


Working Together to Create Conditions for Success



Saralyn Grass

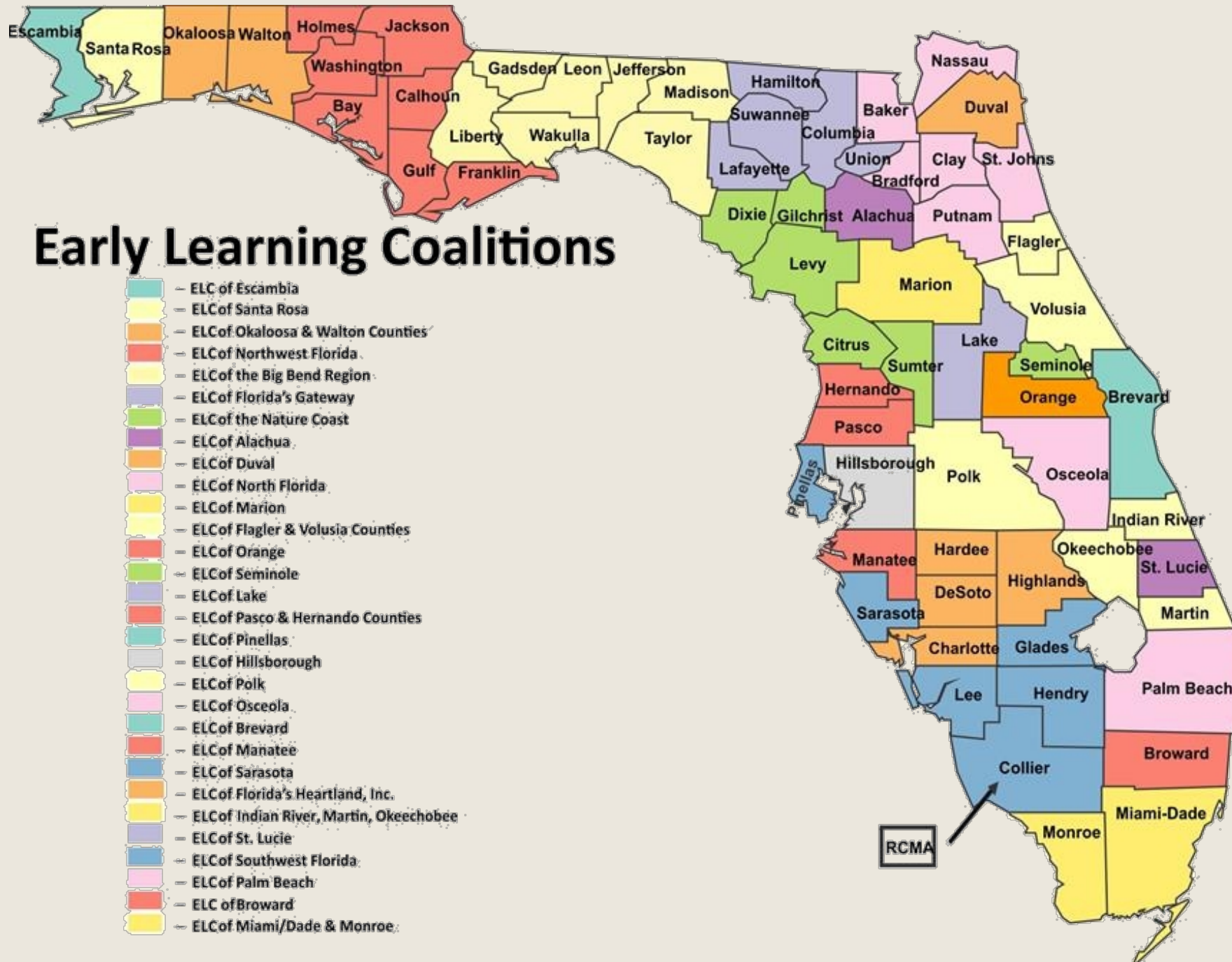
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Access

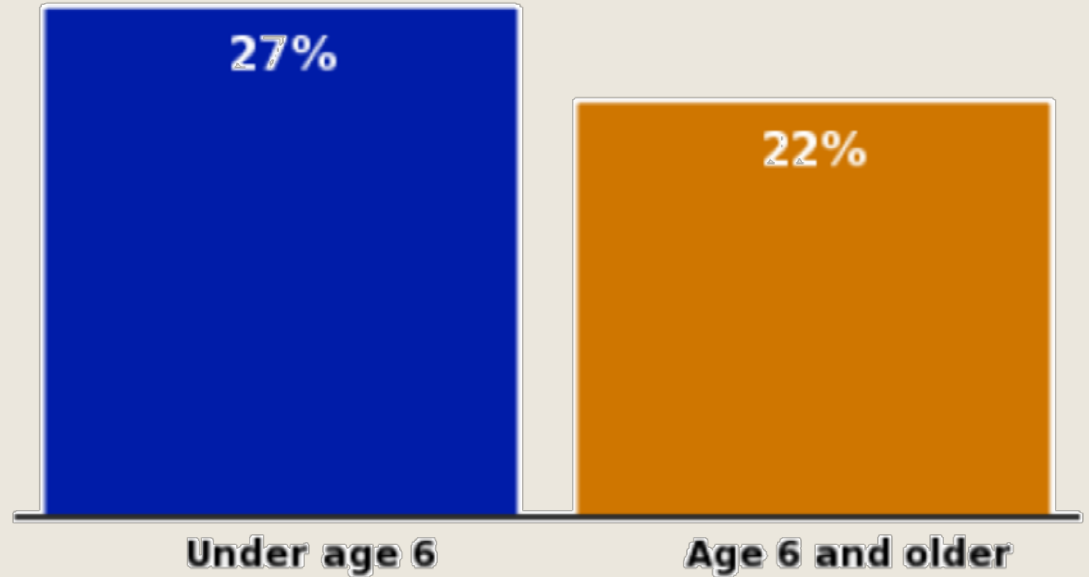
- Nearly 2/3 of mothers with children under 6 are working.
- Mainly due to affordability, over 26% of children (the highest category) are cared for by a relative.
- When mothers receive help affording child care, they are more likely to get and keep a job, which enables them to support their families and gain increased financial security.

School Readiness & VPK Programs

- Nearly 7,600 small and large private businesses as well as public schools provide affordable childcare through the School Readiness (SR) program.
- SR serves more than 190,000 children of Florida's families (low-income working families, children at risk, etc.).
- VPK is offered by nearly 6,500 early care providers.
- VPK services are provided to over 165,000 4-year-olds.
- Together, these 2 programs make a \$1 billion industry in FL.

- In 2015, the federal poverty threshold was \$24,036 for a family of four with two children.
- Research suggests that, on average, families need an income of about twice the federal poverty threshold to meet their basic needs.

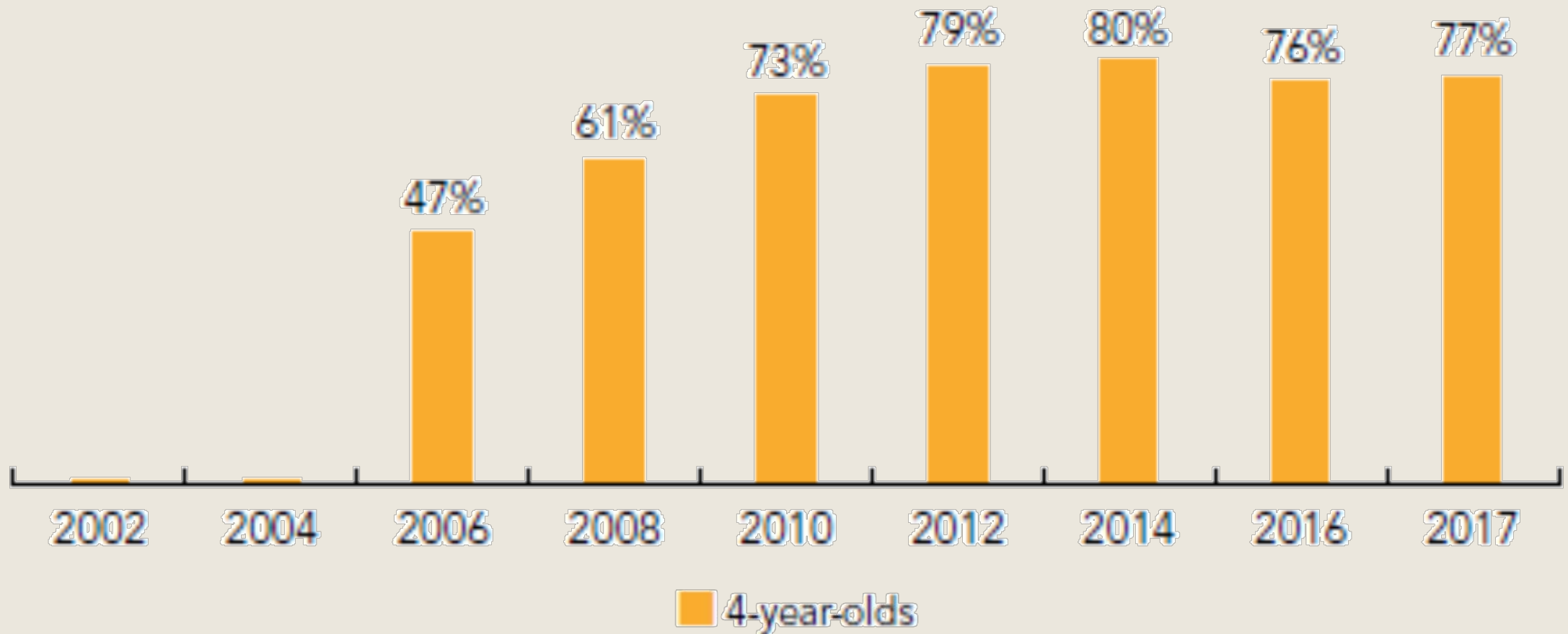
Children in Poor Families in Florida, by Age, 2015



© National Center for Children in Poverty (nccp.org)
Florida Demographic Profiles

- 27% (336,405) of children, under age 6, live in poor families.
- 22% (586,640) of children, age 6 or older, live in poor families

PERCENT OF STATE POPULATION ENROLLED



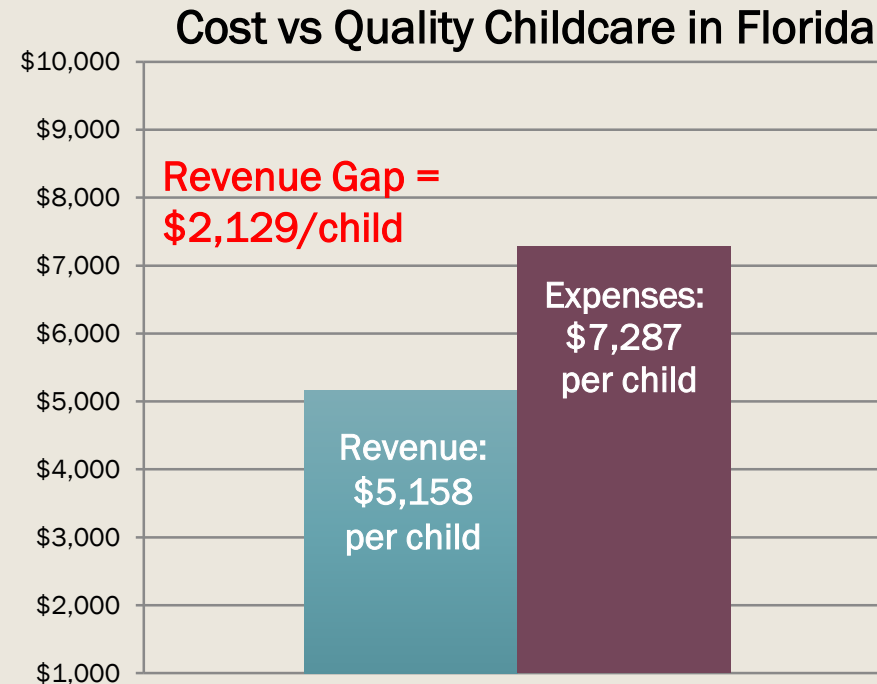
Quality Care

A program where...

- Children feel welcomed, nurtured and engaged.
- Children have the opportunity to learn through exploration and play, with appropriate materials and toys that support their development.
- The interactions between the teachers and the children are active, stimulating and engaging.
- Teachers use assessment information to tailor their teaching and activities to a child's particular needs, and regularly shares the information with the child's family.
- Staff is trained in first aid, and the program implements clear policies around health, safety and sanitation.
- Teachers are well educated in early childhood development and many will have education beyond minimum standards.
- Families feel welcome and encouraged to participate in their child's learning.
- The program establishes and utilizes the resources in its community to further enhance children's learning and program goals.
- The program operates in a safe and well-maintained environment designed to promote safety and learning.
- The program administrator is well educated in early childhood education.

School Readiness: Cost vs. Quality

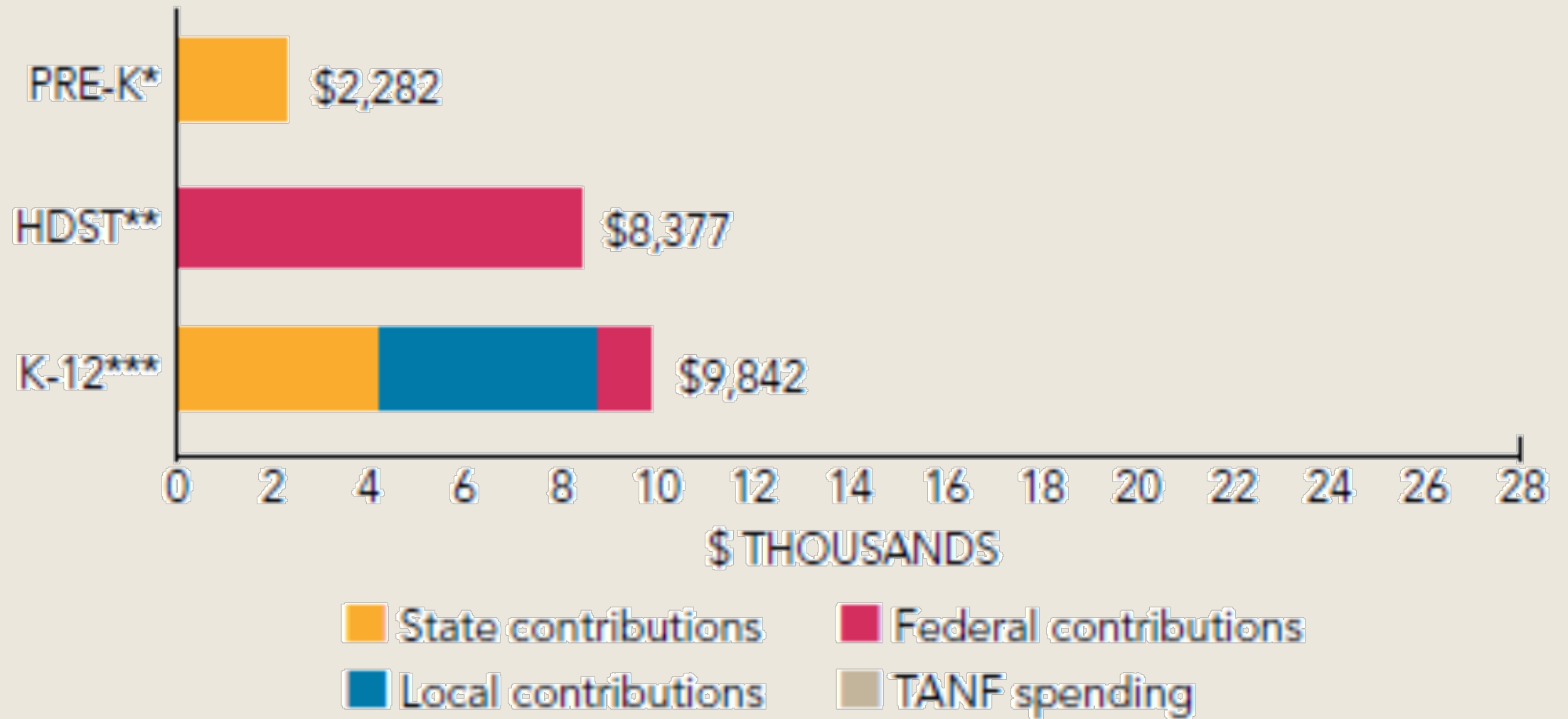
- Many SR programs have been of low quality due to inadequate statewide standards and low provider reimbursement rates.
- Low reimbursement rates mean early learning providers cannot afford to implement quality programs.
- The cost of implementing quality accreditation standards (APPLE/NAEYC) exceeds Gold Seal reimbursement rates by \$2,129/child.
- An additional \$85 million is needed to increase provider reimbursement rates, linked to performance.



STATE SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED (2017 DOLLARS)




SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED



Stress

- Families who know their child is well taken care of perform better at work.
- Stress and “bad behaviors” in children is often caused by stressed adults.



**INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS ARE
DRIVEN BY OLD TRAUMAS,
NEUROLOGICAL LIMITATIONS,
AND THE APPROPRIATE URGE TO
SURVIVE.**

THE CONNECTED CHILD

**EVERY KID IS
ONE CARING
ADULT AWAY
FROM BEING
A SUCCESS
STORY.**

—Josh Shipp

Spread the word.
Educate yourself.
Be kind.

Saralyn Grass

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Connect with us:

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www.FloridaChamber.com/WorkforceSummit