

Helios Foundation

The Helios Foundation has provided a grant to stakeholders in Orange County to (1) address the critical issue of child care teacher and seat shortages in Orange County, Florida and (2) identify systems innovations and alternative business models to produce policy solutions. The University of Florida has been contracted to support stakeholders in their understanding of child care supply and demand to design and implement pilot programs to improve the early learning system. This project is funded through October 2023.

The purpose of this contract is for Dr. Knopf and the policy research team at the Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies (AZC) at the University of Florida to refine their existing tool, the Florida Index of Child Care Access (FLICCA), to present measures of child care access for all child care users in Orange County. Specifically, the stakeholders from Orange County are interested in measuring the relationship between the available supply high-quality child care and demand among all families. Partners at the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County (ELC-OC) and the University of Central Florida (UCF) will assist in gathering both survey and administrative data on child care providers (e.g., capacity, preferred enrollment, staffing vacancies) and child care demand (e.g., enrollments, waiting-lists). Results will be used to design and target pilot programs to communities in need to improve early learning systems in Orange County.

The AZC research team will be responsible for completing the following activities:

- Advise on data collection for the production of a refined FLICCA;
- Produce the FLICCA with the more refined measures collected through survey and administrative data;
- Describe results of the FLICCA and potential interventions and actions that may improve child care access for child care users in Orange County;
- Advise partners during the development and implementation of pilot programs.

Data Needs

As a requirement for fulfillment of the project goals, the research team from the AZC will need provider-level data that includes the following specific information:

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| – Provider Name | – Provider type (Center-based, Home-based, School-based) |
| – Licensing ID | – The age range of children served |
| – EFS Provider ID (if applicable) | – Licensed capacity |
| – Physical street address | – Intended/preferred Capacity |
| – Zip code | – Current Enrollment (Total) |
| – County | – Age-specific intended/preferred capacity |
| – Gold Seal Status | – Number of children on waiting-list, by age |
| – CLASS score | – Capacity loss due to lack of personnel |
| – Class score date | |
| – SR Provider (Y/N) | |
| – VPK provider (Y/N) | |

- Other reasons capacity hasn't been reached
- Age-specific enrollment
- Number of children receiving child care subsidy (By Age)

- # children in VPK
- Age-specific price for care
- Other discounts offered to families
- Provider charges differential (Y/N)