

Early Learning Coalition of Pasco Hernando Community Needs Assessment

Scope of Work

The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco Hernando (Coalition) is engaged in a scan of community strengths and needs to identify critical issues and improvements necessary in early learning systems. To support this work, they have contracted the Early Childhood Policy Research Group (ECPRG) at the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies to conduct a Community Needs Assessment. This assessment will be used in the administration of the Florida School Readiness Program in Pasco and Hernando Counties. Specific research questions have been developed in collaboration with the Coalition and may be adjusted based on data availability. Please find the five analyses that the ECPRG plans to conduct, data permitting.

1. **Current Prices:** This analysis will describe current provider prices across the counties. Child care prices will be compared to SR families' co-payments to describe the proportion of annual income families are spending on child care.
2. **Family Perspectives on Price:** This analysis will include speaking with families to describe the amount of difficulty or burden child care prices have or do not have on their household budgets.
3. **Provider Waivers:** This analysis will use ARPA occupancy analyses to identify communities where SR enrollment is high and waivers for providers with a CLASS score below a 4.0 would be necessary to maintain adequate child care supply. This will be conducted at the zip code and care-level.
4. **Workforce Status:** This analysis will describe the current status workforce education-levels/professional development. Variation will be described across geographic location and provider type.
5. **Eligibility Priorities:** This analysis will review application rates and Census data to advise on potential revisions to the current Coalition eligibility priorities.