



Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. 2010-2011 Annual Report

Mission Statement:

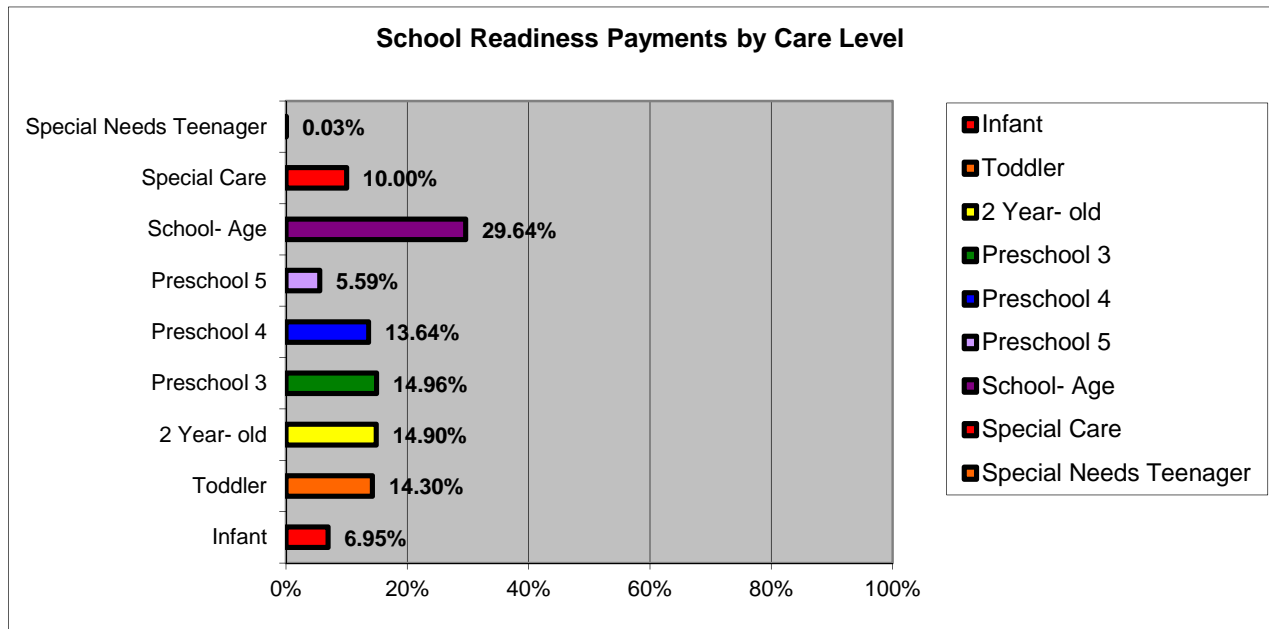
To provide a comprehensive, high quality system of school readiness programs that enhances the emotional, social, cognitive and physical development of children through collaboration with families, providers and the community.

Data Summary: The following information is based on data collected from July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011.

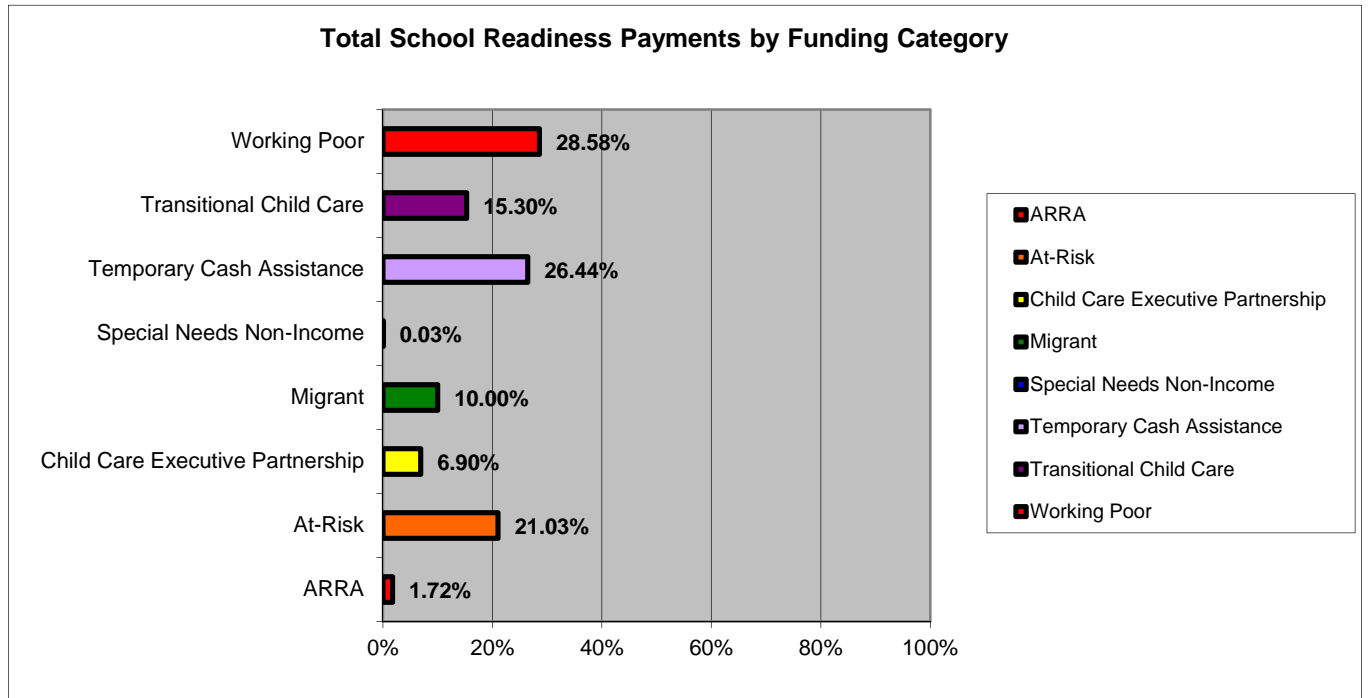
Number of unduplicated School Readiness (SR) children and families:

SR Children	SR Families
11702	7200

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



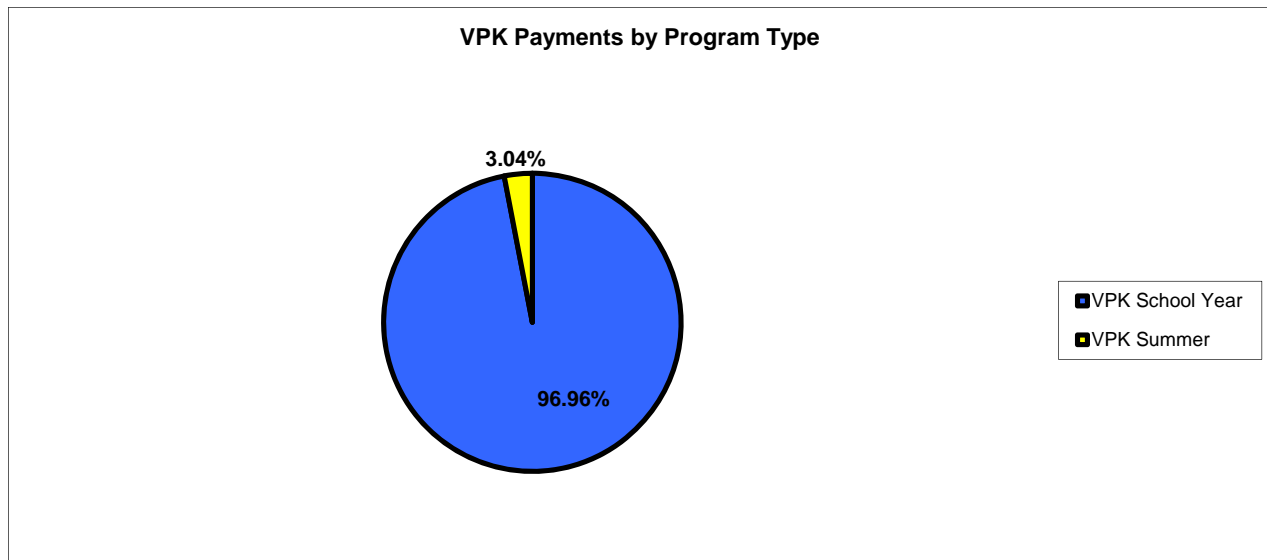
School Readiness: Percentage of total payments (including match) by funding category:



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

VPK Children	VPK Families
6335	6198

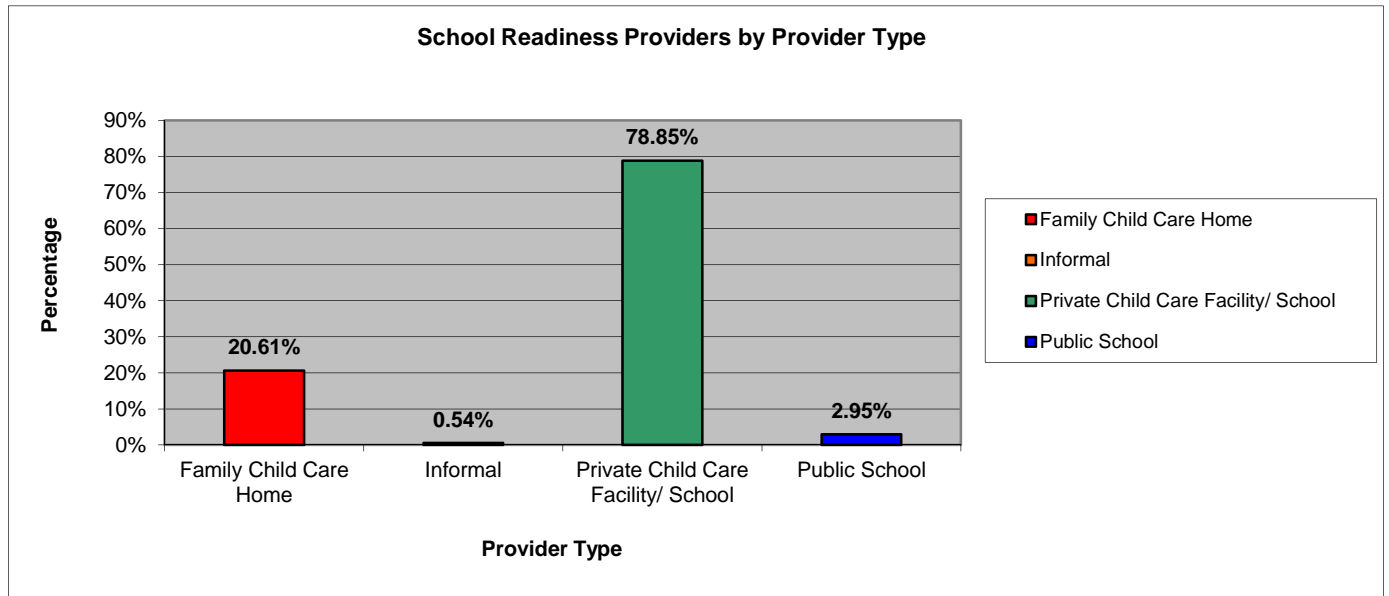
Total percentage of VPK payments by program type:



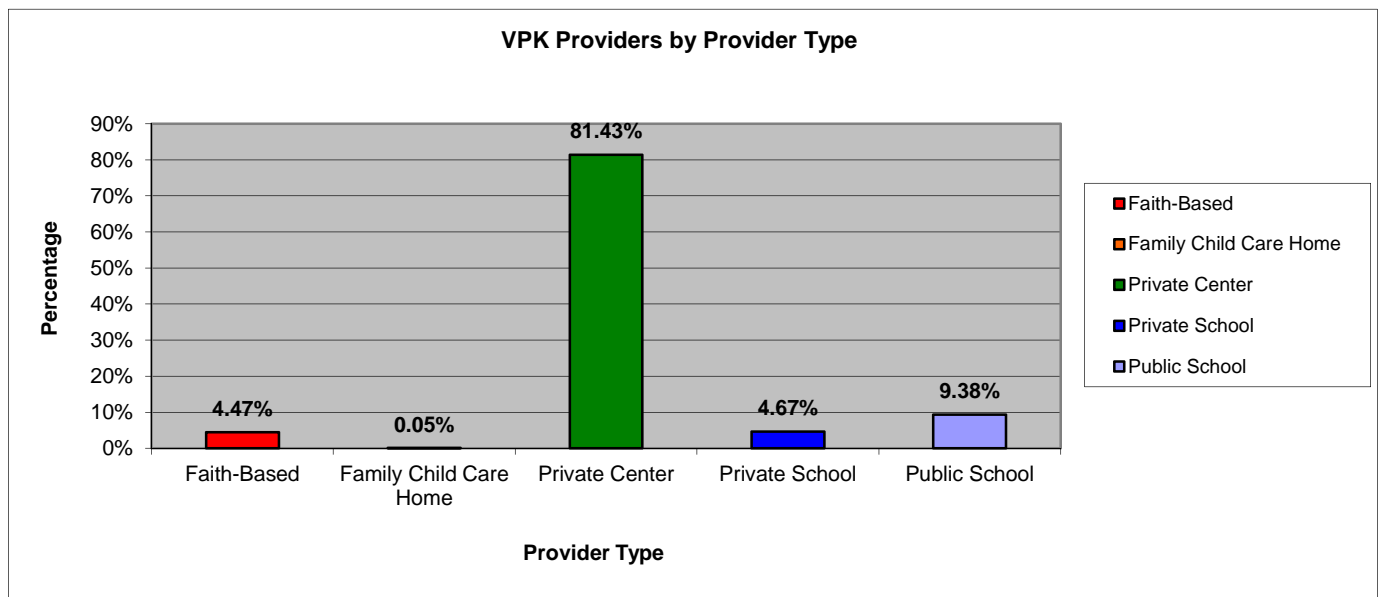
Total number of providers that participate in the ELCP's early learning programs:

School Readiness Providers	Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Providers
761	280

Participating School Readiness providers by provider type:



Participating VPK providers by provider type:



Service Delivery Summary:

School Readiness: ELCP served 11,702 children from 7,200 families in the School Readiness program. Over \$26.3 million provided School Readiness Scholarships to eligible children. 36.15% of scholarship payments served infants and toddlers, followed by 34.19% for preschool age, and 29.64% for school-age children. Most of the children funded (28.58%) were from low-income eligible families, followed by children of families receiving cash assistance (26.44%), at risk children (21.03%), children of families receiving transitional child care (15.30%), children of migrant families (10%), the Child Care Executive Partnership program (6.9%), ARRA at < 2% and special needs at < 1%.

There were 761 providers that offered School Readiness services. Private childcare facilities represented the majority (78.85%) of School Readiness payments received, followed by 20.61% to family child care homes, 2.95% to public schools and <1% to informal providers.

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK): There were 6,335 VPK children from 6,198 families served. The majority (96.96%) of the children attended the school-year program and 3.04% attended the summer program. There were 280 approved VPK providers. The majority (81.43%) of payments were to private centers, followed by public schools (9.38%), private schools (4.67%), faith-based (4.47%) and < 1% were to family child care homes.

Quality Activity Summary:

Activity	Narrative
What opportunities are offered by the Coalition for comprehensive consumer education?	<p>During the reporting period (2010-2011), the ELCP’s service contractor, (Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc.), administered the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) program that provided comprehensive consumer education to assist families in identifying and selecting quality child care. The families were provided consultation with regard to factors that are considered quality indicators.</p> <p>Families were provided guidance materials that included: “A Family Guide for Selecting Quality Early Learning Programs,” and “A Quality Checklist for Evaluating Early Learning Programs.” The guide and checklist contain observable criteria and quality indicators in order to assist parents in their selection process. Additionally, the</p>

	<p>“Choosing Quality Child Care” video produced by JWB is shown at intake offices. Families are encouraged to interview up to three potential providers, conduct reference checks and contact Pinellas County Licensing for the licensing history of these providers they are considering for placement of their child.</p> <p>The CCR&R staff also provided consumers with a packet of information that includes materials on: other community resources (2-1-1; WIC, services for children with special needs; planning for sick child care days; accreditation; child nutrition; Florida KidCare insurance; child immunization schedules and the ELCP’s grievance/dispute resolution process.</p> <p>The CCR&R staff also attended 25 community events, providing consumer education.</p>
<p>Provide a list of grants or loans to providers to assist in meeting State and local standards.</p>	<p>In 2010-2011, the ELCP reopened the Mary K. Bennett Infant Toddler Lending Library and Resource Room. Providers had the opportunity to borrow educational items for up to two months in order to enhance the quality of their early educational programs. The library features over 1,500 unique items such as children's books, educational toys, and musical instruments focused on infants, toddlers and two year olds. The resource room is equipped with a laminator, book binder, die cut machine and resource books for child care providers.</p> <p>The ELCP offered this free service to all School Readiness providers in Pinellas County. The lending library and resource room was open during the ELCP’s hours of operation with extended hours available before several trainings and meetings each month. Since reopening 48 School Readiness providers from 33 sites accessed the library and resource room.</p>
<p>Describe the process for monitoring compliance with licensing and regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>The Early Learning Coalition partners with the Pinellas County Child Care Licensing Program under the Pinellas County Department of Health. The ELCP is copied on all fines issued to providers. The Coalition provides technical assistance, frequent monitoring to ensure all</p>

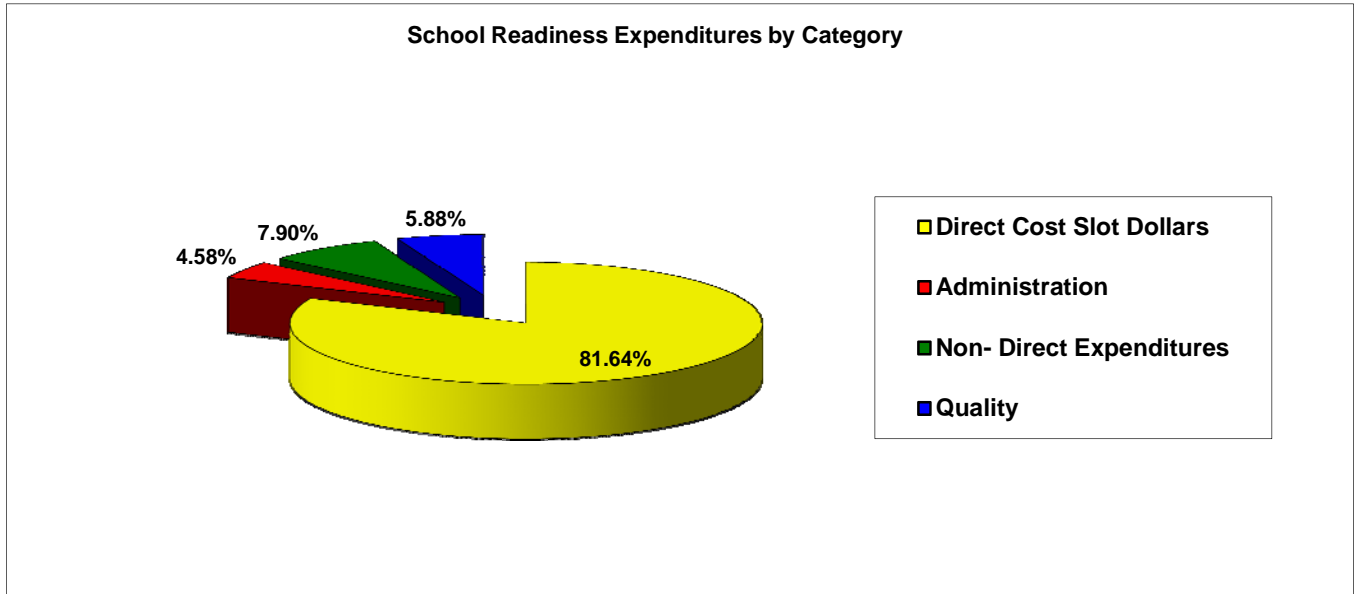
	<p>program requirements are met and issues Service Improvement Agreements.</p>																												
<p>Provide a list of available professional development opportunities that the coalition offers, including training, education, and technical assistance</p>	<p>In 2010-2011, The ELCP provided workshops and conferences in the Core Competency Areas.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Core Competency Area</th> <th>Trainings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Health Safety & Nutrition</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Child Development & Learning</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Building Family & Community</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teaching and Learning Curriculum</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Observing & Documentation</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Professionalism</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>101</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Coalition also hosted 5 major conferences:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Conference</th> <th>Attendees</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Infant Toddler</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Early Childhood</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Directors</td> <td>85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inclusion</td> <td>160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School Age</td> <td>300</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>STEP UP Scholarships- college scholarships were provided to 34 early childhood educators seeking a degree in Early Childhood Education.</p> <p>Informal career advising was offered to providers by professional development staff.</p> <p>Additionally, on-site technical assistance was provided to School Readiness providers who were placed on a Service Improvement Agreement as a result of health and safety issues.</p>	Core Competency Area	Trainings	Health Safety & Nutrition	19	Child Development & Learning	35	Building Family & Community	6	Teaching and Learning Curriculum	29	Observing & Documentation	9	Professionalism	2	Total	101	Conference	Attendees	Infant Toddler	300	Early Childhood	300	Directors	85	Inclusion	160	School Age	300
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<p>Describe initiatives by the coalition to improve salaries and other compensation for child care providers.</p>	<p>In 2010-2011, the ELCP awarded STEP UP Scholarships to 34 early education teachers seeking an AS degree in Early Childhood from St. Petersburg College.</p>																												

<p>Describe activities to support a Quality Rating System.</p>	<p>In 2010-2011 the ELCP worked with 44 Quality Counts for Kids Pinellas providers. Participants were recognized at the January Board of Directors' meeting. Participants were provided opportunities to participate in the Infant Toddler Quality Initiative training program as well as Florida's Pilot Registry program.</p> <p>Focus groups were held to discuss the Quality Counts Program and its changes moving forward. Ultimately, due to the state's decision to develop a statewide QRIS program, the Quality Counts Program was suspended.</p>
<p>Provide information on activities in support of early language, literacy, pre-reading, and early math concepts development.</p>	<p><u>Infant Toddler Program</u> Training on <i>Beyond Cribs and Rattles</i> was provided to an average of 22 providers, including 5 directors that serve infants and toddlers. This training included Social-Emotional and Literacy training components. This was a multi-year initiative that involved pre and post testing of the providers' increase in knowledge. The performance measure was 25% and the average increase of 50% exceeded the objective.</p> <p><u>Florida First Start</u> The ELCP funds Florida First Start (FFS) through the Pinellas County School Board. Through this program, families with high risk infants and toddlers are guided in working with their children to develop early literacy, language and early math concepts. A total of 66 families with children between the ages of birth to five years were served during the 2010-2011 program year.</p> <p><u>Born To Read</u> The ELCP supports the Born to Read program at the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative. The Born to Read program engages families in high risk areas to promote reading at home. Parents are taught the importance of reading to children and receive a free book. These families are invited to join the library to better ensure that children have access to books and other literacy opportunities, such as story time. 577 families were enrolled in the Born to Read program and 377 new library cards were activated.</p>

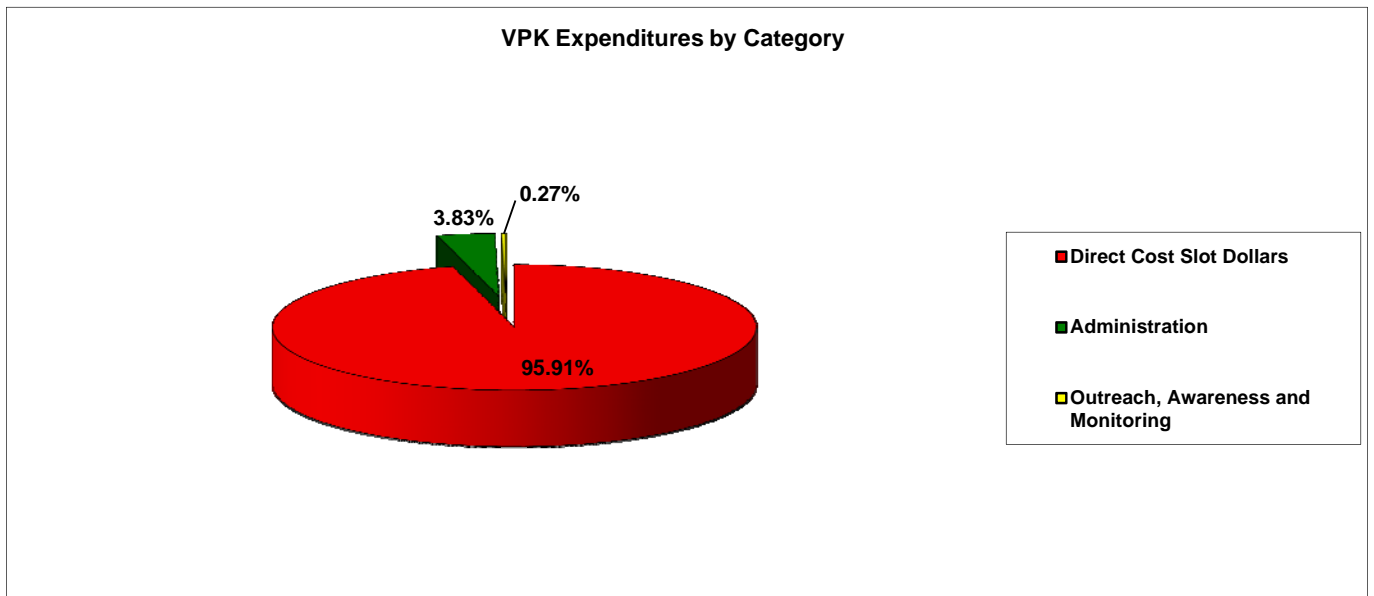
<p>What activities has the coalition implemented to promote inclusive child care?</p>	<p><u>Screening</u></p> <p>The ELCP conducts regular developmental screenings for School Readiness children ages birth to five years prior to kindergarten. Of the 4,835 children screened, 339 were referred for further evaluation by the Part B and Part C providers.</p> <p>The screenings identified over 1,000 children with concerns but upon further review and consultation with parents and providers were placed on “monitor status”. These children were often in a new program, experiencing a life change such as divorce or illness. Parents and care givers were given activities and informal interventions to implement. Follow-up screenings were completed and children with continued concern were referred.</p> <p><u>PIECE</u></p> <p>The Program for Inclusive Early Care and Education (PIECE) is an initiative funded through a grant awarded by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Developmental Disabilities and the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. Participants of this program receive intensive training on <i>Positive Behavioral Supports, Response to Intervention and Beyond Differences and Diagnoses</i>. This intensive training is supported with onsite coaching throughout the year.</p> <p>Program for Inclusive Early Care and Education (P.I.E.C.E) saw the addition of 2 new child care centers for a total of 14 sites served in Pinellas. An additional 11 partner coalitions attended leadership training to support statewide adoption of P.I.E.C.E.</p> <p><u>Warm Line</u></p> <p>The Inclusion Specialist assists providers in implementing accommodations and inclusive strategies to ensure each child is able to maximize their potential in the least restrictive environment. Information about the ELCP Warm Line for inclusion is provided at a variety of trainings and meetings throughout the year. Additionally, this service is advertised on the ELCP’s website. During</p>
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	<p>2010-2011 program year 411 consultations via phone or onsite were conducted. Based on identified needs, the Director of Inclusion provides training for providers throughout the year.</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 works closely with the Child Care Licensing Program and provides technical assistance to providers to ensure a healthy and safe environment.</p> <p>As participating agency on the Kid Care Committee of Pinellas, the ELCP has collaborated in outreach efforts for the Kid Care Insurance. Information about Kid Care is provided with all CCR&R packets and at eligibility interviews.</p> <p>The ELCP contracts with the Pinellas County Health Department to provide vision and hearing screenings to preschool children throughout the county. During 2010-2011 program year, 4,593 were screened, 635 were referred for vision and 878 were referred for hearing concerns.</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>Refer to the "Quality Rating" section.</p>

Fiscal Summary: During the 2010- 2011 fiscal year the ELCP's total **School Readiness Program** operating budget was **\$32,280,419**. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



During the 2010- 2011 fiscal year the ELCP's total **Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program** operating budget was **\$15,177,374**. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



Program Year Summary:

- A total of 11,702 School Readiness unduplicated children were served.
- Voluntary Prekindergarten enrollment reached 6,335 children representing 106% of the goal set by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.
- The ELCP successfully transitioned provider services in-house including certification, program assessment and technical assistance.
- The ELCP transitioned Development Screening in-house and implemented Supportive Intervention Services.
- The Mary K. Bennett Infant Toddler Library and Resource Room was reopened.
- Program for Inclusive Early Care and Education (P.I.E.C.E) was very effective with 14 sites within Pinellas County and expanded to 11 other coalitions.
- The ELCP implemented the School Readiness Program Assessment process including the New Provider Review Tool and the Preschool Program Review Tool. Additionally, the Coalition has developed a School Age Program Review Tool and an Infant/Toddler Program Review Tool both of which are currently being field tested.
- The ELCP transitioned and redesigned Quality Counts for Kids Pinellas program.
- Vision and hearing screenings were conducted on 4,593 children through the SEEK program.
- The ELCP was recognized as a finalist by the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*, Nonprofit of the Year.