

Early Learning Coalition
of Duval

2006-2007 Annual Report

Antonia K. Crawford - Board Chair

Susan Main - Executive Director



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Early Learning Coalition of Duval proudly presents the Annual report for fiscal year 2006-2007. This has been an exciting 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 21,530 children in Duval County.

The Coalition entered its third-year pilot of the Quality Rating System, providing a comprehensive array of services to 96 Early Learning Centers with the goal of enhancing the cognitive, social, and physical development of children. An additional 100 centers were served by coaches from the ELC in partnership with Duval County School Board.

The Coalition completed 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 March 2008.

The second year of the Voluntary Pre Kindergarten (VPK) program was successful in serving more children than the first year. The Coalition began enrollment for its third year in February with the largest single enrollment (over 1200 children) in ELC of Duval's history. We further strengthened our commitment to provide support to VPK providers, VPK children and their families.

The United Way of Northeast Florida (UWNEFL) began working with ELC of Duval in the last quarter of FY 06-07 in order to bring to fruition, their program goal of Early Childhood Success. ELC of Duval was able to work with UWNEFL in the development of the *Success By 6* program which seeks to provide scholarships to families who do not qualify through the school readiness programs. This program was announced in mid-June 2007, and is scheduled for implementation in FY 07-08.

Early Learning providers, 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, including the United Way of Northeast Florida, have contributed to our success during fiscal year 2006-2007.

We are inspired to surmount difficulties that arise and continue to work for the betterment of children in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Toni Crawford".

Toni Crawford
Coalition Chair





Vision and Mission Statement

VISION STATEMENT

All Jacksonville Early Learning Programs will provide high quality care and early learning services that result in 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, was created as a result of action taken by the Florida Legislature in 1999, to ensure 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 local oversight and administration of the Voluntary Pre Kindergarten program in Duval County.





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 Services
Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program

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

Jacksonville Children's Commission (JCC):

School Readiness Services (Eligibility & Enrollment and Payment Services) & Quality Initiatives Services;

Florida Institute of Education at University of North Florida:

Child Pre & Post-Assessment;

Duval County Health Department:

Developmental Screening

School Readiness Services funding comes from the State Office of Early Learning, 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. 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.





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. Provides information to families on how to select quality child care;
3. Serves to provide outreach to the community on all programs and services of ELC of Duval and partner agencies.
4. Promotes awareness of Child Care Executive Partnership and other employer initiatives;
5. Hosts CCRR Visibility events throughout the community to disseminate information
6. Provides information on services for children/youth with disabilities &/or other special needs.
7. Maintains a comprehensive database of existing early learning / child care providers and programs and updates all changes;
8. Assists in the recruitment, startup and support of providers;
9. Maintains the Unified Wait List, and Simplified Point of Entry applicants.





Child Care Resource and Referral Services Referrals Statistics – FY 06-07

Average # of Child Care Referrals per month: 200

Average # of VPK Referrals per month: 138

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%





School Readiness Eligibility & Enrollment Services

Families in Duval County are provided subsidized childcare eligibility and enrollment services based on Federal Poverty Level and as set forth in Section 411.01 F.S. Eligibility Determination and enrollment services were sub-contracted to the Jacksonville Children's Commission (JCC), during FY 06-07. JCC maintained an effective and efficient system of eligibility determination 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.

SIMPLIFIED POINT OF ENTRY (SPE) & UNIFIED WAIT LIST (UWL)

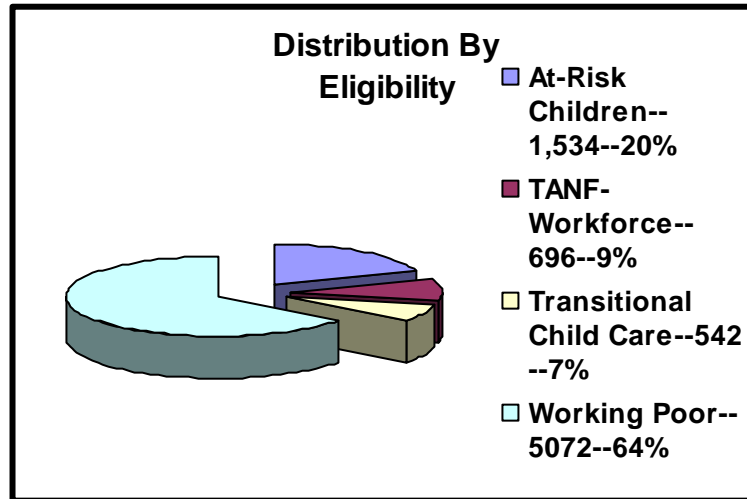
Families access services through the Simplified Point of Entry, a one-stop entry point for families seeking subsidized childcare services. After ELC of Duval staff identifies a family as being eligible to receive subsidized childcare, they are placed on a Unified Wait List according to Coalition priority. Families are then contacted by JCC and offered subsidized childcare based on availability of funding for the different eligibility priorities of ELC of Duval. Enrollment took place beginning in July and the waiting list was eliminated in December of 2006. As of January 2007 no additional children were served from the wait list due to a lack of funding. One hundred percent of all families were notified of their wait list status upon inquiry. Families not qualifying for the UWL are contacted by ELC of Duval staff and offered resources and referrals to help their situation by ELC of Duval CCRR staff.



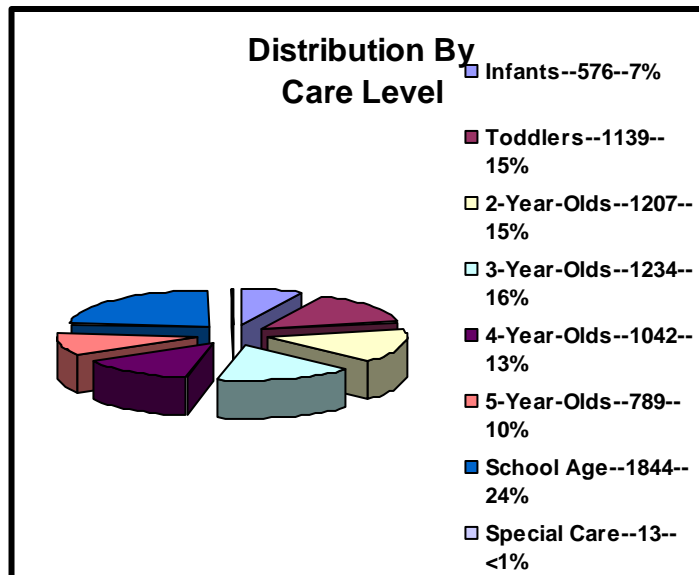


Subsidized Child Care Enrollment Demographics

Average unduplicated count of children served through subsidized child care: **8,400**



*Percentages are rounded to the nearest percentage point.



* Special Care represents less than one percent of the care levels, and as such is negligible.

*Percentages are rounded to the nearest percentage point.



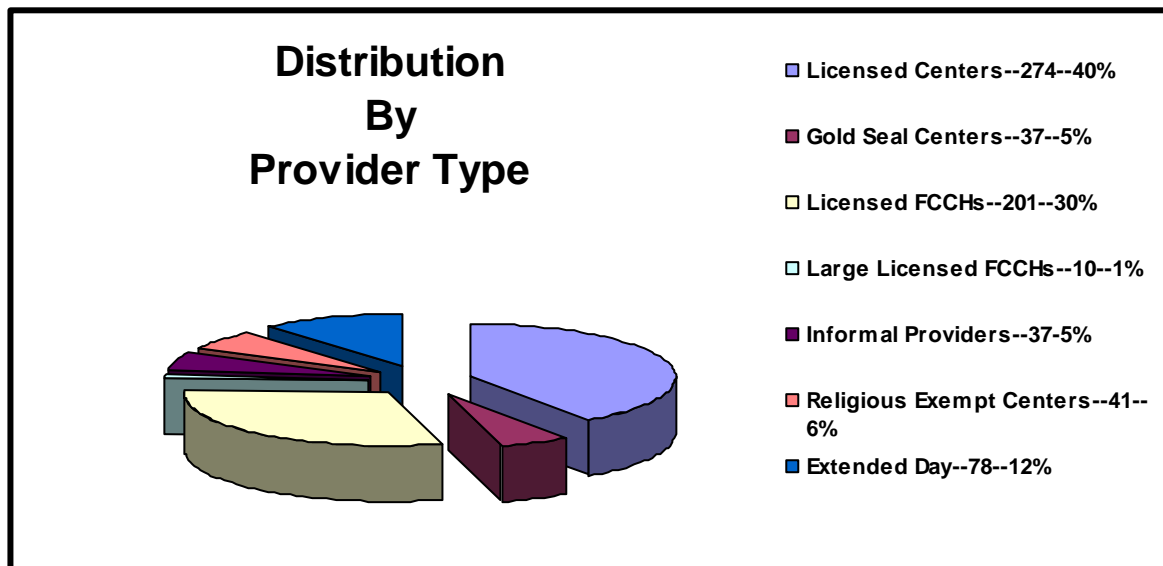


Subsidized Child Care Enrollment Demographics

DISTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN SERVED BY PROVIDER CATEGORIES

45% OF THE PROVIDER TYPE IS COMPRISED OF LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS; THE LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS SERVE 79% OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE.

31% OF THE PROVIDER TYPE IS COMPRISED OF FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES; FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES SERVE 11% OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE.



*Percentages are rounded to the nearest percentage point.





Subsidized Child Care Enrollment Demographics

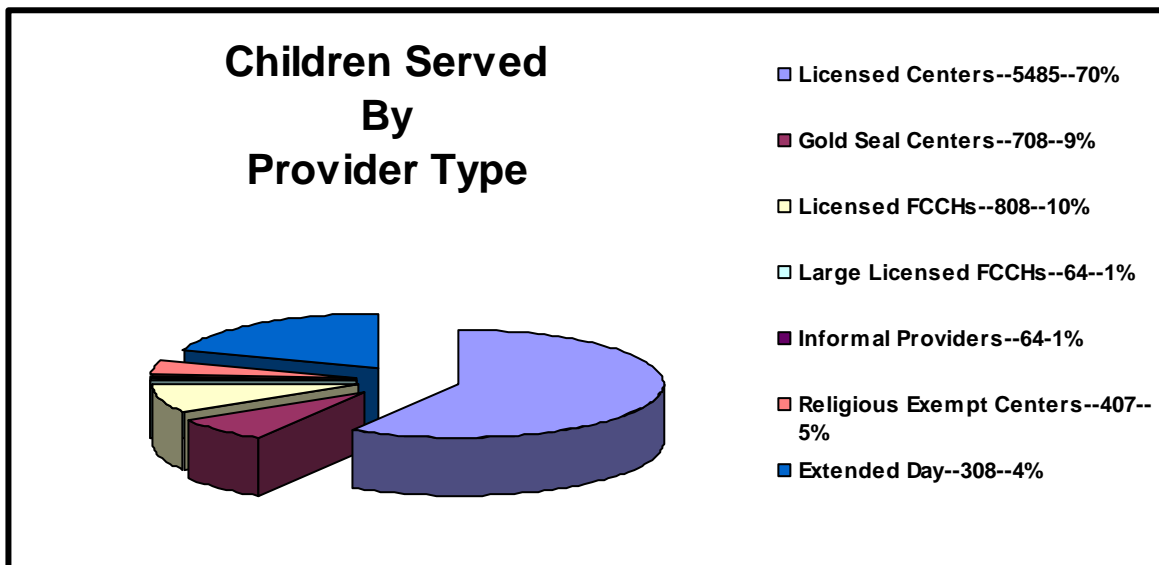
SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE – PROVIDER TYPE DISTRIBUTION

Of the children served through School Readiness:

14% live in zip code 32209;
9% live in zip code 32208;
7% live in zip code 32244;
5% live in zip code 32205;
5% live in zip code 32254;

10% live in zip code 32210;
8% live in zip code 32218;
6% live in zip code 32206;
5% live in zip code 32211;

and the remaining 31% are scattered across the remaining zip codes in Duval County.



*Percentages are rounded to the nearest percentage point.





Subsidized Child Care – Slots Utilization Analysis

Jacksonville Children's Commission (JCC) is responsible for our required match. In July 2006 JCC's cash match was not being applied due to it not being recorded in the CCMS system prior to rosters being processed for payment. Had it been applied, the average monthly rate would have been lower. The cash match was applied beginning with the August 2006 payment cycle. The JCC cash match of \$625,000 was fully utilized by March 2007. The April-June monthly rate calculations take this into consideration.

The wait list began in again in January 2007, and however there was no opening for child placement the remainder of the fiscal year. As of June 30, 2007, there were 2,721 children on the wait list.

The average monthly rate in June was higher than expected. This was the case, in part, because June included many children whose care switched from part-time to full-time and from VPK wrap-around to full-time due to the school year ending. On June 29th there were 7,747 children enrolled in subsidized care, causing the average enrollment for the month of June to be 8,033.

The number of slots paid is 97.05% of the June average enrollment, which is higher than prior months. The annual average is 94.8%.

At the end of the fiscal year, a potential deficit of \$1,799,968 was identified. Due to the size of the anticipated deficit, the State of Florida awarded an additional \$1.5 million in slots funding. The remaining amount of the deficit was covered by JCC.





Developmental Screening 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. With the implementation of provider penalty for not returning ASQ's according to contract we were able to have a 95% return rate on ASQ's for our children. Additionally, we contracted for on-site speech services for children identified with a speech concern.

Annual and initial ASQ screens were completed on 5156 children. Of that number 3386 children passed and 1463 failed the screening;

Learning plans were implemented for children during the intervening 8-week period;

A second ASQ was completed on 426 of the 1463 children with 178 failing again, a 41% fail rate. Referrals were made to Child Find, Vision is Priceless, and Speech and Hearing Center for 138 children who needed them. 118 referrals were accepted however only 31 appointments were completed.

1528 Children were vision screened and 30 failed the screening. 722 children had dental screening with 296 failing.

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.

- * 693 sites were assisted by Inclusion Staff
- * 525 children were screened or observed by Inclusion Staff
- * 162 referrals were recommended





Quality Initiatives Accomplishment

ELC of Duval continued to partner with the Mayor's Early Literacy Initiative to enhance Quality Initiatives and outreach of services, and incorporate best practices in early learning education. The Quality Rating System (QRS) workgroup met frequently during the fiscal year and continued to enhance the QRS tool, which will serve as a blueprint for assessment and star-rating of the early learning centers. Success stories continued to abound and all of the partner agencies and community partners contributed to the successes and achievements.

Quality Rating System for Early Learning Centers included 96 pilot sites in FY 2006-2007 half of them supported and funded by ELC of Duval; the other half supported and funded by the Mayor's Early Literacy Initiative. 20 of these centers graduated in May/June of 2007.

OVERVIEW OF QRS

Communication between center directors about entrance and exit criteria
Initial Self-Assessment of Center Quality; Pre-ITERS / ECERS; Development of Center Plan
Purchase of early learning materials, books, CDs etc. based on center needs and curriculum
Educational Scholarships and Wage Incentives
Ongoing weekly coaching by 12 Early Learning Coaches
Validation Process & Final Star Rating

QRS STARS:

Fiscal year 06-07 marked the end of the three year pilot phase for the QRS program in Duval County. At the end of the three years 50% of the centers received a 4-star rating or better and close to 75% of the centers received a 3-star rating or better.

In FY 06-07, 3 sites were rated as 5-star centers and 6 sites were rated as 4-star centers. 7 were rated 3-star centers and 4 received a 2-star rating. Fourteen centers dropped out of the program without receiving a star.

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE - QEI

In FY 06-07, 95 sites were part of a simple initiative whereby the quality of early learning services offered by these centers were measured using checklists, center staff and directors were provided professional guidance in the areas of curriculum and environment, center staff were offered educational scholarships, and centers were nominated to become part of the Quality Rating System.

Four teachers from the Duval County Public School System provided the much needed support for these centers. The initiative met all its objectives and the center staff appreciated the support, professional guidance, and educational scholarships.

Performance Measures of QEI

Baseline data was gathered on all participating centers
Broad Center Action Plans were developed
31 staff received educational scholarships for CDA
32 sites were nominated to become part of Quality Rating System





Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program in Duval County

In fall of 2006, ELC of Duval, along with several 05-06 VPK Directors, hosted a “Get Acquainted Party” for new VPK Directors to invite them to participate in the VPK Director’s Network. Eighteen new VPK providers attended the luncheon. In November the first official meeting of the VPK Director’s Network was held at Parkwood Weekday Preschool. Carole Moore, director of Hidden Hills Learning Tree and Ft Caroline Learning Tree, provided a training on Planning and Implementing an Effective Staff Meeting. Funding for the Network is provided by a grant from the Rice Foundation to support a grassroots organization to improve the business and program practices of the VPK/Child Care Directors. Network meetings were held at different VPK sites with trainings provided based on Director feedback. In addition to meetings, the Directors traveled to Tallahassee to participate in Children’s Day, provided colorful cut outs of children’s hands to decorate the Capitol for Children’s Week and met with several representatives and senators from the Duval delegation. In January, a VPK Open House was held for non-VPK Duval providers. “VPK Ambassadors” shared local success stories, answered questions and addressed concerns from potential VPK participants. In May, the Network hosted a VPK Provider Appreciation Dinner with 76 Directors in attendance. In this year over 150 Directors participated in the Network events.

In January, ELC of Duval VPK staff met with the Department of Children and Families to discuss background screening issues. In a unique DCF/ELC partnership a program was designed to allow VPK teachers’ access to DCF live scan with quick turnaround results to ensure the timely approval of teachers and assistants in the classroom.

January also saw the beginning of installation of Provider Profile Maintenance System (PPMS) for VPK data. This system enables us to track all elements of the VPK program and provide data to the ELC Board for decision making.

On February 3rd we had our Kick-off enrollment event for school year 07-08. Over 1200 children received certificates at the Main Library in downtown Jacksonville. In addition to the VPK kick off we had 55 local community outreach sign-ups where 2240 certificates were given to eligible VPK children.

ELC of Duval also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Jacksonville Urban League Head Start to finalize their participation in VPK.





Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Provider Participation, Training and Monitoring

Duval Participation:

- 329 providers signed contracts with the Early Learning Coalition of Duval to participate in VPK
- 2006-2007 summer program enrolled 347 children with a VPK provider and/or public schools
- 2006-2007 VPK school year program enrolled and paid 7591 children

Trainings on VPK standards, Level I and Level II were held throughout the winter and spring of 2007.

- 380 VPK teachers and directors received training in the State Education Standards (Level 1)
- 233 VPK teachers received training in the pilot program “Integrating the Standards into your Lesson Plans” (Standards Level II)

About 68% of the estimated 12,000 4-year olds in Duval County actually enrolled in the 540-hour VPK program offered by 329 private providers of early learning programs.

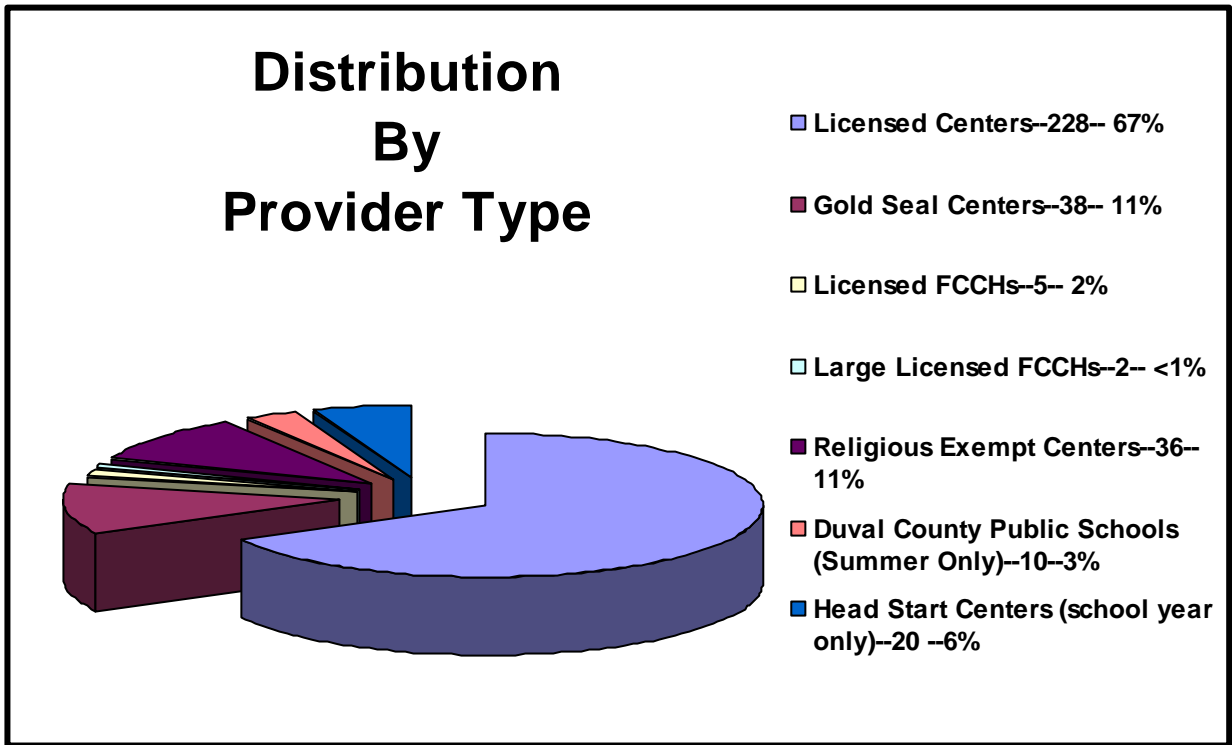
VPK Program monitoring was completed by independent monitors in all VPK Early Learning Centers. Out of a total of 329 VPK Sites which received funding for the 540-hour program, 56% of the providers were in compliance during the initial fall visit. After the follow-up fall visit and with technical assistance given by the coalition during the intervening period, 97% of the sites were in compliance. In the spring, 67% were in compliance on the first monitoring. After the spring follow-up visits, 96% were in compliance at the end of the year.





Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment Demographics

DISTRIBUTION OF VPK PROVIDERS - PROVIDER TYPE



FCCH – Family Child Care Homes

* Large FCCHs represent less than one percent of VPK providers, and as such is negligible.

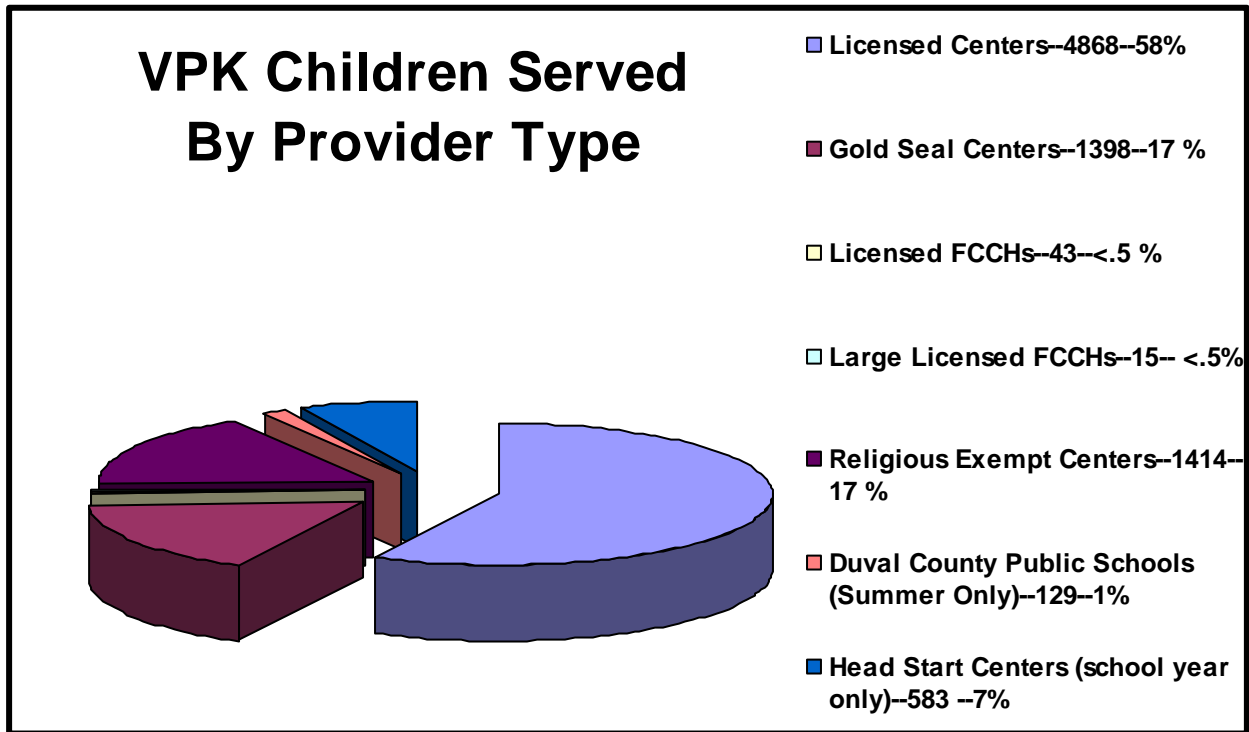
* Percentages are rounded to the nearest percentage point.





Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment Demographics

DISTRIBUTION OF VPK CHILDREN ENROLLMENT BY PROVIDER TYPE



FCCH – Family Child Care Homes

*FCCHs and Large FCCHs represent less than one half of one percent of enrolled children a piece, and as such are negligible.

*Percentages are rounded to the nearest percentage point.

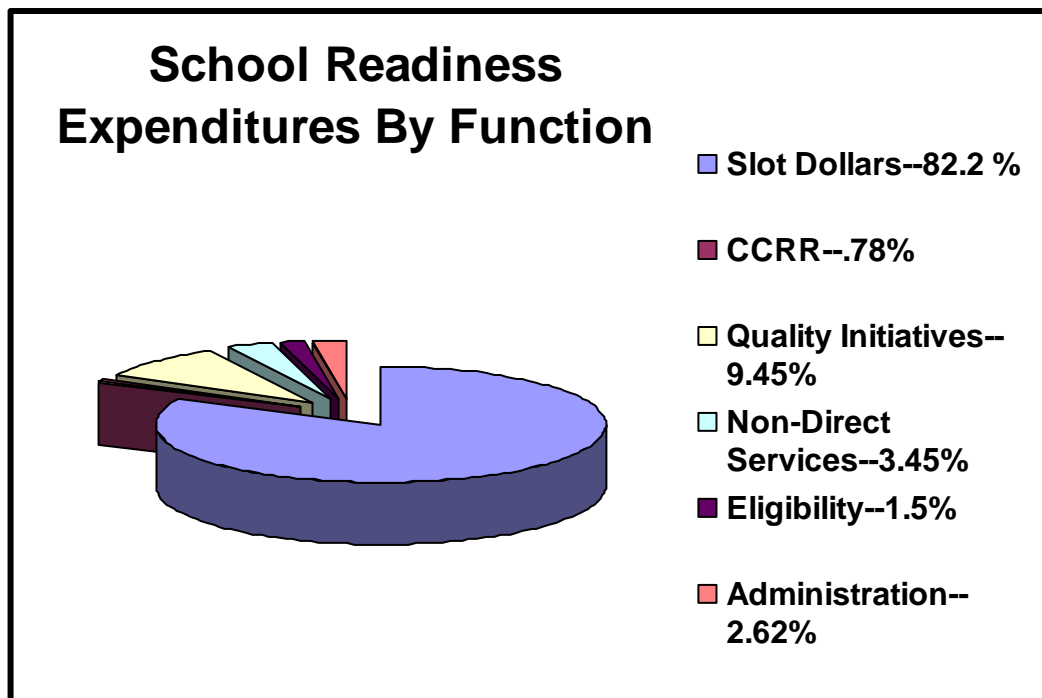




Financial Analysis – School Readiness Funding

ELC of Duval received a total grant award of \$31,120,796 for School Readiness (SR) programs. Local Match of over \$1 million was provided by the City of Jacksonville. A second grant of \$1.5 million was secured by the state after a projected deficit occurred. The remainder of the deficit was covered by the Jacksonville Children’s Commission.

100% of the total grant award was expended during fiscal year 2006-2007.
82% of the expenditures were spent on subsidized childcare slots;
Approximately 10% of the expenditures were spent on Quality Initiatives;
Under 1% of the expenditures were spent on Child Care Resource and Referral services;
Almost 4% 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.



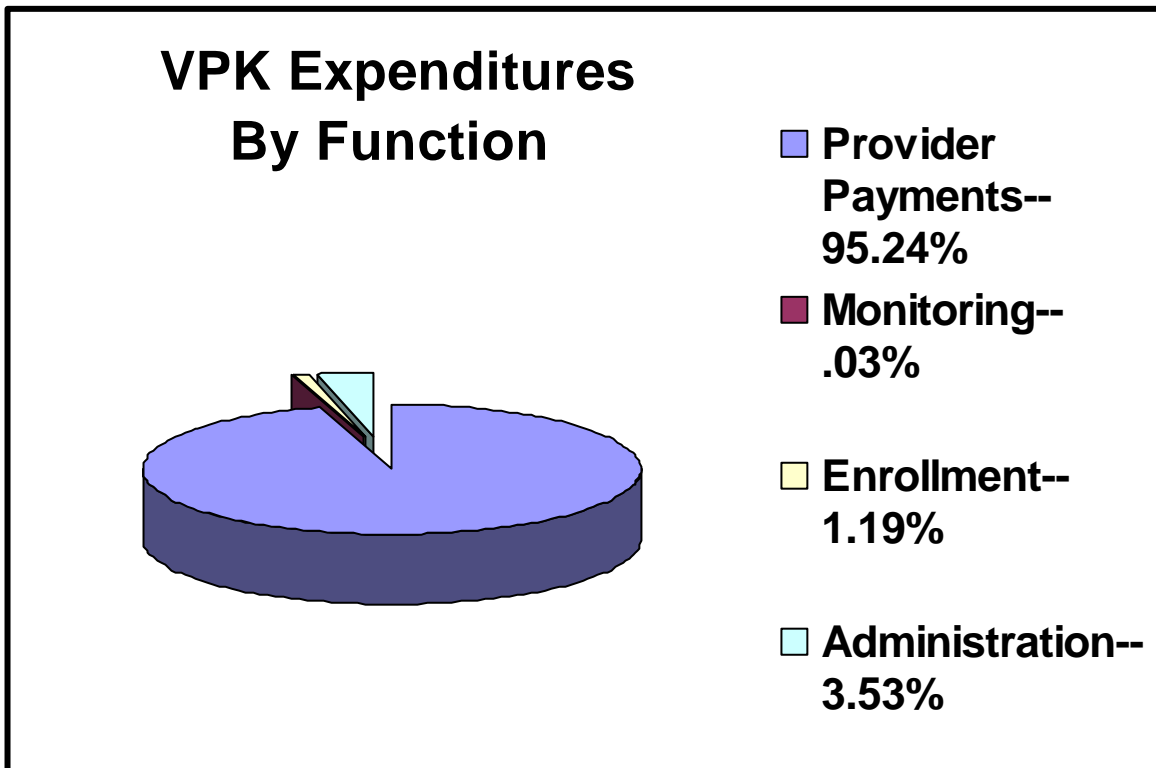
*Percentages are rounded to the nearest percentage point.





Financial Analysis - VPK Funding

ELC of Duval received a grant award of \$24,902,897 for the enrollment of children, and was successful in enrolling over 8,000 children for the 540-hour program. A total of \$17.95 million was paid out to VPK providers, which is about 95% 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 3.5% of the provider payments, as VPK administration expenditures.



*Percentages are rounded to the nearest percentage point.





Overall Summary

Community Collaboration and Program Performance

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION SUMMARY:

ELC of Duval partners collaborates and consults with all stakeholders in our Early Learning community. We interact with local government, health agencies, employment agencies, public education, child welfare organizations, Head Start, Community College, Universities and private businesses and companies to ensure coordination and integration of services in Duval. ELC of Duval:

1. Partners in the Early Literacy Partnership of the Mayor of City of Jacksonville.
2. Contracts with the Duval Health Department for qualified staff to manage our Developmental Screening Process in partnership with the Jacksonville Children's Commission.
3. Works with the local Workforce employment agencies to help seek and employ CCR&R staffing.
4. Works closely with the Duval County Public Schools in the implementation of the Mayor's Early Literacy program and the summer VPK program.
5. Partners with United Way to promote and fund *Born Learning* programs in Jacksonville.
6. Collaborates 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. Coordinates with the Jacksonville Children's Commission Inclusion staff to work in the community with the Speech and Hearing Clinic, Child Find, and Pre-K Early Intervention Program.
8. Partners with the University of North Florida's Florida Institute of Education to research program effectiveness, develop new strategies and assess school readiness children. TERA-3 (Test of Early Reading Ability) and ALRI (Alphabet Letter Recognition Inventory) were administered to randomly selected 3 to 5 year olds in school readiness programs.
9. Partners with Jacksonville Urban League to facilitate Head Start involvement in VPK programs.
10. Partners with the Jacksonville Public Library for VPK sign-up events and providers trainings.
11. Works with the Non-Profit Center and the Jacksonville Kid's Coalition to organize and plan local Children's Week events and Legislative Forums.

OVERALL PROGRAM PERFORMANCE SUMMARY:

School Readiness children in ELC supported programs were evaluated using TERA-3, ALRI and Brackens. Children assessed continued to show significant gains in pre literacy skills and child development. Child Care Center programs were evaluated through our Quality Rating System Pilot to ensure improvement in five out of eight system domains.

The Kindergarten Readiness Rates released by the state for children who participated in VPK this year reported that of the 290 Duval VPK providers, 224 received a readiness rate. Of these providers 26% were in the top quartile; scoring between 265 to 300; 58% were in the top 2 quartiles; scoring between 244 to 300; 83% were in the top 3 quartiles; scoring between 219 to 300. 27 centers scored below 200 and were targeted as Low Performing Providers. Each provider developed an action plan in conjunction with ELC of Duval at the end of June 2007.





ELC of Duval Board of Directors 2006-2007

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, designee	County Department of Children and Families
District superintendent of schools or designee	Yes	No	Myrna Amos, 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	Carol Syncowitz, designee	County Health Department
President of a community college or designee	Yes	Yes	Dr. Carole Byrd, designee, FCCJ - Downtown	Community College





ELC of Duval Board of Directors 2006-2007

Designation in F.S. 411.01(5)5	Mandatory Member	Voting Member	Name	Affiliation and/or Employment
Member appointed by Consolidated City Council	Yes	Yes	Dr. Jarik Conrad Conrad Consulting Group-Blueprint for Prosperity	Consolidated City Council
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	Laura Anderson Christian Heritage Academy	
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	Pam Buckham	Dept. of Children & Families
Central child care agency administrator	Yes, if applicable	No	John Kabat	Jacksonville Children's Commission
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	W.C. Gentry, W.C. Gentry Law Firm	
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Michelle Braun, Wachovia	
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Dana Ferrell-Birchfield, Nemours	
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Dr. Madeline Cosgrove, FIE @ UNF	
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Laurie Price, Hope Haven Children's Clinic	
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Terri Schmidt, Blue Cross Blue Shield	
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Nancy McKimson, Bank of America	
Private Sector Business	Yes	Yes	Rob Falconetti, Drummond Press	





Notes:

