Child Care Tuition Assistance Partnership Program

In Partnership with Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County

November 4, 2024

Today's Presentation

1. Introduction & Follow-up on Board Recommendation
2. Funding Investment and Impact
3. Program Eligibility At A Glance and Flow Chart
4. Sliding Fee Schedule
5. Provider Requirements
6. Additional Project Components

Introduction

Using investment funds from the Children's Trust of Alachua County and partnering with the Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County (ELC), the Child Care Tuition Assistance Partnership Program would create a local funding category that would support the child care needs of ALICE families in Alachua County.

This program would align with:

- ELC's working families (BG8) category requirements (except the income limit),
- School readiness plus fee scale,
- Set the initial eligibility income limit at 100% SMI.

ALICE

- Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed.
- ALICE families are those that have earnings above the Federal Poverty Level, but below a basic cost-of living threshold.

BOARD RECOMMENDATION FOLLOW UP

FOLLOW UP DISCUSSIONS

- CTAC Received feedback from FACCT and Dr. Herman Knopf, Anita Zucker Center on project scope.

- ELC of Alachua County received feedback and guidance from All ELC, Association of ELC, and DEL.

- CTAC has decided that until written clear guidance is provided from the state to provide to the board, it will fund this program at 100%.

- The scope has been written to align with that decision.

UPDATE

- The Division of Early Learning in partnership with Early Learning Coalitions across the state are still working on written guidance and language on how best to utilize state match and federal school readiness funds to support ALICE families.

- Until it is provided, this local funding investment funded at 100% by CTAC will match school readiness criteria and the school readiness plus fee schedule.

- This will ensure that when written guidance is provided and approved by DEL the ELC staff will easily be able to transition families from one program to the other without interrupting child care for qualifying ALICE families.

Investment Impact

Total Funding Investment

$358,920.70

Direct Investment

$261,000.00

The average cost of care per month for one child is $770

CCTAP could impact approximately 31 children in a year.
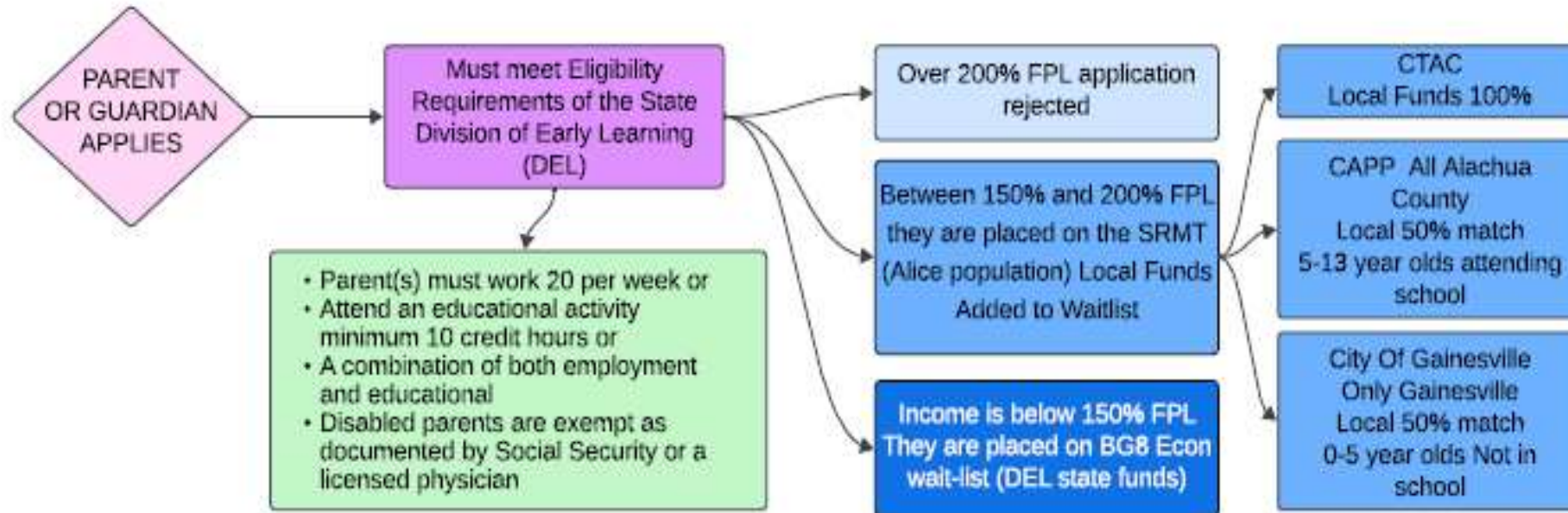
ELC could serve approximately 340 children in a year.

Eligibility At- A- Glance

Family Eligibility			
Program Components	**School Readiness (SR)**	**School Readiness Plus (SR Plus)**	**CCTAP**
	CCDF federal funds	**DOE state funds**	**CTAC funds**
Qualifying criteria	• Initial gross family income of at or below 150% FPL and subsequent income at or below 85% of the SMI • Parent(s)/guardian(s) must have a purpose for care as defined in Rule Chapter 6M-4, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.)	• Gross family income exceeds 85% SMI and is at or below 100% SMI • Terminated from SR for being over income (all billing groups) • Parent(s)/guardian(s) must have a purpose for care as defined in Rule Chapter 6M-4, F.A.C.	• Gross family income exceeds 85% SMI and is at or below 100% SMI as defined by Section 1002.81(8), F.S and SR Plus. • On ELC waitlist for ALICE families (not eligible for other billing groups) • Parent(s)/guardian(s) must have a purpose for care as defined in Rule Chapter 6M-4, F.A.C.

Eligibility Flow Chart

Sliding Fee Schedule

Sliding Fee Scale for: All Coalitions and RCMA

Effective date: September 24, 2024

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

DAILY FEE

------ Annual Gross Income - Number of persons in Family ------

Full-Time	Part-Time		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
$17.09	$8.54	85% SMI + $1	43,334	56,667	70,000	83,333	96,666	110,000	112,500	115,000	117,500	120,000	122,499	124,999	127,499	129,999	132,499
		90% SMI	45,882	59,999	74,117	88,234	102,351	116,470	119,117	121,764	124,411	127,058	129,704	132,351	134,998	137,645	140,292
$20.68	$10.34	90% SMI + $1	45,883	60,000	74,118	88,235	102,352	116,471	119,118	121,765	124,412	127,059	129,705	132,352	134,999	137,646	140,293
		95% SMI	48,431	63,333	78,234	93,136	108,037	122,940	125,734	128,528	131,322	134,117	136,910	139,704	142,498	145,292	148,086
$24.56	$12.28	95% SMI + $1	48,432	63,334	78,235	93,137	108,038	122,941	125,735	128,529	131,323	134,118	136,911	139,705	142,499	145,293	148,087
		100% SMI	50,980	66,666	82,352	98,038	113,724	129,411	132,352	135,293	138,234	141,175	144,115	147,056	149,998	152,939	155,880

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

FFY 2025 ANNUAL State Median Income Estimates

Refer to 1002.935, Florida Statutes

Income   100% State Median Income:Upper threshold for eligibility

Note: SR Plus Sibling discount is 50% for all Coalitions and RCMA.

Minimum Requirements for Providers

Requirements

- Be licensed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or be determined by DCF to be exempt from licensure.

- Pass DCF's Health and Safety Inspection.

- Use developmentally appropriate curriculum that addresses Florida's Early Learning Standards and early literacy.

- Employ instructors who have passed a Level II background screening.

- Employ instructors who have required training in early care, education, and literacy.

Preferred Requirements:

- Have a composite score of at least 4.0 on the CLASS assessment, which measures the quality of interactions between teachers and children (If required).

- Enrolled and engaged in professional development opportunities offered by CTAC and/or ELC annually.

Project Components

Parent Support Specialist

- This position will provide counseling to parents to determine childcare eligibility and provide resources and referrals services.
- It will assist with onboarding families.

Marketing

- ELC and CTAC will plan a launch event.

- ELC will promote the Child Care Tuition Assistance Partnership (CCTAP) alongside ELC's other assistance programs for families.

- ELC will also complete at least two CCTAP-specific promotional campaigns: one for ELC-contracted providers and another targeting families who may be eligible for CCTAP.

Thank you!