



February 12, 2007

## School Readiness and Child Care Programs

### BACKGROUND

- There are 13,444 children ages 0-5 in Alachua County, 5,212 of them in the City of Gainesville.
- Of these, 22% are living at or below poverty in Alachua County and 29% in the City of Gainesville.
- Research indicates every dollar invested in quality early care and education saves taxpayers up to \$13.00 in future costs.



## BACKGROUND

**Research shows  
that when children  
start school  
behind--  
they stay behind.**



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

**“Investments in quality child care and  
early childhood education do more  
than pay significant returns to children  
—our future citizens.**

**They also benefit taxpayers and enhance  
economic vitality.”**



## **SCHOOL READINESS AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS**

- **Success by 6**
- **MomCare**
- **Healthy Start**
- **Healthy Families**
- **Early Head Start**
- **Head Start**
- **Partnership for Strong Families**
- **Early Learning Coalition**



## **SUCCESS BY 6**

- **Sponsored by United Way**
- **Community Impact Funding Model which focuses on funding programs that improve school readiness and early childhood development**
- **\$400,000 awarded in 2006**
- **RFP for 2007 now available**



## **SUCCESS BY 6 PROGRAMS**

- **Acorn Medical Clinic (\$20,000)**  
Dental procedures, outreach education, physicals immunizations, and sick child visits
- **HIPPY (\$80,000)**  
60 children/parents receive in-home instruction in literacy, socialization and school readiness skills.
- **Family Success Alliance (\$300,000)**  
Collaborative of 6 agencies (Big Brothers, Big Sisters, EMBRACE, ELC, Healthy Families, CAPP) providing child care, in-home services, mentors, child abuse prevention services.

## **MOMCARE**

- **Medicaid-funded program administered by the Alachua County Health Department**
- **Clients referred by Florida DCF**
- **Contacts are made via phone to assist clients with prenatal care and referral to services if needed.**
- **Contacted more than 200,000 women in 12-county area**



## HEALTHY START

- Voluntary program for pregnant women and children ages 0-3
- In-home visits
- No income requirements
- Served 1168 pregnant women and 614 children, 0-3 (05/06)
- Funded by the State at \$348,152 (05/06)
- Administered by the Alachua County Health Department



## HEALTHY FAMILIES

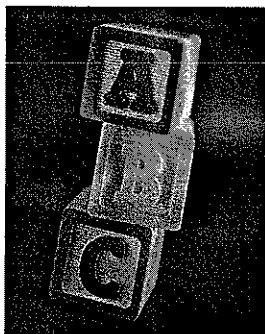
- Community-based, voluntary home visiting program
- Emphasizes parenting skills and healthy childhood growth and development
- Services may begin during pregnancy or at the birth and are offered to families for up to five years.
- Serves approximately 256 families and is administered by the University of Florida, Department of Obstetrics.

## **EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START**

- Federal program that promotes school readiness for children ages 3-4 from low-income families
- Provides variety of educational, health, and social services. Emphasizes parent involvement
- Early Head Start was established to serve children birth- 3 years



## **EARLY HEAD START & HEAD START IN ALACHUA COUNTY**



- Head Start administered by Alachua County Public Schools
- Serves 640 3-4-year olds; 49 children on waiting list
- Federal grant provides 80% of funding (\$4.3M); local program provides 20% (\$1.08M)
- ACPS matches with VPK funding
- Grant award pending to provide Early Head Start for 75 children.

## **PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG FAMILIES (PSF)**

- Foster care privatized by DCF through Community-Based Care (CBC).
- PSF is Lead Agency for CBC in Alachua and 10 other counties.
- PSF is a nonprofit agency formed by 3 agencies.
- Manage all foster care services (except investigations), including prevention, intervention and after-care



## **EARLY LEARNING COALITION**

### ***Mission:***

- Serve Alachua County children, birth to 5 and their parents.
- Provide excellent early care and education
- Recognize parents as teachers
- Meet special needs

***In order to assure children are ready for school.***

## EARLY LEARNING COALITION

- Administrative agent contracting for services
- \$14.5M budget, primarily state and federal funding
- School Readiness Programs include:
  - Early Education and Care Services
  - Even-Start Literacy Program
  - Parent Education & Home Visitation Program
  - Subsidized Child Care
  - Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten



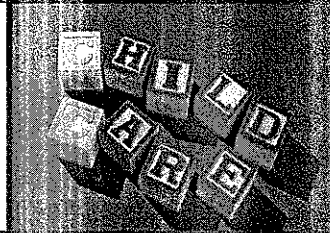
## VOLUNTARY PRE-K

- Voter-approved entitlement program totaling \$4M in Alachua County
- Free and available to all Florida 4-year olds, regardless of income
- Two options for participation:
  - 540 hour school year program
  - 300 hour summer program
- Offered through private and faith-based child care center, family homes and ACPS (with Head Start eligibility)
- 1264 VPK children



## Subsidized Child Care

- **Categories**  
DCF & TANF clients  
Working Poor subsidies
- **2230 Children Served**
- **Working Poor clients can earn 200% of poverty**
- **\$180 local match pays for full year of child care**
- **Match provided by United Way, Alachua County and City of Gainesville**



**Presentation by  
Gordon Tremaine  
Executive Director  
Early Learning Coalition**