



6302 E. MLK Blvd Ste 100  
Tampa, FL 33619  
PHONE: 813.515.2340  
WEB: www.elchc.org

## Parent Co-payment Waiver Policy and Procedures School Readiness Coalition Plan (DEL-SR 115, II.D)

### INTRODUCTION

To implement Section 6 of Rule 6M-4.400, F.A.C. and Section 1002.84(9), F.S. the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County (ELCHC) in coordination with its At-Risk referring agencies and Board of Directors has established the following policies and procedures.

### DEFINITIONS & GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### Definitions:

- **At Risk** refers to children at risk of abuse, neglect, abandonment and/or exploitation. This includes children under protective services, in Foster Care, shelters and homelessness.
- **Co-payment** is the sum of money the parent or caregiver, based on Coalition sliding fee scale, pays daily, which is subtracted from the reimbursement rate and paid directly to the provider of child care.  
**Coalition** refers to the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County (ELCHC).
- **Sliding Fee Scale** is a system of cost sharing by a family/caregiver based on income and family size.

#### General Provision

#### Overall, the Referring Agencies will:

- Provide the ELCHC with an approved Child Care Authorization for the child to receive services.
- Mark the Child Care Authorization to request a Fee Waiver for the child(ren).

#### The ELCHC will:

- Process the Child Care Authorization and help the parent/guardian establish services, offer the parent help finding child care options and help with any community supports that might be available or needed by the parent/guardian

### POLICY STATEMENT

Each family that receives School Readiness services shall be assessed a co-payment based on family size, the hours of care needed/authorized, and the family's income, according to the sliding fee scale issued by the state legislature. The co-payment may be waived on a case-by-case basis for families. The length of the waiver will depend on the circumstances or the length of the referral when the request was made by the referring agency and will include the following :

- At risk children, as defined in s. 1002.81, F.S.
- Families with income at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level during an event that limits a parent's ability to pay such as a natural disaster, incarceration, placement in residential treatment, becoming homeless, or an emergency situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the parent is participating in parenting classes.
- Foster caregivers, guardians, and relative placements as they are considered at risk by statute. The ELCHC Board of Directors recognises and hopes to alliviate come of the added responsibility and stress placed on these individuals. If the referring agency feels it would be beneficial to have the parent/guardian/relatives fees waived while the child is in an out of home placement, the ELCHC's policy is to approve those requests.
- If an at-risk family comes into the program without any income or does not provide income documentation at the time of eligibility determination, the copyment will be set at \$0 initially. The family will continue to have a \$0 copayment until the case is redetermined.

## ATTACHMENT II.D

### **Sliding fee scale 2025-2026:**

<https://www.elchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2025-2026-Sliding-Fee-Schedule-.pdf>

**Florida Division of Early Learning**  
**SLIDING FEE SCHEDULE for SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM**

**DAILY FEE** ----- Annual Gross Income - Number of People in the Family -----

Full-Time		Part-Time		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
4.0%	2.0%	5% SMI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.0%	2.0%	10% SMI	2,680	3,504	4,329	5,153	5,978	6,802	6,957	7,111	7,266	7,421	7,575	7,730	7,884	8,039	8,194	
4.0%	2.0%	15% SMI	2,681	3,505	4,330	5,154	5,979	6,803	6,958	7,112	7,267	7,422	7,576	7,731	7,885	8,040	8,195	
4.0%	2.0%	20% SMI	5,359	7,008	8,657	10,306	11,955	13,604	13,914	14,223	14,532	14,841	15,150	15,460	15,769	16,078	16,387	
4.0%	2.0%	25% SMI	5,360	7,009	8,658	10,307	11,956	13,605	13,915	14,224	14,533	14,842	15,151	15,461	15,770	16,079	16,388	
4.0%	2.0%	30% SMI	8,039	10,512	12,986	15,459	17,933	20,406	20,870	21,334	21,798	22,262	22,725	23,189	23,653	24,117	24,581	
4.0%	2.0%	35% SMI	8,040	10,513	12,987	15,460	17,934	20,407	20,871	21,335	21,799	22,263	22,726	23,190	23,654	24,118	24,582	
4.0%	2.0%	40% SMI	10,719	14,017	17,315	20,613	23,911	27,209	27,827	28,445	29,064	29,682	30,301	30,919	31,537	32,156	32,774	
4.0%	2.0%	45% SMI	10,720	14,018	17,316	20,614	23,912	27,210	27,828	28,446	29,065	29,683	30,302	30,920	31,538	32,157	32,775	
4.0%	2.0%	50% SMI	13,398	17,521	21,643	25,766	29,888	34,011	34,784	35,557	36,330	37,103	37,876	38,649	39,422	40,195	40,968	
4.0%	2.0%	185% FPL TCA Max	13,399	17,522	21,644	25,767	29,889	34,012	34,785	35,558	36,331	37,104	37,877	38,650	39,423	40,196	40,969	
4.0%	2.0%	SR Program Entry	16,078	21,025	25,972	30,919	35,866	40,813	41,741	42,668	43,596	44,523	45,451	46,379	47,306	48,233	49,161	
4.0%	2.0%		16,079	21,026	25,973	30,920	35,867	40,814	41,742	42,669	43,597	44,524	45,452	46,380	47,307	48,234	49,162	
4.0%	2.0%		18,758	24,529	30,301	36,072	41,844	47,615	48,697	49,779	50,862	51,944	53,026	54,108	55,190	56,272	57,355	
4.0%	2.0%		18,759	24,530	30,302	36,073	41,845	47,616	48,698	49,780	50,863	51,945	53,027	54,109	55,191	56,273	57,356	
4.0%	2.0%		21,437	28,033	34,629	41,225	47,821	54,417	55,654	56,891	58,128	59,364	60,601	61,838	63,074	64,311	65,548	
4.0%	2.0%		21,438	28,034	34,630	41,226	47,822	54,418	55,655	56,892	58,129	59,365	60,602	61,839	63,075	64,312	65,549	
4.0%	2.0%		24,117	31,537	38,958	46,378	53,799	61,219	62,611	64,002	65,394	66,785	68,176	69,568	70,959	72,350	73,742	
4.0%	2.0%		24,118	31,538	38,959	46,379	53,800	61,220	62,612	64,003	65,395	66,786	68,177	69,569	70,960	72,351	73,743	
4.0%	2.0%		26,797	35,042	43,287	51,532	59,777	68,022	69,568	71,114	72,660	74,206	75,752	77,298	78,843	80,389	81,935	
4.0%	2.0%		26,798	35,043	43,288	51,533	59,778	68,023	69,569	71,115	72,661	74,207	75,753	77,299	78,844	80,390	81,936	
4.0%	2.0%		28,953															
4.0%	2.0%		29,476	38,546	47,615	56,685	65,754	74,824	76,524	78,225	79,925	81,626	83,327	85,027	86,727	88,428	90,129	
4.0%	2.0%		29,477	38,547	47,616	56,686	65,755	74,825	76,525	78,226	79,926	81,627	83,328	85,028	86,728	88,429	90,130	

Sliding Fee Scale for  
Effective date

Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County  
October 1, 2025

## Florida Division of Early Learning SLIDING FEE SCHEDULE for SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM

DAILY FEE ----- Annual Gross Income - Number of People in the Family -----

Full-Time		Part-Time																			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15					
6.0%	3.0%	<b>185% FPL TCA Max / 200% FPL TANF Max</b>		<b>31,300</b>	<b>39,128</b>	<b>49,303</b>	<b>59,478</b>	<b>69,653</b>	<b>79,828</b>												
		<b>60% SMI</b>		32,156	42,050	51,944	61,838	71,732	81,626	83,481	85,336	87,191	89,047	90,902	92,757	94,612	96,467	98,322			
6.0%	3.0%	<b>185% FPL TCA Max / 200% FPL TANF Max</b>			<b>42,300</b>	<b>53,300</b>	<b>64,300</b>	<b>75,300</b>	<b>86,300</b>	<b>90,003</b>											
		<b>65% SMI</b>		32,157	42,051	51,945	61,839	71,733	81,627	83,482	85,337	87,192	89,048	90,903	92,758	94,613	96,468	98,323			
6.0%	3.0%	<b>200% FPL TANF Max</b>								<b>97,300</b>											
<b>SR Match/Local Funding Entry</b>		<b>70% SMI</b>		<b>37,515</b>	<b>49,058</b>	<b>60,601</b>	<b>72,144</b>	<b>83,687</b>	<b>95,230</b>	<b>97,395</b>	<b>99,559</b>	<b>101,723</b>	<b>103,888</b>	<b>106,052</b>	<b>108,217</b>	<b>110,380</b>	<b>112,545</b>	<b>114,709</b>			
6.0%	3.0%	<b>185% FPL TCA Max</b>									<b>100,178</b>										
		<b>75% SMI</b>		37,516	49,059	60,602	72,145	83,688	95,231	97,396	99,560	101,724	103,889	106,053	108,218	110,381	112,546	114,710			
6.0%	3.0%	<b>185% FPL TCA Max / 200% FPL TANF Max</b>										<b>108,300</b>	<b>110,353</b>								
		<b>80% SMI</b>		40,195	52,562	64,930	77,297	89,665	102,032	104,351	106,670	108,989	111,308	113,627	115,946	118,265	120,584	122,903			
6.0%	3.0%	<b>185% FPL TCA Max / 200% FPL TANF Max</b>																			
		<b>85% SMI</b>		40,196	52,563	64,931	77,298	89,666	102,033	104,352	106,671	108,990	111,309	113,628	115,947	118,266	120,585	122,904			
6.0%	3.0%	<b>185% FPL TCA Max / 200% FPL TANF Max</b>																			
		<b>85% SMI</b>		42,874	56,066	69,258	82,450	95,642	108,834	111,308	113,782	116,255	118,729	121,202	123,676	126,149	128,622	131,096			
6.0%	3.0%	<b>185% FPL TCA Max / 200% FPL TANF Max</b>																			
		<b>85% SMI</b>		42,875	56,067	69,259	82,451	95,643	108,835	111,309	113,783	116,256	118,730	121,203	123,677	126,150	128,623	131,097			
<b>SR Funding Maximum</b>		<b>85% SMI</b>		<b>45,554</b>	<b>59,571</b>	<b>73,587</b>	<b>87,604</b>	<b>101,620</b>	<b>115,637</b>	<b>118,265</b>	<b>120,893</b>	<b>123,521</b>	<b>126,149</b>	<b>128,778</b>	<b>131,406</b>	<b>134,033</b>	<b>136,661</b>	<b>139,290</b>			
<b>SRPLUS Start</b>		<b>85% SMI + \$1</b>		<b>45,555</b>	<b>59,572</b>	<b>73,588</b>	<b>87,605</b>	<b>101,621</b>	<b>115,638</b>	<b>118,266</b>	<b>120,894</b>	<b>123,522</b>	<b>126,150</b>	<b>128,779</b>	<b>131,407</b>	<b>134,034</b>	<b>136,662</b>	<b>139,291</b>			
		<b>90% SMI</b>		48,234	63,075	77,916	92,757	107,598	122,439	125,222	128,004	130,787	133,570	136,353	139,136	141,917	144,700	147,483			
		<b>90% SMI + \$1</b>		48,235	63,076	77,917	92,758	107,599	122,440	125,223	128,005	130,788	133,571	136,354	139,137	141,918	144,701	147,484			
		<b>95% SMI</b>		50,913	66,579	82,244	97,910	113,575	129,241	132,178	135,116	138,053	140,990	143,928	146,865	149,802	152,739	155,677			
		<b>95% SMI + \$1</b>		50,914	66,580	82,245	97,911	113,576	129,242	132,179	135,117	138,054	140,991	143,929	146,866	149,803	152,740	155,678			
<b>SRPLUS Maximum</b>		<b>100% SMI</b>		<b>53,593</b>	<b>70,083</b>	<b>86,573</b>	<b>103,063</b>	<b>119,553</b>	<b>136,043</b>	<b>139,135</b>	<b>142,227</b>	<b>145,319</b>	<b>148,411</b>	<b>151,503</b>	<b>154,595</b>	<b>157,686</b>	<b>160,778</b>	<b>163,870</b>			

Parents receiving hourly care pay up to the part time fee.

FFY 2026 ANNUAL State Median Income Estimates

<b>55% SMI</b>	Entry threshold for School Readiness program eligibility.
<b>70% SMI</b>	Entry threshold for School Readiness Match eligibility
<b>85% SMI</b>	Upper threshold for School Readiness program eligibility

Sliding Fee Scale for **Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County**  
 Effective date **October 1, 2025**

**Florida Division of Early Learning  
 SLIDING FEE SCHEDULE for SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM**

**DAILY FEE** = = ----- Annual Gross Income - Number of People in the Family -----

Full-Time	Part-Time	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>185% FPL TCA Max</b>		TCC Income may exceed 85% of SMI as long as it remains below 185% of FPL.														
<b>200% FPL TANF Max</b>		Income may exceed 85% of SMI as long as it remains below 200% of FPL. If income increases above 200% FPL, they can be moved to BG8 until they reach the CCDF exit threshold of above 85% SMI.														
<b>SRPLUS Start</b>		85% SMI Program Start Income														
<b>100% SMI SR PLUS MAX</b>		100% State Median Income: Upper threshold for eligibility														

Refer to 1002.935, Florida Statutes & Refer to 6M-4.400, F.A.C.