



SLIDING FEE SCALE AND FEE WAIVER POLICY

POLICY

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. has established a sliding fee scale that provides opportunity for economically disadvantaged families to have equal access to early learning programs currently available to families who do not qualify for financial assistance for School Readiness (SR) services due to their income level. Families of an economically disadvantaged child must pay a parent fee, established by the sliding fee scale.

PROCEDURE

- A. The sliding fee scale establishes a parent fee (co-payment) for parents based upon their family size and their family income.
- B. The parent fee will be in effect for the family's eligibility period unless:
 - a. A subsequent redetermination is conducted;
 - b. The referring case manager and/or parent/guardian requests and is granted a waiver of the parent fee due to special circumstances.
 - c. An incorrect parent fee was assessed due to a processing error or due to program participant fraud, resulting in a corrective action to reduce or increase the family's parent fee.
 - d. A change in employment status, income or family size results in a lower parent fee.
 - e. The authorized hours of care changes.
 - f. Parent fees during Graduated Phase Out may be increased or decreased based on the family's income and size.
- C. Sliding fee scales are based on the most recent report of the Federal Poverty Levels (FPL).
- D. When the FPL is released by the Florida Division of Early Learning (DEL), the Coalition must adopt a new sliding fee schedule no later than July 1 of each year.
- E. Family Services staff will ensure the child's parent and child care provider are notified of any changes to the respective parent fee the next time the child's eligibility is determined.
- F. Parents are required to share in the cost of child care by paying the parent fee as arranged with the SR provider. Providers are statutorily required to collect and document the receipt of the parent fee.
- G. Parents may not transfer from one SR provider to another until it is verified that parent fee payments are current for the most recent thirty (30) days.

- H. If a SR provider terminates the child care based on the parent's failure to comply with payment of parent fees, the child may not be placed in another SR program until the parent and provider have come to a mutually agreed upon payment plan. If the family of an at-risk child is unable to satisfy a copayment obligation or arrange a payment plan prior to provider transfer, the referring case manager may request the transfer to be completed without this requirement being met.
- I. Requests for temporary reduction or waiver of parental fees completed by the case manager will be considered by the Coalition on a case-by-case basis under the circumstances listed below in Section J.
- J. A waiver of parent fees may be granted by the Coalition under the following documented circumstances:
 - a. Parent/guardian is in prison.
 - b. Parent/guardian is in the hospital or residential treatment facility.
 - c. Parent/guardian is attending parenting classes.
 - d. Family's income is at or below the federal poverty level.
 - e. Parent/guardian is homeless or living in a shelter.
 - f. Parent/guardian experienced an emergency (i.e., natural disaster, fire, etc.)
 - g. The child is participating in an Early Head Start program or Head Start program.
- K. Unless circumstances otherwise warrant, referring case managers must make a written request to the Coalition for a reduction in parent fees as soon as the need exists. Proof of need for reduction must be submitted with the written request and must be approved by the Coalition prior to implementation.
- L. The reduction in parent fees is limited to the time period the parent/guardian is unable to make the required payment. A beginning and end date will be assigned the Family Services staff.
- M. Family Services staff will document the fee waiver and send a notice to the provider and the parent/guardian.

July 1, 2025

DAILY FEE		----- Annual Gross Income - Number of People in the Family -----															
Full-Time	Part-Time	FPL as indicated unless exceeds	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
5.0%	2.5%	85% SMI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		50%FPL	7,825	10,575	13,325	16,075	18,825	21,575	24,325	27,075	29,825	32,575	35,325	38,075	40,825	43,575	46,325
5.0%	2.5%		7,826	10,576	13,326	16,076	18,826	21,576	24,326	27,076	29,826	32,576	35,326	38,076	40,826	43,576	46,326
		75%FPL	11,738	15,863	19,988	24,113	28,238	32,363	36,488	40,613	44,738	48,863	52,988	57,113	61,238	65,363	69,488
5.0%	2.5%		11,739	15,864	19,989	24,114	28,239	32,364	36,489	40,614	44,739	48,864	52,989	57,114	61,239	65,364	69,489
			15,649	21,149	26,649	32,149	37,649	43,149	48,649	54,149	59,649	65,149	70,649	76,149	81,649	87,149	92,649
5.0%	2.5%		15,650	21,150	26,650	32,150	37,650	43,150	48,650	54,150	59,650	65,150	70,650	76,150	81,650	87,150	92,650
			18,259	24,676	31,093	37,509	43,926	50,343	56,760	63,177	69,594	76,011	82,427	88,844	95,261	101,678	108,095
5.0%	2.5%		18,260	24,677	31,094	37,510	43,927	50,344	56,761	63,178	69,595	76,012	82,428	88,845	95,262	101,679	108,096
		70% SMI	20,868	28,201	35,535	42,869	50,203	57,536	64,870	72,204	79,537	86,871	94,205	101,538	108,872	116,206	123,540
5.0%	2.5%		20,869	28,202	35,536	42,870	50,204	57,537	64,871	72,205	79,538	86,872	94,206	101,539	108,873	116,207	123,541
		70% SMI, 85% SMI											100,881	102,940		129,998	132,498
		150%FPL	23,475	31,725	39,975	48,225	56,475	64,725	72,975	81,225	89,475	97,725	105,975	114,225	122,475	130,725	138,975
7.0%	3.5%		23,476	31,726	39,976	48,226	56,476	64,726	72,976	81,226	89,476	97,726	105,976	114,226	122,476	130,726	138,976
		70% SMI	24,387	32,958	41,529	50,099	58,670	67,241	75,811	84,382	92,953	98,822	101,523	110,094	118,665	127,235	135,806
7.0%	3.5%		24,388	32,959	41,530	50,100	58,671	67,242	75,812	84,383	92,954	101,524	110,095	118,666	127,236	135,807	144,377
		85% SMI	25,300	34,191	43,082	51,974	60,865	69,756	78,648	87,539	96,430	105,321	114,213	123,104	131,995	140,887	149,778
7.0%	3.5%		25,301	34,192	43,083	51,975	60,866	69,757	78,649	87,540	96,431	105,322	114,214	123,105	131,996	140,888	149,779
		70% SMI, 85% SMI	26,212	35,424	44,636	53,848	63,060	72,272	81,484	90,696	99,908	109,120	118,332	127,544	136,756	145,968	155,179
7.0%	3.5%		26,213	35,425	44,637	53,849	63,061	72,273	81,485	90,697	99,909	109,121	118,333	127,545	136,757	145,969	155,180
			27,125	36,657	46,190	55,722	65,255	74,788	84,320	93,853	103,385	112,918	122,451	131,983	141,516	151,048	160,581
7.0%	3.5%		27,126	36,658	46,191	55,723	6										

Effective date July 1, 2025

Florida Division of Early Learning
SLIDING FEE SCHEDULE for SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

DAILY FEE		----- Annual Gross Income - Number of People in the Family -----															
Full-Time	Part-Time	FPL as indicated unless exceeds	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		85% SMI	30,126	40,714	51,301	61,889	72,476	83,064	93,651	104,239	114,826	125,414	136,001	146,589	157,176	167,764	178,351
7.0%	3.5%	85% SMI	30,127	40,715	51,302	61,890	72,477	83,065	93,652	104,240	114,827	125,415	136,002	146,590	157,177	167,765	178,352
		200%FPL	31,300	42,300	53,300	64,300	75,300	86,300	97,300	108,300	119,300	130,300	141,300	152,300	163,300	174,300	185,300
7.0%	3.5%	70% SMI	31,301	42,301	53,301	64,301	75,301	86,301	97,301	108,301	119,301	130,301	141,301	152,301	163,301	174,301	185,301
		70% SMI	33,648	45,473	57,298	68,627	79,607	90,587	104,598	116,423	128,248	140,073	151,898	163,723	175,548	187,373	199,198
7.0%	3.5%	70% SMI, 85% SMI	33,649	45,474	57,299	69,124	80,949	92,774	104,599	116,424	128,249	140,074	151,899	163,724	175,549	187,374	199,199
		70% SMI, 85% SMI	35,995	48,645	61,295	73,945	86,595	99,245	111,895	124,545	137,195	149,845	162,495	175,145	187,795	200,445	213,095
7.0%	3.5%	85% SMI	35,996	48,646	61,296	73,946	86,596	99,246	111,896	124,546	137,196	149,846	162,496	175,146	187,796	200,446	213,096
		85% SMI	43,333	56,666	69,999	83,332	96,665	109,999	112,499								

Parents receiving hourly care pay up to the part time fee.

2025 Poverty Level (FPL) effective January 2025.
FFY 2025 ANNUAL State Median Income Estimates

Refer to 6M-4.400, F.A.C.

Income 85% State Median Income: Upper threshold for School Readiness program eligibility

Income 70% State Median Income: Entry threshold for School Readiness Match eligibility