



PROFILES: SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

State:	Florida
Partnership name:	Florida Child Care Executive Partnership
Web site(s):	http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers/provider_menu/child_care_executive_partnership.aspx
Address:	Florida Office of Early Learning 250 Marriott Drive Tallahassee, FL 32399
Primary contact (name):	Stephanie L. Gehres, CPA, Deputy Director of Operations, Florida Office of Early Learning
Email:	Stephanie.Gehres@OEL.MyFlorida.com
Phone:	850-717-8550 (main line) 850-717-8598 (direct line)



1. Background

The Florida Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program is a public-private partnership that helps employers address the needs of a growing segment of their workforce, working parents. Through this partnership, federal and state funding is matched with contributions from local governments, charitable foundations, and private businesses on a dollar-for-dollar basis to provide early education and care services to participating families. This matching strategy effectively doubles the funding available for early education and care subsidies for Florida's working families. Through this program, Florida supplements and extends the use of existing public and private funds for direct early education and care services.

The Florida CCEP program operates under the statutory authority of Section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, which provides the board and participating partners staff support through Florida's Office of Early Learning. The authorizing law is available at http://www.leg.state.fl.us/STATUTES/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=1000-1099/1002/Sections/1002.94.html.

2. Mission and Goals

The mission of the CCEP is promoting public-private partnerships to ensure that the children of Florida are provided safe, high-quality, developmentally appropriate, and enriching early education and care while parents work to remain self-sufficient.



The three purposes of the Partnership are as follows:

1. Encourage private employers to participate in the future of the State by providing employee child care benefits;
2. Encourage private employers to explore innovative ways to assist employees to obtain quality child care; and
3. Expand the availability of child care options for working families by providing incentives for employers to contribute to meeting the needs of their employees' families by matching public dollars available for child care.

3. Governance and Partnership Members

The CCEP consists of a representative of the Executive Office of the Governor and nine members of the corporate or child care community who are appointed by the Governor. The Partnership is staffed by the Florida Office of Early Learning. Board members selected are leaders in their communities. They come from business and education backgrounds. These community and industry leaders possess a strong desire to give back to their communities and solicit business investments in early learning programs. Applicants selected to the CCEP board must have a strong desire to promote early education and recruit business to offer financial support.

Pursuant to state law, the CCEP is charged with the following:

- Making recommendations concerning the implementation and coordination of the School Readiness Program, which is Florida's child care assistance program and the recipient of the Partnership funds;
- Soliciting, accepting, receiving, investing, and expending funds from public or private sources;
- Contracting with public or private entities as necessary; and
- Approving an annual budget.

The legislature appropriates the public resources that are used to generate the one-to-one match at the local level and to support the local purchasing pool. At the local level, early learning coalitions, which exist in all Florida communities; establish a community child care task force to support and manage each child care purchasing pool. The task force must be composed of employers, parents, private child care providers, and one representative from the local children's services council, if one exists in the area of the purchasing pool. The early learning coalition is expected to recruit the task force members from existing

child care councils, commissions, or task forces already operating in the area of a purchasing pool. A majority of the task force shall consist of employers.

4. Funding and Other Resources



Public funding is appropriated by the state legislature through the use of federal Child Care and Development Fund dollars. Since 2007, the amount of funding used to leverage additional private resources has been \$15 million as shown in the table below. The Board reviews expenditure utilization throughout the year to maximize fund use. Based on this review, the Board may reallocate funding between coalitions.

CCEP Available Public Funding and Expenditures by Fiscal Year 2008 Through

Fiscal Year	Funding	Expenditures	Percentage
2007-2008	\$15,000,000	\$14,533,943	97%
2008-2009	\$15,000,000	\$14,876,179	99%
2009-2010	\$15,000,000	\$14,595,296	97%
2010-2011	\$15,000,000	\$14,586,514	97%
2011-2012	\$15,000,000	\$14,356,977	96%

The State distributes funds to local purchasing pools, where the coalition acts as the local administrator. To encourage private business participation and to allow all early learning coalitions the opportunity to participate in this program, the State distributes state funds to local communities by prioritizing how local coalitions raise matching funds. Local coalitions that raise matching funds according to the following scheme receive prioritization for state funding:

1. Private business contributing as an employee benefit or pool;
2. Public entity contributing as an employee benefit;
3. Non-profit business contributing as an employee benefit or pool; or
4. Public entity contributing to the purchasing pool.

“Employee benefit” refers to child care financial assistance that is provided to eligible employees by private businesses and government entities that participate in the CCEP program. “Purchasing pool” refers to funds that are used to serve all eligible children according to the local coalition’s service priorities. Funds can be contributed by both private and public sources.

5. Activities

The Partnership is effective due to the active engagement of Florida's local Early Learning Coalitions, which recruit local businesses and partners to participate and serve as the local management partner. At the state level, the Office of Early Learning manages the program and provides the staffing and support to the Governing Board. The Board makes the funding and policy decisions.

6. Evaluation and Outcomes

Throughout the program year, expenditures are reviewed and redistributed as needed to maximize benefit to the children of Florida. During the 2014 Legislative session, the Speaker of the House at the request of the House Education Committee directed the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability to conduct a study of the CCEP Program. The program was intended to foster public-private partnerships between Florida businesses and school readiness providers. The study will determine if the desired outcomes have been achieved and will provide recommendations as needed to move the CCEP program to the next level.

Child Care State Systems Specialist Network, A Service of the Office of Child Care
9300 Lee Highway, Fairfax VA, 22031 | Phone: 877-296-2401 | Email: OCCTANetwork@icfi.com