

A Space to Grow

2021 - 2022 Annual Report



early
learning
coalition

OF PASCO & HERNANDO



A Message from Steve & Bimal

As we look back on the past year, we're both honored and inspired by the work and service of our fantastic staff and Board of Directors. During the past twelve (12) months, we have launched or expanded several key community outreach programs including the Virtual Conference, Storybook Forest Drive-thru, Feeding Tampa Bay partnership, Loving Start, Transition to K initiative, and START.

We rebranded with a new logo and website during the past year. Included in this process was a new tree logo to represent the organization's growth with each branch representing its connections to children, caregivers, and educators. The new website also offers an enhanced digital experience for users.

We have seen tremendous growth in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program with several new programs and expansions throughout our community. Our Promise Institute continues to offer popular and relevant training opportunities to our teachers and directors. With a focus on credentialing, we have expanded partnerships and offerings to not only sustain but expand our teacher community with a focus on high quality early childhood education.

During the next twelve (12) months we will be mission-focused and committed to serving children, families, providers, and our communities.

Best regards,



Steve Knobl, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Bimal Bhojani
Governor Appointee
Chairman of the Board

Amy Anderson, M.D.
Pasco-Hernando State College

Maryam Belavilas, M.D.
Private Sector

Bimal Bhojani
Governor Appointee
Board Chair, Private Sector

Lisa Campos
Private Sector

Kimberly Harrison
Community at Large – Pasco

Lavana Harvey
Private Sector

Adam Horn
Private Sector

Jacob Horner
Governor Appointee
Private Sector

Jan Jones
Faith-Based Provider Representative
Pasco County

Walter D. Joseph, M.Ed.
Private Sector

Troy LaBarbara
Exceptional Student Education
Hernando County Schools

Patrick McHugh
Private Sector

Gina Michalicka
Hernando County School Board

Mike Napier
Pasco County Health Department

Elizabeth “Beth” Narverud
Hernando County Board of Commissioners

Chantal Porte
Department of Children and Families

Manuel “Manny” Santana
Governor Appointee
Private Sector

David Slovut, M.D.
Private Sector

Neil Thompson
Private Sector

Jessica Weightman
CareerSource – Pasco-Hernando

Rebecca Wilkinson-Shields
At Large – Pasco

Vicki Wolin
Head Start Director – Pasco County Schools

Mission & Vision

At the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, we believe in creating a supportive community for children to be successful in school and life. Because every child deserves a quality education from day one.

What We Stand For

Confidence

With years of knowledge and expertise, we are here to provide an invaluable resource to children in our community.

Commitment

We believe that every child, caregiver, and teacher deserves the best resources for their success.

Advocacy

With unbridled support and compassion, it is our goal as an organization to represent those in need of guidance and direction.

Inclusivity

We encourage and accept all walks of life so that we can prosper together as a community.

Rebrand and Website Launch

With the CRRSA Outreach award, the Coalition revealed its new brand in a refreshed project with a redesigned logo and website that best represents the nonprofit's mission of supporting quality education for children, families, and educators. The rebranding process began in early March with Stevie and Fern, a St. Petersburg-based boutique brand experience agency.

The new tree logo represents the organization's growth with each branch representing its connections to children, caregivers, and educators. The new website offers an enhanced digital experience for mobile users making it easier for parents and educators to connect to our full range of services. The new brand statement: "A Space to Grow" provides a feeling of encouragement where every individual is valued and where a safe space motivates understanding, mastery, and opportunity.



New Website Launch

Signature Events and Outreach Opportunities

- "Resilience: The Great Bounce Back" Virtual Conference** for Early Childhood Education professionals had over 330 early childcare professionals in attendance. The conference offered support as we bounce back from the Covid-19 pandemic. The Keynote speakers delivered messages of resilience, mental health, and reflective practices. This conference was made possible by a grant from Suncoast Credit Union.
- Storybook Forest Drive-Thru**, a literacy focused event, where over 200 families received book bundles and educational materials. Childcare providers and community partners participated in themed booths and provided activities for families to engage in at home.
- A partnership with **Feeding Tampa Bay** coordinated monthly food distributions at local childcare provider sites, providing the community with free food packages and service and family engagement resources.
- A Loving Start** for new moms launched with four (4) hospitals and three (3) community partners across Pasco and Hernando Counties. New mothers received their infant's first book "Cuddle" by Elizabeth Verdick and Marjorie Lisovskis to support their journey in building language development and relationships from birth. The book contains a personalized message and tips and tricks to promote relationship and literacy development.
- In partnership with the United Ways of Pasco and Hernando, **S.T.A.R.T. (Support, Teach, Acknowledge, Respect and Trust)** program for families was launched. A free program for families offering the Circle of Security virtual workshop and family engagement events. Two (2) cohorts with a total of eighteen (18) families completed the program.
- The Transition to K Committee** of the Coalition distributed 350 books, "Night Before Kindergarten" by Natasha Wing to VPK classrooms to create a comfortable feeling for children during the kindergarten transition.
- A **No Kid Hungry** Grant was awarded for \$60,000, funds were used to purchase food items during the summer break to ensure that children enrolled in our Hernando County programs do not go hungry.

Storybook Forest Drive-Thru



Early Learning Conference



A Loving Start



S.T.A.R.T.



No Kid Hungry



Direct Enhancement Services

The Coalition led several new initiatives to connect and educate the public on **School Readiness** and **Voluntary Prekindergarten** programs while joining our partners to broaden our reach. Virtual outreach continued to show successful results while we also saw a return to in-person opportunities.

The Promise Institute

The vision of **The Promise Institute** is to empower early childhood educators to commit to ongoing professional development and learning opportunities. Over 65 training opportunities were offered to early childhood educators with a full range of professional development services, such as infant and toddler courses, preschool courses, and administration courses as well as continuing to provide professional development opportunities on an on-going basis throughout the year to providers, educators, and families.

Building a World Class Workforce

Through **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA)**, Workforce Initiative Grants were designed and awarded to support recruitment, retention, and upskilling early education professionals in the workforce.

- 652 - Credential bonuses issued
- 83 - New hire bonuses issued
- 32 - Background Screening payments issued
- 35 - DCF payments for necessary coursework and testing issued
- 403 teachers received free First Aid and CPR training

In addition, the **Preschool Development Grant** allowed The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, in partnership with Marchman Technical College in Pasco County, to offer two (2) programs in which early childhood educators can obtain their Early Childhood Professional Credential (ECPC).

The **Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship** allows individuals in this program that are currently employed in an early childcare program to utilize their on-the-job hours towards their required field experience training along with their required content coursework, to complete and obtain their ECPC. The program costs are covered through the apprenticeship and participants receive financial incentives and supply kits. The student's mentor and director also receive financial incentives for supporting their apprentice.

Total enrollment to date is 105 students

The 600-hour Early Childhood Program began in Fall of 2022. This is an 18-week program for individuals interested in joining the early childhood education field. Through the duration of this program, students attend weekly class sessions to learn course content, while volunteering at Early Childcare programs the remainder of the week for field practice and hands on learning experiences. Upon completion of this program these students will also obtain their ECPC.

Total enrollment to date is 12 students

Quality Activities for Infant & Toddler Care

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties employs an **Infant and Toddler Specialist** who provides technical assistance, training, and support for the following programs:

- LENA Grow**, which couples' technology with weekly coaching sessions to boost brain development in infants and toddlers. Nine classrooms and ten (10) teachers were trained.
- National CDA** for Infant and Toddler Teachers, Infant and Toddler Teachers can successfully earn a National CDA through Flamingo Early Learning. Financial supports were given to four (4) teachers with an additional seven (7) on track to graduate in the spring of 2023.
- Infant Capacity Grant**, one center participated in the Infant Capacity grant that addresses the communities critical need for infant care.

Early Literacy Efforts

- Literacy Week** and **Read for the Record**, 850 books were read and distributed to providers.
- Virtual Storytimes** with Pasco and Hernando County Libraries hosted nineteen (19) virtual events with over 13,330 children participating.
- Literacy YouTube Channel** contains over 150 literacy activities for families and teachers.
- The Nemours BrightStart! Program for Early Literacy Success** (NBS!), a program dedicated to the prevention of reading failure in young children, provided 117% literacy gains in participating students. An additional eighteen (18) teachers were trained for the 2022-2023 school year.

Inclusion

The Coalition has designated staff responsible for responding to all **Inclusion/Warm Line** services and requests, as well as all reporting requirements. **The Developmental Services Supervisor** and staff participate in multiple collaborations with various community agencies both locally and statewide on a regular basis. The Coalition utilizes the **Brookes Ages and Stages Developmental Screening System**. These tools enable Coalition staff to assist parents and providers to quickly identify where the child is on the continuum and if there is a need for further assessment or ongoing monitoring.

Our Developmental Services staff host and attend trainings and conferences year-round. The Coalition maintains a Warm-Line and informs Early Childhood programs of the availability of technical assistance, coaching and training regarding the inclusion of children with developmental delays, disabilities, social-emotional concerns, and special health care needs. Our staff provide on-site technical assistance and coaching to providers in need of assistance regarding the areas of positive behavior supports, individualized learning plans, environmental adaptations, and assist parents/guardians with referrals to community resources as needed.





Monitoring

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties' Provider Relations team conducts monitoring of contracted School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) programs to ensure contract compliance.

School Readiness (SR) Provider Monitoring
Sample of 121 contracted SR Providers monitored

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Monitoring
162 VPK Providers monitored

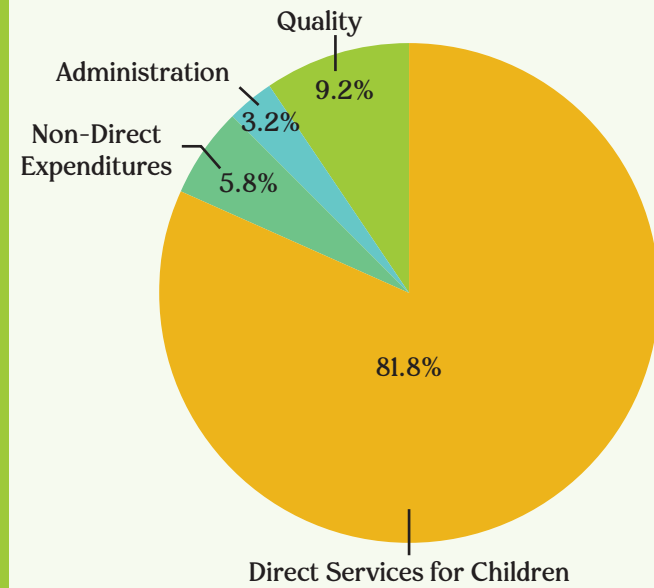
Technical Assistance

Providers who fail to meet compliance on the School Readiness Monitoring Tool are offered technical assistance and coaching in areas such as teacher-child interactions, classroom management, developmentally appropriate activities, curriculum, plans, classroom schedules and attendance monitoring.

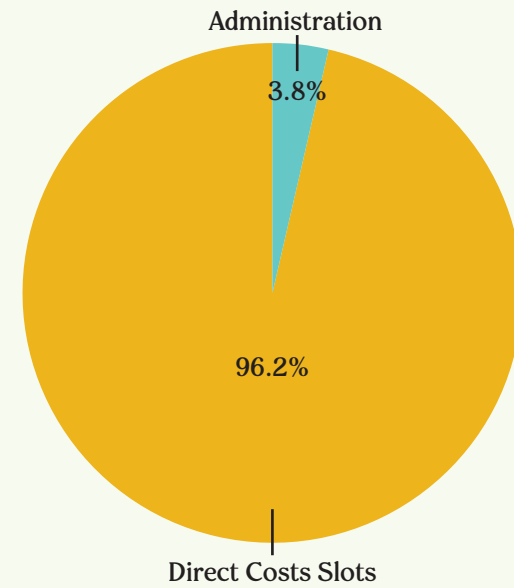
Total Number of Providers by Provider Type

Provider Type	Total Providers	Offered SR Only	Offered VPK Only	Offered Both
1. Licensed Private Centers	183	32	40	111
2. License-Exempt Centers	12	10	1	1
3. Large Family Child Care Home	10	8	0	2
4. Licensed Family Child Care Home	15	15	0	0
5. Private School	7	1	6	0
6. Public School	38	0	38	0

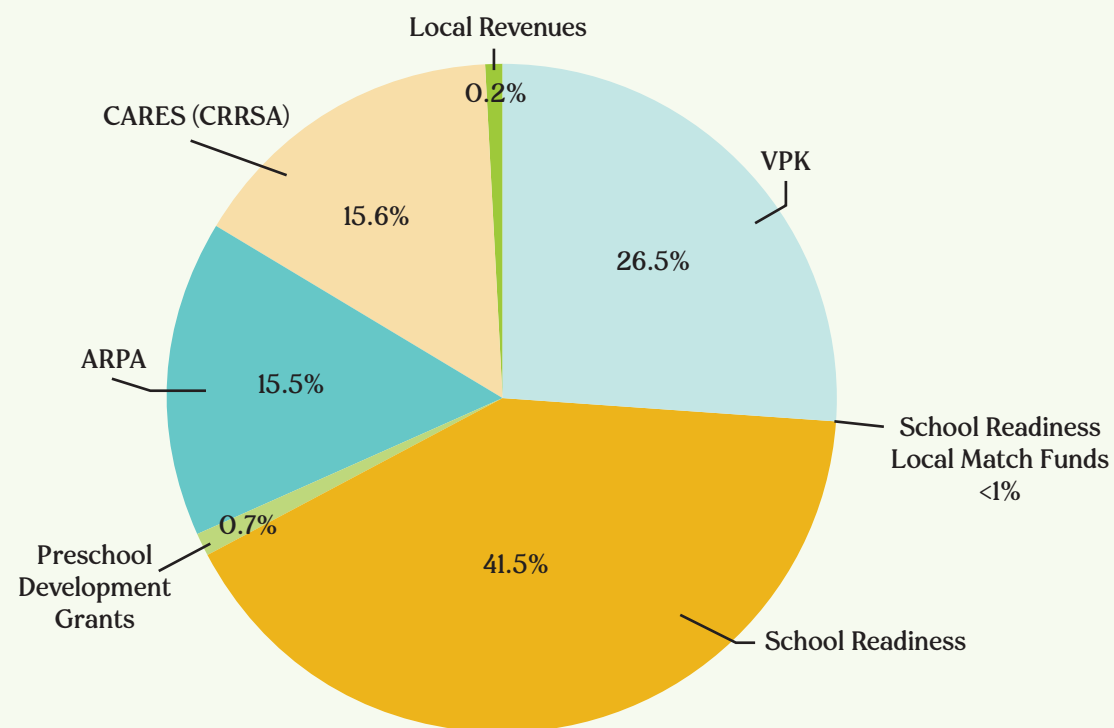
School Readiness Expenditures



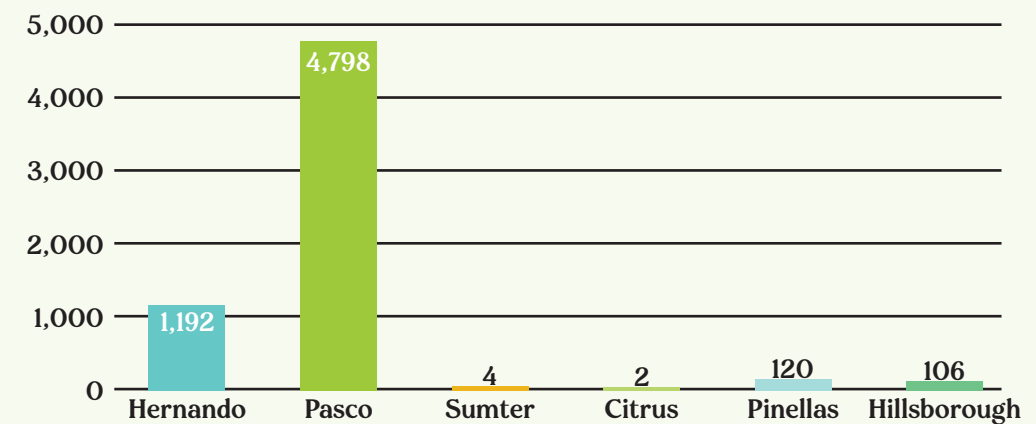
VPK Expenditures



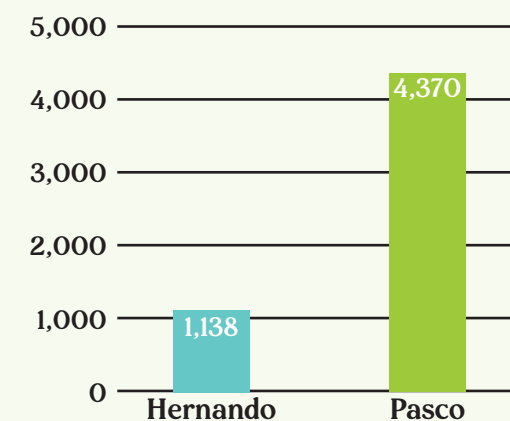
2021-2022 Operating Budget



The **School Readiness Program** offers financial assistance for quality early education to low-income families with children birth to 12 years old. In 2021-2022, **5,990 children** attending child care providers in Pasco and Hernando Counties were served in School Readiness Programs, and another **232 children** in the neighboring counties of Citrus, Hillsborough, Sumter, and Pinellas.



Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) is a free program available to all four-year-olds born on or before September 1 who reside in Florida. The goal of the program is to provide experiences for young children to assist them in becoming ready for kindergarten. In 2021-2022, the Coalition served **5,508 children** in the VPK Program in Hernando and Pasco Counties.



early learning coalition

OF PASCO & HERNANDO



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Early Learning

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