



Item:

Child Care Tuition Assistance Partnership with Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County (Mia Jones)

Requested Action:

- 1) The Trust is asked to receive the update on the Child Care Tuition Assistance Partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County.

Background:

At the April 8, 2024 CTAC board meeting, the Child Care Tuition Assistance Partnership Program was introduced to the Trust. 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, and set the initial eligibility income limit at 100% SMI. The Trust approved staff recommendations to:

- Contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County for the creation of the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program funding category.
- Provide an initial investment of \$150,000.00 along with future investments to sustain this funding category with ELC.

The Trust also motioned and approved:

- To attempt to maximize the number of families and kids that could be met under this program.
- To ensure the proper documentation is acquired from the Division of Early Learning and the Early Learning Coalition on the eligibility of the program.
- Due to the unbudgeted/unexpected \$350,564.35 of ARPA funds, asked that staff look at the potential outcomes of increasing the amount provided toward the partnership with

ELC on the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program to maximize the number of kids served.

Update

For FY 24-25 CTAC is investing \$358,920.70. This funding investment includes a staff position to help with onboarding families. Funding is expected to start in November 2024. 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. This report is to provide an update.

Programmatic Impact:

Goal 2- Children and youth can learn what they need to be successful.

Fiscal Impact:

\$358,920.70 –Funding Investment for the Child Care Tuition Assistance Partnership Program

Recommendation:

The board is asked to receive the report.