



Early Learning Coalition
of Duval

EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF DUVAL

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006

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Early Learning Coalition of Duval Annual Report FY 2005-2006

INTRODUCTION – MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I am pleased to present the FY 2005-2006 Annual Report of Early Learning Coalition of Duval. It has been an extremely rewarding year for the Early Learning Coalition of Duval.

Early Learning Coalition of Duval (ELC of Duval) experienced unprecedented successes in both the School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) programs serving an unduplicated count of over 13,000 children in Duval County.

The Coalition is proud to have implemented its second-year pilot of the Quality Rating System, which provided a comprehensive array of services to forty-eight Early Learning Centers, with the goal of enhancing the cognitive, social, and physical development of children to achieve the performance standards and outcome measures.

The Coalition also made a commitment to a year-long process of the Quality Assurance Program (QAP) administered by NACCRRRA - National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. The objective is to receive QAP Validation for our Child Care Resource and Referral program, by April 2007.

The first full year of the VPK program was a tremendous success and has helped the Coalition move into the second year of the program with confidence and commitment to provide support to VPK providers, VPK children and their families, and have another banner year in enrollment and number of providers offering VPK programs.





Early Learning providers of both programs, our sub-contractors – Jacksonville Children’s Commission, Florida Institute of Education at University of North Florida, Duval County Public Schools, Duval County Health Department, our dedicated staff, and various other organizations and stakeholders throughout the community who partnered with us in a collaborative effort, have contributed to our success during fiscal year 2005-2006.

We look forward to another successful year serving the children of Duval County, and enabling them to enter school ready to learn.

Thank you.

Toni Crawford
Coalition Chair

“Getting ready for school begins at birth”. www.zerotothree.org





Vision and Mission Statement

VISION STATEMENT

All Jacksonville Early Learning Programs (Centers / FCCHs) will provide high quality care and early learning services that result in demonstrated positive school readiness outcomes for all children.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Early Learning Coalition of Duval exists to create a coordinated and integrated system for school readiness services to better prepare children for entry into kindergarten, with an emphasis on literacy skills for children who may be at risk for future school failure. The Coalition recognizes parents as their children's first teachers and seeks to assist parents by providing opportunities to enhance their children's chances for educational success by participating in quality school readiness programs that can better prepare children for school.

HISTORY OF THE COALITION

Early Learning Coalition of Duval, incorporated in the year 2000, (formerly known as the Ready Child Coalition) was created as a result of action taken by the Florida Legislature in 1999, to ensure that preschool aged children from low-income working families in Duval County are prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn and experience success. Florida Statute Section 411.01 requires that School Readiness services be offered on a full-day, full-year, full choice to the extent possible in order to enable parents to work and be financially self-sufficient.

As a result of House Bill 1A signed into law by Governor Jeb Bush in Jan. 2005, ELC of Duval is also responsible for complete oversight and administration of the Voluntary Kindergarten program in Duval County.

Every dollar invested in universally available quality early care and education saves taxpayers as much as \$13 in public education, criminal justice and welfare costs over the next few decades as well as increased tax collections in the long term.

<http://web.mit.edu/workplacecenter/docs/Full%20Report.pdf>





ELC of Duval offers an array of Early Learning and School Readiness Services.

Early Learning Coalition of Duval delivers services for the following programs directly from the Coalition office:

Child Care Resource and Referral
Quality Initiatives
Fiscal Agent Services
Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program

The Coalition maintains oversight of the delivery of the following services which are sub-contracted:

To the Central Agency - Jacksonville Children's Commission (JCC):
School Readiness Services (Eligibility and Enrollment Services) & Quality Initiatives Services;
To the Florida Institute of Education at University of North Florida:
Pre & Post-Assessment;
To the Duval County Health Department:
Developmental Screening

School Readiness Services funding comes through the State Office of Early Learning, in the form of Child Care Development funds and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant. Through the Child Care Executive partnership - CCEP - a partnership between the State and the private sector, ELC of Duval receives additional funds for child care subsidies. Through this partnership, the State of Florida matches employer child care contributions for families who are eligible for child care subsidies.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program funding (program services and program administration) comes from State of Florida's general revenue. Florida Department of Education provides funding for a Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program facilitator to help implement the performance standards, recommend curricula, and provide professional development training.

“Investment in early childhood development yields an extraordinary return, far exceeding the return on most investments, private or public.....” Art Rolnick and Rob Grunewald

<http://www.minneapolisfed.org/pubs/fedgaz/03-03/earlychild.cfm>





ELC of Duval provides Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Services.

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) is a part of the statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network funded by the Agency for Workforce Innovation - Office of Early Learning. ELC of Duval ensures that early learning resource and referral services identified in the *Standard Levels of Service* provide consumer education to promote informed early education and care choices by parents, as identified in the Standard Levels of Service. (s. 411.01(5)(c)2.g., F.S.)(45 CFR 98.33)

The CCR&R department at ELC of Duval:

1. Offers *free* information and referral services to all families seeking quality Early Learning / School Readiness Programs, VPK Program, Head Start, and out of school time solutions;
2. Assists in the recruitment, startup and support of providers;
3. Maintains a comprehensive database of existing early learning / child care providers and programs and updates all changes;
4. Provides information to families on how to select quality child care;
5. Hosts CCRR Visibility events throughout the community to disseminate information
6. Promotes awareness of Child Care Executive Partnership and other employer initiatives;
6. Provides information on services for children/youth with disabilities and / or other special needs



<http://www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/CoalitionsRRs.html>

Children learn best through their everyday experiences with the people they love and trust, and when the learning is fun.

<http://www.zerotothree.org/schoolreadiness/>





Child Care Resource and Referral Services Referrals Statistics – FY 05-06

Average # of Child Care Referrals per month: 135

Average # of VPK Referrals per month: 401

Percentage of Referral calls from Households with one adult:
70%

Percentage of Referral calls from parents / step-parents: 90%

Percentage of Referral calls based on employment: 52%

Percentage of Referral calls for full time care: 70%

Percentage of requests for licensed child care centers: 48%

Percentage of requests for Family Child Care Homes: 41%



Courtesy: <http://www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/ChildCareResourceReferralNetwork.html>

Almost 12 million children under age 5 in the United States—that's 63 percent of the nation's children under 5—are in some type of child care arrangement every week. On average, the children under age 5 of working mothers spend 36 hours a week in child care.

<http://www.naccrra.org/policy/docs/childcareinamericafactsheet.doc>





ELC of Duval provides subsidized child care eligibility & enrollment services.

Families in Duval County are provided subsidized childcare eligibility and enrollment services based on Federal Poverty Levels, and as set forth in Section 411.01 F.S. Eligibility Determination and enrollment services were sub-contracted to the Central Agency - JCC, during FY 05-06. JCC maintained an effective and efficient system of eligibility determination, which was truly family-friendly, and ensured that parents have the maximum opportunity of choices when selecting school readiness services for their children.

ELC of Duval works with an assortment of childcare providers - licensed family child care homes (FCCHs); licensed centers; gold seal centers; faith-based centers; and informal providers. The Coalition retains the authority for setting local eligibility priorities based on Florida Statutes - Section 411.01, and funding availability. A sliding fee scale is used to determine the family's portion of payment based on family income.

How do families access these services? - SIMPLIFIED POINT OF ENTRY (SPE) & UNIFIED WAIT LIST (UWL)

Families go through the Simplified Point of Entry, which is a one-stop entry point for families seeking subsidized childcare services. After a family is identified as being eligible to receive subsidized childcare, they are placed on a Unified Wait List according to Coalition priority. Families are contacted and offered subsidized childcare based on availability of funding for the different eligibility priorities of ELC of Duval. The wait list was purged twice during the year. One hundred percent of all families were notified of their wait list status upon inquiry.

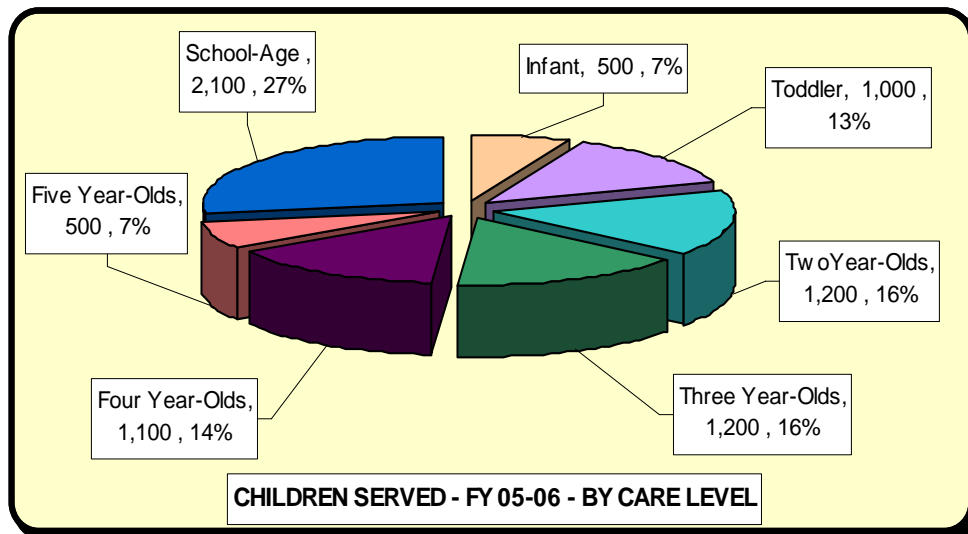
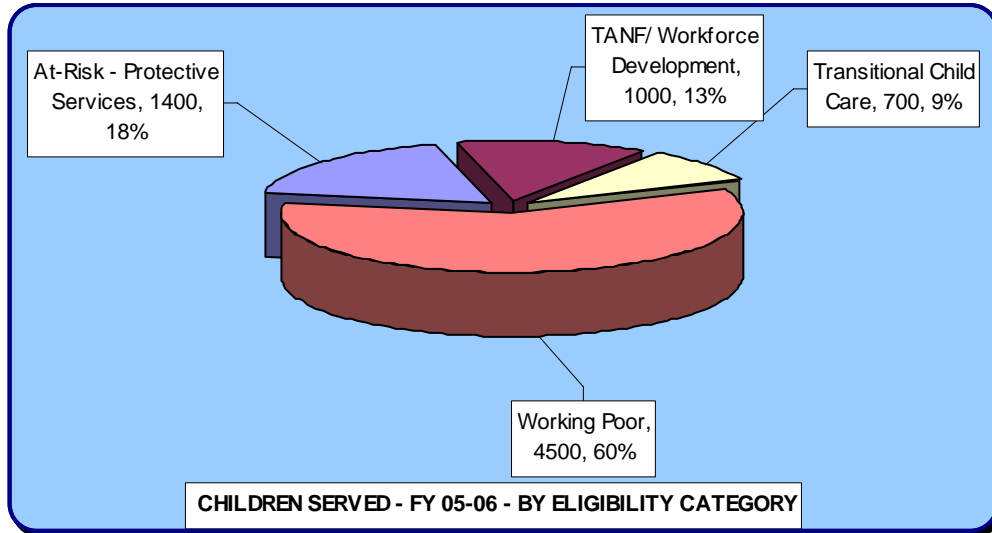
A baby welcomed into a center may spend up to twelve thousand hours in child care, more time than she will spend in all of elementary and high school.

<http://www.journal.naeyc.org/btj/200505/01Greenman.pdf>



Subsidized Child Care Enrollment DEMOGRAPHICS

Average unduplicated Count of Children served through subsidized child care: 7,600

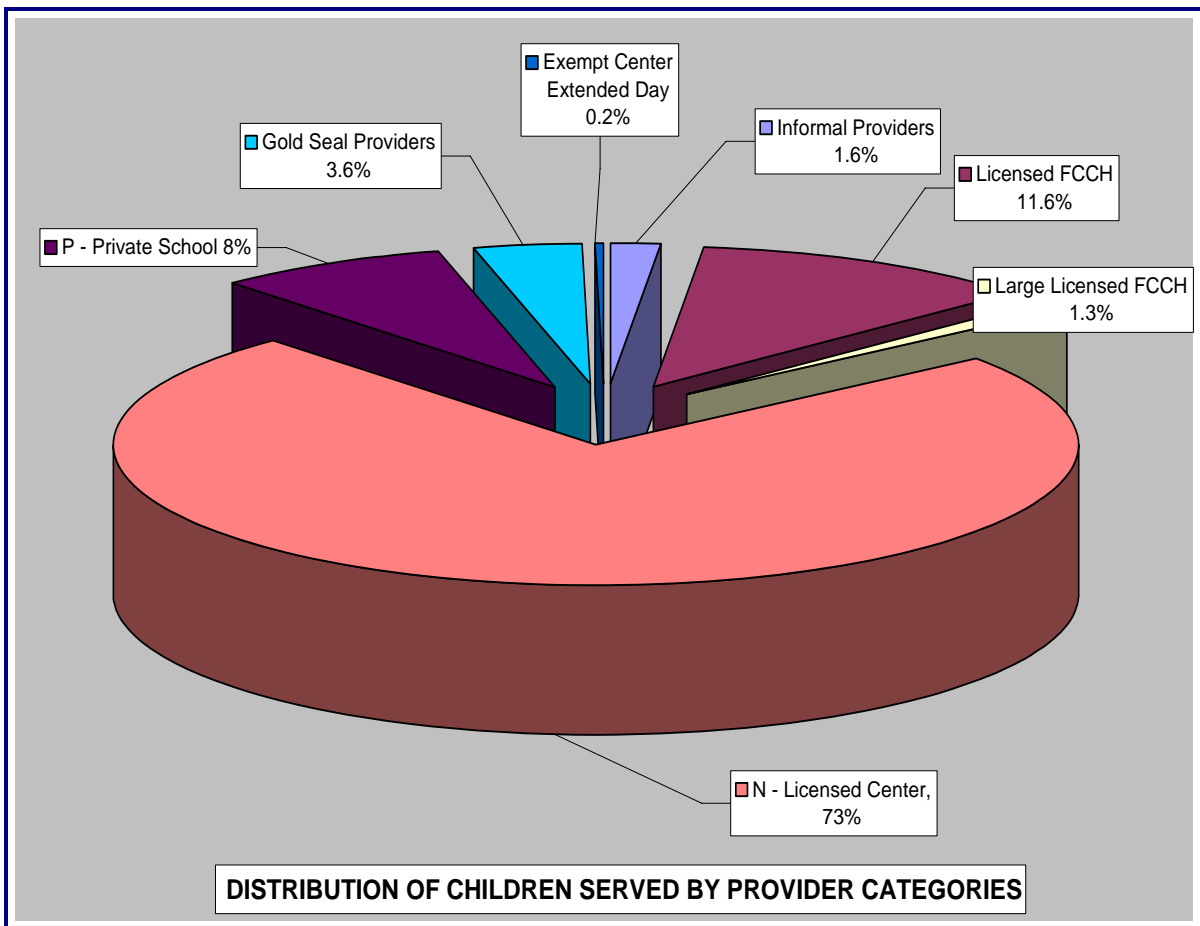


Subsidized Child Care Enrollment DEMOGRAPHICS

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN SERVED BY PROVIDER CATEGORIES

40% OF THE PROVIDER TYPE IS COMPRISED OF LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS; THE LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS SERVE 73% OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE.

39% OF THE PROVIDER TYPE IS COMPRISED OF FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES; FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES SERVE 13% OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE.

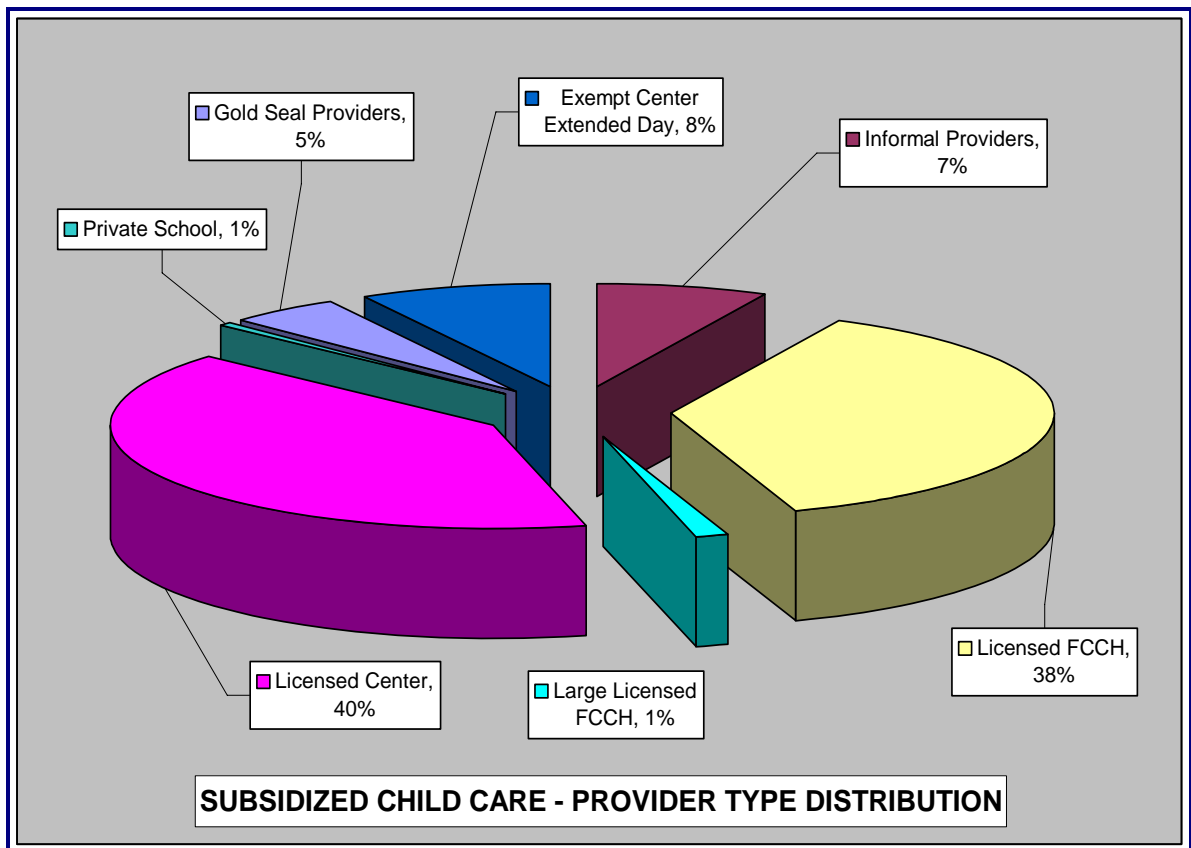




Subsidized Child Care Enrollment DEMOGRAPHICS

SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE – PROVIDER TYPE DISTRIBUTION

14% of the children served live in zip code 32208;
14% live in zip code 32210;
12% live in zip code 32209;
8% live in zip code 32206;
7% live in zip code 32254;
6% live in zip code 32211;
and the remaining 39% are scattered across the remaining zip codes in Duval County.





Subsidized Child Care - Slots Utilization Analysis

Subsidized childcare slots projections went through a challenging four months (Oct. '2005 to Jan. 2006) while awaiting approval from the Office of Early Learning (OEL), for the sliding parent-fee scale based on FY 2005 Federal Poverty Levels. During that time, it appeared that if the proposed sliding fee scale was not approved, ELC of Duval would face a large deficit, and hence there was a freeze in enrollment until Jan. 2006. However, OEL approved the proposed sliding fee scale, which enabled ELC of Duval to open up enrollment effective Feb. 2006.

The mandatory reduction in parent fees for a temporary period and the continued increase in the number of children in the "must serve" categories caused the hold on Working Poor (BG8) enrollment to be extended longer than previously planned. Reverting to the higher parent fee during the month of February 2006 allowed children to be enrolled from the wait list. This combination of events allowed approximately 7,600 children (unduplicated count) to be served during FY 2005 - 2006.

JCC put forth its best efforts to enroll as many children as possible during the months of Feb. '06 to June '06. Based on the slots projections, ELC of Duval deobligated \$1,500,000 in subsidized childcare slots funding. At the end of FY 05-06, the wait list was entirely depleted and children were being enrolled with minimal time spent on the wait list.

Forty percent of working poor families headed by single mothers who paid for child care spent at least half of their cash income on child care; another 25 percent spent 40 to 50 percent of their income on child care.

Twenty-three percent of working poor families headed by married couples who paid for child care spent more than half of their income on child care, while another 21 percent spent between 40 and 50 percent.

<http://www.childtrends.org>





DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS RESULTS

Developmental screenings of children between ages 4 months to 5 years of age were coordinated through a collaboration and sub-contract with the Department of Health and Jacksonville Children's Commission. The goal of the Developmental Screening department was to implement a system that screens for developmental delays in children receiving school readiness services, using Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) as the screening instrument. The implementation process entailed education and preparation of providers in completing ASQs, data collection / child portfolio maintenance, results review, preparation of individualized learning plans, and facilitation of early intervention services.

52% of the children for whom ASQs were completed at centers passed developmental screening tests;

33% of the children failed the developmental screening tests and a repeat ASQ was done 8 weeks later with learning plans implemented during the intervening 8-week period;

15% of the children passed with concern

79% of learning plans were completed for children who failed the initial screening

47% of children for whom repeat ASQs were completed passed the developmental screening at the end of the 8-week period

Referrals were made to Child Find, Vision is Priceless, and Speech and Hearing Center for children who needed them

Inclusion Specialists helped with the Warm Line (toll-free) through which parents and providers received professional guidance about children's behavior and development, provided strategies for environmental adaptations for children with special needs, and informed about linkages to other community resources that support inclusion efforts.

A child's growth is more than just physical. Children grow, develop, and learn throughout their lives, starting at birth. A child's development can be followed by how they play, learn, speak, and behave.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/child/devtool.htm>





QUALITY INITIATIVES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ELC of Duval expanded its Quality Initiatives and outreach of services in collaboration with the Mayor’s Early Literacy Initiative, and incorporated best practices in early learning through many of these initiatives. ELC of Duval’s signature initiative for FY 05-06 was the Quality Rating System (QRS) Initiative. The QRS workgroup met frequently during the fiscal year and developed the QRS tool, which serves as a blueprint for assessment and star-rating of the early learning centers. There were success stories galore and all of the partner agencies and community partners contributed to the successes and achievements.

Quality Rating System for Early Learning Centers expanded from 14 pilot sites in FY 2004-2005 to 100 sites in FY 2005-2006 - 50 sites supported and funded by ELC of Duval funding; 50 sites supported and funded by the Mayor’s Early Literacy Initiative funding.

OVERVIEW OF QRS

Communication between center directors about entrance and exit criteria

Initial / Self-Assessment of Center Quality

Pre-ITERS / Pre-ECERS

Development of Center Action Plan

Purchase of materials based on environmental needs

Purchase of early learning materials, books, CDs etc. based on center needs and curriculum

Ongoing coaching by 12 Early Learning Coaches and 3 Professional Development Coaches

Validation Process & Final Star Rating

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT FUNDING AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

8 sites were rated as 5-star centers and 6 sites were rated as 4-star centers

ITERS – Infant / Toddler Environmental Scale
14 sites increased their ITERS score
2 sites scored 5.5 or more on the Pre-ITERS

ECERS – Early Childhood Environmental Scale
13 sites increased their ECERS score
5 sites scored 5.5 or more on the Pre-ECERS

180 center staff from the QRS sites received wage incentives

190 center staff received educational grants for CDA and Director Credential courses

48 QRS sites and 24 extremely needy sites received materials grants based on needs determined by the individual center action plans.

112 candidates received funding for their CDA Assessment through the Council for Professional Recognition

25 Family Child Care Home providers were funded to attend the NAFCC conference

72 Family Child Care Homes received materials grants based on needs assessment and books grants to enable them to start lending libraries





ELC of Duval implements Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program in Duval County.

A constitutional amendment passed by Florida's voters in Nov. 2002 required a voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) program for all four-year-old children by fall 2005. House Bill 1-A was signed into law by Governor Bush on January 2, 2005, creating a program designed to prepare four-year-olds for kindergarten and build the foundation for their educational success. The program allows a parent to enroll his or her eligible child (four years old by September 1 and residing in Florida) in a free VPK program. The program is voluntary for children and providers.

The legislature created two different options for parents: school year program consisting of 540 instructional hours; a summer program consisting of 300 instructional hours.

VPK providers have flexibility in structuring the hours per day and days per week to meet the required instructional hours. For example, if a program is 180 days (similar to a school-year calendar), it would offer 3 hours of instruction each day to meet the 540-hour requirement. A provider could also choose to offer a 6 hour-per-day program for 90 days. Providers may consider other options, including offering a morning or afternoon program or having a program for 2 or 3 days a week instead of every day.

Legislators provided a base student allocation of \$2,500 per child and with the county differential for Duval, per student allocation for FY 2005-2006 was \$2,503.50. The coalitions were allowed to spend up to 5% of the provider payments in VPK program administration and implementation.

About 62% of the estimated enrollment of about 8,200 4-year olds in Duval County actually enrolled in the 540-hour VPK program offered by 262 private providers of early learning programs.

There were 448 VPK classrooms for the 540-hour VPK program which served close to 5,100 children.

Over 600 teachers in the different VPK early learning centers were trained during the course of the year in the VPK Standards.

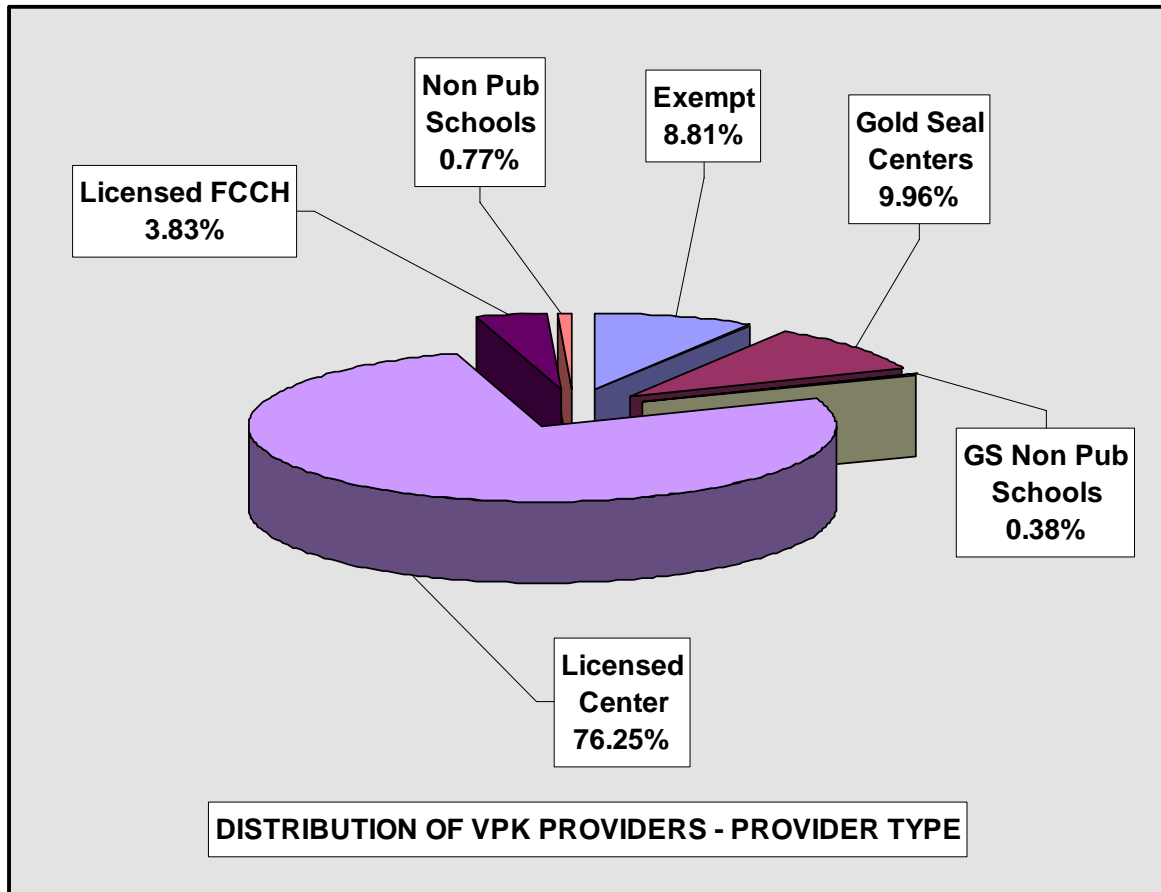
VPK Program monitoring was completed by independent monitors in all VPK Early Learning Centers. Out of a total of 238 VPK Sites which received funding for the 540-hour program, about 50% of the providers were in compliance during the first visit. After the follow-up visit with professional guidance during the intervening period, 91% of the sites were in compliance. Of the remaining 9%, just 2% were out of compliance for program reasons after the follow-up visit.

Like kindergarten before it, preschool education is a concept whose time has come. One who has studied preschool education in the context of global competitiveness is Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman. When it comes to investing in early childhood education, he says it best: "We can't afford not to." www.naesp.org



VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

DISTRIBUTION OF VPK PROVIDERS - PROVIDER TYPE



FCCH – Family Child Care Homes

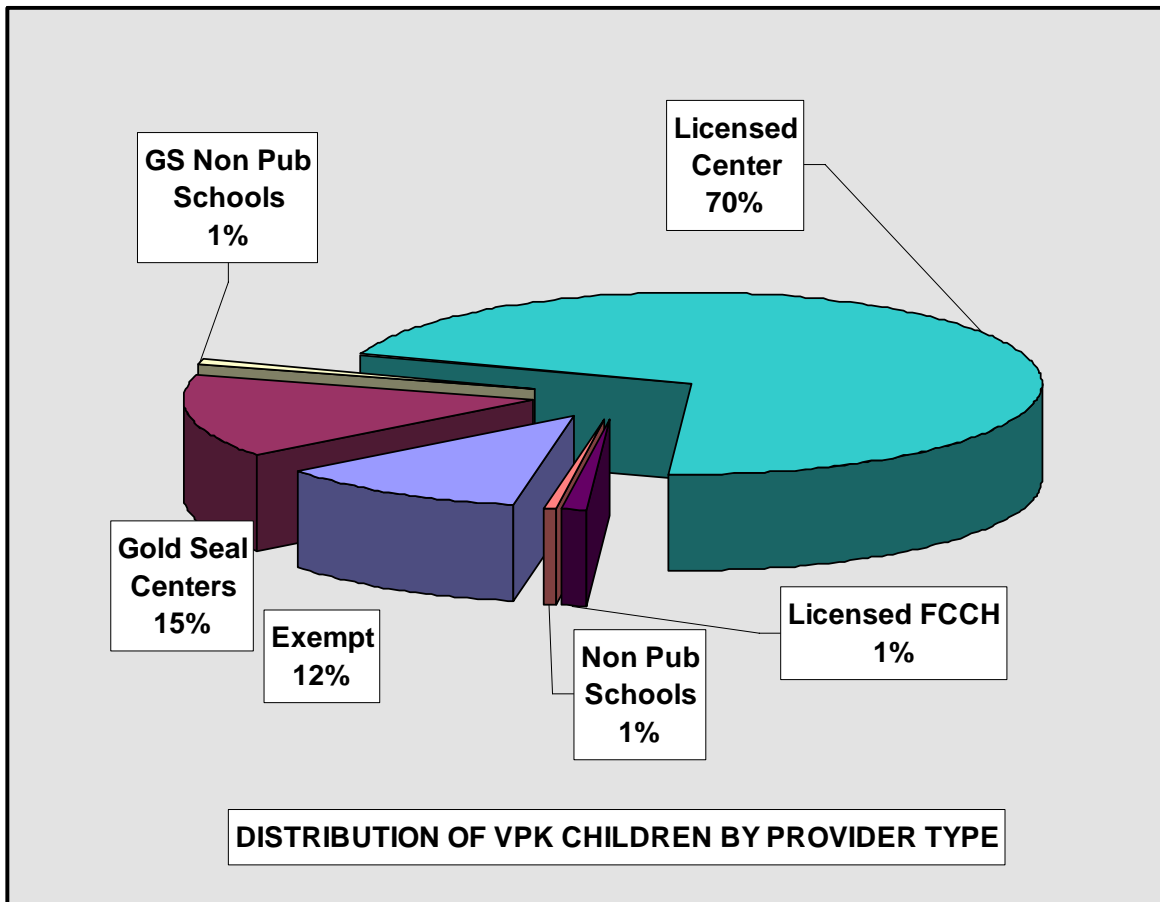
GS Non Pub Schools – Gold Seal Non-Public Schools





VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN - ENROLLMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

DISTRIBUTION OF VPK CHILDREN ENROLLMENT BY PROVIDER TYPE – 540 – HR PROGRAM



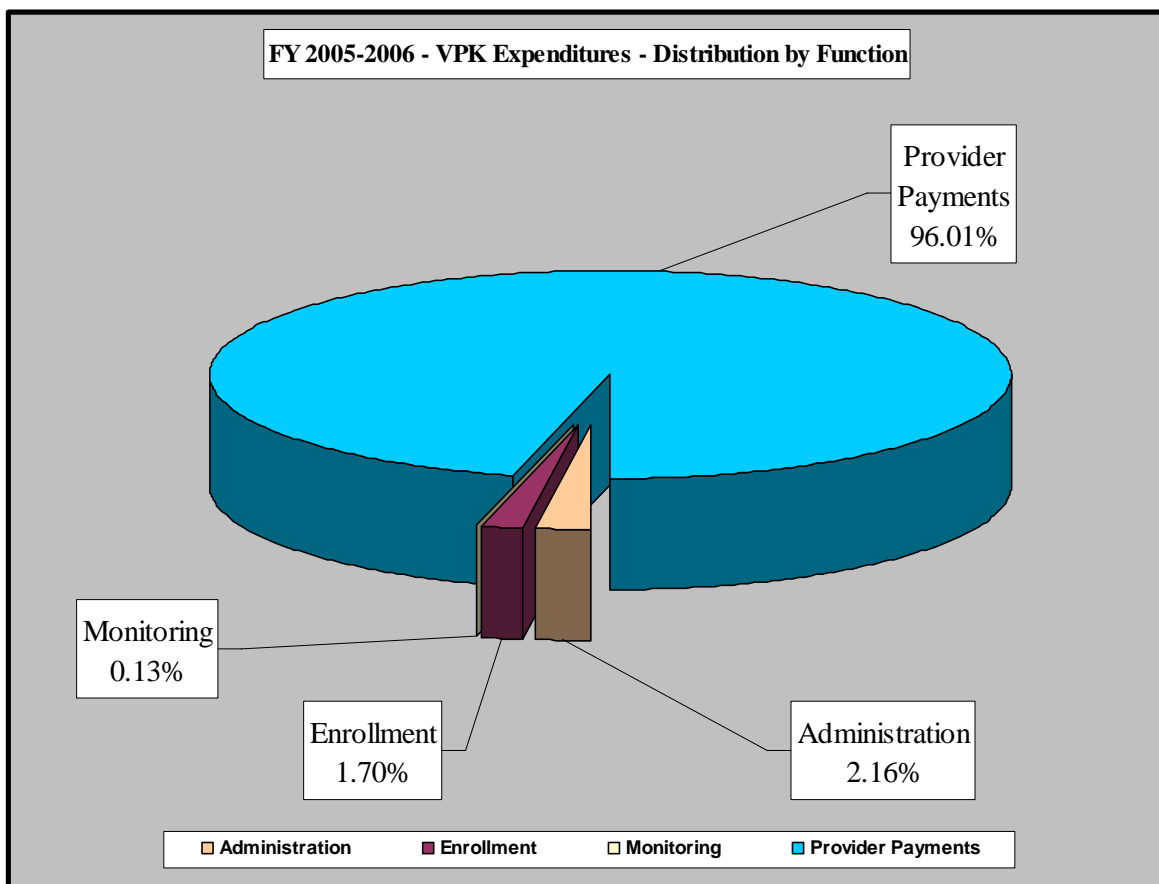
FCCH – Family Child Care Homes
GS Non Pub Schools – Gold Seal Non-Public Schools





FINANCIAL ANALYSIS - VPK FUNDING

ELC of Duval received a grant award of \$21,636,624 for an enrollment of 8,231 children, and was successful in enrolling over 5,100 children for the 540-hour program. A total of \$12.7 million was paid out to VPK providers, which is about 96% of the total VPK expenditures. State allows up to 5% of provider payments, as VPK program implementation and administration expenditures. ELC of Duval was under that threshold and incurred about 4% of the provider payments, as VPK administration expenditures.





FINANCIAL ANALYSIS - SCHOOL READINESS FUNDING

ELC of Duval received a total grant award of \$30,455,796 for School Readiness (SR) programs. Local Match of over \$1 million was provided by the City of Jacksonville.

96% of the total grant award was expended during fiscal year 2005-2006.

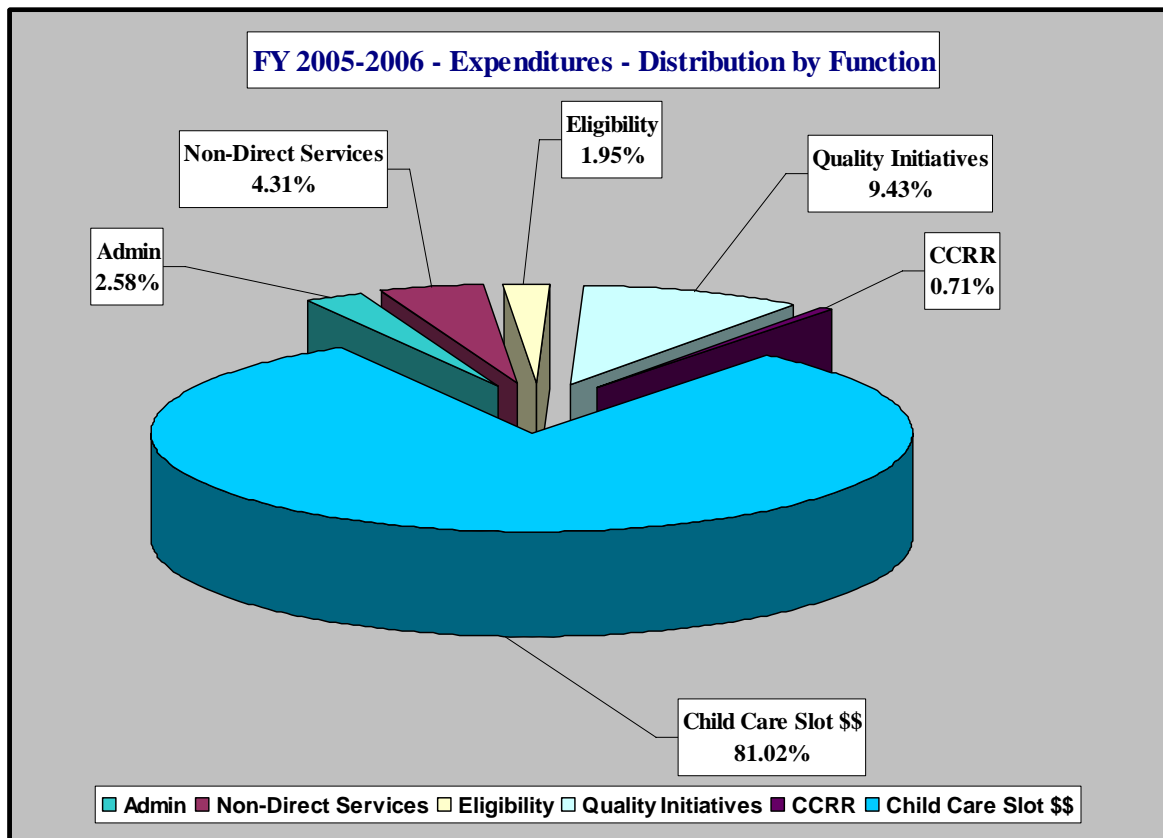
81% of the expenditures were spent on subsidized childcare slots;

Approximately 10% of the expenditures were spent on Quality Initiatives;

About 1% of the expenditures were spent on Child Care Resource and Referral services;

Approximately 5% of the expenditures were spent in non-direct services like subsidized child care management and enrollment and developmental health screening and assessment services;

Coalition administrative expenditures were under 3% of the total funding received for SR.





COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND PROGRAM PERFORMANCE (SRUSS RESULTS)

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:

ELC of Duval collaborates and consults with representatives of local governments, health agencies and organizations, employment agencies and organizations, public education, child welfare agencies and organizations, Head Start, programs that promote inclusion of children with special needs, and other local private entities providing early childhood development services in developing and implementing programs, in the following ways:

1. ELC of Duval is a partner in the Early Literacy Partnership of the Mayor of City of Jacksonville.
2. ELC of Duval sub contracts with the Duval Health Department for qualified staff to manage our Developmental Screening Process in partnership with the Jacksonville Children's Commission.
3. ELC of Duval works with the local Workforce employment agencies to help seek and employ CCR&R staffing.
4. ELC of Duval works closely with the Duval County Public Schools in the implementation of the Mayor's Early Literacy program and the summer VPK program.
5. ELC of Duval is involved in the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) grant's book giveaways at the Head Start early learning centers.
6. ELC of Duval works with Nemours Children's Clinic to bring the Bright Start! Dyslexia program to children in our child care centers, to identify and help children with possible special needs.
7. JCC's Inclusion staff works out in the community with the Speech and Hearing Clinic, Child Find, and Pre-K Early Intervention Program.
8. University of North Florida's Florida Institute of Education is a sub-contractor and Consultant for pre-post assessment of school readiness children and for Quality Rating System of early learning centers. TERA (Test of Early Reading Ability) and ALRI (Alphabet Letter Recognition Inventory) were administered to randomly selected 3 to 5 year olds.

OVERALL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE:

The Florida Department of Education implements a school readiness uniform screening system per the requirement of Section 411.01 (10) of the Florida Statutes. The School Readiness Uniform Screening System is intended to gather school readiness information on all public school children entering kindergarten. The SRUSS is administered between the first and 30th day of each school year.

Information from the screening is intended to serve multiple purposes. The information assists teachers in understanding the abilities and in targeting instruction to help children become successful learners. Additionally, it is anticipated that it will provide information to improve school readiness programs and services for preschool-age children.

SRUSS Results reported in Fall 2005 - Duval County:

Of the 9,111 children tested in Duval County, 82% were ready for kindergarten, 13% were 'getting ready' and 5% were not ready yet. The count of 9,111 includes children served by ELC of Duval's School Readiness program and the children who did not attend a School Readiness program.





BOARD MEMBERS - ELC OF DUVAL - FY 2005-2006

Designation in F.S. 411.01(5)5	Mandatory Member	Voting Member	Name	Affiliation and/or Employment
Chair, appointed by the Governor		Yes	Toni Crawford	Private Sector
Private sector appointed by the Governor	Yes	Yes	Howard Korman Jacksonville Greyhound Racing	Private Sector
Private sector appointed by the Governor	Yes	Yes	Sandy Ramsey Acosta, Inc.	Private Sector Acosta, Inc.
Department of Children & Family Services district administrator or designee	Yes	Yes	Andrea Trczinski	County Department of Children and Families
District superintendent of schools or designee	Yes	No	Dr. Janice Hunter, designee Duval County Public Schools	County School District
Regional workforce development board chair or director, where applicable	Yes	Yes	Bruce Ferguson	Regional Workforce Board
County health Department director or designee	Yes	Yes	Belinda Johnson-Cornett	County Health Department
President of a community college or designee	Yes	Yes	Dr. Carole Byrd, designee, FCCJ - Downtown	Community College





BOARD MEMBERS - ELC OF DUVAL - FY 2005-2006

Designation in F.S. 411.01(5)5	Mandatory Member	Voting Member	Name	Affiliation and/or Employment
Member appointed by Board of County Commissioners	Yes	Yes	Connie Hodges United Way of NE Florida	Board of County Commissioners
Head Start Director	Yes	No	Jean Johnson Jacksonville Urban League Head Start	Head Start
Representative of private child care providers	Yes	No	Beverly Price Just For Kids Learning Center	
Representative of faith based child care providers	Yes	No	Barbara Lynn Community Presbyterian Preschool & Kindergarten	
Children services council or juvenile welfare board chair or executive director, if applicable	Yes, if applicable	Yes, if not fiscal agent or contractor	Linda Lanier	Jacksonville Children's Commission
Child care licensing agency head	Yes, if applicable	Yes	Vicki Abrams Dept. of Children & Families	
Central child care agency administrator	Yes, if applicable	No	John Kabat	Jacksonville Children's Commission
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Gardner Davis, Foley & Lardner Law Firm	
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Michelle Braun, Bank of America	
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Dana Ferrell-Birchfield, Nemours	
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Dr. Cheryl Fountain, University of North	
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Laurie Price, Hope Haven Children's Clinic	
Private Sector Business		Yes	Terri Schmidt, Blue Cross Blue Shield	

