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EMPLOYERS CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MATCHING DOLLARS TO SUPPORT CHILD CARE SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

More than \$850,000 in matching funds are available for distribution in Hillsborough County through the Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program, according to the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County (ELCHC).

TAMPA, FL (Sept. 27, 2018) – The ELCHC has announced that more than \$850,000 in matching dollars are available for distribution in Hillsborough County through the Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program – a public/ private partnership program that helps employers meet the needs of eligible, lower to middle income working parents for quality child care and early learning.

Employers can contribute any amount they wish to the program, and federal and state funding match those contributions dollar-for-dollar to accelerate entry into subsidized quality child care for their employees' children. The ELCHC administers the program in Hillsborough County and it works with employers to get the program up and running.

"Businesses benefit when employees have access to consistent and reliable child care services that keep them in the workforce," remarked Gordon L. Gillette, CEO of the ELCHC. "Our hope is that Hillsborough County businesses will take a close look at the CCEP program and assess how it can benefit their organizations." While the ELCHC is working to build community awareness of the CCEP program, one major Bay area employer has already implemented the program and the response from employees has been positive.

Blake Casper, Chairman/CEO of Caspers Company stated, "Employee retention is a priority for us and the CCEP program has been a great way for us to support valued members of our team and reward their hard work. With a dollar-for-dollar match, I can't think of an employee incentive program that offers a better return on investment. We're pleased to participate in the CCEP program and we encourage other businesses to join us."

Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County (ELCHC)

Established by the State Legislature, the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County (ELCHC) is a 501(c)(3) organization focused on promoting school and life success for young children and their families through quality school readiness services and supports. The ELCHC administers School Readiness and VPK (Voluntary PreKindergarten) programs in Hillsborough County, offers teacher trainings and coaching, and provides Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) along with other services that daily serve more than 20,000 children and their families.

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To learn more about the CCEP program, visit: <u>https://www.elchc.org/programs_services/ccep/</u>