

Part 2. Community Plan

Community Plan (s. 411.01(5)(c)1.g., F.S.)

Section 1. Vision

Response Assessment: Information Only

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

Section 2. Mission

Response Assessment: Information Only

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

Section 3. Community Needs Assessment

Response Assessment: Evaluation

Section 1: Introduction

The Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County (ELCP/Coalition) encompasses a wide variety of programs and services including:

- School Readiness Scholarships
- School Readiness Program Assessment
- Voluntary Prekindergarten
- Professional Development
- Child Developmental Screening & Assessment

School Readiness Scholarships

In August of 2010 there were 6,476 children receiving School Readiness Scholarships. There were 2,115 enrolled as recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and 1,557 enrolled under Child Protective Services. Enrollment for these eligibility categories is always open.

There were 2,804 low-income eligible children enrolled with 3,941 children on the waitlist. The percentage of low income infants and toddlers enrolled in School Readiness services is only 5% of the total children enrolled in Pinellas County . Two's, three's and four year olds account for 51%. 44% of the children receiving School Readiness scholarships are school age. *August 2010 Management Report*

School Readiness Provider Assessments

Until September 2010, enforcement was largely focused on health and safety violations reported by Child Care Licensing. The Program Review Tool which assesses quality early learning environment is utilized as a technical assistance measure. Consequently, providers not receptive to the technical assistance often lacked quality in their School Readiness programs.

Professional Development

An August 2010 survey of School Readiness providers revealed that 41.6% of instructors (centers and homes) have no formal education beyond a high school diploma. Approximately 10% of Family Child Care Home providers serving School Readiness children do not have a high school diploma.

Of approximately 3,303 early educators provider School Readiness services:

- 1 PhD.
- 48 Masters Degree
- 337 Bachelor's Degree
- 255 Associates Degree
- 1279 Florida Child Care Professional Certificate
- 1392 High School Diploma or GED
- 35 Less than a High School Diploma (FCCH)

Child Developmental Screening & Assessment

Approximately 2,141 children annually who score with concerns on the developmental screenings could benefit from the additional Supportive Intervention Services currently being offered at the Coalition, but only 250 will potentially be served due to the current size of the program.

Pinellas County currently offers very few programs dedicated to interventions for development, behavior, or social and emotional concerns. All programs have wait lists and these issues typically require immediate attention. The results are increased expulsions or inappropriate responses to children with these issues. The PIECE program is in the final year of the grant.

Geographic

Pinellas County is 38 miles long, and 15 miles at its broadest point, for a total of 280 square miles. 587 miles of coastline. It is the 2nd smallest county in the State of Florida. There are 3,291 people per square mile making it the most densely populated county in Florida.

Source: www.pinellascounty.org

Section 2: Demographic Information – Children and Their Families

Population

- Pinellas County is ranked sixth (6th) in population in the State.
- Pinellas County has 24 cities and municipalities with the densest populations in the cities of St. Petersburg and Clearwater. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census
- In 2009, the estimated current permanent population was 909,013, indicating a decrease of 1.4% since April 2000, when the population was 921,497. Source: U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts
- All youth age groups (under 5, 5-9, 10-14 and 15-17) in Pinellas County are projected to experience stagnant or declining population between 2008 and 2030. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida
- According to the 2000 Census, ZIP code 34683, located in North Pinellas County, had more youths under the age of 18 than any other ZIP code in the county. Other ZIP codes heavily populated with youth were 33705, 33713, 33712 and 33710, all of which are located in South Pinellas County. Together, these top five ZIP codes (there were 46 ZIP codes in Pinellas County in year 2000) accounted for almost 21% of the total youth population in Pinellas County U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census; www.aboutpinellaskids.org

Pinellas County Population Statistics

Age Group	2005	2010 (estimate)
0-4 years	46,380	45,860
5-9 years	49,033	47,348
10-13 years	50,414	46,867

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey

Ethnicity

Pinellas County Racial Distribution Statistics

Race	Pinellas
White	84.5%
Black or African American	10.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%
Asian	3.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
Two or more races	1.5%
Hispanic or Latino	7.4%

Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts

Income & Poverty

The 2008 median family income for Pinellas County (\$57,297) slightly lower than the State of Florida average (\$58,339) at the same time. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey

Income	Families
Total	229,322
Less than \$10,000	3.3%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2.8%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	8.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	10.3%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	16.1%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	22.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14.1%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	13.3%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	4.4%

\$200,000 or more	5.0%
-------------------	------

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey

Families whose income in the past 12 months is below the Poverty Level:

All Families	7.7%
With related children under 18 years	12.9%
With related children under 5 years only	13.3%
Married couple families	4.2%
With related children under 18 years	5.6%
With related children under 5 years only	3.4%
Families with female householder, no husband present	19.6%
With related children under 18 years	26.5%
With related children under 5 years only	36.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey

Unemployment

Pinellas County's estimated unemployment rate in July 2010 increased 5.4% above July 2009 to 11.8% and was below the state average for the first time since 2007. However, Pinellas' rate was 22% above the national average of 9.7%. Source: www.aboutpinellaskids.org

Unique Populations

English Speakers of Other Languages

- 12.9% of Pinellas families live in a home where language other than English is spoken.
- 5.6% report speaking English less than "very well".
- 2.6% speak Spanish and speak English less than "very well";
- 1.9% speak Other Indo-European languages and speak English less than "very well"
- 1.1% speak Asian/Pacific Islander languages and speak English less than "very well";
- 1.1% speak other languages and speak English less than "very well";

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey

Homeless

The population of homeless students is on the rise. While data specific to children ages birth to five years is unavailable, data collected on children in the Pinellas County School District illustrates general trends. Most notably, homelessness is more prevalent in the younger years. Based on preliminary data for the 2009-10 school-year, 2,186 Pinellas County students, 1.9% of the total public school student membership, experienced homelessness at some time during the year, a 17% increase over the prior year.

The homeless student count is an unduplicated count of students who were homeless at any time during the school-year, even if they were no longer homeless at a later date in the school-year.

- 85% of students who were registered as homeless in the 2008-09 school-year were no longer registered as homeless in the 2009-10 school-year - 82% of the registered 2008-09 homeless students were still in the Pinellas school district in 2009-10.
- 51% of homeless students were white non-Hispanic, 30% were black non-Hispanic and 9% were Hispanic. Since black non-Hispanic students comprise 19% of the 2009-10 student membership, black students experienced a far higher rate of homelessness than other student racial/ethnic groups.
- 63% of homeless students were in Pre-K or elementary school, 21% were in middle school and 16% were in high-school.

Source: www.aboutpinellaskids.org

Section 3: Identified Needs of Eligible Children and Families

Educational Attainment

- The estimated population age 25 years and over is 678,290. Of this number, 3.4% of adults had less than 9th grade education; 8.8% of adults had between 9th and 12th grade education without a diploma. The total percentage of adults 25 years and older without a high school diploma was 12.2%. Source: *U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey*
- The Pinellas County high school graduation rate is 80.6%. The graduation rate of White students is 86.2%; black students 63.4% and Hispanic at 67.8%.

Source: www.aboutpinellaskids.org.

Education Level	Total population over 25 in Pinellas County*	All Families Below poverty level	Married Couple Families below poverty level	Female householder, no husband present below poverty level
Total Families	678,290	226,734	164,651	43,706
Did not graduate high school	12.2%	19.8%	11.3%	37.7%
High school graduate	30.8%	8.5%	4.6%	18.9%
Some college or Associates degree	30.2%	5.7%	2.6%	13.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher	26.8%	3.0%	1.7%	11.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

*U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey

Readiness Rates

- 183,613 children 3 years old and over enrolled in school. 11,843 children were enrolled in preschool, a 3.4% decrease since 2004. 9,213 children were enrolled in kindergarten. Source: 2008 American Community Survey

Health and Nutrition

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality refers to the death of an infant before they reach their first birthday. A number of factors impact infant mortality including the health of the mother, social and economic conditions and the availability, and use, of health care options. Infant mortality rates are volatile, primarily reflecting the relatively small number of infant deaths compared to the total number of live births.

- In 2008, Pinellas' infant mortality rate increased to 9.3 deaths/1000 live births, the highest rate during the last ten years.

- During 2006-08, the infant mortality rate averaged 8.4 deaths per 1000 live births with the rate for blacks substantially above that of whites - in 2008, the infant mortality rate for blacks was almost triple that of whites.
- During 2006-08, Pinellas' infant mortality rate was significantly above the state average. A comparison of Pinellas' infant mortality rate to the state and similarly sized Florida counties is shown below.

Source: www.aboutPinellaskids.org

Medical Insurance

- In Pinellas County, 4.1% of youth ages 0-18 are without health insurance, well below the overall percentage in Florida 22%.
- 0.5% of Pinellas County children under 18 years living below the poverty level are uninsured.
- 2.5% of Pinellas County children under 18 years living below the 200% of the poverty level are uninsured.

Source: Florida Covering Kids & Families

Immunizations

In 2008:

- 83.7% of Two-Year olds were immunized. Note: This figure includes a sample of all two-year olds, not just those in a child care setting.
- 92.5% of Kindergarten students were immunized.

Source: www.aboutpinellaskids.org

Social Service Needs

Food Stamps

- The number of Pinellas County food stamp recipients increased to a new all time high of 71,681 households (121,513 residents) in July 2010, an increase of 35% above a year ago, with 1 in every 6 households receiving food stamps.
- Based on data received from the Florida Department of Children & Families, Pinellas County ZIP codes with the highest number of food stamp recipients are 33705, 33711, 33712, 33713, 33755 and 33756. These same zip codes are also among

those with the highest number and percentage of families in poverty

Source: *AboutPinellasKids.org*

Abuse and Neglect

- In 2009 there were 3,177 victims of verified child maltreatment, this is 4.2% less than 2008.
- In 2009 there were 5253 victims with some indication of child maltreatment, this is 19.8% less than 2008.

Section 4: Child Care Programs

Pinellas Child Care Providers

The number of active licensed and regulated early care and education programs is 985. This number includes licensed child care facilities, licensed family child care homes, religious-exempt facilities, Head Start sites, before- and after school age facilities and non-public/public school based sites. In Pinellas County, the overall number of child care sites has decreased by 121 sites since 2007.

As of September 2010 there were:

- 581 Family Child Care Homes
- 262 Child Care Facilities
- 106 School Age Only Sites
- 19 Non-Public/Public School Site
- 17 Head Start sites

School Readiness Providers

369 Family Child Care Homes (includes large FCCH)

222 Centers

45 Informal

109 School Age Only

60 of these providers are Gold Seal

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

268 Providers
460 Classrooms
6441 Student Slots

Head Start

Head Start summary 1670 slots for low income children 3-5 years old.
Early Head Start 55 slots for low income children under 3 years old.

Section 5: Community Resources

Florida First Start

Florida First Start is a home visitation program that serves children exhibiting high risk factors for school failure. This program helps children develop cognitive, social/emotional, language, and motor skills to support future school success. Home visits and play groups provide developmentally appropriate activities and play interaction. Florida First Start also administers the Ages and Sages Questionnaire developmental screener and provides information about additional developmental screenings.

Additionally, Florida First Start supports parents in their role as their child's first and lifelong teacher. It promotes positive home/school partnerships, family literacy, safe home environments and good health habits, access to community resources and parental understanding of child development and school readiness. This program is funded through the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas and delivered through the Pinellas County School Board.

Pinellas County School District (IDEA, Part B)

Florida Diagnostic Learning Resources System - Child Find provides assistance in the location, identification and initiation of appropriate education or other needed services to all children with disabilities, birth through 21 years of age, who are not enrolled in public school. Primary emphasis is on children 3–5 years of age.

The **Pre-K Disabilities Program** offers a variety of program models and options for children from age 3 through age 5 who have been identified with developmental delay. The program model is determined at the child's eligibility meeting based on the individual child's needs.

All Children's Hospital, West Central Early Steps (IDEA, Part C)

Early Steps is a family-centered early intervention system that serves infants and toddlers who are:

- birth to 36 months, regardless of their family's income;
- and have significant delays or an established condition that may result in a delay.

To be enrolled in Early Steps, children must first be found eligible through a screening process. For eligible children, there is no charge for treatment under the Early Steps program.

Low Income Employed Families (LIEF) Entitled

The LIEF program provides child care scholarships to low-income and at-risk families for children ages birth to 13. Typically, families are referred through a partner social service agency providing to support families in reaching self-sufficiency and stability.

21st Century

This grant funded program administered by Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas provides personal enrichment and academic services to 320 children ages 9-14 years old in partnership with school age providers.

Out of School Time (OST)

This program funded by the Children Services Council of Pinellas, Juvenile Welfare Board and administered by Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas provides academic & enrichment to low-income children ages 9-14 years before and after school. In 2010-2011 they are projected to serve approximately 1,073 children.

Mental Health

In 2008-2009 Directions for Mental Health provided outpatient services to 145 children under the age of 5 years. They also provided Early Childhood Consultation services to 184 children under the age of 5 years.

In 2008-2009 Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health served children under five years in the following programs:

Children's Outpatient	200
Intensive Family Services	104
Safe Start Part. Ctr.	185
Therapeutic Preschool	76
Total Family Strategy	618

Born to Read

The Born to Read program offered through the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, supports at-risk families in understanding their role as their child's first teacher and provides intervention in the chronic cycle of illiteracy and poverty. The at-risk populations include teen parents, parents living in poverty, parents who did not complete their GED, English speakers of other languages (ESOL) families and families with special needs. In this program, parents are given books to read with their children and taught how to effectively read them. Parents are also encouraged to utilize the public libraries.

HIPPY

HIPPY stands for "Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters." Parents with children three or four years old may enter the program and children may remain in the program through age five. Home visitors go to client homes once per week to teach parents lessons that they can use with their children throughout the week to build literacy skills. Children also come to recognize their parent as a teacher and develop a positive learning bond.

Even Start

The mission of the Pinellas County Even Start Family Literacy Program is to break the cycle of illiteracy and poverty through education. Through partnerships, Even Start is able to provide adult literacy, parenting, transportation, resources, and early child care education to help families in poverty to achieve their educational goals.

Eligible families include at least one adult 16 years or older with a child under the age of 8 years. The family must fall within 200% of the federal poverty level, need a high school diploma or improved English or literacy skills, and have at least one other qualifying indicator, such as, single parent, government assistance, child with special needs, teen parent, etc.

**Section 4. Coalition Priorities
Response Assessment: Information Only**

Priority	Description	Priority Addresses this Community Need	Element Where the Priority is Addressed
1. Professional Development Training	Implement a unified system of professional staff development and training that is comprehensive, collaborative, and creates a continuum to form a career path for early childhood educators.	An August 2010 survey of School Readiness providers revealed that 41.6% of instructors (centers and homes) have no formal education beyond a high school diploma. Approximately 10% of Family Child Care Home providers serving School Readiness children <u>do not have a high school diploma</u> .	2.4.1
2. Quality Early Learning Programs	<p>Improve quality of School Readiness programs.</p> <p>Redesign Quality Counts for Children program.</p>	<p><u>Program Assessment</u> The Program Review Tool which assesses quality early learning environment is utilized as a technical assistance measure. Consequently, providers not receptive to the technical assistance often lacked quality in their School Readiness programs.</p> <p><u>Quality Counts</u> The Quality Counts for Children Program was implemented in Fall 2009 and administered by CCC. 44 providers submitted notebooks for assessment and received a star rating. In July 2010 the program was taken in-house and being redesigned to increase the quality of programs participating in the Quality Counts for Children program.</p>	<p>1.9.2</p> <p>1.9.3</p> <p>1.9.4</p> <p>4.3.1</p> <p>4.3.2</p> <p>5.1.1</p> <p>5.3.1</p>
3. Family Engagement	Increase parents' opportunity for involvement in their child's education while at the same time increase parent access to skill building resources.	The Coalition provides training for child care providers to assist them in effectively engaging families in their child's education and development. The Coalition also provides materials and resources on child development.	<p>3.4.1</p> <p>3.4.2</p>

Priority	Description	Priority Addresses this Community Need	Element Where the Priority is Addressed
4. Access to School Readiness Services	Improve access to School Readiness services for children ages birth to 5.	The percentage of low income infants and toddlers enrolled in School Readiness services is only 5% of the total children enrolled in Pinellas County. Two's, three's and four year olds account for 51%. Only 15.9% of potentially eligible infants and toddlers are being served leaving 84% on the waitlist.	1.3.1
5. Child Developmental Screening & Intervention	Provide supportive interventions services to ensure quality inclusive early learning environments.	Approximately 2,141 children annually who score with concerns on the developmental screenings could benefit from the additional Supportive Intervention Services currently being offered at the Coalition, but only 250 will potentially be served due to the current staffing of the program.	4.2.1 5.4.1