LLC</td>
<td>$55,186.80</td>
<td>$8,278.02</td>
<td>$63,464.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Star Learning Academy LLC</td>
<td>$42,223.80</td>
<td>$6,333.57</td>
<td>$48,557.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Tigers of Miami Gardens</td>
<td>$150,756.00</td>
<td>$52,764.60</td>
<td>$203,520.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lovely Stars Academy II</td>
<td>$65,103.60</td>
<td>$22,786.26</td>
<td>$87,889.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Hernandez Large Family Child Care Home</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
<td>$6,600.00</td>
<td>$18,600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miami Springs Preschool</td>
<td>$69,285.00</td>
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<td>$79,677.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montessori Learning Center</td>
<td>$61,524.00</td>
<td>$30,762.00</td>
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<td>Montessori Learning World</td>
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<td>$43,870.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olga L. Teran Family Day Care Home</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
<td>$2,400.00</td>
<td>$14,400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>On the Horizon Learning Center</td>
<td>$62,059.20</td>
<td>$21,720.72</td>
<td>$83,779.92</td>
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<td>Palmetto Bay Preschool</td>
<td>$60,898.80</td>
<td>$15,224.70</td>
<td>$76,123.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Precious Smiles Preschool</td>
<td>$69,151.20</td>
<td>$24,202.92</td>
<td>$93,354.12</td>
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<td>Ready Academy Learning Center</td>
<td>$66,312.60</td>
<td>$19,893.78</td>
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<td>Temple Beth Moshe Preschool</td>
<td>$65,610.00</td>
<td>$6,561.00</td>
<td>$72,171.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zulema Roque Family Day Care Home</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
<td>$1,800.00</td>
<td>$13,800.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supplemental Reports
Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

- Target High Need Areas
- Increase Enrollment In Early Learning Coalition Programs
- Increase Awareness In Early Learning Coalition Programs
- Parent Engagement

Monroe Updates

Laurie Dunn, Monroe County Supervisor
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Monroe Key Points

School Readiness Monroe Numbers:
- 294 children receiving School Readiness funding

Voluntary Prekindergarten Monroe Numbers:
- 449 children enrolled in Voluntary Prekindergarten

At Risk Referrals:
- 32 children with an at risk referral
School Readiness (SR) Enrollment - Monroe

Sources: Ad-Hoc Tableau Visualizations from Division of Early Learning’s, EFS-MOD On-line System
Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Enrollment - Monroe

Sources: Ad-Hoc Tableau Visualizations from Division of Early Learning’s, EFS-MOD On-line System
At Risk Referrals-Monroe

Sources: Ad-Hoc Tableau Visualizations from Division of Early Learning’s, EFS-MOD On-line System
Miami-Dade Updates
Sandra Gonzalez
Senior Vice President of School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten
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Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

- Target High Need Areas
- Increase Enrollment In Early Learning Coalition Programs
- Increase Awareness In Early Learning Coalition Programs
- Parent Engagement
Miami-Dade Key Points

**School Readiness Miami-Dade Numbers:**
- 18,675 children receiving School Readiness funding

**Voluntary Prekindergarten Miami-Dade Numbers:**
- 18,384 children enrolled in Voluntary Prekindergarten

**At Risk Referrals:**
- 1,278 children with an at risk referral
School Readiness (SR) Enrollment – Miami-Dade

Sources: Ad-Hoc Tableau Visualizations from Division of Early Learning’s, EFS-MOD On-line System
Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Enrollment- Miami-Dade

Sources: Ad-Hoc Tableau Visualizations from Division of Early Learning’s, EFS-MOD On-line System
At Risk Referrals-Miami Dade

Sources: Ad-Hoc Tableau Visualizations from Division of Early Learning’s, EFS-MOD On-line System
Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

- Target High Need Areas
- Support Early Care and Education Partners

The Professional Development Institute

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Ana Sejeck, Director
Workforce & Professional Development
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# Professional Development Institute Key Points

## Training Sessions/Attendees*
- Fiscal Year to date (FYTD) Sessions: 475
- Number of Attendees:
  - Miami-Dade: 8,361
  - Monroe: 201
- March Sessions: 34
- March Attendees:
  - Miami-Dade: 556
  - Monroe: 12

*Data as of March 29, 2021

## Workforce Development
- Internship Pilot Completed - January 2022
- Second Cohort began - March 2022

## Professional Development
- Monroe Conference – Sept. 24, 2022 – “Be the Star of Your Own Show”
Early Educator Internship Program

- **Pathways to Early Educator Excellence (PE3)** is an innovative public/private partnership funded by CareerSource South Florida and powered by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, Miami Dade College, Florida Department of Children and Families and early care and education programs.

- **The Early Educator Internship Program** is the first pathway for young adults who want to build a career working with young children.
  - Interns are matched with a host early care and education program and engage in 20 hours of job skills training, 20 hours of child development training, at least 200 hours of on-the-job training and mentoring with a lead teacher and complete the 45 training hours required by the Department of Children and Families. Once satisfactorily completed, the intern is eligible for employment with the host early care and education partner.
Early Education Internship Program: Pilot

- Kids For Kids Academy hosted the pilot launch of the program (November 2021-January 2022).
- Teaching staff at Kids For Kids Academy mentored the interns over a 3 month period.
- During the program some of the participants completed their GED.
- All participants began their 45 hour DCF training during their internship and also received their CPR/First Aid certifications to make them ready for a career in early learning.
- One participant was offered immediate full time employment while others are being matched with early learning programs with open positions.
Early Educator Internship Program

• The Pilot has successfully ended.
• Up to 10 early learning programs in Miami-Dade and Monroe will host interns in Spring 2022.
Kids For Kids Academy is honored

Piloting the Early Childhood Internship Program.

Our staff is helping to train and inspire future educators!
Inclusion, Screening and Child Assessment

Lead Manager: Anabel Espinosa, Ph.D
aespinosa@elcmdm.org
Key Points

Early Care and Education Partners in Miami-Dade and Monroe have submitted Special Needs Rate Applications via the Partner Hub.

The Inclusion Teams in Miami-Dade and Monroe began Child Observations in January of 2022 and these were followed by approved Special Needs Rate Applications.

Early Care and Education Partners in Miami-Dade and Monroe were in compliance with Developmental Screenings for four (4) consecutive days!
Key Point #1

• **Six (6) partners** in Miami-Dade have submitted Special Needs Rate Applications via the Partner Hub.

• **One (1) partner** in Monroe has submitted Special Needs Rate Applications via the Partner Hub.
**Key Point #2**

**Miami-Dade:** Twenty-five (25) Special Needs Rate Applications were approved on March 18, 2022 and the Eligibility team has assisted in the assignment of the Special Needs Care level to eligible children.

**Monroe:** Two (2) Special Needs Rate Applications are pending approval.

Eligible Partners should expect reimbursement for the additional special needs services they provide children with disabilities (in addition to the routine School Readiness services) in **April of 2022**.
Key Point 3

• Early Care and Education Partners in Miami-Dade and Monroe were in 100% compliance with the Developmental Screening Program for four (4) consecutive days in the month of March 2022.
  ▪ March 21, 2022-March 24, 2022

• Congratulations to the Screening Team, this record high compliance is a direct result of the outreach and technical assistance they offer partners!
Questions

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  - 305-646-7220, ext. 2305

• Aileen Suazo, M.S., Screening and Evaluation Manager
  - asuazo@elcmdm.org
  - 305-646-7220, ext. 2276

• Anabel Espinosa, Ph.D., Senior Director of Research and Evaluation
  - aespinosa@elcmdm.org
  - 305-646-7220, ext. 2321
Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

- Target High Need Areas
- Enhance Services For Infants And Toddlers
- Support Early Care And Education Partners
- Parent Engagement

Early Head Start

Belkis Torres
Vice President for Early Head Start
Early Head Start Summary

**Enrollment**
- The program continues to interview childcare partners in order to increase enrollment opportunities. A new partner, Tiny Tykes Preschool, LLC, signed a contract. Another partner, Play and Read Academy Corp., is in the process of signing the contract.
- The program attained the required 10% of enrolled children with special needs. The 10% is based on the program’s funded enrollment.

**Nutrition**
- The second season of Li’l Foodies is coming April 1. Publix Charities donated fifty $50 gift cards to offer to approximately 5 participating parents at each session.
- The third cohort of teachers completed Healthy Kids, Healthy Future curriculum training. Healthy Kids, Healthy Future teaches teachers how to encourage children to eat healthy and stay active.

**Mental Health**
- Teachers continue to receive support with implementing the First and Then Visuals. The visuals create a routine that is predictable and establishes expectations.
- The April Action for Happiness Calendar focuses on the benefits of being active. These benefits include higher energy levels, better sleep, and lower stress levels. Exercise not only changes your body, it changes your mind, your attitude and your mood.
Monthly Average Enrollment

% of Monthly Enrollment (Upward Trend is Good)

- Increase from the Previous Month
- Decrease from the Previous Month
- No change from the Previous Month

Source: ChildPlus
Wellness

The Active April Action for Happiness Calendar was shared with staff, partners, and families to encourage them to get active, get outdoors, and take care of their bodies. There are many benefits of being active such as higher energy levels, better sleep, and lower stress levels.
For the second year, Early Head Start received a donation from Publix Charities of fifty $50 Publix gift cards for the new season of *Li’l Foodies Cook Along* virtual cooking demos for the entire family. Virtual classes will resume on April 2022.
Healthy Kids, Healthy Future

The third cohort of Early Head Start teachers successfully completed the *Healthy Kids, Healthy Future* training designed by Nemours and conducted by University of Florida Cooperative Extension’s Family Nutrition Program. The teachers will be implementing the curriculum on 5 benchmarks of healthy lifestyle in their classrooms:

- healthy eating;
- healthy beverages;
- physical activity;
- reducing screen time; and
- breastfeeding.

*Picture taken from Healthy Kids, Healthy Future website: [https://healthykidshealthyfuture.org/5-healthy-goals/nurture-healthy-eaters/resources/nourishing-healthy-eaters/](https://healthykidshealthyfuture.org/5-healthy-goals/nurture-healthy-eaters/resources/nourishing-healthy-eaters/)*
Mental Health

First & Then Visuals were distributed to each Early Head Start Classroom. Teachers watched a video created by the Mental Health Manager to learn how to use "First & Then" Visuals for routines and transitions with infants and toddlers in their center.

In March, teachers participated in additional support with implementing the First & Then Visuals. Teachers had the opportunity to review the video and discuss their successes and challenges with using the visuals. The Mental Health Manager offered additional tips for successful implementation.
Information Technology and Cybersecurity Updates

Dr. Frederick Hicks
Senior Vice President of Technology and Cybersecurity
fhicks@elcmdm.org

Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

• Target High Need Areas
• Support Early Care And Education Partners
• Parent Engagement
Information Technology and Cybersecurity Updates

Version 5.6
Contracts (School Readiness & Voluntary Prekindergarten 22-23)

Monthly Ticket Resolutions Meetings

The Year of Privacy
Enhanced Field System, (EFS) Modernization (MOD)

- EFS MOD Version 5.6 Released
- Both Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) and School Readiness 2022-2023 Contracts are staged
Privacy and Annual Pen-Test

1. KnowBe4 Privacy training for staff ends April 5, 2022
2. Round Table Discussion with two privacy experts pending
3. Annual Pen-Test is out for quote