

Employers: Helping First Responders & Healthcare Workers Access Child Care

The Florida Department of Education's Office of Learning, along with local Early Learning Coalitions throughout the state, are prioritizing child care for first responders and healthcare workers. This is a referral program intended to provide child care at little or no cost to the guardians of children ages zero through thirteen.

Processing the First Responders and Health Care Workers Referral for Access to Child Care

Eligibility Requirements: Children must be a U.S. citizen or lawful resident, the family must reside in Florida, and one or both parents must be employed as a first responder or healthcare worker.

Initial authorization period will be 3 months or less.

Tips for Families

Please let employees know this is a computer-based system. They will need internet access and computers to complete process.

Please allow employees without access to internet or a computer to use company equipment.

Please encourage employees to identify a qualified child care provider (these are providers contracted with the Early Learning Coalition). Employees can visit www.elcpinellas.org for a current list of qualified and open child care providers or contact the Coalition's Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) team at **727-400- 4411**. (Callers can select option 3 and then option 3 again to receive a list of qualified providers.)

- Complete the referral provided. Please use the sample and directions provided to ensure the referral is completed correctly.
- Referrals completed incorrectly can cause a delay in services for the employee. **Please reach out to Ken Buchanan at 727- 656-8012 if you have any questions regarding the completion of the referral.**
- Fax completed referral to **727-400-4487**.
- Coalition staff will review the referral and contact the employer's designated staff if there are any issues or questions regarding the referral.
- Coalition staff will reach out to the employee once they have received an accurate and complete referral.
- Coalition staff support the employee through the registration process, including scheduling a time to discuss eligibility and/or provide direction on how to complete the process on their own.

