



## Our History

The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. was created by legislation in 1999. The intent of the legislators was to combine all early childhood education funds under one umbrella agency to meet the goal of providing a seamless service delivery system for parents of children birth through 5 years. Before/after care is also provided to school age children through 12 years of age. In 2005 the agency was awarded the grant to administer the new Voluntary Prekindergarten program.

## Mission

*To facilitate an efficient, comprehensive, high quality system of school readiness services, to include early care and education and school-age programs, that enhances the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical development of all children through collaboration with the community, early care providers and families.*

## Vision

*To unite the community in the development and delivery of a high quality integrated school readiness system which includes screening, assessment and support services to families in order to maximize each child's school readiness potential and promote the economic self-sufficiency of families.*

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# DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

## School Readiness

A tuition assistance program for low to moderate wage-earning families. A portion of the child care costs are paid for eligible families so that parents can work while children participate in programs to prepare them to enter school ready to learn. 14,282 children birth to 12 years of age received assistance with tuition costs this year.

## Even Start

A family literacy program designed to discontinue the cycle of intergenerational poverty and illiteracy. 51 parents participated in the program with 51 children. While parents pursued their General Equivalency Diploma (GED) their children were provided a free quality early education experience in a program that focused on emergent literacy skills. Transportation was also provided. Parents received 168 home visits, 920 hours of interactive literacy with their children and 260 hours of parenting training.



“I would have never been able to send my child to school without VPK being free. Now she can go to school and get ready for Kindergarten!  
Thank you!”

STAY AT HOME MOM

## Voluntary Prekindergarten

A new program implemented in August of 2005. The program is open to any child that turns four years old on or before September 1 and resides in Florida. In Pinellas County 5,014 children participated in the program. 165 private and public preschools offered the program. The coalition led the state in child participation rates this year.



## The Midtown Community Partnership

A collaboration of 22 grassroots and local organizations committed to improving literacy in the impoverished and high crime neighborhood of Midtown, St. Petersburg. Working together to strengthen the individual efforts of each agency, over 200 volunteers distributed more than 6,400 books during four community wide family literacy events.

## Florida First Start

A home visitation program providing early intervention services to families with children at high risk of school failure. 3,310 home visits were made in addition to 41 play groups and 20 family group meetings. A total of 311 children were served.

## Children's Special Services

A program that monitors the growth, development and academic achievement of children. 8,664 children received developmental screenings. 1,723 children were administered pre and post assessments. 3,720 children received functional hearing and vision screenings.



“Without the funding from the Early Learning Coalition I would have missed out on a lot of fabulous training. I thought all the trainings I attended were great and I learned a lot of new ideas for working with children.”

WINONA ANNE BROOKS, HEART TO HEART FAMILY CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

## Professional Development

A program that offers tuition assistance and in-service training to early childhood educators. 141 educators were awarded scholarships to attend St. Petersburg College or the University of South Florida- St. Petersburg. 28 scholarships were provided to infant toddler caregivers to acquire a Child Development Associate at Pinellas Technical Education Center.

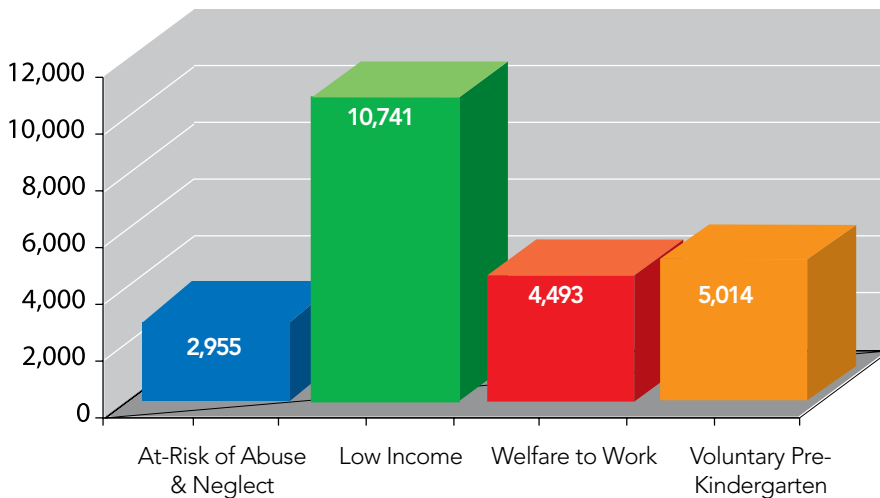
## Other Quality Initiatives

- Family Involvement
- Caring for Kids
- Infant Toddler Program
- Project Safety Net
- A.N.G.E.L.S.
- A Community of Readers
- 5 Star Quality Rating System
- Family Support Services
- Born to Read

## TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED & WAITING

Number of School Readiness Children Served.....**14,282**  
 Number of School Readiness Children Waiting for Care .....**3,819**  
 Number of Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Children Served .....**5,014**

### 2005-2006 NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED BY CATEGORY



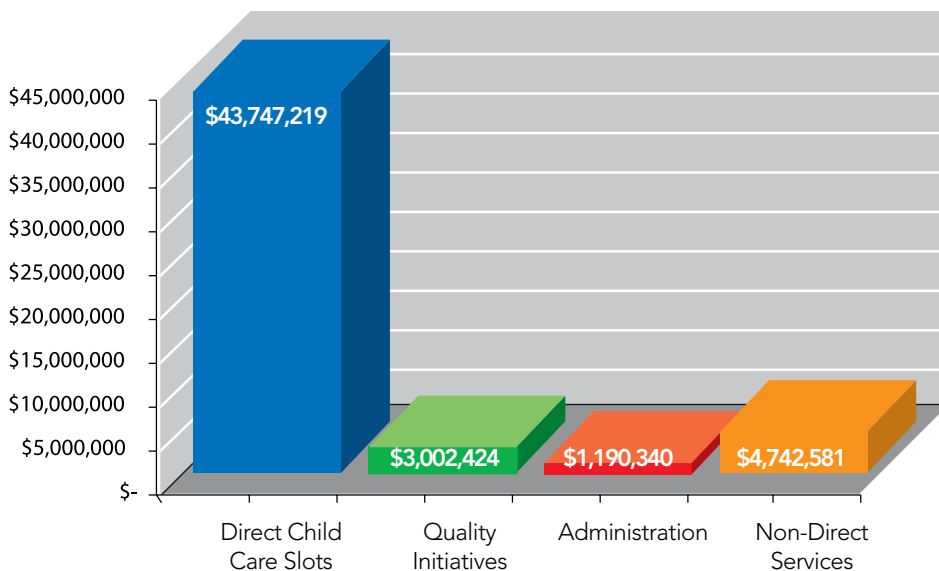
#### Single Point of Entry and Resource & Referral Process

With one call parents can ask specific questions regarding early care and education options, the scholarship child care application process, how to access other financial assistance for child care needs, and other social service resource information. They are also provided with an unbiased computer generated list of early care and education options customized specifically for that parent and child which can be e-mailed, mailed, faxed or picked up at the program office.

## BUDGET INFORMATION

### 2005-2006 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

TOTAL \$52,682,564



## 2005-2006 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- All Children's Hospital
- Baptist Ministers Conference
- Bayfront Medical Center
- Citizen's Alliance for Progress, Inc.
- City of St. Petersburg Parks and Recreations Department/ Midtown Redevelopment Initiative
- Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc.
- Devereux Kids, Inc.
- Directions for Mental Health, Inc.
- Early Steps
- Education Station, Inc.
- Even Start
- Everyone's Youth United, Inc.
- F.A.S.T. - Faith and Action for Strength Together
- Family Service Centers, Inc.
- FDLRS- Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System
- Flexx Productions-Southside Child Care Association
- Florida Children's Campaign
- Florida First Start
- Front Porch Council, Inc.
- Generations United
- Greater Ridgecrest Youth Development Initiative
- Healthy Families
- Healthy Start Coalition
- Healthy Families Pinellas
- Heart to Heart Family Child Care Association
- James B. Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center
- Juneteenth of Tampa Bay, Inc.
- Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- National Council of Negro Women
- African American Leadership Council
- Morton Plant Mease Health Care
- Midtown Technology Center
- Our Brother's Keeper
- Pinellas Advocates for Children and Families
- Pinellas County Cooperative Extension
- Pinellas County Dental Association
- Pinellas County Head Start/Early Head Start
- Pinellas County Health Department
- Pinellas County License Board for Children's Centers and Family Child Care Homes
- Pinellas County Public Schools
- Pinellas County Urban League
- Pinellas Early Childhood Association (PECA)
- Pinellas Providers Home Child Care Association
- Pinellas Public Library Cooperative-Born To Read
- R'Club Child Care, Inc.
- Readers Choice Bookstore
- Safe Children's Coalition
- Safe Start Coalition
- Salvation Army-St. Petersburg
- St. Petersburg College
- Southside Partnership Committee
- Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health, Inc.
- United Methodist Cooperative Ministries
- University of South Florida St. Petersburg
- Word of Life Church



Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc.  
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### Message From Chairman of the Board

*"The Early Learning Coalition is proud to play a role in the lives of our youngest citizens and provide quality childcare and pre-school experiences. Working along with the parents, we want to nurture every child and help them develop a love of learning and feel successful in school."*

*Peggy O'Shea*

The Early Learning Coalition accepts contributions and pledges for child care and teacher scholarships to support the ongoing education of young children.

# EARLY LEARNING COALITION of PINELLAS COUNTY 2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT

