

Dear Provider,

As you may have already heard, as required by state law, the Agency for Workforce Innovation has prepared a funding formula for fiscal year 2007-08. The proposed formula reallocates school readiness dollars statewide.

To be more specific, the coalitions with proposed funding cuts are:

- Alachua
- Baker, Bradford, Clay and Nassau
- Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson & Washington
- Brevard
- Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee and Highlands
- Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwanee and Union
- Esbambia
- Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee
- Manatee
- Miami-Dade and Monroe (approximately \$8 million)
- Okaloosa and Walton
- Palm Beach
- Pinellas
- Putman and St. Johns
- Santa Rosa

On February 22, 2007, I attended the Senate Committee on Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Meeting. A representative from the Agency for Workforce Innovation, Office of Early Learning made a presentation on the proposed funding formula. Presentations were also made by a representative from the Palm Beach County Children Services Council, the Miami-Dade County Children's Trust and a provider representative from Miami-Dade County. Over 50 providers from Miami-Dade County who rented a bus and drove all night were also present at the meeting. We all spoke before the committee to make sure that they understood the concerns about the funding formula.

The provider group was led by Bill de la Sierra of Kidworks. The providers presented the committee members with a bag full of letters from parents and a petition with thousands of signatures requesting that the funding not be cut for Miami-Dade County. Senator Alex Diaz de la Portilla asked the providers to join him for lunch and assured them that he would do everything in his power to make sure that the funding for Miami-Dade/Monroe is not reduced.

On behalf of the children of Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, we appreciate the advocacy efforts of our community to maintain the current funding level for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

For a copy of the presentation on the proposed funding formula, please visit http://www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/Fiscal_unit.html.

Best personal regards,



Evelio Torres, M.P.A.
President & CEO

Dear Providers:

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe has proposed a rate increase for Miami-Dade county providers due to the cost increase of quality care for our children. The last change to the provider's rate was based on 2001 data.

The initiative was approved by the Board of Directors and then submitted to the Office of Early Learning for their approval. If approved, the rates will go into effect in May 2007. The coalition requested to have the increase retroactive; however, the state advised us that retroactive increases are not possible.

The funds for this initiative will come from shifting non-direct funds to direct services. The rate increase will neither limit services nor access to families in need of subsidized care.

Please note that this initiative may not apply to some providers that are already at the maximum allowable market rate.

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe has also proposed quality initiatives to improve the quality of services to the children being served by the school readiness grant. These initiatives will include curriculum, educational materials, equipment, assessment tools, and training for teachers and providers.

The resources proposed to improve the quality care of our children will be available on a priority basis to those centers that serve the greatest number of school readiness children.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our ELC helpline at (305) 644-4046.

Sincerely,



Evelio Torres, M.P.A.
President & CEO