

Enhancing Economic Mobility Through Access to Childcare

Building community-wide commitment for comprehensive, high-quality early learning environments that benefit the children and families of Palm Beach County.

www.elcpalmbeach.org



Early Learning Coalition
of Palm Beach County
Ready to Learn. Ready for Life.

Aruna Gilbert
Chief Program and Policy Officer

What is the Early Learning Coalition?

- A local organization responsible for coordinating early childhood education and childcare programs.
- Established in 1999 as the School Readiness Coalition, renamed in 2005.

Primary Functions:

- Administers the School Readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program.
- Ensures implementation of developmentally-appropriate curricula.
- Maintains appropriate staff-to-children ratios.
- Provides parents with information to choose high-quality early learning programs.

Vision: Ensure every child in Palm Beach County is Ready to Succeed in School and Life.





Why do we do it?

The ELC is dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to high-quality early childhood education, which is crucial for their cognitive, social, and emotional development.

- **School Readiness**
- **Economic Mobility**
- **Community Impact**
- **Access and Opportunity for All**
- **Long-Term Impact**



IMPACT

The ELC of Palm Beach County serves over 30,000 children annually through various early learning programs.

School Readiness

Provides financial assistance for early childhood education to help families achieve financial self-sufficiency and prepare children for school, prioritizing those with special needs and low-income families.

Parental Engagement

Works with local organizations to provide comprehensive support to families, ensuring that parents have access to the resources they need to help their children succeed.

Literacy Improvement

Students using the My Reading Academy program through the ELC scored, on average, 45 points higher on literacy assessments than their peers.

Community Reach

The ELC collaborates with more than 500 child care providers, including family child care homes, faith-based providers, and school district site.

Economic Mobility and Childcare Access



Economic Mobility helps reduce poverty and improve access by fostering financial stability and enhancing opportunities for better education and healthcare.

The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County boosts economic mobility by offering affordable childcare, enabling parents to work or study. This support helps families achieve financial stability and ensures children receive quality early education, breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting **long-term community growth**.



School Readiness Program

The **School Readiness Program** offered by the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County provides financial assistance for early childhood education and care to qualifying families. This program aims to help families achieve financial self-sufficiency and ensure their children are prepared for school.

Scholarships are based on family income and/or educational involvement, with priority given to children with special needs and those at risk. The program supports a developmentally-appropriate curriculum, maintains appropriate staff-to-children ratios, and provides parents with information to choose high-quality childcare providers.



ASPIRE

Created with providers and families in mind, ASPIRE supports the addition of **new teachers** joining the field of early education at provider locations across Palm Beach County. The program helps to offset hiring and training costs and provides coaching for new teacher success.

These opportunities not only enhance the quality of early childhood education but also contribute to job creation and economic growth in the local community.



What costs does the ASPIRE program support?

Support for cost of initial background screening and the first month of employment.

Support for completing the initial 45-hour child care training and for the completion of the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA)

Support and resources to complete an Associates or Bachelors level degree in Early Childhood Training - Creating a pipeline for individuals new to childcare.

Technical assistance and coaching for new staff and the program and professional development opportunities.

ASPIRE'S IMPACT

New Early Childhood
Educators

238

In Total
Reimbursement

247K

75

Child Care Providers
Supported

Ensuring every child in Palm Beach County is Ready to Succeed in School and Life.



Aruna Gilbert
Chief Program and Policy Officer

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Child Care and Economic Mobility

Florida's 2030 Blueprint Unites Businesses for Good

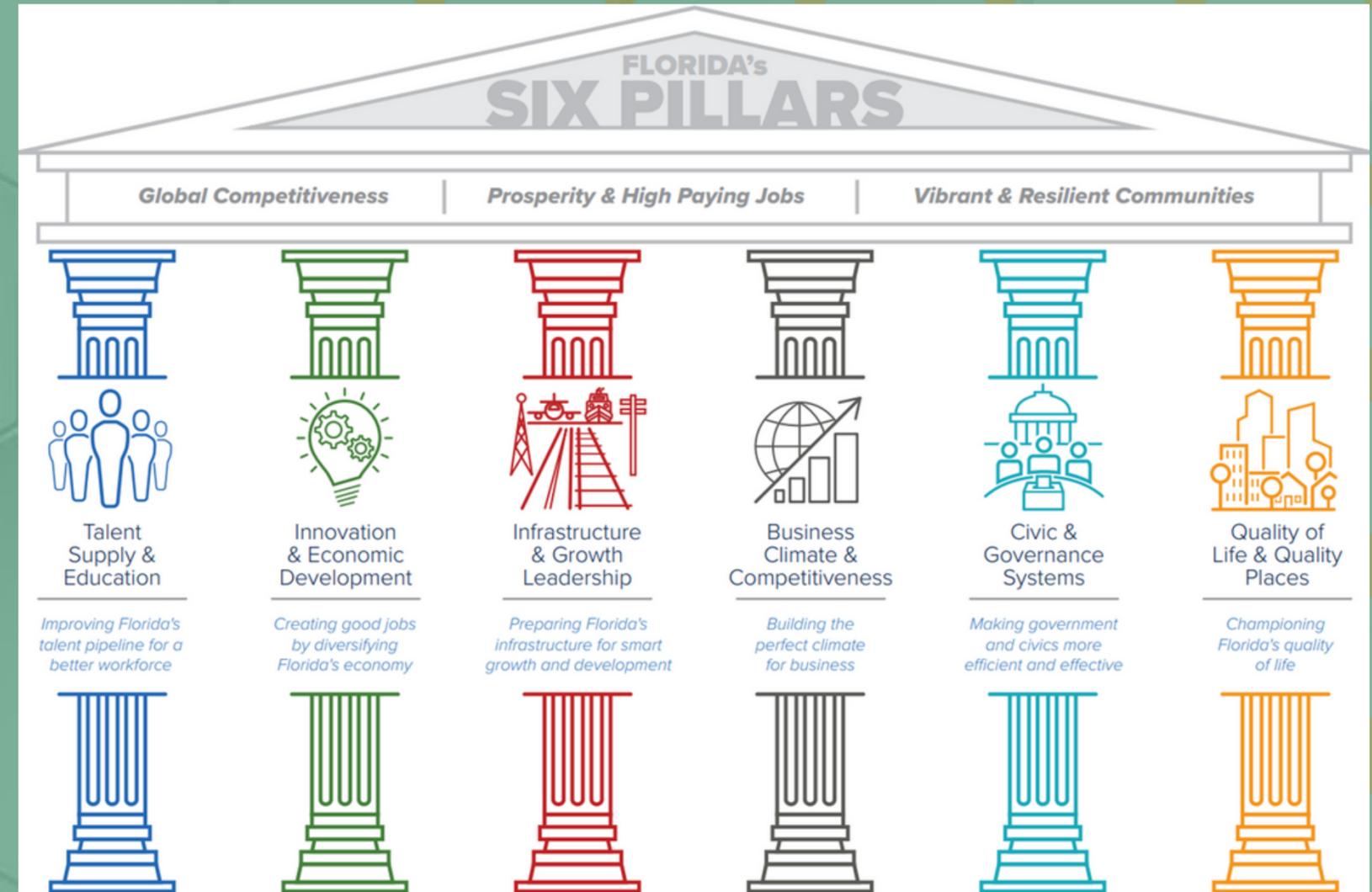


FLORIDA 2030
THE BLUEPRINT TO SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

KEY TARGETS & STRATEGIES

FLORIDA CHAMBER Foundation 1968 - 2018

50 YEARS



Early Learning Paves the Way for a Better Workforce in Florida



>80% of Florida's workforce has essential **employability skills**

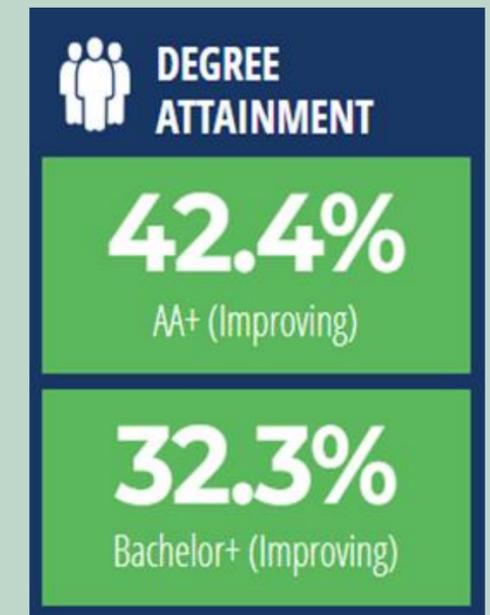
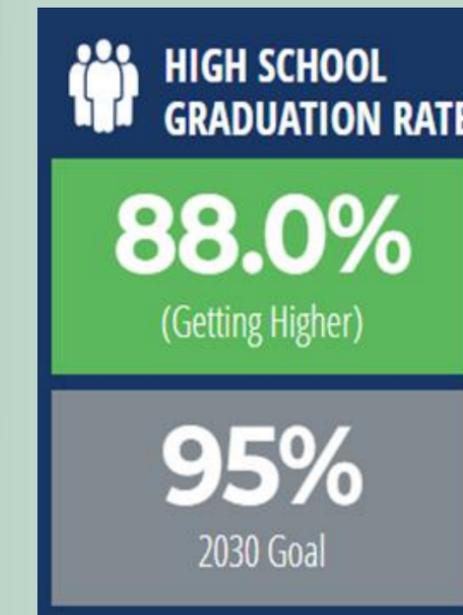
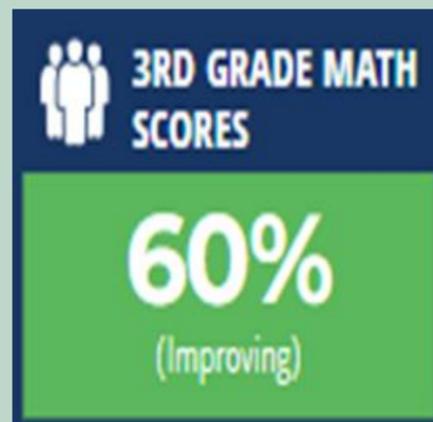
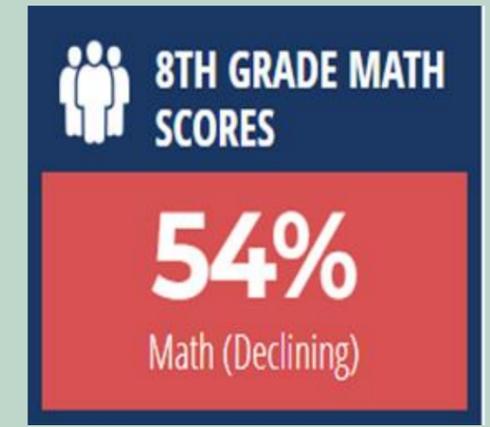
>60% of Floridians 25-64 have a high-value **postsecondary certificate, degree, or training experience**

95% of entering **high school students graduate within 4 years**

100% of Florida **8th graders read & perform math at or above grade level**

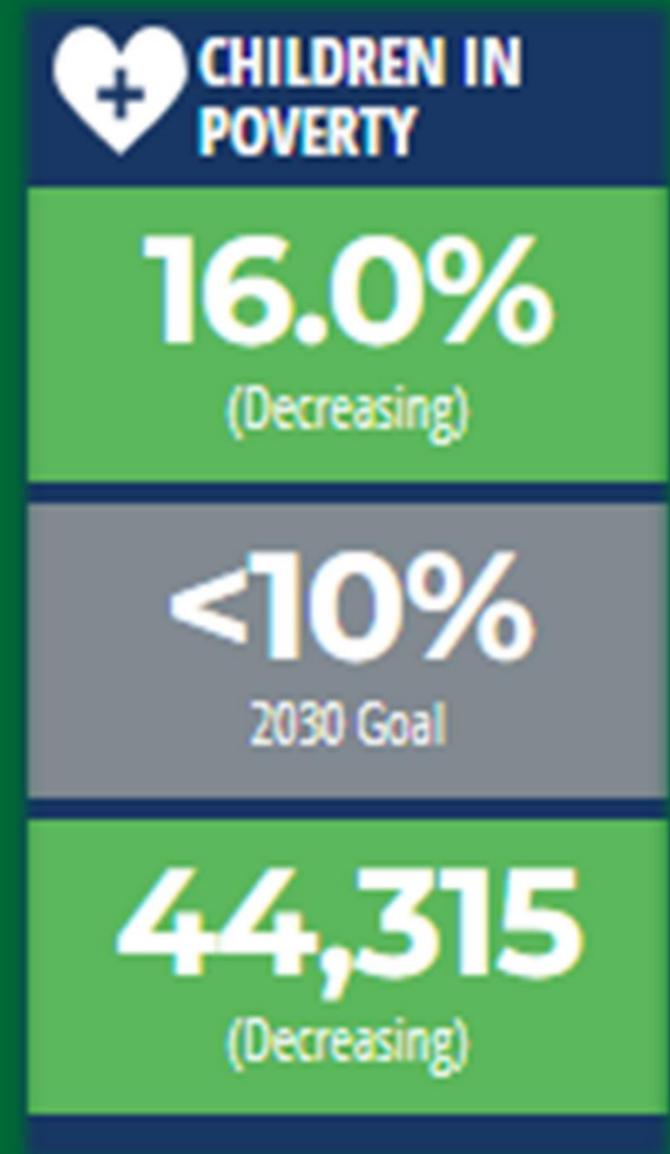
100% of Florida **3rd graders read at or above grade level**

100% of children are **ready for kindergarten**



The Facts: The Impact of Poverty on Achievement

- The strain poverty creates on families negatively impacts a young child's ability to learn.
- Young children who experience poverty in the first years of life are **~30% less likely to complete high school** than children who don't experience poverty until later in life.
- Family income is now considered nearly as strongly a predictor of a child's academic success as parental education level.
- Greater exposure to poverty in childhood makes it more likely that a child will have a hard time escaping poverty in adulthood



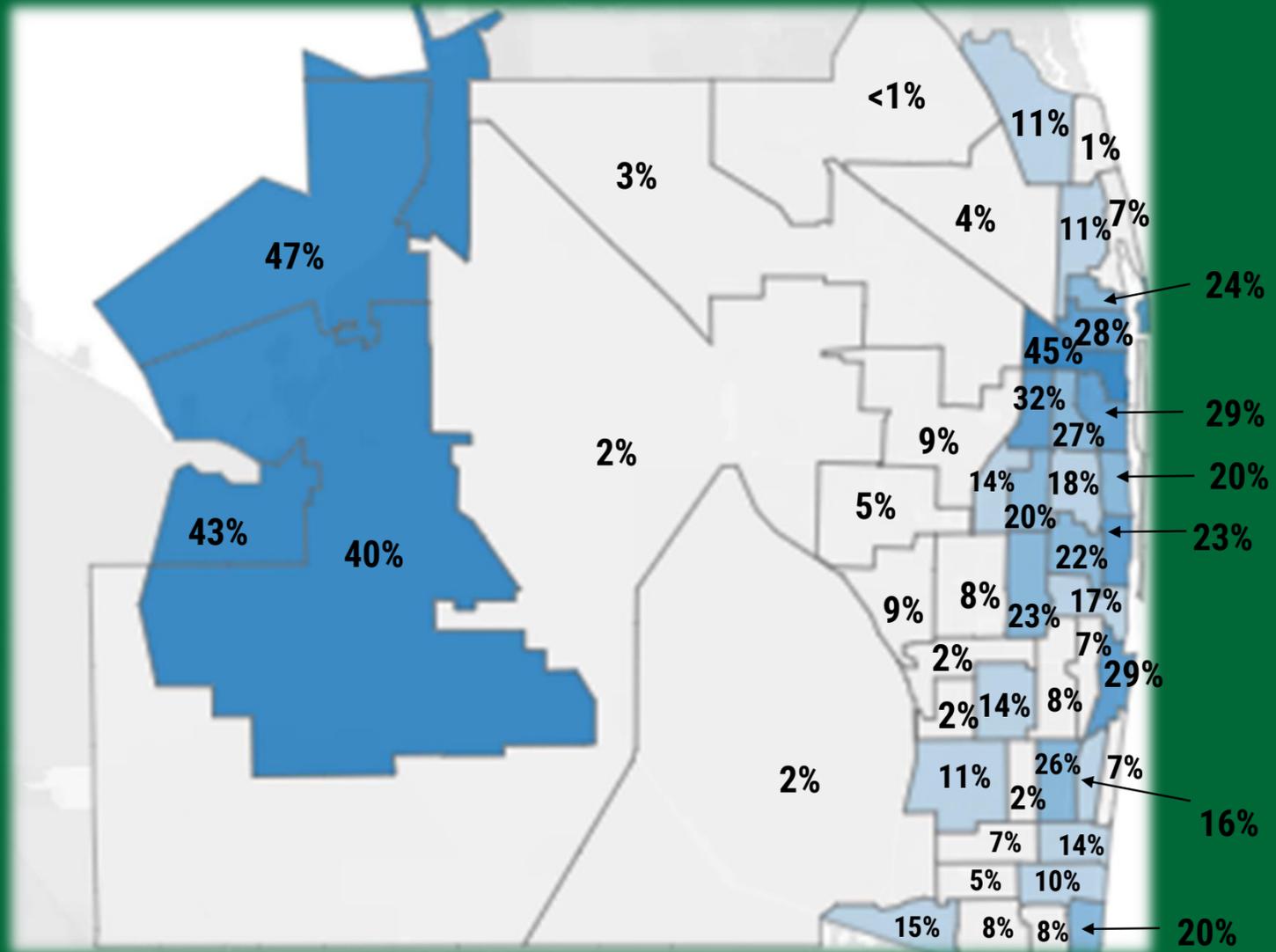
Early education has been proven as an intervention to stop this cycle.



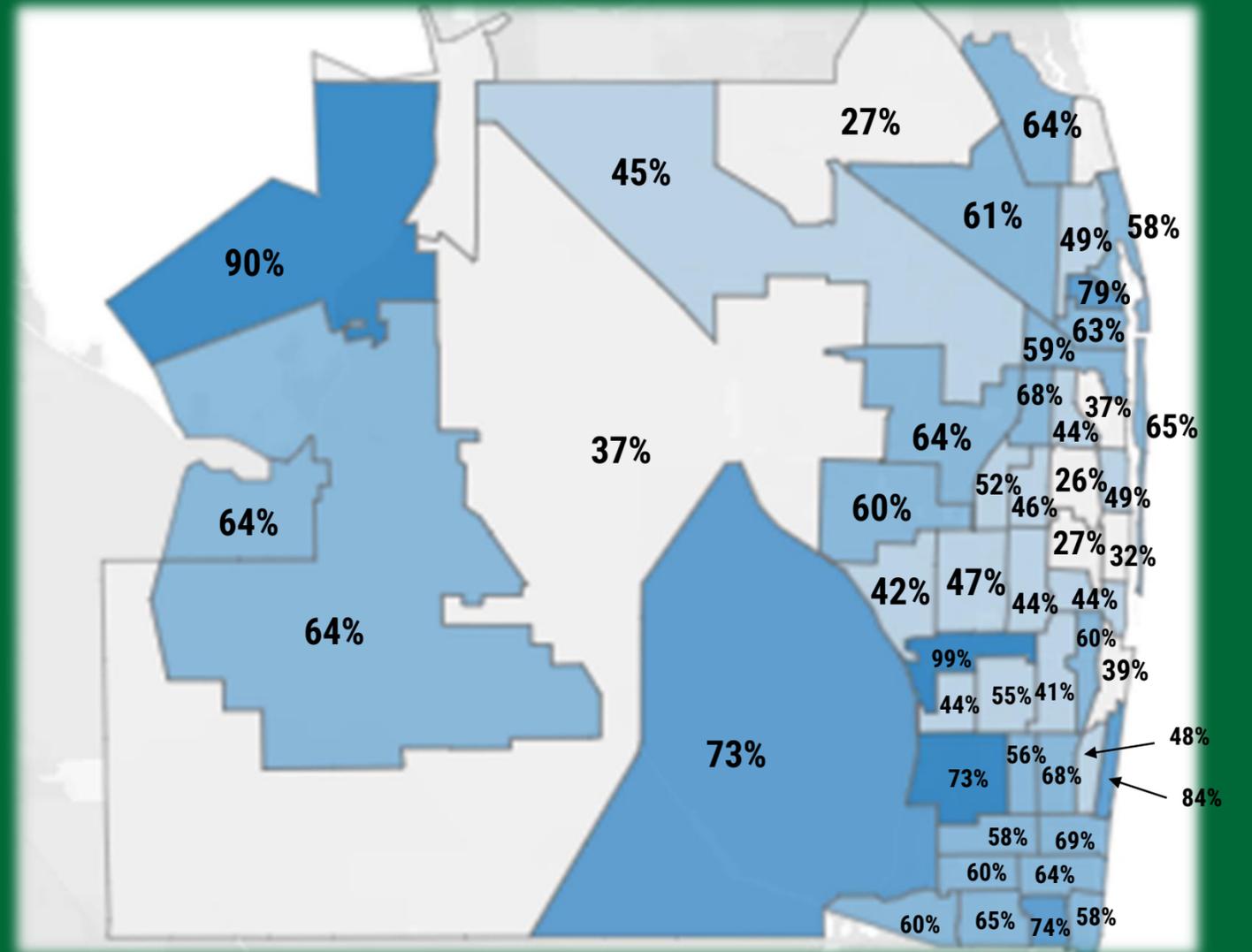
Florida Business Alliance
for Early Learning Project

The Facts: Poverty, Access, and Student Achievement

Childhood Poverty (%)



Percentage of 3/4-Year-Olds Enrolled In School





Florida Business Alliance for Early Learning Project

Securing Florida's future by making Florida the #1 state in early learning by 2030.



Support for Working Parents



Affordable Quality Child Care



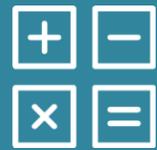
Early Gross Motor Skill Development



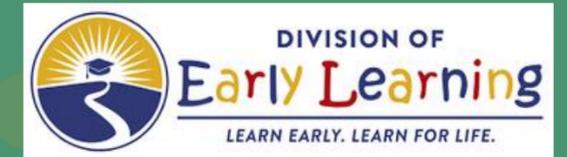
Early Literacy



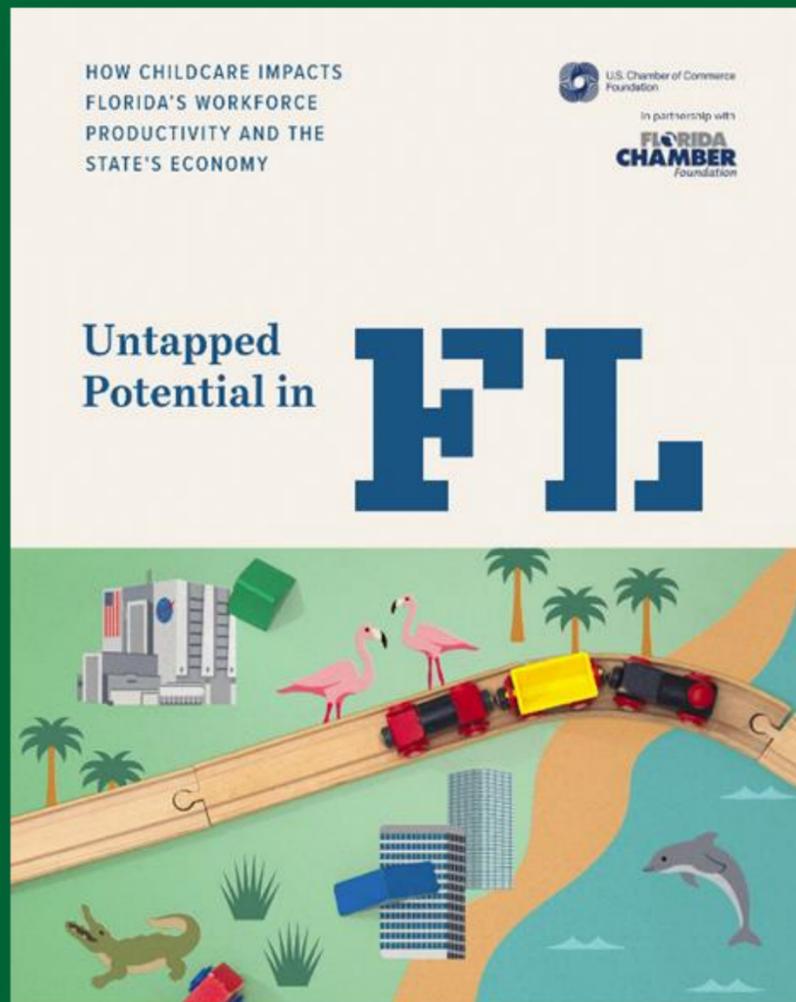
Targeted Literacy Intervention



Early Numeracy



Child Care Issues are the #1 Reason Parents Quit Their Job in Florida



- **150,000 Floridians** left work due to a child care issue. **50%** said they would not return for **1-year plus**.
- Child care issues result in an estimated **\$5.38 billion loss** annually for Florida's Economy.
- Florida **misses \$911 million** annually in tax revenue due to the child care crisis.
- Child care-related employee turnover and absenteeism **costs Florida employers \$3.47 billion** per year.

Get the Report
Here:

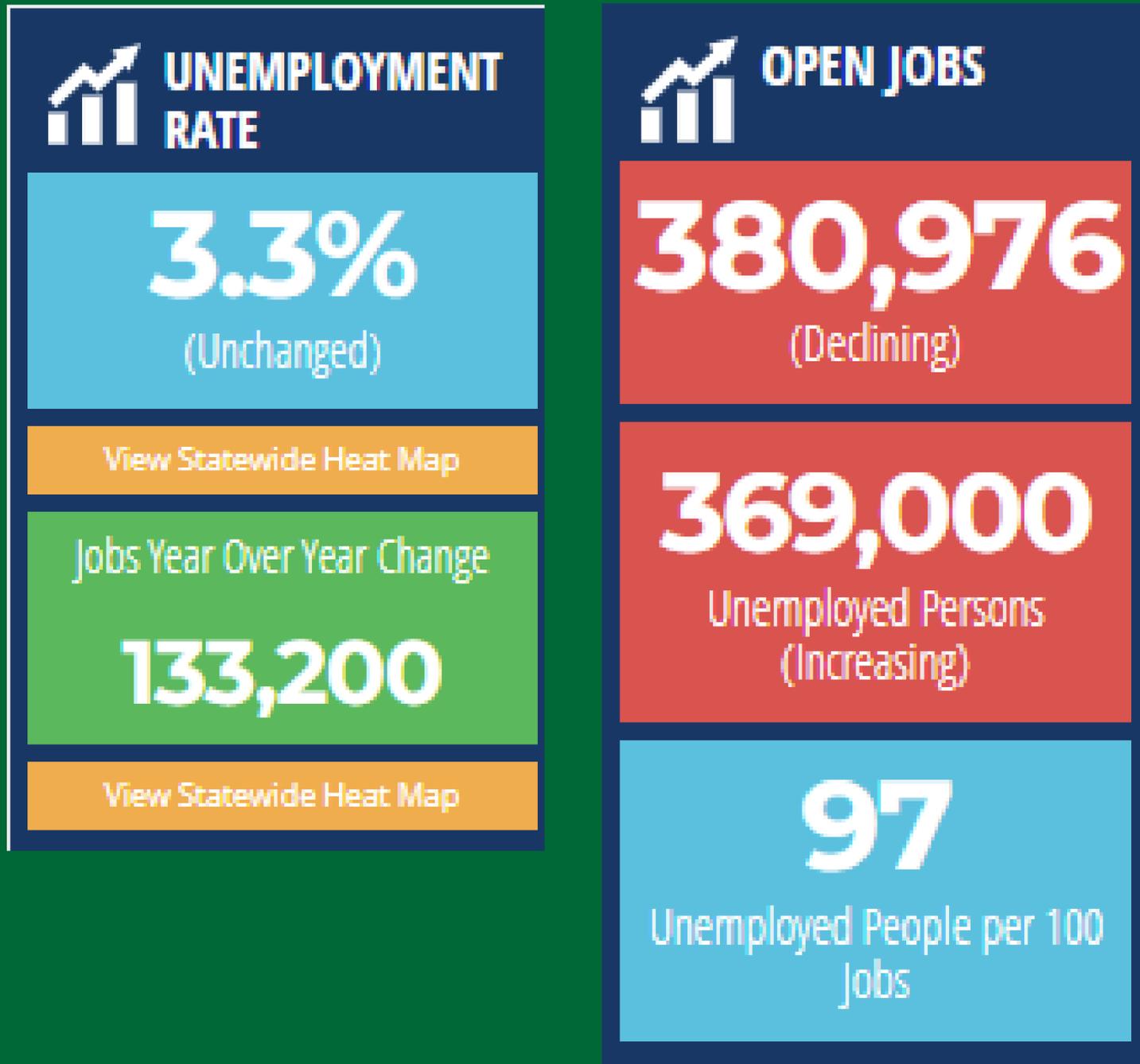


Child Care Costs Consume Significant Portion of Household Income

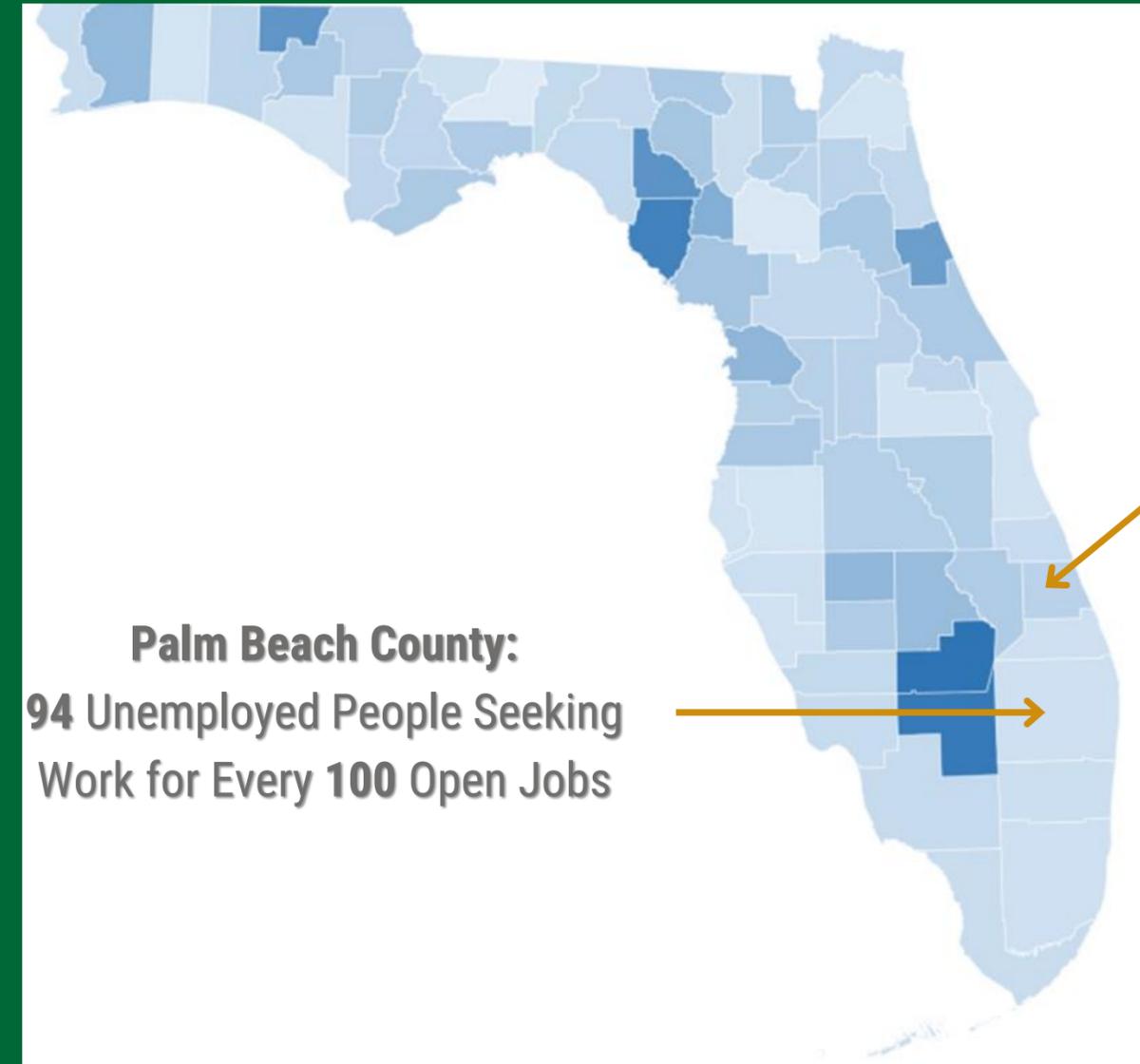
Care Level	Typical Cost	% of Median Household Income
Infant (0-12 months)	\$18,200	23.93%
1-Year-Old	\$16,640	21.88%
2-Year-Old	\$15,444	20.3%
3-Year-Old	\$14,560	19.14%
4-Year-Old	\$14,040	18.46%
5-Year-Old	\$12,220	16.06%



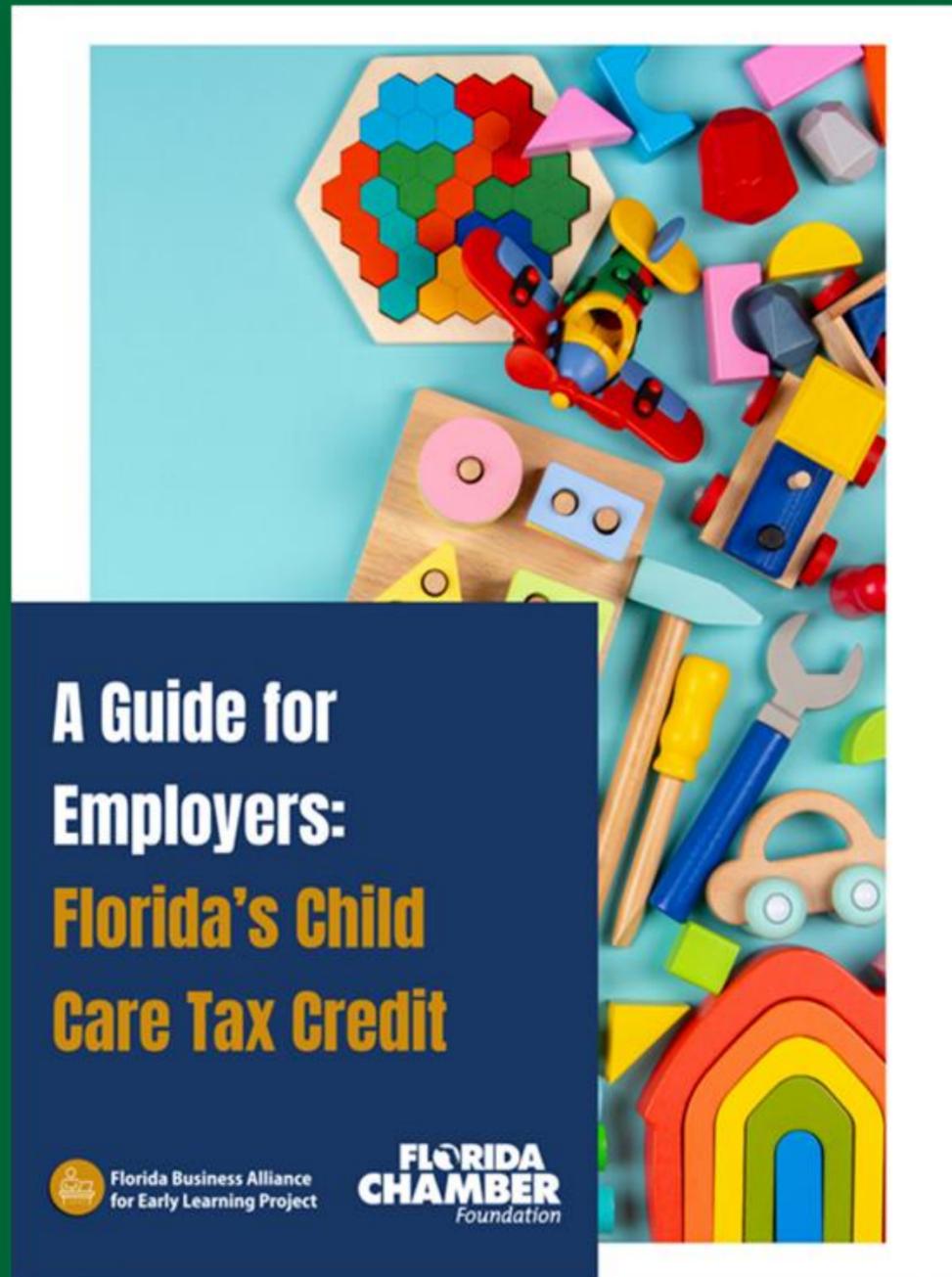
For Every 100 Open Jobs, 97 Floridians are Looking for Work



Workforce Needs Vary by County



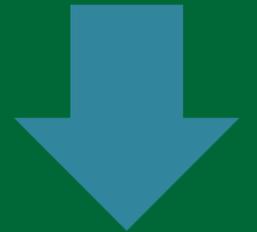
Employer Guide: Florida's New Child Care Tax Credit



- 1. Unlock Tax Benefits:** Learn how to take advantage of Florida's child care tax credit, whether through direct payments or providing on-site childcare.
- 2. First-Come First-Served Application Open:** Opened on October 1, 2024, eligible taxpaying corporations can apply for the credit via the Florida Dept. of Revenue
- 3. Quick Employee Survey Tool:** We've included a handy survey to help gauge your employees' child care needs and preferences.

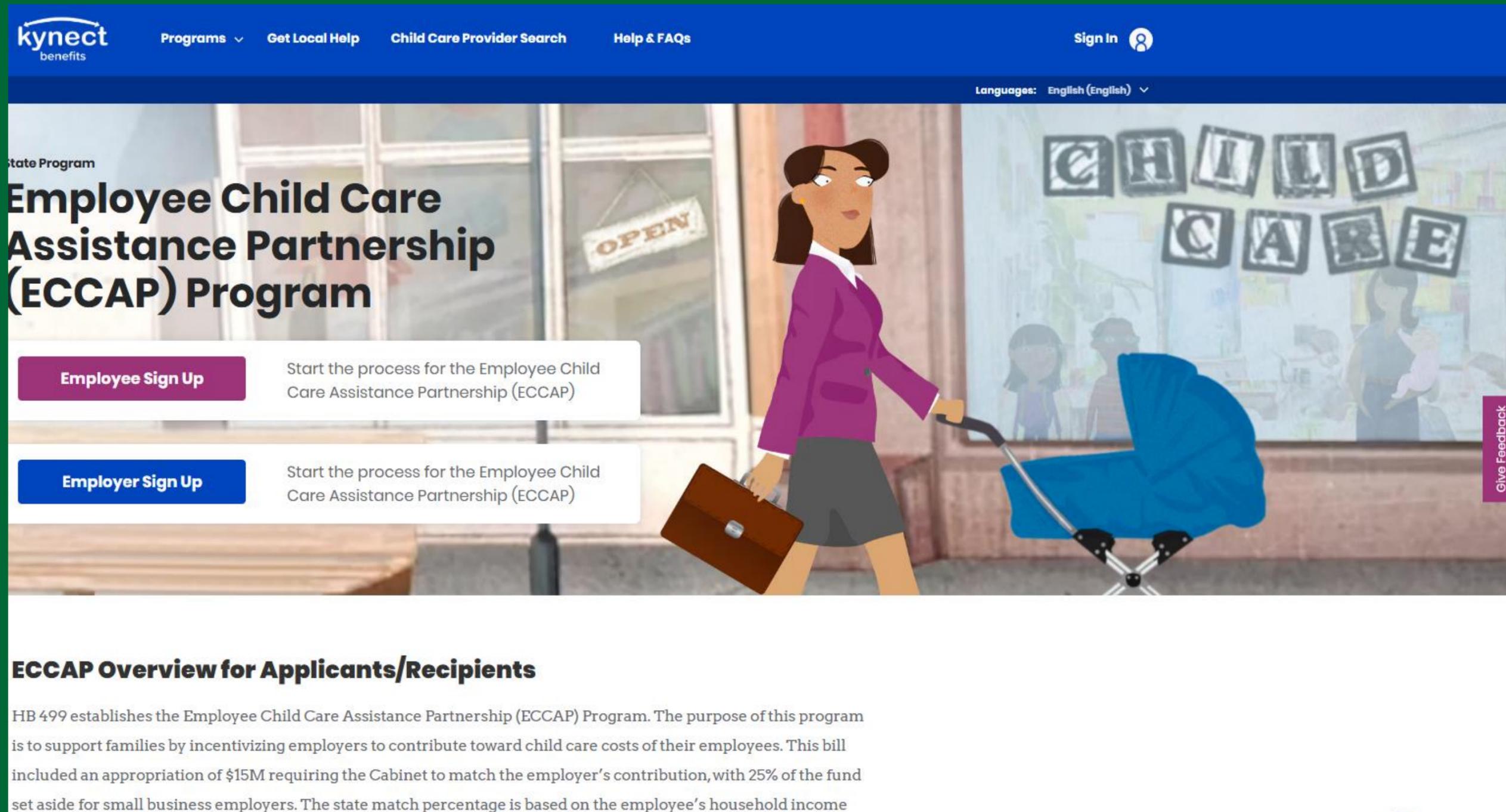
To be eligible, you must pay: Corporate Income Tax, Insurance Premium Tax, Gas and Oil Production Tax, Excise Tax on Liquor, Wine, and Malt Beverages, or Use Tax Due Under a Direct Pay Permit

**Get the Full
Guide Here:**



<http://flchm.co/FLCCTCGuide>

Concepts and Initiatives Worth Mentioning: Tri-Share Models



The screenshot shows the Kynect benefits website. The top navigation bar includes the Kynect logo, links for Programs, Get Local Help, Child Care Provider Search, and Help & FAQs, and a Sign In button. A language dropdown menu is set to English (English). The main content area features a large illustration of a woman in a purple blazer and grey skirt pushing a blue stroller, with a brown briefcase in her hand. In the background, a child care center window has a sign that says "CHILD CARE" and an "OPEN" sign. Below the illustration, there are two call-to-action buttons: "Employee Sign Up" and "Employer Sign Up".

Employee Sign Up Start the process for the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership (ECCAP)

Employer Sign Up Start the process for the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership (ECCAP)

ECCAP Overview for Applicants/Recipients

HB 499 establishes the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership (ECCAP) Program. The purpose of this program is to support families by incentivizing employers to contribute toward child care costs of their employees. This bill included an appropriation of \$15M requiring the Cabinet to match the employer's contribution, with 25% of the fund set aside for small business employers. The state match percentage is based on the employee's household income

Concepts and Initiatives Worth Mentioning: Above and Beyond Scholarships



- Capture families not eligible for School Readiness
 - \$46,800 for a family of four (2 adults, 2 kids) does NOT qualify for the subsidy
- Workers are more likely to stick with their employer because of a child care benefit

Concepts and Initiatives Worth Mentioning: Summer Bridge for Head Start



CHILDREN'S TRUST
OF ALACHUA COUNTY

- Supports Head Start over the summer, so most vulnerable families have access
- Funds teacher salaries to keep classrooms open
- Additional 6-7 weeks of instruction

Other Ways to Make a Difference

1. Join the Florida Chamber Foundation's Business Alliance for Early Learning Project Advisory Board and Share Your Thought Leadership and Expertise
2. Leverage Florida's New Child Care Tax Credit / Offer a Child Care Benefit to Employees
3. Implement Family Friendly Practices at Your Workplace
4. Get Involved with Your Local Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
5. Connect with Your Early Learning Coalition on Matching Funds
6. Consider Including Early Education as a Priority in Your Giving and/or Adopt an Early Education Classroom
7. Share Our Resources with School District Leaders, County and State Officials, and Elected Leaders

2025 FLORIDA LEARNERS TO EARNERS WORKFORCE Solution Summit

JUNE 24, 2025
GRAND HYATT TAMPA BAY



ABC

PRESENTING
EDUCATION PARTNER:

 Florida Virtual
SCHOOL™



Registration is Now Open!

For questions, please call the Florida Chamber at 850.521.1280 or
send an email to stthomas@flchamber.com.

Upcoming Opportunities to Engage



South Florida
EARLY LEARNING EMPLOYER ROUNDTABLE

December 10, 2024
9:00 - 11:00 AM

Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Suite 210
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Hosted by:



RSVP Now:



**Workforce Wednesday
Webinar Series**

Enhancing Business & Career Center Connections
January 22 - 10:00AM



Thank You to the Talent & Education Advisory Board Members



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Workforce Development



Avery Davis
VP, Human Resources



Andrea Cichon
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Acquisition & Development



David Cross
SVP, HR & Administration



Vicki Greene
SVP, America's Workforce
Skills



Dr. Robert Liddell
AVP of Career Services



Kara Marante
VP & Chief People Officer



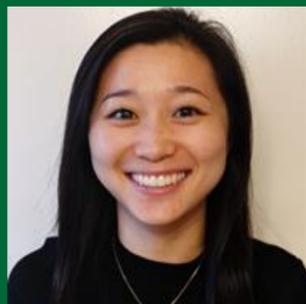
Sarah Marmion
Sr. Manager of Education
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Manager



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Co-Founder/CEO



Kristen Vanselow
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Molly Grant
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Tessa LeSage
Chief Impact Officer



Kimberly Reckley
SVP, Client & Community
Relations Director



Michele Watson
Chief Executive Officer



Jordan Jones
Government Relations
Representative



Let's Stay Connected!

Makayla Buchanan
Director of Early Learning & Literacy
Florida Chamber Foundation
Email: mbuchanan@flchamber.com



Join the Movement



THANK YOU



**Florida Business Alliance
for Early Learning Project**

**SECURING
OUR FUTURE**
ECONOMIC
MOBILITY SUMMIT
Building pathways for upward mobility





Exploring Childcare Solutions to Advance Economic Mobility

What is Children's Services Council?

- Special purpose government
- Authorized in 1986
- One of 13 Children's Services Council's/Trusts across Florida
- Mission - Improving the lives of all children and families through dedicated funding, community partnerships, and innovative leadership, to build a stronger Palm Beach County.
- Vision - All children grown up healthy, safe, ready for school, and ready for life



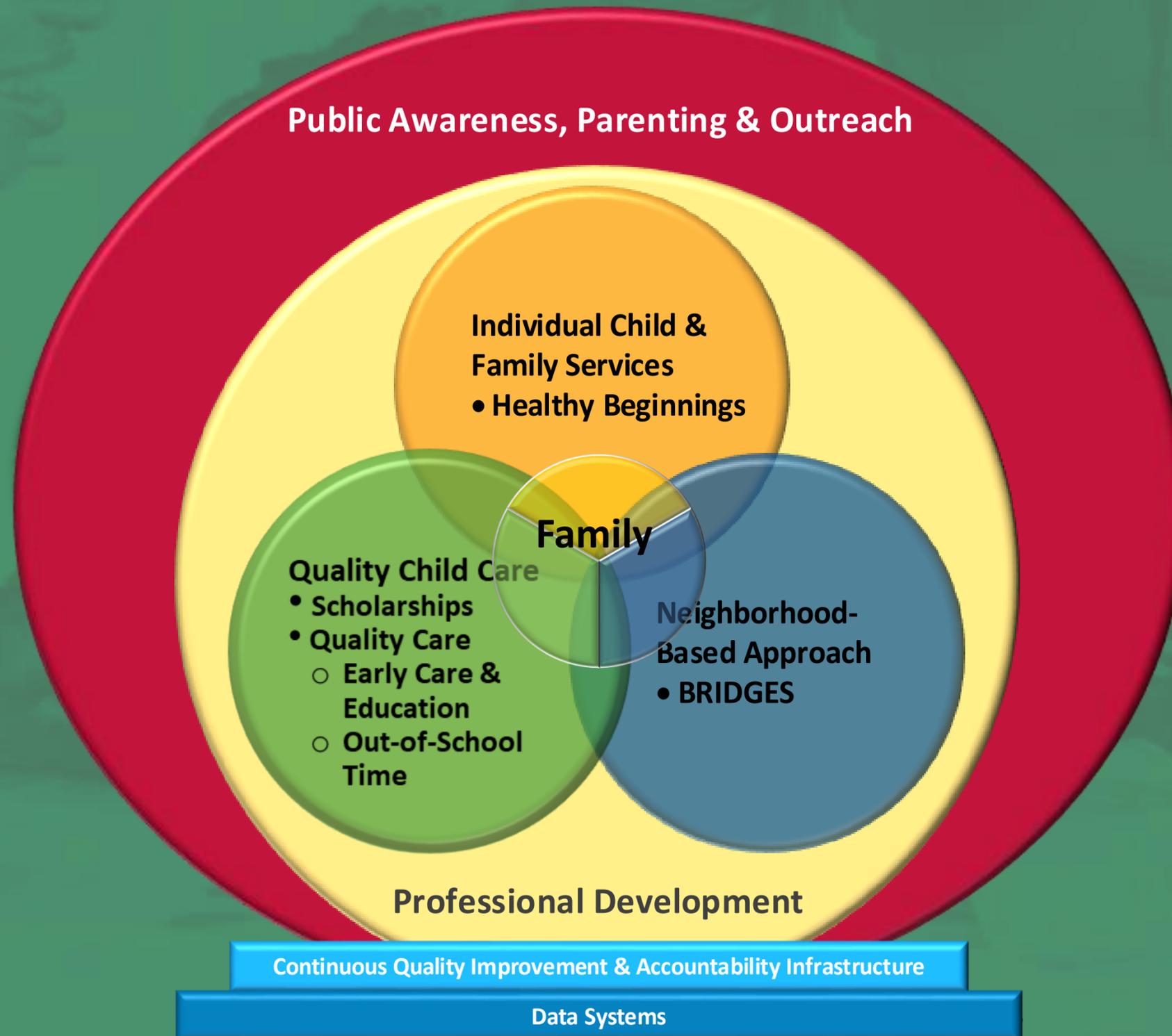
What is Children's Services Council?

Directly and indirectly served almost 170,000 children and families and financially supported more than 600 organizations last year. This includes:

- Leading a network of programs serving pregnant women and families with young children, almost 27,000 were served in Healthy Beginnings.
- Supporting hundreds of other programs including innovative grassroot nonprofits, BRIDGES (neighborhood hubs) and child safety organizations.
- Funding scholarships and quality for more than 43,000 children in child care, afterschool programs and summer camps.



Early Childhood System of Care



Healthy Beginnings

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Building pathways for upward mobility



Healthy Beginnings Programs



Home Visiting



Child Development



Group Prenatal Care



Behavioral Health/Counseling

BRIDGES



BRIDGES Locations



Lake Okeechobee

Atlantic Ocean

1 Lake Park

2 Riviera Beach

3 West Palm Beach

4 Lake Worth

5 (unlabeled location)

6 Lake Worth

7 (unlabeled location)

8 Boynton Beach

9 Pahokee

10 Belle Glade

BRIDGES

Connecting Families. Strengthening Communities

a program of Children's Services Council

Investments in Child Care



Investments in Child Care

- **Scholarships and match funding** – combatting the fiscal cliff
- **Mini Grants** – child care supports
- **Supporting Teachers Advancement and Retention (STAR)** – retention and recruitment incentives
- **Prime Time** – quality in afterschool programs
- **Summer Camps** – reducing the summer slide

Investments in Concrete Supports

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OUR FUTURE**
ECONOMIC
MOBILITY SUMMIT
Building pathways for upward mobility





Concrete Supports

- Access to Care – Scholarships/Local Match (0-12 yrs)
- Access to Care – Summer Camp Scholarships
- Access to Food
 - PBC Food Bank (includes SNAP Staff)
 - United Way Hunger Relief
- Transportation Support
- DCF ACCESS staff



Other Supports

- HB Entry Agencies – Public benefits
- Circles – Mentoring, SMART goal setting, case management, financial literacy
- Smaller Organizations – Financial Literacy
- Legal Services – Rent, public benefits, child support enforcement, etc.

THANK YOU

Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.

Lisa.Williams-Taylor@cscppbc.org

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Building pathways for upward mobility





Purpose

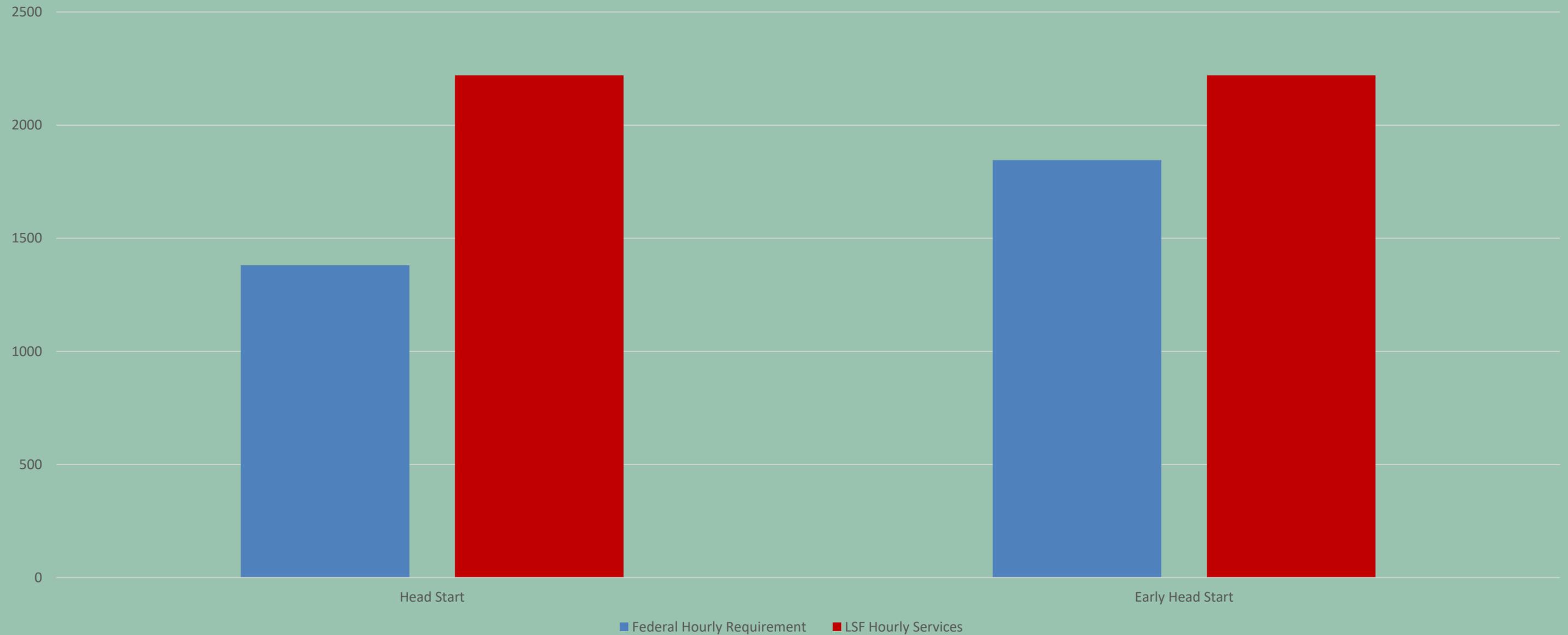
Lutheran Services Florida (LFS), Inc, operates Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs in Palm Beach County, Florida. We are currently providing services for a total of 2,073 children.



Summary

- (LSF) continues to provide full-day/ full year Head Start/Early Head Start services where we will continue offer 10-hour instructional days, five days per week to meet the needs of Palm Beach County (PBC) families and children. HS and EHS programs will operate for approximately 222 days, delivering 2,220 instructional hours annually.

Thanks to our different partnerships in the community,
we exceed the federal hourly requirement:



Our program delivery

LSF HS/EHS is a comprehensive enrichment program that continues to meet the needs of children and families through a broad range of services and resources.

- Our services that are stable and uninterrupted
- Continue to provide support to children and their families that prepare children to transition into kindergarten.



Transitioning to kindergarten- School readiness

- School readiness are the skill that children develop from birth to school age that help them enter and succeed in school. It includes a child's development in the following areas: Social and Emotional, Cognitive, Language and Literacy, Physical, and Approaches to Learning. All of these include text-level reading ability, spelling, sight word recognition, and letter-sound identification.

Why is Early Childhood Education important?

- Extensive research consistently demonstrates that early childhood education (ECE) plays a critical role in fostering long-term academic and socio-economic success. High-quality early learning experiences are foundational for children's cognitive, social, and emotional development, which are directly linked to better outcomes in later stages of life.
- The Journal of Childcare and Educational Policy indicates the direct instruction in early literacy provided by Pre-K programs that meet recognized structural quality indicators has a significant and lasting impact on children's literacy skills in first grade. These skills include text-level reading ability, spelling, sight word recognition, and letter-sound identification.

- **High School Graduation and Academic Success:**

Children who attend high-quality early childhood education programs are more likely to develop essential skills like literacy, numeracy, and problem-solving at an early age. This readiness reduces the likelihood of grade repetition and supports smoother transitions into elementary, middle, and high school. Studies show that early childhood education participants are significantly more likely to graduate from high school compared to their peers without such exposure.

- **Post-Secondary Achievement:**

The foundational skills and positive attitudes toward learning fostered in early education often translate into higher college enrollment and completion rates. Early education programs help instill resilience, self-regulation, and a love for learning, which are critical traits for succeeding in higher education.

- **Social and Economic Mobility:**

By providing a strong start, early childhood education reduces the achievement gap often observed in under-resourced communities. Graduates of early childhood education programs are more likely to secure stable employment, earn higher wages, and break cycles of poverty. This translates into upward mobility not just for individuals, but also for families and communities.

- **Long-term Societal Benefits:**

Beyond individual success, investments in early childhood education have been shown to yield a high return on investment for society. Outcomes include reduced reliance on social services, lower crime rates, and an overall increase in economic productivity.

Educational services: Approach to School Readiness

We promoting school readiness for every child by tailoring its approach to meet their unique needs. Our comprehensive program supports all children, through a high-quality research-based curriculum that emphasizes social-emotional learning, fostering supportive school communities and positive learning environments through Conscious Discipline.



Examples of how Frog Street works:

- Three's theme in October is color, shape, and size.
- They connected pumpkins to the curriculum by discussing the color, shape, size, and textures. They went on to create art inspired by these shapes and colors.



Example of how Frog street works:

- Children learn about dentists and how they keep us healthy. They use the Frog street Curriculum cards that show pictures of a dentist as inspiration as they play with a toothbrush and mouth, draw about dentists, and engage in dramatic play.



Who do we serve? Service Delivery Area

We continue to focus our services in the greatest areas of need throughout PBC.

North Zone: Riviera Beach, Jupiter.

Poverty rate: 45%

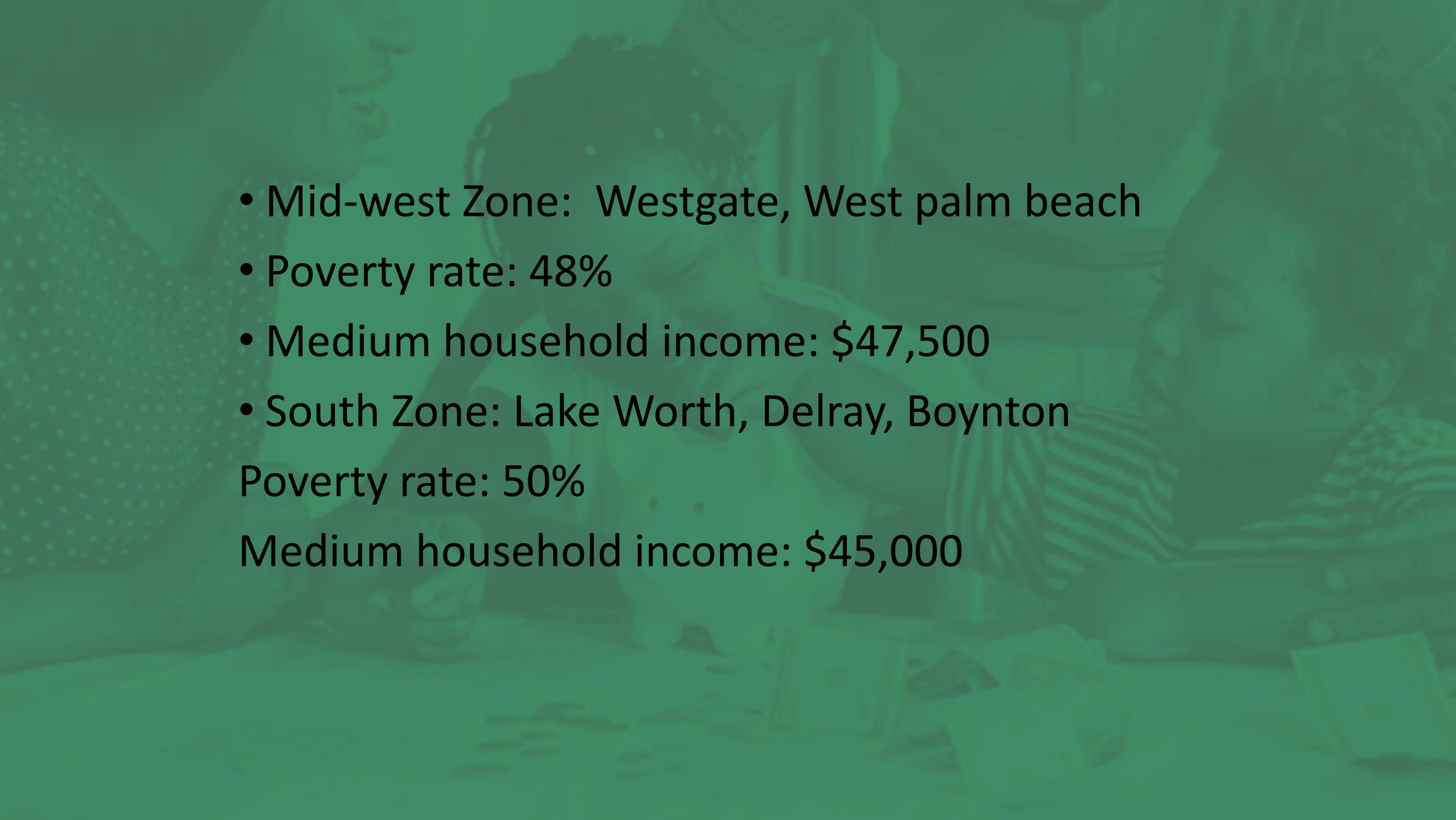
Median household income: \$42,000

West Zone: Belle Glade zone: Pahokee, PEPPI, South Bay

Poverty rate: 60%

Medium household income: \$24,000





- Mid-west Zone: Westgate, West palm beach

- Poverty rate: 48%

- Medium household income: \$47,500

- South Zone: Lake Worth, Delray, Boynton

Poverty rate: 50%

Medium household income: \$45,000



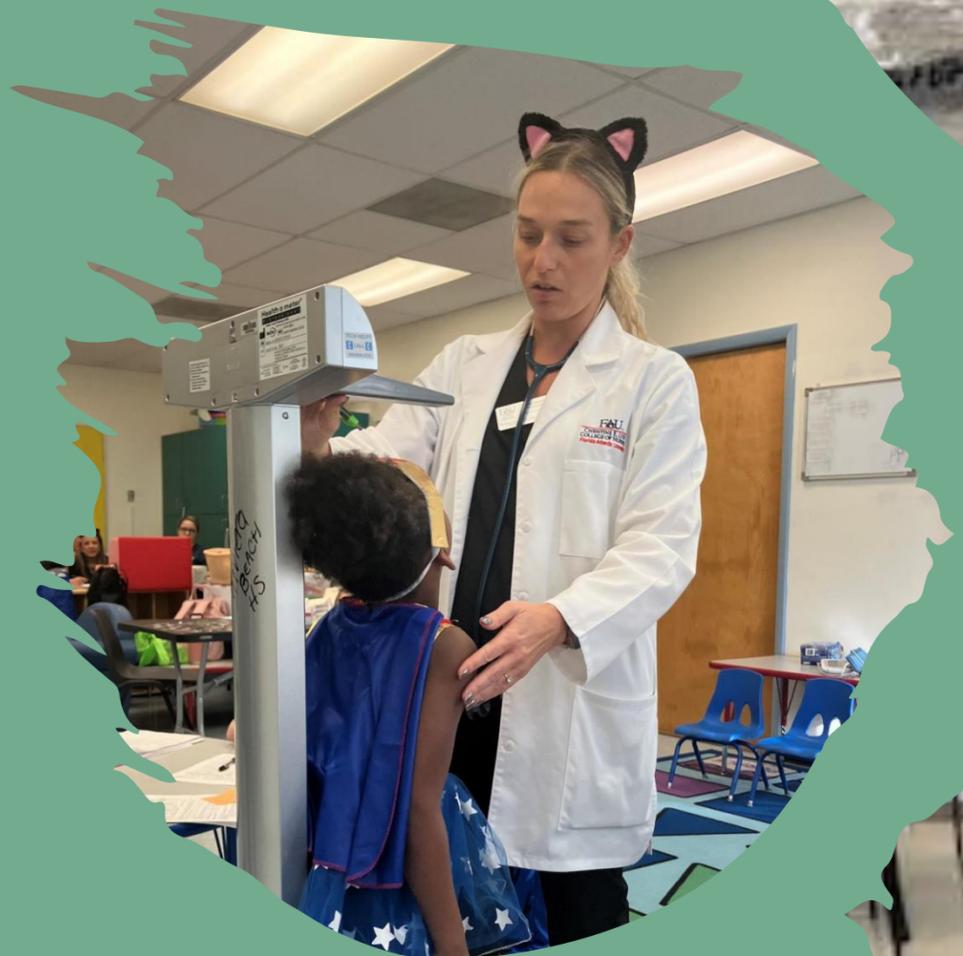
Family and Community Engagement (FACE)

The Family & Community Engagement (FACE) staff are responsible to build trusting relationships with families and provide services that are responsive to each family's individual living situation, cultures, beliefs, values, languages, practices, and traditions.



Comprehensive Services

LSF continues to provide comprehensive (health, social services, disabilities, nutrition, and mental health) services that addresses the holistic needs of the children as well as the parents to help families become more self-reliant.



Parents becoming self-reliant

- Family goals are created when the family enter the program.
- The goals are determined based on the family needs, through a needs assessment and parent questionnaire survey.
- Examples: learning trades, learning English, getting employment, becoming a small business owners, home purchasing, credit repair etc...

On the school year 23-24 families received:

- Housing assistance.....163
- Asset building services.....230 (financial education, debt counseling)
- Mental Health services.....443
- English as a second language.....394
- Assistance enrolling into an education or job training.....371
- Education.....142
- Education on nutrition.....1560

QUESTIONS

