



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

2017-2022

## Early Education. Lifelong Success.

### OUR MISSION

To promote high-quality inclusive 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 birth through age 5.

### OUR VISION

#### CHILDREN FIRST

To ensure a comprehensive and integrated early learning system for all families and their children, birth to 5 years, ensuring high-quality programs throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, so children enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

## 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.

## PRIORITY INITIATIVES

### NEEDIEST CHILDREN

*Improve outcomes for children in our neediest communities, including children with developmental and other delays and disabilities, by improving the quality of early learning programs*

#### Target neediest areas

Identify centers in distressed zip codes and those serving children with, or at risk for, developmental delays & provide extra support for them to meet higher standards

#### Increase the Number of Children

Receiving services who have physical, developmental, sensory, and social-emotional delays and disabilities

### YOUNGEST CHILDREN

*Offer a continuum of care throughout childhood, with a particular focus on infants and toddlers*

#### Age-based Rates

Adjust reimbursement rates to offer incentives to serve the youngest children

### PROVIDERS

*Strengthen Coalition relationship with providers and support providers meeting higher quality performance requirements*

#### Improve Provider Selection and Contracting Process

Establish local provisions that support parental choice and ensure providers serving children receiving subsidies meet contract and quality requirements

#### Teacher Education

Increase the number of teachers with child care credentials

#### Quality Providers

Drive incentives to higher performing providers

#### Technical Business Assistance

Offer business assistance to providers in distressed areas

#### Educate Providers

Provide program directors/staff with training and resources to provide high quality care to all children, including children with disabilities

### EDUCATE ALL

*Educate families and the community at large about the benefits of quality early learning.*

#### Parental Choice

Develop innovative strategies to help parents choose child care programs that ensure better outcomes for their children

#### Visibility

Achieve increased visibility of the importance of early learning throughout both counties by creating child care resources and providing information

### CAPACITY BUILDING

*Strengthen Board and Staff capacity to carry out strategic goals*

#### Advocacy

Engage aggressively & systematically in advocacy to drive better outcomes for children

#### Early Child Care Education Systems Building

Establish regular meetings with partners to strengthen cross-sector investments and policies for children birth through age five

### FUNDING

*Increase public and private funding and reallocate funds to strategic goals*

#### Public

Secure adequate resources to ensure high quality delivery to each child we serve

#### Monroe County

Establish a Permanent Funding Model for Social Services

### FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC GOALS

Develop widely accepted state-wide bench marks of quality (e.g. Child assessments, accreditation, learning environment, etc.)

Change state policy to allow ELCs to contract only with childcare programs that meet state-wide quality bench marks

Establish the Performance Funding Program platform as the statewide quality, tiered reimbursement and pay for performance model