

March 11, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Executive Directors, Early Learning Coalitions

**FROM:** Katerina Maroney, Deputy Director of Programs and Policy, Office of Early Learning

**SUBJECT:** **2021 Sliding Fee Schedule, Program Guidance 400.01 Federal Poverty Guidelines and State Median Income Estimates – OEL 2021-006**

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The Office of Early Learning has prepared the attached collection of documents to assist the coalitions as they make preparations to update their coalition's sliding fee schedules. For fiscal year 2021-2022 and there after, the Office is requesting coalitions to submit plan amendments no later than April 1, 2021, to accommodate entry into the EFS Mod System. This will allow redeterminations with an eligibility beginning July 1, 2021, to be processed in the system with the correct copayment amount.

An important issue families often face when they transition from being a recipient of School Readiness funds to economic self-sufficiency is the adjustment of having to pay the full cost of child care. The Office strives to support families in moving toward economic self-sufficiency and supports coalitions' efforts to help families gradually increase their proportional share of their children's child care costs in order to ensure a smooth transition from services for these families.

The Child Care Development Block Grant of 2014 (658E(c)(5)) requires the sliding fee scale that provides for cost sharing is not a barrier to families receiving assistance. Coalitions are encouraged to analyze their parent co-payments in order to make informed decisions in implementing their new sliding fee scales based on the 2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) and State Median Income (SMI). Implementing a graduated sliding fee scale could help better prepare families as they move toward economic self-sufficiency.

Attached to this memo are the Plan Amendment Justification of Co-Payments Above 10 Percent of Gross Family Income, Parent Sliding Fee Schedule template, and the updated FPG Program Guidance. The attached documents are also located on OEL's policy webpage under Guidance & Technical Assistance.

Please direct any questions regarding this memo or coalition sliding fee schedules to [Katerina.Maroney@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:Katerina.Maroney@oel.myflorida.com) or 850-717-8614.

KKM

Attachments (3)

**SHAN GOFF**

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