



**EARLY LEARNING**

COALITION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

# COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

November 2018





## OUR MISSION

Promote school and life success for all young children and their families through quality school readiness services and supports.

## OUR VISION

Our vision is for all Hillsborough County children to grow up in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where:

- Their physical, social emotional, and intellectual health is a primary focus of attention at home and in the community.
- Families are supported in ways that promote good parenting.
- Families and caregivers are supported in promoting each individual child's well-being and readiness to succeed in school and life.
- Total FY18-19 Budget: \$76,894,922, which includes:
  - \$46,237,899 - Federal Funds for School Readiness program
  - \$30,000,000 - State Funds for VPK program
- ELCHC specializes in funding and delivery of quality programs that daily serve more than 20,000 children and their families
- The Coalition offers trainings, coaching, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R), consumer and professional education, and a comprehensive array of services



## INTRODUCTION

The Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County (ELCHC) assessed local priorities within the county based on the needs of families and provider capacity in accordance with section 1002.85(2)(j), of the Florida Statutes. This report includes an environmental scan of the communities served by the ELCHC. The ELCHC partnered with several local community agencies that serve children and families within the community to complete the community assessment. In May 2018, a team of community agencies was formed to discuss the local resources needed to compile the community needs report. Those agencies are as followed: Bay Area Legal Services, Champions for Children, Children’s Board of Hillsborough County, Early Childhood Council, ELCHC, Healthy Start Coalition Hillsborough, Hillsborough Community College, Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start and the School District of Hillsborough County. This report is an assessment of available data within the community. Data resources used in this report have been cited as current within the time period 2015 to 2018.

## PURPOSE

The ELCHC will use the community assessment to determine local priorities related to eligibility for the School Readiness Program, which is a program that offers subsidized child care to working families for children birth to school age. The community assessment will also be used to determine the optional need for contracted slots for child care in high-poverty areas. Specifically, the team will use the community assessment to:

- Assess the demographic make-up of children/families who are eligible for subsidized childcare, as well as unique populations within the county
- Determine newly-identified community assets or resources; including public and private programs and the approximate number of eligible children served by each
- Review data regarding the education and social service needs of eligible children and their families
- Review data regarding the education and social service needs of children with disabilities and special needs
- Assess resources in the county that could be used to address the needs of children and their families including assessment of their access to these resources
- Determine the use of contracted slots for eligible children and families within the county
- Provide recommendations for prioritizing school readiness eligibility

**Thank you for your valuable contribution!**



## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION

### Population Growth and Shifts

Hillsborough County is on Florida’s west coast midway down the peninsula and home to 1.4 million, with 6.3% of residents under age five. Hillsborough County covers a geographic area larger than Rhode Island and is home to the eighth largest school district in the nation. Hillsborough County is diverse. The largest racial/ethnic groups are White (51.2%) followed by Hispanic (26.6%) and Black/African American (15.6%) during the 2017 census update. Of the more than 160,000 homes with children, 28% have a single female as head of the household. The gender breakdown shows slightly more females (51.2%) than males (48.8%). Hillsborough County is largely urban and suburban, but also has rural citrus, cattle, and produce farm areas. The county lacks sophisticated public transportation, with local buses being the only option for families without their own vehicle. The population of children ages birth through 12 years old mirrors the general demographics, however, available data reveals that this population group are exposed to risk factors due to poverty, homelessness, substance abuse.

**Figure 1: Population Growth for Hillsborough County, Florida**

Base: April 1, 2010		Population Estimate (as of July 1, 2017)							
Census	Estimates Base	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
1,229,226	1,229,179	1,233,557	1,271,239	1,282,378	1,294,828	1,319,511	1,350,904	1,381,627	1,408,566

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2017 est.

**Figure 2: Hillsborough County Population Growth Detail**

Location	2000-2010	2010-2017
Tampa	11.57%	11.70%
Plant City	11.79%	11.94%
Temple Terrace	5.67%	5.93%
Hillsborough County	23.05%	13.02%
Unincorporated Hillsborough County	29.58%	13.80%
Florida	17.64%	10.36%
United States	9.71%	5.31%

Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/Figure/hillsboroughcountyflorida/PST120216>; [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)

### Household Characteristics

The American Fact Finder 2012-2016 American Community Survey estimates the following for the next five years for Hillsborough County: population of 1,302,724 (49% male and 51%); 17.5% of all children under 5 years old living below poverty level; and 24% of female-headed households living in poverty. In addition, the data includes the following family household information:



**Figure 3: Hillsborough County Household Characteristics**

Household Characteristics	All families below poverty level	All families percent below poverty level	Married couples Below poverty level	Married couples percent below poverty level	Female householder (no husband) below poverty level	Female householder (no husband) percent below poverty level
Families	313,954	12.1%	217,853	6.4%	70,620	27.4%
Children under 18	155,339	18%	93,984	8.7%	46,465	35.2%
Under 5	28,262	17.5%	17,634	7.4%	7,565	39%
5-17	98,803	15.1%	58,794	7%	30,593	29.1%
Under 5 and 5-17	28,234	28.7%	17,556	15.7%	8,307	54.3%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic	78,232	20.4%	48,743	13.6%	20,499	35.9%
White alone	172,540	6.2%	134,658	3.6%	26,566	16%
Black or African American	47,712	21.8%	21,720	7.4%	21,505	35.4%
<b>Earning Status</b>						
Householder Worked	229,167	8.7%	157,766	4.1%	51,108	20.8%
Received SSI/TANF	26,370	29.3%	11,891	18.8%	11,790	39.9%
Social Security	81,995	8.4%	61,165	5.6%	15,904	17.9%
<b>Education Status</b>						
Less than HS	32,397	31.6%	17,957	22.5%	9,755	47.1%
HS graduate/GED	74,241	17.3%	45,593	9.4%	20,699	33.5%

Source: The American Fact Finder 2012-2016 American Community Survey

**Figure 4: Families Relative to Poverty Level**

Income Below Relative to Level	Number of Families
50%	14,967
125%	50,386
150%	65,475
185%	86,079
200%	94,160

Source: The American Fact Finder 2012-2016 American Community Survey

## Income and Employment

According to DataUSA (datausa.io), there are approximately 678,196 people employed in Hillsborough County (2017). Specializations in employment include finance and insurance, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting and real estate. The largest industries in Hillsborough County are healthcare and social assistance (91,454), retail trade (82,473), and professional, scientific, tech services (56,741). The highest paying industries are mining and gas extraction (65,658), utilities (56,405) and professional, scientific tech services (55,022). The median household income in Hillsborough County is \$54,588, which is less than the median annual income in the United States (2016).

**Figure 5: Hillsborough County Employment Status**

Location	Total	Below Poverty	Percent Below
<b>Civilian Labor Force 16 years and older</b>	<b>678,196</b>	<b>68,452</b>	<b>10.0</b>
<b>Employed</b>	<b>624,703</b>	<b>48,141</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Male	323,626	22,452	6.9
Female	301,077	25,689	8.5
<b>Unemployed</b>	<b>53,493</b>	<b>20,311</b>	<b>38.0</b>
Male	27,288	9,773	35.8
Female	26,205	10,538	40.2

Source: DataUSA (<https://datausa.io/>)

**Figure 6: Hillsborough County Work Experience**

Work Experience	Total	Below Poverty	Percent Below
Population 16 years old and older	1,035,194	152,174	14.7
Worked full time in past 12 months	458,064	14,507	3.2
Worked part time in past 12 months	255,144	46,700	20.7
Did not work	351,986	90,967	25.8

Source: DataUSA (<https://datausa.io/>)

## Families in Poverty

According to the 2018 Florida Child Well-Being Index, 20% of children live at or below the poverty line. Of these children, 37% live in a single parent home and 15.2% of these children live in high poverty areas. Of the 3-year-old and 4-year-old children, 50.8% are not enrolled in school or early education program. The ELCHC and its contractual services partner, the School District of Hillsborough County (SDHC), have offices located in zip code areas (33610, 33612 and 33614).

**Figure 7: Families and Child Data**

Zip Codes with highest percentage poverty level	Percentage of children below poverty level 0-18 years	Number of children receiving School Readiness 0-13 years
33605	28.33%	351
33602	27.9%	232
33604	19.58%	629
33607	18.91%	260
33610	18.81%	1122
33612	17.27%	935

Source: 2018 Florida Child Well-Being Index

## Current School Readiness Eligibility Priorities

1	A child younger than 13 years old from a family that includes a parent who is receiving temporary cash assistance under chapter 414 and subject to the federal work requirements.
2	An at-risk child younger than 9 years old.
3	A child from birth to the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. who is from a working family that is economically disadvantaged, and may include such child's eligible siblings, beginning with the school year in which the sibling is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. until the beginning of the school year in which the sibling is eligible to begin 6th grade, provided that the first priority for funding an eligible sibling is local revenues available to the coalition for funding direct services.
4	Priority shall be given next to a child of a parent who transitions from the work program into employment as described in s. 445.032 from birth to the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.
5	An at-risk child who is at least 9 years old but younger than 13 years old. An at-risk child whose sibling is enrolled in the School Readiness program within an eligibility priority category listed in paragraphs (a) and (b) and subparagraph 1. shall be given priority over other children who are eligible under this paragraph.
6	A child who is younger than 13 years old from a working family that is economically disadvantaged.
7	Priority shall be given next to a child of a parent who transitions from the work program into employment as described in s. 445.032 who is younger than 13 years old.
8	A child who has special needs, has been determined eligible as a student with a disability, has a current individual education plan with a Florida school district, and is not younger than 3 years old. A special needs child eligible under this paragraph remains eligible until the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s.1003.21(1)(a)2.
9	A child who otherwise meets one of the eligibility criteria in paragraphs (a) and (b) and subparagraphs 1. and 2. but who is also enrolled concurrently in the federal Head Start Program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

**Figure 8: Families and Child Data**

SR Served by Priorities	Priority Description	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Priority 1 (0 - <13)	TANF Recipients	615	595	556
Priority 2 (0 - <9)	At-Risk	2622	2933	3470
Priority 3 (0-5)	Economically Disadvantaged	4384	4384	5020
Priority 4 (0 - 5)	Transitional	222	222	263
Priority 5 (9 - <13)	At-Risk (School-Age)	911	654	340
Priority 6 (5 - <13)	Economically Disadvantaged (School-Age)	5628	5729	5704
Priority 7 (5 - <13)	Transitional (School-Age)	407	430	380
Priority 8 (3-5)	Special Needs	0	0	0
Priority 9 (4)	Enrolled in Head Start & VPK	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>14789</b>	<b>14947</b>	<b>15733</b>

Source: ELCHC/SDHC, September 2018

The tables above represents the children we served from fiscal years 2015-2018, by priority. Historically, children have not been served in Priorities 8 and 9 because a lack of funding has not permitted the ELCHC to serve all priorities. Children that may qualify for Priorities 8 or 9 have entered the SR program through other priorities. Priority 8 includes special needs children 3 to 5 years old with Individual Education Plan (IEP) and does not require that the guardian be working or in school. This is more flexible than Priority 3, in which the majority of children ages birth to 5 years old are served. Providers serving children in Priority 8 would be paid a Special Needs Rate, which is higher than the typical School Readiness Reimbursement Rate and varies depending on the accommodations made for that child.



**Figure 9: Age of School Readiness Children Served in Hillsborough County by Zip Code (August 2018)**

Residential Zip	<1	1	2	3	4	PR5	SCH	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
33467			1													1
33503				1												1
33509				1												1
33510	12	40	38	47	51		36	31	28	20	9	8	3	1		324
33511	16	35	53	43	64	1	33	29	29	19	18	9	8	3		361
33527	3	12	10	14	21		14	12	7	5	10	3	3		2	116
33528		1	1		1			1								4
33534	8	8	20	16	18	1	13	11	9	12	1	5	3			125
33547	2	6	10	4	7		4	4	7	3			1			48
33548	1	1	3	2	2				1	1						11
33549	1	4	12	7	9		8	6	7	7		1				62
33556		2	3	3	1		2	2	2							15
33557	1		1								1					3
33558	4	5	5	3	3	1	1	2	1							25
33559	2	6	7	7	2	1	2	2	2							31
33563	16	39	36	59	53		39	41	37	32	22	14	10	3	2	403
33564			1				1									2
33565	6	2	13	11	10		17	3	6	5	4	6				83
33566	4	16	26	25	30	1	19	12	16	12	12	8	7	1		189
33567	5	13	13	14	12		12	8	14	10	8	6	4			119
33569	6	17	15	15	24	3	9	9	7	5	5		3			118
33570	12	21	35	32	28	1	25	21	15	10	5	2	6			213
33572	2	4	5	7	5		8		4	5	6		2			48
33573	1	5	5	5	2		2	2	4	2	6	1				35
33577				1	1											2
33578	7	19	49	53	48	2	39	25	31	29	22	13	12	2	1	352
33579	5	15	16	20	20	1	18	15	15	10	5	4	4	1		149
33584	8	19	33	23	28		26	13	20	12	7	9	4	2		205
33586										1						1
33592	6	14	9	14	12		11	11	3	5	4	2	1			92
33594	2	10	21	26	32	1	20	15	11	10	5	3	3	2		161
33595				1			1				1	1				4
33596	2	7	11	13	8	1	13	11	4	1	2	1				74
33597										1						1
33598	2	11	9	12	7	3	4	5	3	3	2	1	2			64
33602	18	31	32	24	28	1	21	27	16	18	9	4	2	1		232
33603	11	37	28	37	34		33	28	20	15	16	3	8	4		274
33604	28	61	84	86	85	3	71	58	48	41	30	18	9	7		629
33605	18	48	43	53	52	2	34	32	22	21	11	8	1	5	1	351
33606	3	7	5	3	6		2	1	2	2			1			32
33607	12	29	27	44	38	1	31	16	20	13	9	11	6	3		260



33609	9	12	20	10	6		10	5	5	4	2	1				84
33610	56	117	163	177	147	3	116	90	89	52	50	28	23	10		1122
33611	2	24	16	21	12		15	12	10	7	5	3	2		1	130
33612	61	111	124	130	117	2	98	73	73	48	40	23	23	12		935
33613	21	35	52	68	61	4	38	41	33	16	18	7	6	2		402
33614	17	43	84	83	70	4	59	41	42	37	30	19	9	5	1	544
33615	11	37	61	66	50	1	50	33	42	16	19	10	10	4		410
33616	8	15	16	22	17		20	9	10	17	12	7	2	1		156
33617	35	70	99	106	84	3	69	55	46	46	39	15	12	6	1	686
33618	4	9	8	13	11		7	10	6	3	8	4	2	1		86
33619	28	50	77	90	77	2	61	49	51	35	29	21	12	7		591
33621				1												1
33624	6	20	24	26	31	2	22	17	16	15	6	7	4			196
33625	10	13	16	28	25		18	13	13	11	9	8	6	2		172
33626	2	2	5	5	4			4		1	1	2	1			27
33627									1							1
33629	3	4	3	1	5	1	3	4		1	3		1			29
33634	6	18	21	24	24		20	18	13	7	11	8	6	2		178
33635	2	8	9	10	16		14	9	9	7	4	4	5			97
33637	5	19	18	28	30		20	18	11	14	11	1	4	1		180
33647	11	21	24	23	36	1	16	13	15	9	10	2	3			184
33657					2											2
33658							2			1						3
33663					1											1
33673							1							1		2
33675	3	3	5	2	1		1		2		1					18
33682		1		1			1									3
33685				1												1
33739			1													1
Unknown			1					1	1							3
<b>Total:</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>1177</b>	<b>1527</b>	<b>1662</b>	<b>1569</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1230</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11466</b>

Source: ELCHC/SDHC, August 2018

**Figure 10: Children with Risk Factors in Hillsborough County**

Risk Factor	Number	Percent
Children in single parent families	1,258,425	35.7%
Children living in high poverty areas	500,585	12.3%
Children with verified maltreatment	34,481	8.3%

Source: Florida Kids Count, 2016, [www.floridakidscount.org](http://www.floridakidscount.org)

## Families Receiving TANF/SNAP Benefits

According to the Office of Family Assistance (May 2018), Statewide there were 63,055 TANF child recipients. Approximately 14% of all Hillsborough County households received food stamps (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) during 2016; of these households, 29% included children. Additionally, approximately 60% of students in Hillsborough County Public Schools participate in the free/reduced lunch program at their school. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF, formerly known as “welfare”) is another source to assist children and families in need.

**Figure 11: School Readiness Children receiving TANF by Age Group in Hillsborough County**

INF	TOD	2YR	PR3	PR4	PR5	SCH	Total
43	61	82	83	81	51	291	692

Source: ELCHC/SDHC (2017-2018)

The program goals for TANF/Welfare Transition (WT) emphasizes work, self-sufficiency and personal responsibility in a program structured to enable participants to move from welfare to economic self-sufficiency. To accomplish this, the Florida Legislature, using federal and state funds as well as statutory requirements, developed a comprehensive program structured to meet the following goals:

- a) Provide assistance to families in need so that children may be cared for in their own home or in the homes of relatives.
- b) Develop opportunities for families to provide for their own needs, enhance their wellbeing, and preserve the integrity of the family free of impediments to self-reliance.
- c) End the dependence of families in need on government assistance by emphasizing work, self-sufficiency and personal responsibility while meeting the transitional needs of program participants who need support to achieve independent, productive lives and gain the responsibility that comes with attaining self-sufficiency.
- d) Take full advantage of the flexibility provided under state and federal law that allows for providing job preparation and intervention programs to enable welfare applicants and recipients and transitional participants to move from welfare to work.
- e) Provide oversight and policy direction to the program and to ensure cooperation and accountability among state agencies and service providers to deliver needed services

Statutory rules require that Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) Services recipients participate in work or alternative plan activities. The state limits recipients to a lifetime cumulative total of 48 months as an adult and may be eligible for child care services. The following categories of work activities, based on federal law and regulations, may be used individually or in combination to satisfy the work requirement for a participant in the Welfare Transition program.

- a) Unsubsidized employment.
- b) Subsidized private sector employment.
- c) Subsidized public sector employment.
- d) On-the-job training.
- e) Community service programs.
- f) Work experience.
- g) Job search and job readiness assistance.

- h) Vocational educational training.
- i) Job skills training directly related to employment.
- j) Education directly related to employment.
- k) Satisfactory attendance at a secondary school or in a course of study leading to a graduate equivalency diploma.

The Welfare Transition program places great emphasis on transitional benefits and recognizes them as the cornerstone of Florida's efforts to support families as they move toward full self-sufficiency. Transitional clients are former recipients of TCA who are working or actively seeking employment are eligible to receive employment-related education, training and related support services, such as child care, to continue working and training or to upgrade skills for up to two years after the family no longer receives assistance.

The Regional Workforce Board provider authorizes child care for the hours of work activity or employment plus a reasonable time to travel to and from the child care facility and the place of work activity/employment and return. Each family must contribute to the cost of child care through a parent co-payment, using the fee schedule established by the local School Readiness Programs or Early Learning Coalitions.

Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018 there were approximately of 216 cases that received TANF and became Transitional, however they were closed due to loss of income or not submitting proof of employment.

Out of the 216 cases:

- 14 closed due to the completion of the two years;
- 148 cases closed due loss of employment or failure to submit required paystubs;
- 54 cases out of the 216 re-applied for cash assistance.
- Almost 37% of customers re-applied for cash during July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018.

There is also a tendency to complete the two years of transitional and reapply for cash.

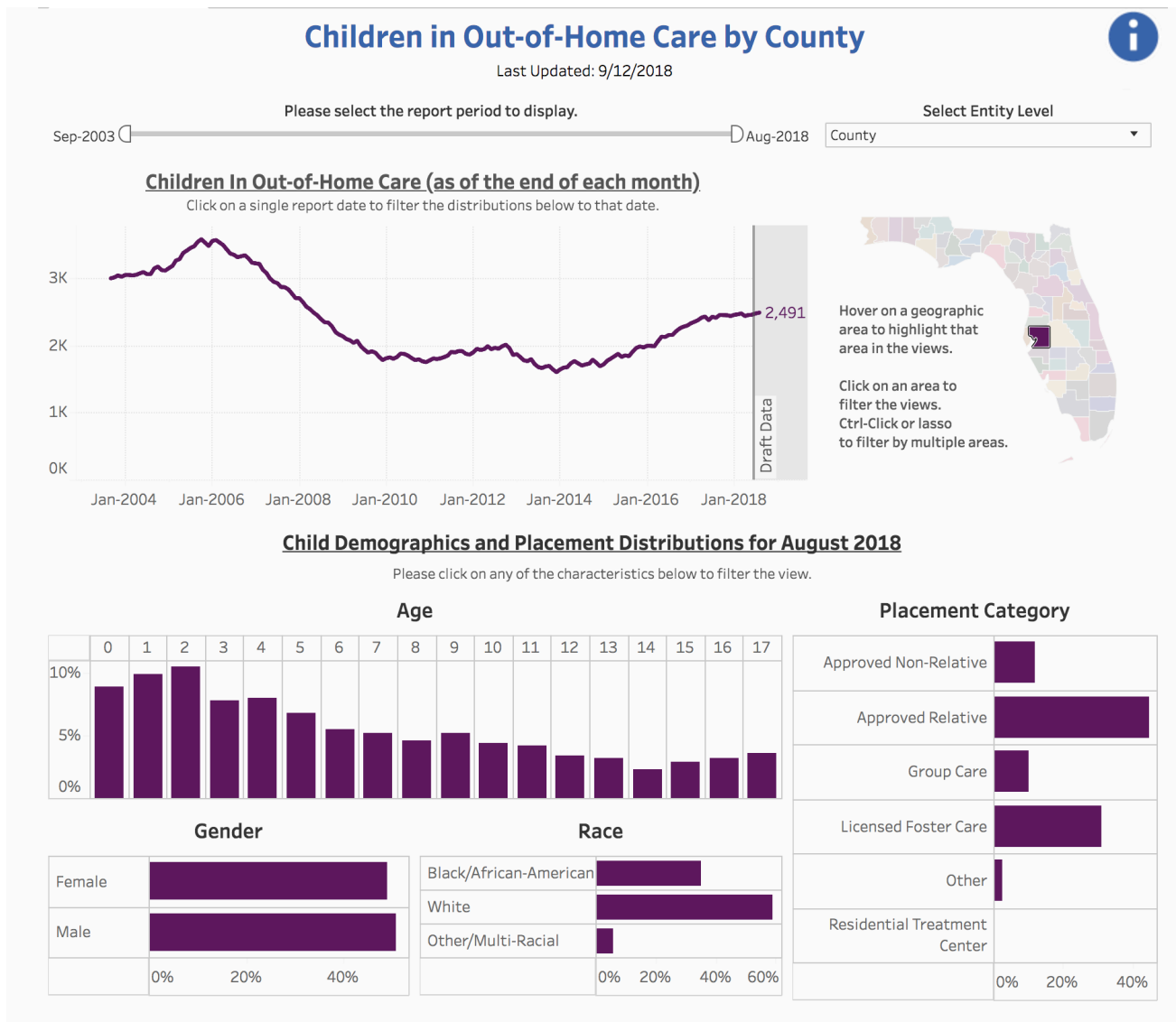
*Source for Narrative: TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES STATE PLAN RENEWAL October 1, 2014 -September 30, 2017, Economic Self-Sufficiency Program Office*

## **Families with Domestic Violence**

In 2017, a report from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement ([fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/Data-Statistics/UCR-Domestic-Violence.aspx](http://fdle.state.fl.us/FSAC/Data-Statistics/UCR-Domestic-Violence.aspx)) stated that Hillsborough County had 7,121 reported cases of domestic violence or a rate of 516.3 per 100,000 population. This compared to a state-wide average rate of 522.3 cases per 100,000. Although Hillsborough overall rate is less than the current state rate, Hillsborough's rate is show an 11.3% increase from the previous year, while the state-wide rate is only increasing at a rate of 1.3%.



Figure 12: Children in Out-of-Home Care



Source: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childwelfare/dashboard/c-in-ooH.shtml>

## Children with Special Needs

The ELCHC identifies and/or serves children with special needs through a variety of methods:

- **Early Childhood Council (ECC)** – ECC is contracted to provide inclusion supports for VPK children and non-SR children served by the ELCHC. In fiscal year 2017-2018, ECC provided eight inclusion trainings to child care providers that served 85 participants. Ninety-nine early childhood settings received technical assistance and consultation to ensure children with special needs could be maintained in their child care setting. On-site technical assistance was provided for 190 children that were identified for services. Surveys of providers receiving this assistance indicated satisfaction rates of at least 95% that the assistance helped them better meet the needs of the child referred.
- **Early Steps Program**- The Early Steps Program is a state-wide program that administers early intervention and inclusions services for children birth to 36 months old. For a child under 36 months old to qualify for First Steps, they must have a developmental disability, delay or as-risk for delay, as mandated by the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA). Early Steps focuses on a family model for intervention and inclusion, which is organized through the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The program functions includes referral through transition when the child reaches three years of age. During fiscal year 2017-2018, Early Steps served 3,900 children in Hillsborough County.

The definition “served” indicates that the child received some type of service through Early Steps. This does not reflect the number of children that were issued an IFSP.

- **School District of Hillsborough County (SDHC) School Readiness Inclusion and Intervention**– The SDHC provides oversight of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) tool that is administered by individual child care providers for the SR children at their sites. Staff from SDHC follow-up with any provider for children whose ASQ falls outside typical development scores. In fiscal year 2017-2018, the SDHC staff provides follow-up services for 2,320 children (1,344 children under 3 years old, 976 children from 3 to 5 years old). Sixty of those children were referred to the SDHC for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- **School District of Hillsborough County (SDHC)**- The Local Education Agency (LEA) for Hillsborough County is the School District of Hillsborough County. Under the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA), the LEA is recognized as the administrative agency for purposes related to the provision of special education and all other related services. During the 2017-2018 school year, the SDHC served roughly 3,000 children ages 3 to 5 years old with an IEP. The SDHC works with the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System (FDLRS) to deliver child and parent services. This coordination aids in identifying and initiating services to all children with disabilities, who are not enrolled in public school. FDLRS works in partnership with SDHC and ECC to provide free developmental screenings for children 0 to 5 years old.

The Primary Exceptional Education Program Services (PEEPS) and Community Primary Exception Education Program Services (C-PEEPS) are programs that service children 3 years old to kindergarten entry. Under IDEA, the SDHC offers early intervention to children that have a current IEP through PEEPS and C-PEEPS. As of October 2018, there are 1,010 children served in PEEPS programs and 76 children served in C-PEEPS program. C-PEEPS programs are traditionally served in child care programs, with a SDHC interventionist visiting the child care center weekly to facilitate special needs services in the least restrictive environment for the child.

Figure 13 represents the five most common categories of disability or delay in children 3 to 5 years old documented in an IEP for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 within the SDHC.

**Figure 13: SDHC Categories of Disability or Delay**

Top 5 Disability or Delay Categories	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	Grand total	Average
Developmentally delayed	1,218	296	1,514	757
Speech impaired	560	534	1,094	547
Language impaired	509	419	928	464
Austim Spectrum Disorder	214	204	418	209
Intellectual disability	53	55	108	54
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2,554</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>4,062</b>	<b>2,031</b>

Source: ELCHC/SDHC, FY 2017-2018

## Unemployment and Other Family Factors

The unemployment rate for Hillsborough County in June 2018 was 3.8%, slightly lower than the overall state of Florida rate of 3.9% according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Wage growth, however, has not been strong. In the service sector that includes the majority of SR families’ hourly wages have seen little growth. In the 2018 Regional Competitiveness Report provided by the Tampa Bay Partnership, the region’s average wage is near the bottom when compared against 19 peer and/or aspirational areas in the U.S. with similar attributes. Additionally, affordable housing is in short supply. The homeless rate for the County has declined, but in the 2017-2018 school year, SDHC identified more than 4,000 students who met the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless. As mentioned earlier 15% of all individuals live at or

below the federal poverty level and 25% of all children 0 to 5 years old live in poverty.

Hillsborough County officials have witnessed a drastic increase in heroin and fentanyl use in addition to the opioid epidemic. Local substance abuse treatment agencies are struggling to meet the needs of the newly addicted. Data from the Agency for Health Care Administration (ACHA) and the Florida Department of Health shows that state-wide, the number of substance exposed newborns has increased dramatically from 536 in 2007 to 4,216 in 2016. Hillsborough County has the greatest number of substance exposed newborns in 2016 with 579, which accounts for 3.3% of all births in the county and 14.4% of all substance exposed births in the state. Data from the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) indicates that the current number and rate of children in Hillsborough County is the highest in the state in the child welfare system. Children birth to 5 years old represents the majority of cases. In May 2018 there were 2,472 children in the child welfare system in Hillsborough County with 51.1% aged infant through 5 years old, followed by youth 6 to 11 years old with 29.3%. Additionally, in the county, 18% of the population reports their race as Black or African-American. Yet the data pulled from the DCF data system reveals a different pattern. More than 30% of the children 5 years old or younger who were removed from their home and placed in foster care were reported as Black or African-American.

Currently there are 296 children that have been identified as homeless and receiving School Readiness funding.

**Figure 14: Number of Homeless Population Hillsborough County**

Number of Homeless	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Totals persons	1,944	1,931	1,817	1,549	1,795
Total families with children	501	568	533	479	602

**Figure 15: Number of Homeless Population in Hillsborough County (By Age)**

Age Range	2017	2017 Percentage	2018	2018 Percentage
Under 18	5,605	17.5%	5,532	18.6%
18-24	2,572	8%	1,981	6.7%
Over 24	23,932	75.5%	22,204	74.7%
Total	32,109	100%	29,717	100%

Source: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/Council%20on%20Homelessness%20Annual%20Report%202018.pdf>

## Additional Local ELCHC and Child Care Data

As of July 1, 2018, Hillsborough County had a total of 1,053 licensed child care providers. Currently, there are 494 licensed child care centers, 486 licensed family child care homes and 73 large family child care home providers. Between June 2017 and July 2018, 35 CLASS I violations were issued by local child care licensing.

Sources: <https://cares.myffamilies.com/PublicSearch/Search>

**Figure 16: ELCHC Contracted School Readiness Providers by Zip Code for 2018-2019**

Zip codes	Center	Charter Public School	Family Child Care Home	Large Family Child Care Home	Private School	Public School	Total
33510	8		4	1		1	14
33511	15		1	2		2	20
33527	2		1			1	4
33534	3					1	4
33543	1						1
33547	7		1			1	9



33549	3					1	4
33556	2					2	4
33558						1	1
33559	3						3
33563	12		2			4	18
33565	1					1	2
33566	5		3			1	9
33567			2			1	3
33569	4		1			3	8
33570	6		1			1	8
33572	2						2
33578	14		1	1			16
33579	1		1	1		1	4
33583	1						1
33584	10		1	2		2	15
33594	4		2	1		2	9
33596	7			1			8
33598	3		1	1		1	6
33602	6		1			1	8
33603	7	1	5				13
33604	13		27		1	2	43
33605	7		9			1	17
33607	11		14			4	29
33609	5		1				6
33610	20		13	1	1	4	39
33611	8		1			1	10
33612	24		22			2	48
33613	5		5	1		2	13
33614	21		37	10		1	69
33615	15		21	7		2	45
33616	2		2			1	5
33617	13		12	1		1	27
33618	4		2				6
33619	15		17	10		1	43
33624	11		1			2	14
33625	8		1	2			11
33626	2					3	5
33629	4						4
33634	6		10	5			21
33635	1						1
33637	3		1	1			5
33647	5					4	9
33675	1						1
33682	1						1
33801	1						1
Total	333	1	224	48	2	59	667

Source: ELCHC, August 2018

**Figure 17: 2017-2018 School Readiness Enrollment by Provider Type**

Private Center	Public School	FCCH	Informal	Total
13,168	1,1441	1,597	0	15,177

**Figure 18: 2017-2018 School Readiness Enrollment by Care Level**

Infant	Toddler	2 Yr.	3 Yr.	4 Yr.	5 Yr.	School Age	Special Needs	Total
762	1,499	1,951	2,168	2,060	1,104	5,629	4	15,177

\*Duplication may exist.

Source: ELCHC, August 2018

## Hillsborough County School District Data

Hillsborough County Public Schools Teachers, administrators and students are working hard to accomplish a graduation goal that was established in 2015 by Hillsborough County Public Schools. The graduation rates have been steadily increasing since 2014 and are now at 79%. The 90% graduation rate by 2020 is also a national goal that was originally set forth by the Obama administration. A report from America’s Promise, an education advocacy group, shows the U.S. high school graduation rate has risen to a record high of 81.4%. Driven by the school district’s strategic plan, educators have identified the leading indicators that predict successful graduation, such as good attendance, behavior, and course performance as well as kindergarten readiness. Educators monitor these key areas that impact graduation and intervene when students are at risk. Then, strategies are implemented to help students overcome their challenges and achieve the goal of graduation. Figure 19 represents the tiered intervention system the SDHC has adopted to improve student outcomes. The tiered schools have been identified as requiring additional support to improve student outcome and graduation rates. Figure 19 identifies how many schools have been identified as Achievement Schools per zip code in each tier. The tier they have been assigned is based on data for the past three years. Tier 3 schools require the most intensive support.

**Figure 19: Achievement Schools By Zip Codes**

Zip Code	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
33584	3	1	1
33607	2		
33610	3	1	5
33563	1	2	
33570	1		
33613		1	
33617		2	1
33612		2	2
33604		2	1
33603	1	1	
33619	1	2	1
33592		1	1
33602		2	
33534		1	
33598		1	
33578		2	
33527			1
33605			2

Source: School District of Hillsborough County, <https://www.sdhc.k12.fl.us/doc/list/achievement-schools/about/226-1249/>, Retrieved August, 2018

## Head Start/Early Head Start

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) of Hillsborough County operates Head Start/Early Head Start programs for Hillsborough County. In the 2016-2017 school year, the BOCC program served 3,474 children and their families according to its annual report. The figures below illustrate the Head Start/Early Head start enrollment information from the 2016-2017 school year:

- Figure 20 illustrates the enrollment capacity for each agency administering the program in Hillsborough County
- Figure 21 breakdowns the enrollment by age
- Figure 22 shows the type of eligibility for the children enrolled

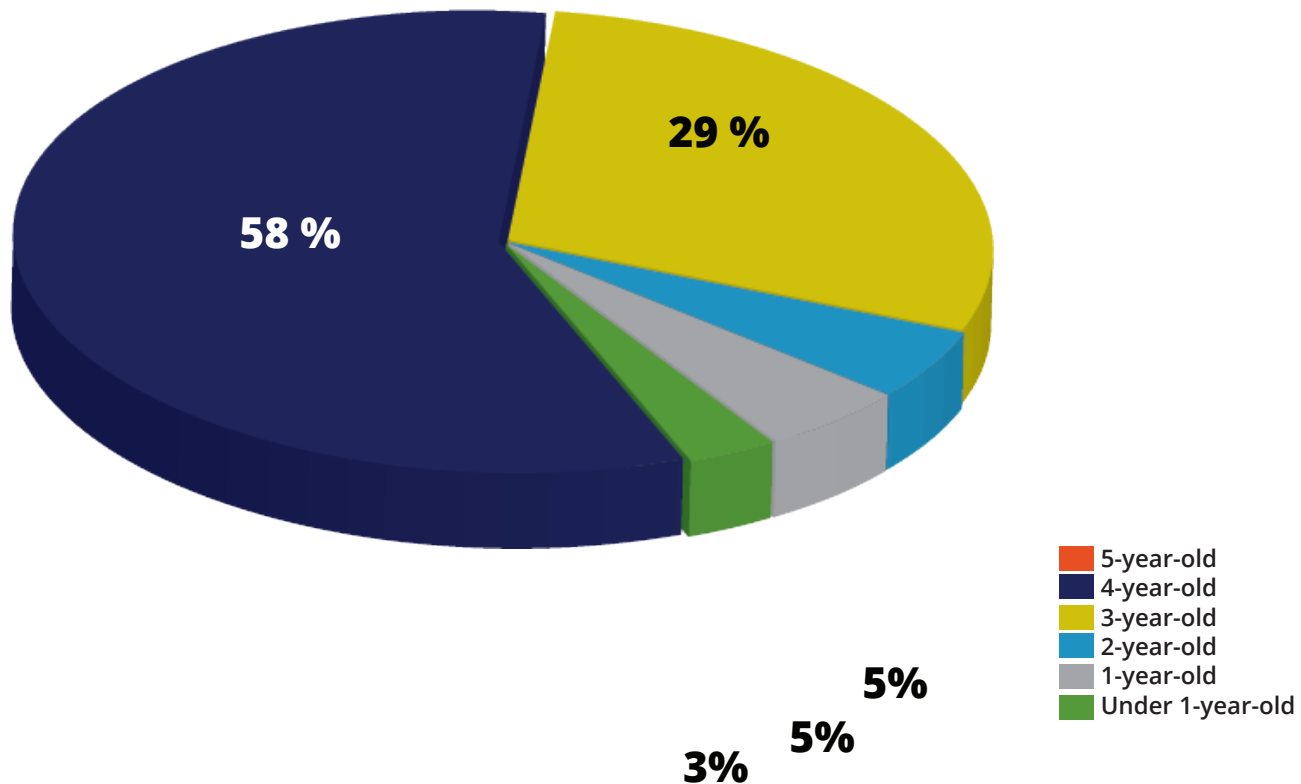
Source: Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start 2016-2017 Annual Report

**Figure 20: Number of Funded Head Start (HS)/Early Head Start (EHS) Enrollment Opportunities by Specific Groups**

Number of Funded Enrollment Opportunities by Specific Groups		
Hillsborough County BOCC	Grantee HS	1295
Hillsborough County BOCC	Grantee EHS	143
School District Headstart	Delegate HS	1812
LFS - FCCH	Delegate EHS	120
YMCA - FCCH	Delegate EHC	80
Pregnant Women	Grantee	24
<b>Program Total Funded Enrollment</b>		<b>3474</b>
<b>Average Monthly Enrollment</b>		<b>100%</b>

Source: Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start 2016-2017 Annual Report

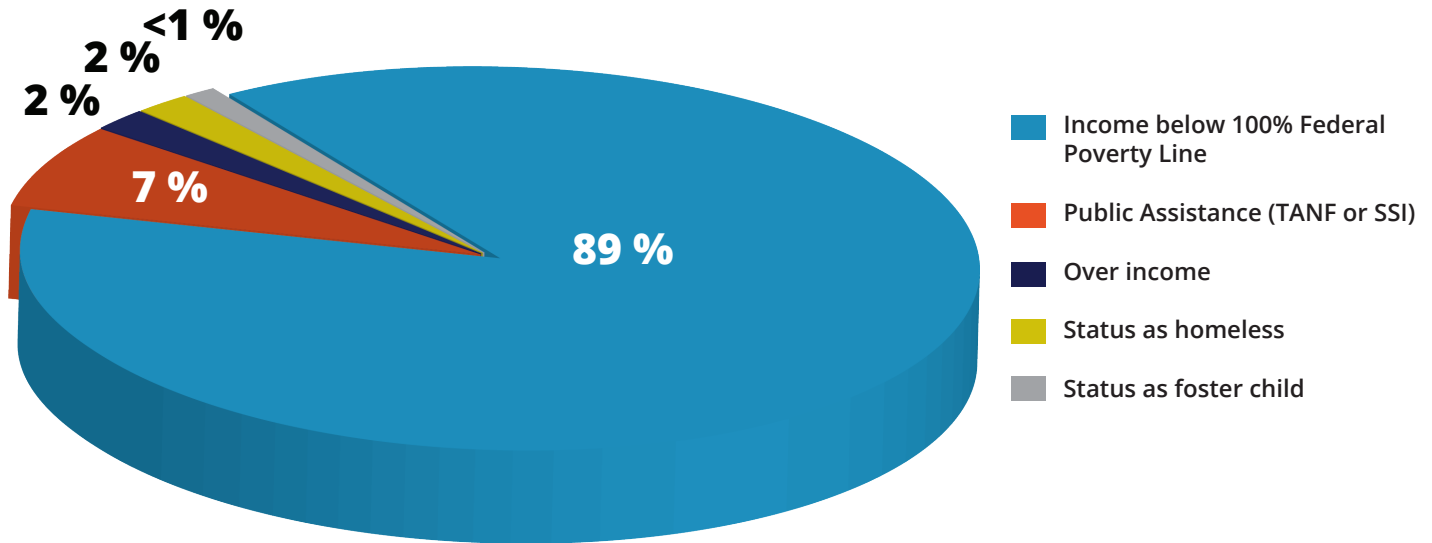
**Figure 21: Cumulative Enrollment of Program Children by Age**



Source: Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start 2016-2017 Annual Report



Figure 22: Qualifying Eligibility Breakdown for Head Start/Early Head Start



Hillsborough County's Head Start program is one of the largest in the southeastern United States. In fiscal year 2015, Hillsborough County Head Start was funded to serve 3,474 children and pregnant women. This includes 3,071 Head Start children, 343 Early Head Start infants and toddlers, and 24 pregnant women. Overall, services provided during the 2015-2016 school year were 3,994 children and their families and 49 pregnant women. Several program options were offered:

- Full-day (10.5 hours)/full-year center-based Head Start for parents who are working or enrolled in an education or job training program in 19 county-operated facilities and four contracted child care partners (Easter Seals, R' Club, Kings Kids, and Bible-Based) throughout Hillsborough County.
- Full-day (6 hours)/part-year center-based Head Start for 1,812 children in a delegate agency, Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS), in 60 elementary school sites.
- Full-day (10.5 hours)/full-year center-based Early Head Start for 167 children in five County operated facilities and two contracted child care partners, Bible-Based and King's Kids Academy.
- Full-day (10.5 hours)/full-year family child care home-based Early Head Start for 200 children in two delegate agencies (Lutheran Services Florida and Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA).
- Expectant Parent Program.

Source: Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start 2016-2017 Annual Report

## Champions for Children

Champions for Children is a nonprofit agency that serves families and children in the Hillsborough County community. Their mission is to build stronger families in the Tampa Bay region through its child abuse prevention and family education programs. They carry out their mission through family education and prevention programs, such as home visiting, training and networking courses. The Champions for Children 2016-2017 Impact Report details the scope of the agencies reach in the county. During the 2016-2017 year, Champions for Children served 37,919 individuals. Of that amount, 8,379 children and adults were served at community resource centers around the county. Also, of that amount, 3,323 individuals participated in parent and caregiver education classes, and 2,254 family members received child development home visiting services. Champions for Children offers a variety of support program for families and children. Some of their programs are featured below, as detailed in the Champions for Children 2016-2017 Impact Report:

- 353 women received high quality breast feeding support from certified lactation counselors at the ABC Program's Baby Café

- 475 families received customized parent education services through Parents as Teachers home visiting program
- 103 men received crucial parenting skills needed to nurture and care for their first baby through Boot Camp for New Dads Class

Source: *Champions for Children Impact Report* <https://cfctb.org/about-us/2016-2017-impact-report/>

## Children’s Board of Hillsborough County

The Children’s Board of Hillsborough County was established in 1988 by voter referendum. The mission of the Children’s Board is to grant funding to programs so they may provide high quality services that support children and families within the county. According to the 2016 Children’s Board Annual Report, the organization awarded \$27.7 million in grants during the fiscal year. For the fiscal year 2016-2017, 63 organizations received major grant funding from the Children’s Board. From that, 200,146 individuals received services through the agencies funded by the Children’s Board.

Source: *Children’s Board of Hillsborough County Annual Report* <http://www.childrensboard.org/download/112316/Annual-Report-2016-Financial-Copy-website2.pdf>

## Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK)

VPK was implemented in 2002 to give all of Florida’s 4-year-olds access to a quality prekindergarten experience. The VPK program is free to families and does not have any income requirements or restrictions. VPK is designed for children entering kindergarten through a yearlong program that consists of 540 instructional hours, or a summer program, consisting of 300 instructional hours. VPK includes quality standards, approved curricula, advancement requirements for personnel and lower classroom ratios during VPK instructional hours. VPK programs are also available for children with special needs through the Specialized Instructional Services (SIS). The ELCHC administers and monitors the VPK program for Hillsborough County. Figure 23 illustrates the VPK enrollment for Hillsborough County in the past three years.

**Figure 23: VPK Enrollment By Year**

July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016	July 1, 2016- June 30, 2017	July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018
13,687	13,448	13,712

Source: *ELCHC, August 2018*

## Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County

The mission of The Healthy Start Coalition Hillsborough County is to improve the health and well-being of pregnant women, children and families in Hillsborough County. The agency does this through several key programs. Some of the highlights of its programs are featured within its 2017 Annual Report. Those highlights include the Healthy Start Program delivered pre-natal support to 7,598 women; the Safe Baby Plus program trained 1,591 professionals in Safe Baby Curriculum; the Nurse Family Partnership conducted 1,662 home visits; and Healthy Families Hillsborough served 1,964 children during 2017.

Source: *2017 Healthy Start Coalition Hillsborough County Annual Report*

## Cost of Child Care in Hillsborough County

The annual average cost of child care in Hillsborough County greatly impacts the type and quality of care received. Each Coalition reports to the Office of Early Learning on local market rate for child care costs within that area. Below is the 2017 annual market rate for center-based and family child care homes within Hillsborough County.

Source (Figures 23 & 24): *OEL 2017 Market Rate Report* <http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers/market-rate>

**Figure 24: Average Cost of Full Time Child Care for Non Gold Seal Private Centers in Hillsborough County – 2017 (Provider Reported)**

Care Level	Number of Providers		Market Rate (Private Pay Rates)						School Readiness Reimbursement Rate		
	Rates Included	Rates Excluded	Average	Maximum	Minimum	Median	Most Frequent	75th Percentile Rate	Average SR Reimbursement Rate	% of Average Market Rate	% of 75th Percentile Rate
Infant	150	1	\$184.86	\$293.00	\$115.00	\$175.00	\$160.00	\$207.25	\$137.99	74.65%	66.58%
Toddler	237	3	\$150.77	\$276.34	\$57.74	\$145.00	\$145.00	\$167.50	\$105.91	70.24%	63.23%
Preschool	252	1	\$130.19	\$240.00	\$56.58	\$121.67	\$120.00	\$148.33	\$92.38	70.96%	62.28%
School-Age	202	2	\$110.18	\$217.50	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$79.63	72.27%	63.70%

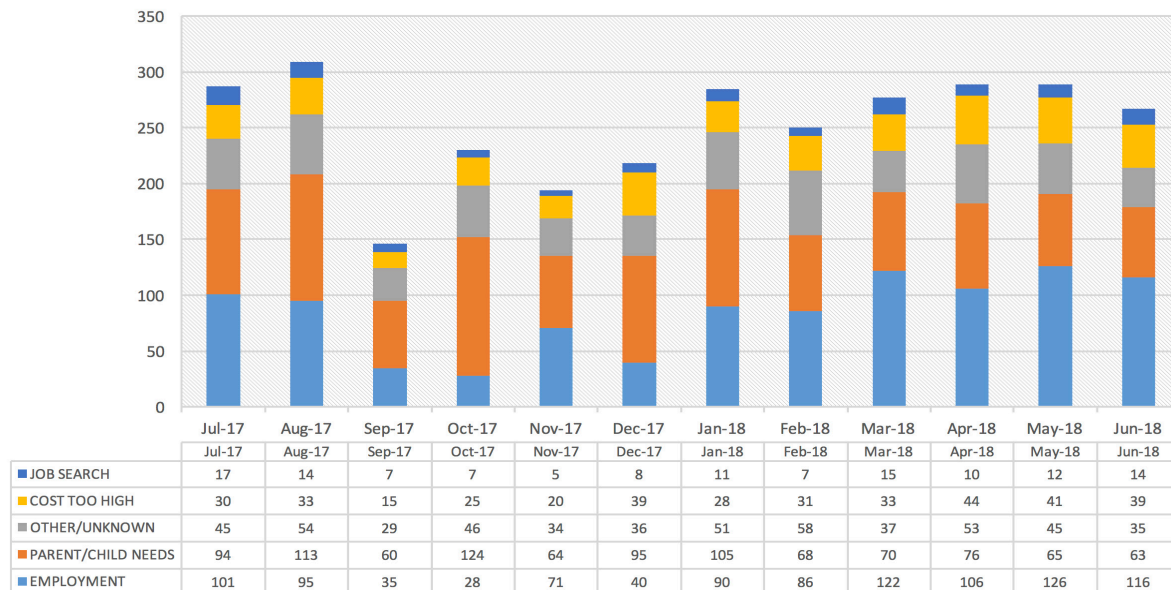
**Figure 25: Average Cost of Full Time Child Care for Family Child Care Homes in Hillsborough County – 2017 (Provider Reported)**

Care Level	Number of Providers		Market Rate (Private Pay Rates)						School Readiness Reimbursement Rate		
	Rates Included	Rates Excluded	Average	Maximum	Minimum	Median	Most Frequent	75th Percentile Rate	Average SR Reimbursement Rate	% of Average Market Rate	% of 75th Percentile Rate
Infant	276	0	\$143.91	\$250.00	\$110.00	\$147.50	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$114.90	79.84%	76.60%
Toddler	279	0	\$129.74	\$200.00	\$92.50	\$127.50	\$125.00	\$137.50	\$103.98	80.15%	75.62%
Preschool	279	0	\$116.59	\$183.33	\$83.33	\$115.00	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$93.32	80.04%	74.66%
School-Age	256	1	\$101.03	\$250.00	\$65.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$81.74	80.90%	74.30%

## Child Care Resource & Referral

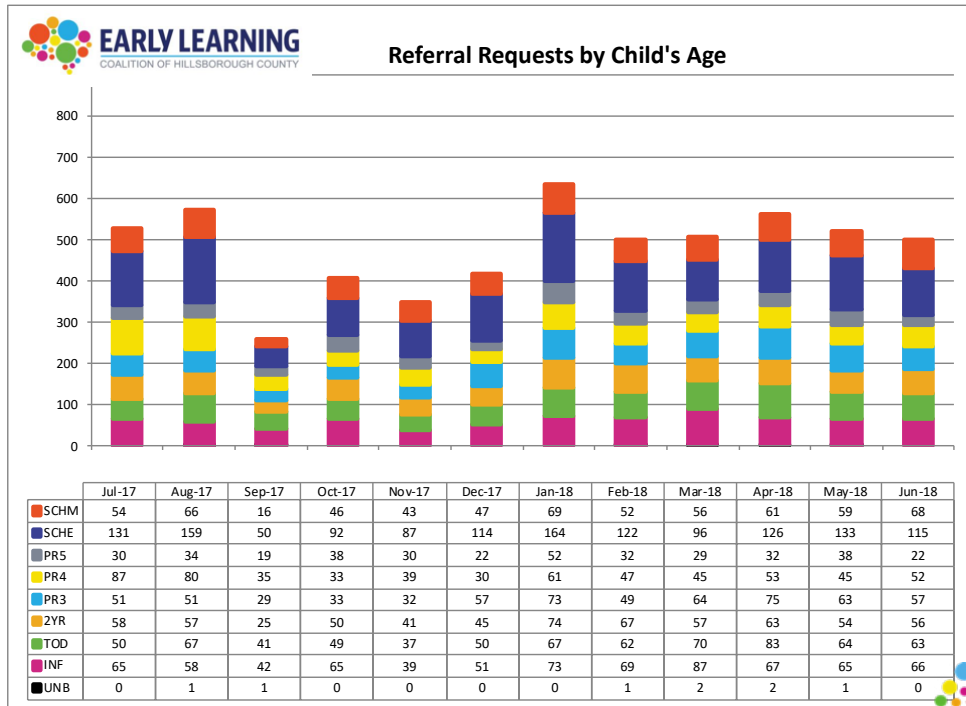
ELCHC and SDHC support families in finding child care options that fit their unique needs through the Child Care Resource and Referral Program (CCR&R). Figures 26 and 27 details the type and amount of referrals families make to CCR&R.

**Figure 26: Child Care Resource and Referral – Top 5 Reasons for Care in 2017-2018**



Source: ELCHC/SDHC, June 2018

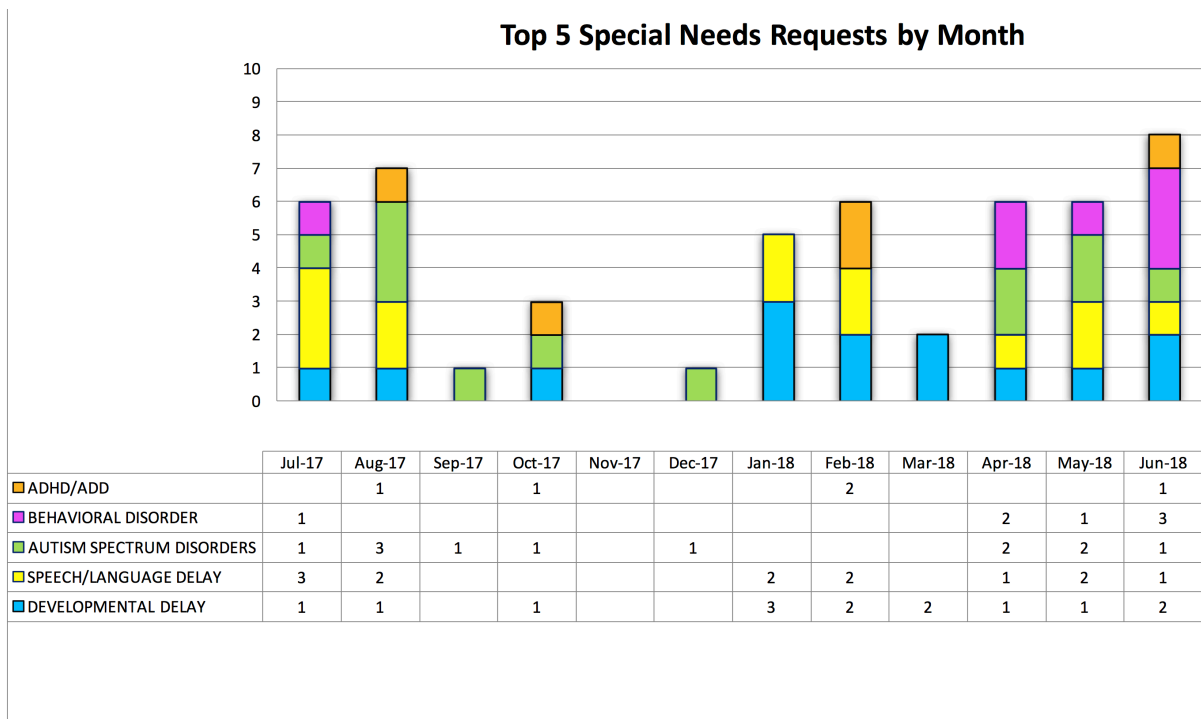
Figure 27: Child Care Resource and Referral – Top 5 Reasons for Care in 2017-2018



Source: ELCHC/SDHC, June 2018

## Special Needs Data

Figure 28: CCR&R Special Needs Referrals, 2017-18 Fiscal Year



\*November 2017 – There were no requests for Special Needs

As illustrated above, not a large number of families requested special needs referrals through the CCR&R program. We acknowledge that this might be due to families being referred to other agencies by staff without going through the full CCR&R process and data collection.

## RECOMMEDATIONS

### School Readiness Eligibility Priorities

Pursuant to section 1002.87(1)(c) of the Florida Statutes (F.S.), the ELCHC may reorder School Readiness Priorities 3 through 9 based on the need in the community as illustrated by the data in the community assessment. Based on the information presented in this report we recommend the priorities are reordered to address the need to support families transition from TANF Cash Assistance to the workforce. Offering child care keeps children in consistent care, while helping families maintain employment and become self-sufficient. Additionally, the data in this report shows that there are a significant number of children with IEPs in the county. Although the School District offers educational services to children with special needs, the School Readiness Program can offer additional support to these families. As a result, we recommend that the Special Needs Priority move from Priority 8 to Priority 5. The figure below illustrates our recommended changes to the School Readiness Eligibility Priorities in Hillsborough County. Priorities 1 and 2 are established by section 1002.87(1)(a) & (b), F.S. Priorities 3 through 9 are the local priorities the ELCHC may reorder.

**Figure 29: Recommended School Readiness Eligibility Priorities**

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL READINESS ELIGIBILITY PRIORITIES		FORMER PRIORITY
1	A child younger than 13 years old from a family that includes a parent who is receiving temporary cash assistance under chapter 414 and subject to the federal work requirements.	1
2	An at-risk child younger than 9 years old.	2
3	A child of a parent who transitions from the work program into employment as described in s. 445.032 from birth to the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.	4
4	A child from birth to the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. who is from a working family that is economically disadvantaged, and may include such child's eligible siblings, beginning with the school year in which the sibling is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. until the beginning of the school year in which the sibling is eligible to begin 6th grade, provided that the first priority for funding an eligible sibling is local revenues available to the coalition for funding direct services.	3
5	A child who has special needs, has been determined eligible as a student with a disability, has a current individual education plan with a Florida school district, and is not younger than 3 years old. A special needs child eligible under this paragraph remains eligible until the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.	8
6	An at-risk child who is at least 9 years old but younger than 13 years old. An at-risk child whose sibling is enrolled in the school readiness program within an eligibility priority category listed in paragraphs (a) and (b) and subparagraph 1. shall be given priority over other children who are eligible under this paragraph.	5
7	A child of a parent who transitions from the work program into employment as described in s.445.032 who is younger than 13 years old.	7
8	A child who is younger than 13 years old from a working family that is economically disadvantaged.	6
9	A child who otherwise meets one of the eligibility criteria in paragraphs (a) and (b) and subparagraphs 1. and 2. but who is also enrolled concurrently in the federal Head Start Program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.	9





## Contracted Slots

In order to better understand how contracted slots may positively impact child care shortages in high needs area, the ELCHC has decided to look specifically at ZIP codes with high percentages of children living at or below the poverty level. We started collecting information from centers in these ZIP codes to help us determine if the use of contracted slots may be able to help alleviate some child care needs for infant care. A survey of child care providers was conducted in October 2018. Providers in these areas were contacted by telephone and asked the following questions concerning infant child care slots:

1. Are you licensed to serve infant-aged children? If so what is your capacity? What is your current enrollment?
2. If no, would you be interested in serving infant-aged children? If not, what barriers are preventing you from serving infant-aged children?
3. Have you ever served infant-age children? What barriers did you experience?
4. Do you receive inquiries for infant care, if so, how often?
5. Do you have space available to provide care for infant children?
6. Are you interested in possibly participating in an infant program that offers a higher school readiness reimbursement rate for infant- and toddler-aged children? The program would reimburse you for the infant slot, even when the child is not in care.

Sixty-three providers responded to the survey via phone call. Of those 63 providers, the majority are licensed for infant care, with an average capacity of eight children and average current enrollment of eight children. Providers that do not serve infant children identified space for infant care as the top reason that they do not currently serve infants. Cost of infant care surfaced as the most common barrier in providing infant care. When asked about the current inquiries for infant care, most of the providers receive an average of three inquiries per week from families seeking infant care. This depicts a high demand for infant care in these zip codes.

Based on the demographic information collected for this report as well as the aforementioned survey results, we recommend the ELCHC conduct a pilot program that offers infant care contracted slots for up to 25 School Readiness Providers in high-poverty ZIP codes 33605, 33602, 33607, 33610, and 33612. The results of the survey indicated that there is a great need for infant care in these communities but providers generally do not have space or are deterred by the high-costs. If the pilot program shows that the contracted slots offsets the expenses of providing infant care, providers may be more able to create additional space to meet the demand of families.

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