

Important Meeting About Funding:

Dear Child Care Providers,

Manatee County children need your voice! The County Commission is holding a workshop on **June 15th at 6:00 pm** to give county residents a chance to let the Commissioners know which of their funded programs are most important to the community. This workshop will be held in the **County Commission Chamber** located on the first floor of the Manatee County Administrative Center at **1112 Manatee Ave W., Bradenton.**

The proposed County budget has been cut by \$27.8 million from the current year's budget. The portion allocated to pay for all services to children (including School Readiness) already received a cut of approximately 13%. The County Administrator is recommending that this budget receive an **additional \$1.2 million** cut from the services to children (early care and education, homeless shelters, abuse prevention/treatment, special needs care, after school programs, mental health/addiction treatment, etc.).

The ELC has requested an increase of \$100,000 in funding from the County for the School Readiness program. This increase was included in the Children's Services Advisory Board's (CSAB) recommendation to the County Commissioners. Every dollar of this increase is matched by either the State or Federal Government. This means more funds to you, the Provider, for the care of more children. **With the additional \$1.2 million reduction, this increase could be eliminated and our current level of funding could be reduced, as well. This could mean up to a 25% loss of county child care slots and a significant loss of matching Federal and State funds.**

Research has shown that investing in high-quality early learning is one of the most effective ways to infuse millions of dollars into local and state economies, creating new jobs for our community. We need to express to the Commissioners that cuts to Children's Services programs will have a long term negative effect on our children and our economic development!

Please attend this meeting and speak in favor of the Board of County Commissioners funding your Early Learning Coalition at the requested amount and against any reductions in your funding!

Yours in service to children,

Paul Sharff, Chief Executive Officer
Early Learning Coalition

Free Webinar Information:

We are pleased to announce our next FREE evening webinar, brought to you by [Child Care Aware Parent Network](#)! As with all of our great content, this session is FREE! We hope you will join us online for:

Resources to Promote Healthy Nutritional Development and Physically Active Kids!

This webinar will cover crucial information about childhood nutrition, obesity prevention, healthy habits, and maintaining physical activity for children in child care. Learn about NACCRRA's position on national policies that support improving children's health in child care and gain information on nutritional resources for children!

Our presenter, Sheleen Dumas, recently joined NACCRRA from the Department of Health and Human Services - Child Care Bureau in Washington, DC where she was a Child Care Program Specialist and Federal Project Officer for Healthy Child Care America, a subsidiary of the Academy of Pediatrics. Prior to that, she worked for the Department of Defense in military child care with the Marine Corps. Before moving to the Washington Metro region, Sheleen lived in the Seattle area where she provided training and technical assistance to child care providers, taught several courses at one of the local colleges, and simultaneously owned 2 child development centers. One center was a school age only program and the other was licensed for birth to 12 yrs and open until midnight.

Join us and learn about important information on nutrition resources available to all parents and child care provider.

Tuesday, June 15, 2010, at 8:00 p.m. EST

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|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------------|
| Eastern | Central | Mountain | Pacific | Alaska/Hawaii |
| 8:00pm | 7:00pm | 6:00pm | 5:00pm | 4:00pm/2:00pm |

Have you joined NACCRRA's Child Care Aware® Parent Network? Raise your hand for high-quality child care by joining today. It's free! <http://www.CCAParentNetwork.org>. Be sure to stay tuned for the [next series of FREE evening webinars](#) brought to you by the Child Care Aware® Parent Network!

Sincerely,

The Child Care Aware Parent Network Team

National Association of Child Care
Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA)

Hope to see you at the County Meeting! 😊

ELC Staff

www.elc-manatee.org

FREE PREKINDERGARTEN FOR YOUR 4 YEAR OLD: If you live in Florida and have a child who turned 4 years of age by September 1st, your child is eligible for Florida's FREE Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Program. VPK classrooms offer high-quality programs that include high literacy standards, developmentally appropriate curricula, manageable class sizes, and qualified teachers. For information in Manatee County please call 941.757.2900

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