



June 7, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Early Learning Coalition Executive Directors, Early Learning Coalition Finance Directors, RCMA Executive Director

FROM: Rodney J. MacKinnon, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning

SUBJECT: Guidance for School Readiness (SR) Match Participation and Reporting Changes

The 2019 legislative session brought changes to the way local match dollars must be collected and reported in FY 2019-20, if approved by the Governor. Specific Appropriation 86 of the 2019-20 General Appropriations Act details requirements for the allocation of funds for SR match participation. The purpose of this document is to outline the changes and provide clarification on how early learning coalitions, RCMA, and match funding contributors would be impacted.

2018-19 General Appropriations Act	2019-20 General Appropriations Act
<p style="text-align: center;">Specific Appropriation 85</p> <p>From the funds in Specific Appropriation 85, \$3,954,325 in recurring funds from the General Revenue Fund and \$11,045,675 in recurring funds from the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund are provided for the Child Care Executive Partnership. The funds shall be used for the Child Care Executive Partnership Program, as defined in section 1002.94, Florida Statutes, as match to expand the provision of services to low income families at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Funds for this program shall be used to match funds for statewide contracts.</p> <p>Funds in Specific Appropriation 85 require a match from local sources for working poor eligible participants of six percent on child care slots. In-kind match is allowable provided there is not a reduction in the number of slots or level of services from the provision of in-kind match. The Office of Early Learning may adopt a policy to grant a waiver of the six percent match requirement to a rural county that demonstrates a significant hardship in meeting the match requirement. Progress towards meeting this requirement shall be monitored by the Office of Early Learning and shall be considered satisfactorily attained if the six percent requirement is met on a statewide basis.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Specific Appropriation 86</p> <p>From the funds in Specific Appropriation 86, \$30,000,000 is provided to expand the provision of services to low income families at or below 200% of the federal poverty level as long as the income does not exceed 85% of the state median income.</p> <p>Local matching funds can be derived from local governments, employers, charitable foundations, and other sources so that Florida communities can create local partnerships focused on using the state and local funds for direct services and expanding the number of child care slots. To be eligible for funding, an early learning coalition must match the state funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The Office of Early Learning shall establish procedures for the match program that shall include giving priority to early learning coalitions whose local match complies with federal Child Care and Development Block Grant matching requirements.</p>

Impact to coalitions and RCMA

In order to draw down federal funds, the state still must have local match. Under the 2019-20 General Appropriations Act, however, the local 6% match requirement for individual coalitions was eliminated. The state now provides \$30,000,000 to expand School Readiness Program funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Coalitions retain the flexibility to apply the local match collected, **at any percentage to working poor eligible clients as well as families entering the School Readiness Program up to 200% of the FPL**, as designated within the 2019-20 General Appropriations Act. The local match collected and reported by the coalition in aggregate provides the dollar-for-dollar match.

Example: Local Cash Contributions totaling **\$1,000,000**; State SR Match Funds **\$1,000,000**

Billing Group	Local Match Funds		State SR Match Funds		State SR Program Funds		Total Funding for SR Slots
	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	
Working Poor BG8 <i>(up to 150% FPL)</i>	6% *	\$600,000			94%	\$9,400,000	\$10,000,000
NEW SR Match <i>(up to 200% FPL entry)</i>	0% *		100%	\$600,000			\$600,000
	50% *	\$350,000	50%	\$350,000			\$700,000
Employer Benefits <i>(up to 200% FPL entry)</i>	50%	\$50,000	50%	\$50,000			\$100,000
Total Funding		\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000		\$9,400,000	\$11,400,000

**Dollar amount or percentage 0% - 100% allowed*

In-kind donations can no longer be used toward meeting the provision for matching funds; however, coalitions are still encouraged to seek in-kind funds to maximize resources for the SR Program.

Since coalition and RCMA participation in the SR match program is voluntary and requires a dollar-for-dollar match, the waiver process is no longer necessary. Under the 2019-20 General Appropriations Act, state SR Program match funds will only be provided to coalitions that secure a dollar-for-dollar match.

A workgroup will be organized to discuss EFS Mod system and business process enhancements needed as a result of the potential changes to match participation.

How to relay this information to local match contributors

The allocation of \$30,000,000 provides more funding to the SR Program. Coalitions have more flexibility to apply local match contributions to best fit the needs of the local community and expand SR Program services.

For more information on the General Appropriations Act, click the following links.

Link: [2018-19 General Appropriations Act, Specific Appropriation 85](#)

Link: [2019-20 General Appropriations Act, Specific Appropriation 86](#)

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