

EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF
SEMINOLE

Good beginnings last a lifetime

**2009/ 2010
END OF THE YEAR REPORT
CC075**



**Early Learning Coalition of Seminole
2009-2010 Annual Report**

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to be the recognized authority in Seminole County for information regarding high quality school readiness and child care services which allow parents to make informed choices when selecting childcare providers. We carry out our mission through collaborative partnerships with early education and care professionals and concerned community leaders to:

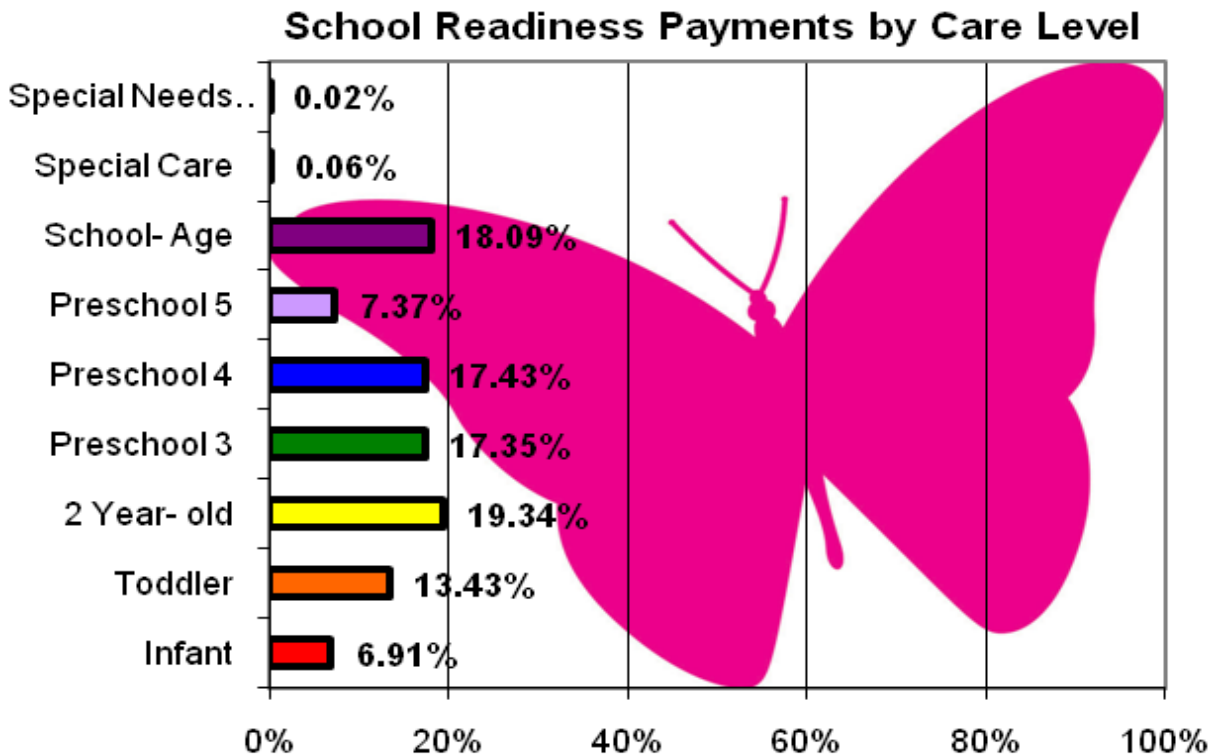
- enhance the quality of school readiness services in Seminole County;
- promote community awareness of critical factors regarding early learning;
- provide scholarships for eligible low income children to attend child care centers; and
- increase participation in the Voluntary Prekindergarten program available to all four year olds in Seminole County.

Data Summary: The following information is based on data collected from July 1, 2009- June 30, 2010.

Number of unduplicated School Readiness (SR) children and families:

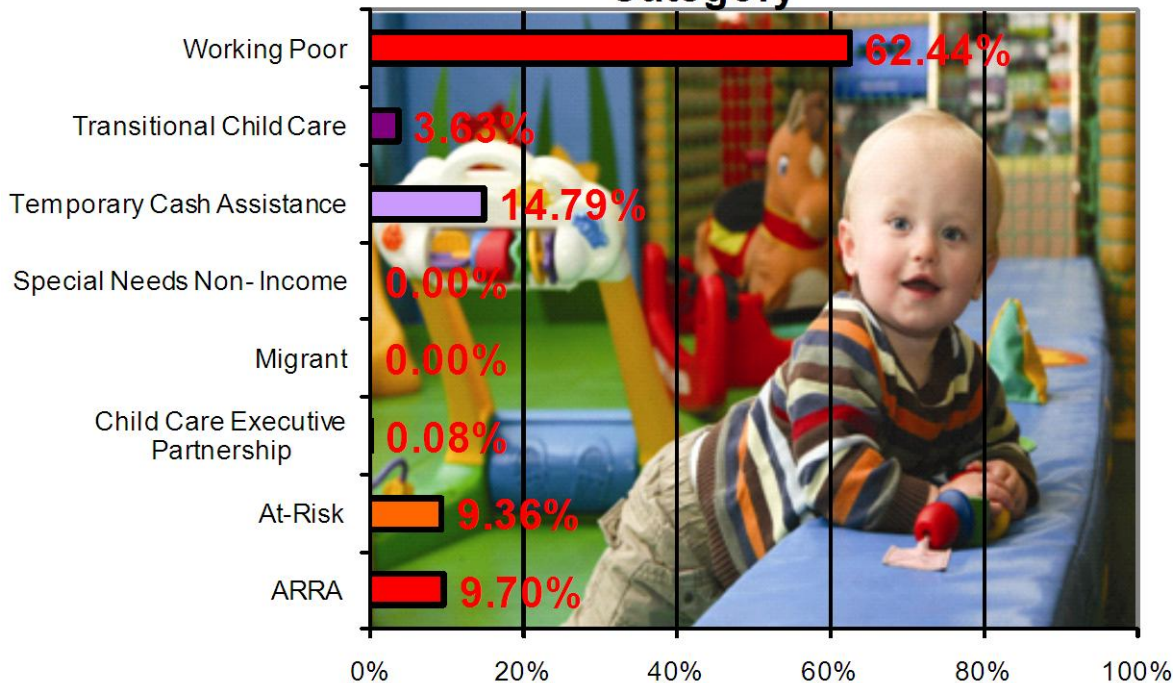
SR Children	SR Families
3511	2109

School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by care level:



School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by funding category:

Total School Readiness Payments by Funding Category



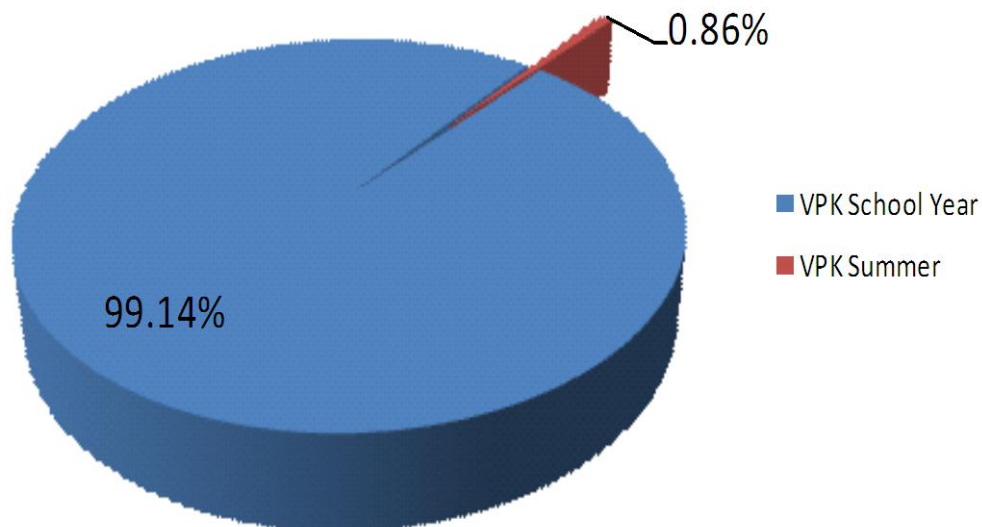
*CCEP shown is funded by the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County for parents living in Seminole County. Billing is corrected manually and no funds were paid by ELC Seminole for 2009/2010.

Number of unduplicated Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education children and families:

VPK Children	VPK Families
4002	3925

Total percentage of VPK payments by program type:

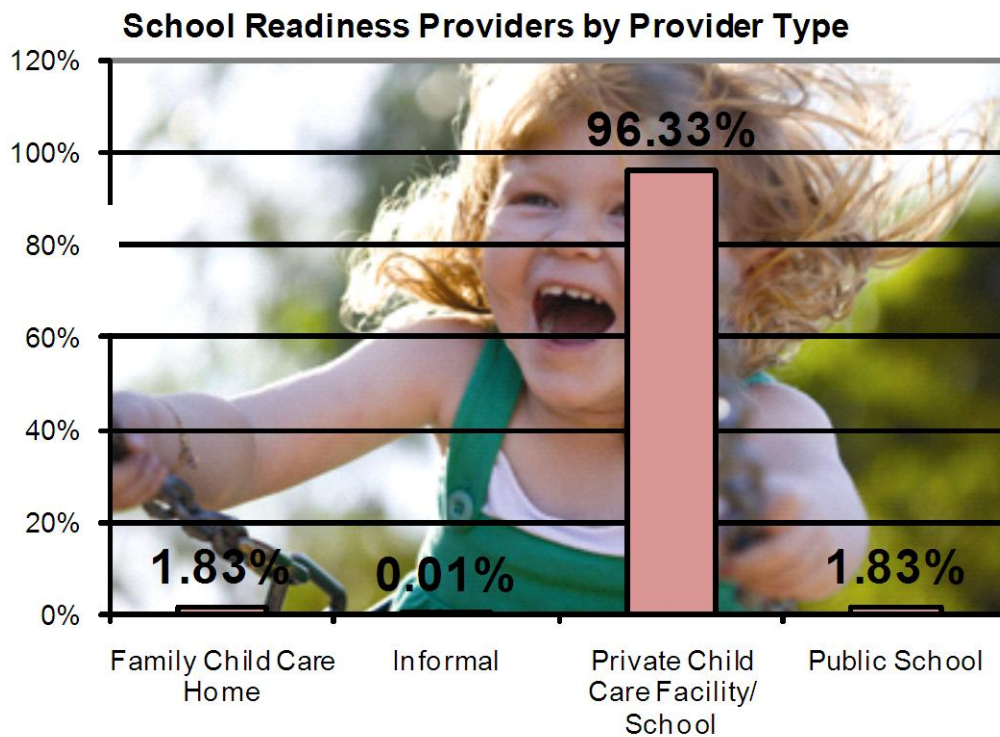
VPK Payments by Program Type Percentage



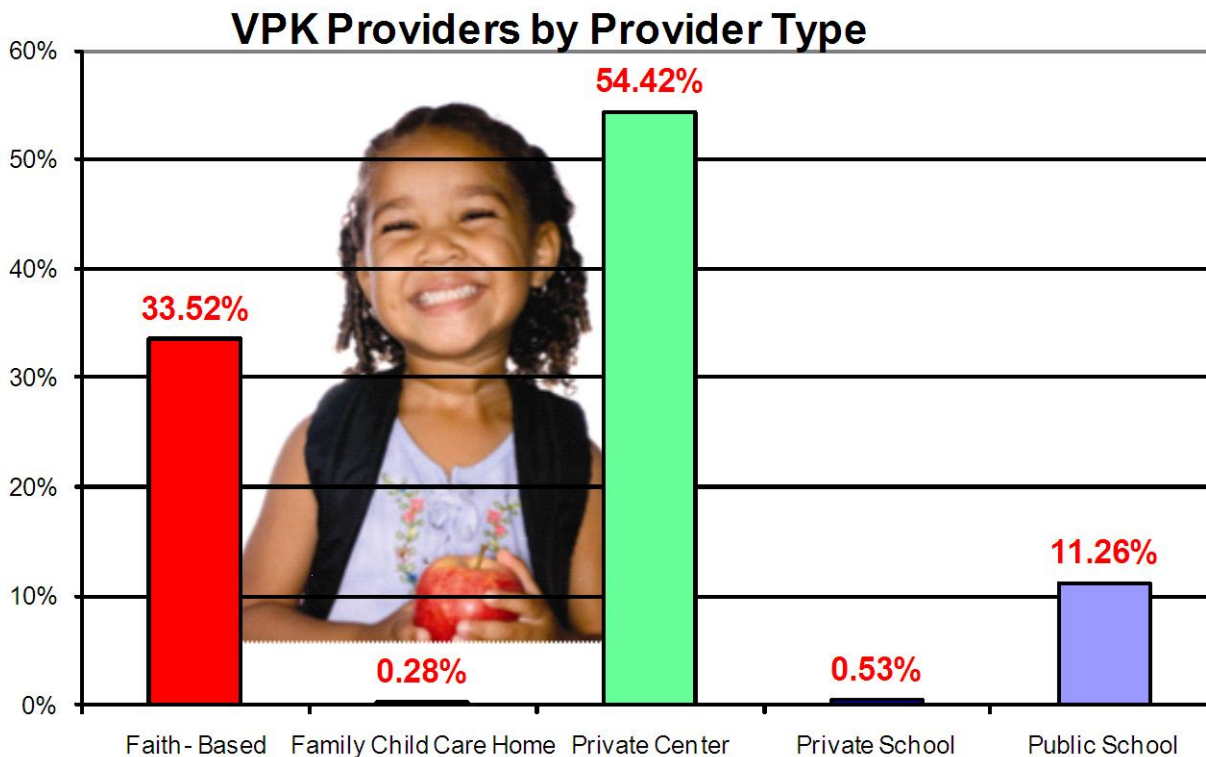
Total number of providers that participate in the coalition's early learning programs:

School Readiness Providers	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Providers
250	151

Participating School Readiness providers by provider type:



Participating VPK providers by provider type:



Service Delivery Summary:

The Early Learning Coalition of Seminole has maintained strong relationships with existing community partners that provide cash and in-kind donations to the Coalition to support children with quality early care and education. Continuing community partners included Heart of Florida United Way, The John R. and Ruth W. Gurtler Foundation, Inc., Orlando Magic Youth Fund, Orlando Sentinel Family Fund, City of Altamonte Springs, City of Oviedo, Joe Alberts' I.T. Services, Berman Hopkins, Disney, Hallmark, Nemours, Seminole State College and Seminole County Community Assistance Division.

Quality Activity Summary: Haven't changed from last year yet

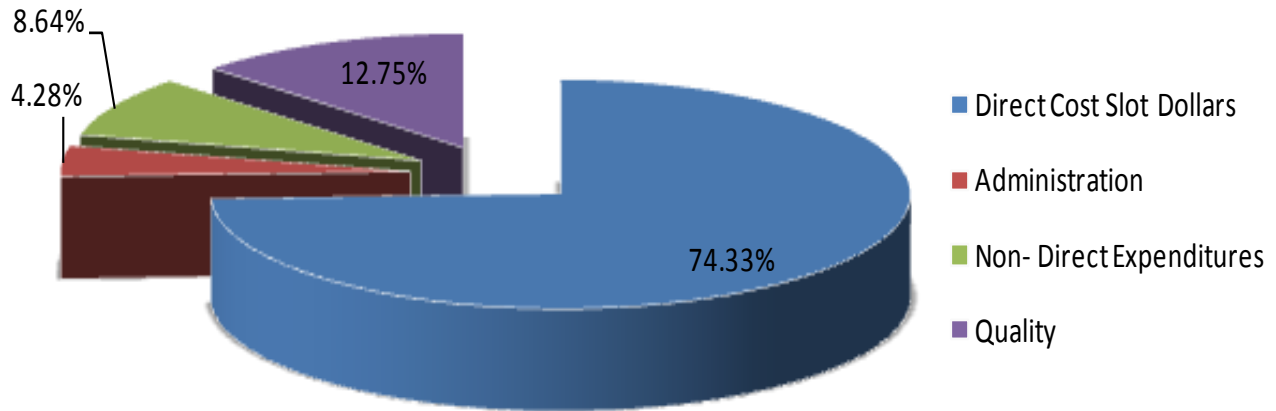
Activity	Narrative
What opportunities are offered by the Coalition for comprehensive consumer education?	<p>The Early Learning Coalition of Seminole has reached thousands of individuals with available resources such as SR, VPK, Inclusion Services, information regarding how to apply for service and guidance on selecting high quality child care through the following events and activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Blast Back to School Fair • CAPTF Safety Fair • Families in Transition Assistance Fair (reaching homeless families in SCPS) • Healthy Start Baby Shower • Over 20 VPK Round-Ups • Rescue Outreach Mission Child Development Room and Training
Provide a list of grants or loans to providers to assist in meeting State and local standards.	<p>Mini-grants were offered to Providers based on scores achieved through ERS assessments and technical assistance. These funds were used to purchase developmentally appropriate materials and supplies to support compliance with state and local standards.</p>
Describe the process for monitoring compliance with licensing and regulatory requirements.	<p>The Coalition's subrecipient, 4C, conducts the initial review and desk monitoring of licensing and regulatory requirements before a Provider is offered an SR or VPK agreement. In addition, 4C maintains a database to flag all Provider eligibility documentation required to conduct business, such as (but not limited to) license expiration, background screenings and affidavit of good moral character. The Coalition Quality Team provides monitoring and technical assistance for licensing and regulatory compliance during technical assistance visits.</p>
Provide a list of available professional development opportunities that the coalition offers, including training, education, and technical assistance	<p>The Coalition offers a wide variety of professional development opportunities to enhance the quality of early care and education services available in Seminole County. A total of 38 free trainings were conducted by Coalition Quality Service and Inclusion Specialists this year. The topics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Implementation; • Beyond Centers and Circle Time Curriculum; • Environmental Rating Scales (ERS); • Character Development;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Curriculum; • After-School Program; • Lap-3 Assessment; • Intentional Teaching and Purposeful Planning; • Inclusion/Behavior Management; • Infant/Toddler Specialist; • Going Green, and • Early Literacy and Early Math Concepts Trainings. <p>The Coalition Quality Services Specialists offer individual and small group technical assistance upon request for Providers regarding the ERS and curriculum implementation. In partnership with Seminole Community College, the Coalition funded both CDA and AA/AS scholarships, sponsored the 6th Annual Learning Conference, The Spirit of Play, and funded a half-day Spring conference, titled Everyday Inclusion. The Coalition also provides professional development opportunities, specifically targeting family child care providers. Toward this effort, the Coalition offered scholarships to the 18th Annual Florida Family Child Care Home Association Conference.</p>
Describe initiatives by the coalition to improve salaries and other compensation for child care providers.	The Coalition funded CPA and AA/AS scholarships through Seminole Community College promote higher salaries for early childhood educators.
Describe activities to support a Quality Rating System.	<p>The Early Learning Coalition of Seminole has been working in conjunction with the Early Learning Coalitions of Orange and Osceola Counties to design the Central Florida Quality Counts Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The Coalitions have utilized the framework established by the multi-county, state-wide workgroup to ensure consistency with other systems across the state. A joint pilot project was initiated, and the services of an outside firm were solicited to assist with Provider selection, evaluation of the pilot project, implementation and identification of child outcomes. A total of fifteen (15) Seminole County applicants were selected to participate in the pilot project. Fourteen (14) Providers completed the entire first year pilot process.</p> <p>In order to prepare Providers for QRIS, all Seminole County SR Providers were assessed using the Environmental Rating Scales and provided with technical assistance to improve their scores. Additionally, Providers were assessed and offered trainings on curriculum implementation.</p>
Provide information on activities in support of early language, literacy, pre-reading, and early math concepts development.	<p>The Quality Services Specialists (QSS) specifically targeted literacy and early math concepts development through the following trainings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math Your Way Training • Recipe for Success • Jump into Literacy • More than Numbers <p>The “Let’s Read Together!” Program was continued by the QSS as a family initiative in which parents check out literacy kits from Providers.</p>

	<p>The kits contain an activity guide and books for parents to read with their children.</p>
<p>What activities has the coalition implemented to promote inclusive child care?</p>	<p>The Coalition Inclusion Specialist offers both formal training and individual intervention services to aid classroom teachers, parents and children in establishing best practices to meet the needs of all children. The Warm Line has been established and marketed to Providers to allow direct access to request inclusion services. Additionally, after obtaining a Level III ASQ screening, vision and hearing screenings are offered and then a LAP-D or E-LAP assessment is conducted to determine the need for additional support from the Inclusion Specialist. In the 2009-2010 fiscal year 230 referrals were made for Coalition Inclusion Services. Additionally, our spring half-day conference hosted by Seminole State College, entitled Everyday Inclusion, provided multiple resources and techniques to ensure inclusive environments for all children.</p>
<p>How does the coalition conform to Healthy Child Care America and other health activities including those designed to promote the social and emotional development of children?</p>	<p>The Coalition has implemented several activities to promote healthy habits, as well as the social and emotional development of children. Through trainings for classroom teachers and directors, character development has been encouraged based on the Conscious Discipline Curriculum. The Coalition encourages Providers to support parents in the social and emotional development of their child through the "Parenting in a Bag" initiative.</p> <p>The Coalition has continued our partnership with Nemours in efforts to address childhood obesity through classroom practices. The Coalition also continued participation in the Healthy Start Baby Shower this year as the keynote speaker, teaching at risk mothers the importance of selecting a high quality child care. The Coalition worked through Leadership Seminole to set up a child development room and training staff at the Rescue Outreach Mission. This organization is the only homeless shelter for women and children in Seminole County. The training and child development room were set up to facilitate positive, developmentally appropriate parent child interactions for some of the most at risk children in our community.</p>
<p>Please describe other quality activities that increase parental choice, and improve the quality and availability of child care. (§98.51(a)(1) and (2))</p>	<p>The Coalition has had the opportunity to participate in unique partnerships to promote the availability of high quality child care in Seminole County. As a member of the Children's Cabinet of Seminole County, the Coalition has been asked to lead a subcommittee to address child care as one of the priorities for families in our county.</p>

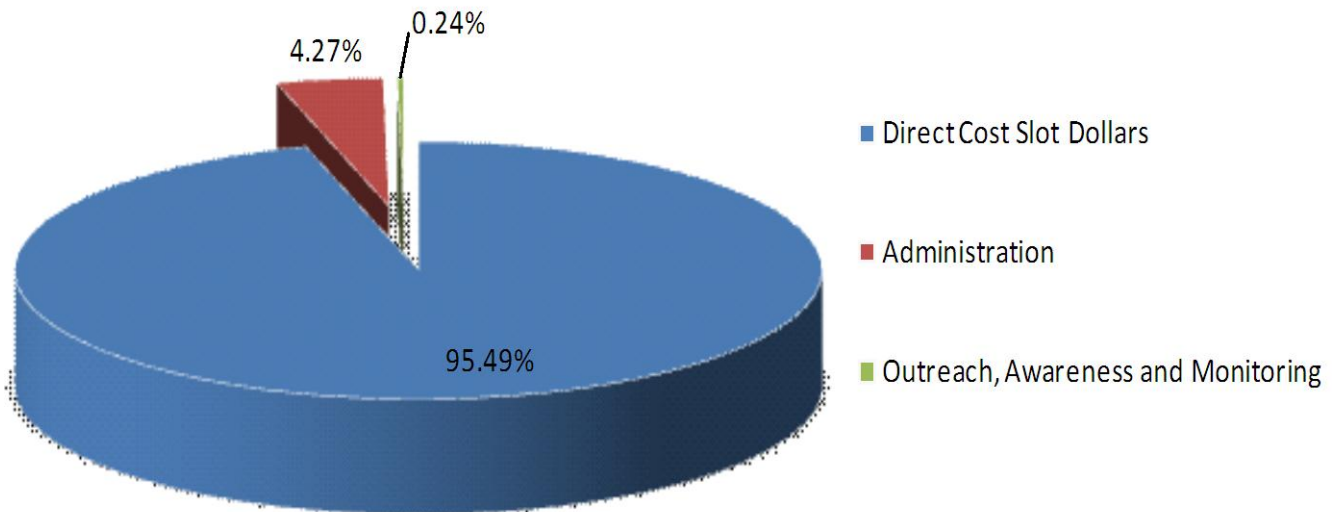
Fiscal Summary: During the 2009- 2010 fiscal year the coalition's total **School Readiness Program** operating budget was \$9,318,205. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.

School Readiness Expenditures by Category



During the 2009- 2010 fiscal year the coalition's total **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program** operating budget was \$9,816,479. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.

VPK Expenditures by Category



Program Year Summary:

The Early Learning Coalition of Seminole saw continued growth in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) referrals increased by 47.7% and consultations increased by 74.5%. The Unified Waitlist increased from 150 on June 30, 2009 to 1,056 on June 30, 2010. The Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Program also saw a more than 9% growth in services with a total of 4,002 children served. This growth in services likely resulted from the downturn in the economy, but also may have been impacted through the Coalition's partnerships developed over the past year.

The Early Learning Coalition has experienced many successes through partnerships during the 2009-2010 fiscal year. In support of Children's Week, and in recognition of the needs of children and families in our county, the Early Learning Coalition was able to collect proclamations from all seven municipalities in the county, including the Board of County Commissioners. The support demonstrated by all government entities is a clear indication of the value of Coalition services to the community.

Through the new partnerships with Nemours, the Healthy Start Program, and Rescue Outreach Mission, the Early Learning Coalition of Seminole has expanded its reach promoting high quality early care and education throughout the county.

In partnership with our School Readiness Providers, the quality of child care continues to improve. All Providers, with the exception of three (3), showed significant increases in ERS scores after receiving training and technical assistance and have met the minimum score of 3.0. At year-end, 50% of the Providers scored between 3.00 and 3.99, and 55% scored 4.00 or higher. These results indicate a strong commitment to the continuous improvement of quality by Seminole County child care providers.





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Sponsorship by Early Learning Coalition of Seminole, and the State of Florida, Agency for Workforce Innovation