



**Early Learning Coalition  
of Palm Beach County**  
*Ready to Learn. Ready for Life.*

Dear Early Learning Advocates and Community Leaders,

We wanted to take a quick moment to share a few updates with you. Today, we launched a new program offering scholarships for child care for parents working as first responders, emergency personnel, and other essential employees during this response effort. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in sharing this important message.

For the child care centers that remain open to support the response effort, they are in need of operational supplies that have become incredibly hard to find. We are working around the clock to find diapers, wipes, formula, gloves, and cleaning supplies. We are incredibly grateful to Palm Beach County Mayor Dave Kerner for connecting us to the Medical Group of South Florida for hand-sanitizer. If you have a connection or a donor, please send them our way.

Lastly, we are committed to helping our community navigate these uncharted waters. Our family services team has extended hours to help answer the nearly 10,000 calls from Palm Beach County's families. Our provider services team is working tirelessly to help the open schools obtain the supplies they need, while supporting the child care centers who temporarily closed with information related to state reimbursements and small business relief. We have officially moved into the age of technology. We offer mental health webinars to parents, host live Provider Q&A webinars, offer story-time and Facebook live activities to extend early learning opportunities for parents at home with their children. If you have not had a chance to check us out on social media, please take a moment to drop us a line.

We'd like to hear what you are doing too. Please feel free to email me at [warren.eldridge@elcpalmbeach.org](mailto:warren.eldridge@elcpalmbeach.org).

Sincerely,

Warren Eldridge  
Early Learning Coalition of PBC  
[elcpalmbeach.org/coronavirus-main](https://elcpalmbeach.org/coronavirus-main)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF PALM BEACH COUNTY OFFERS CHILD CARE  
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND EMERGENCY PERSONNEL  
FAMILIES**

***Child Care scholarships for those on the front-line of the COVID-19 response effort***

**PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL (April 2, 2020)** –First responders, emergency personnel, and other essential workers in Palm Beach County with child care needs will soon get some relief.

The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County is offering a limited number of child care scholarships for those serving on the front-line of the COVID-19 response effort. Many of these hard-working families and single parents are having a difficult time finding child care because their current provider may have temporarily closed. The Early Learning Coalition is poised to help. Not only can the Coalition quickly connect parents to high-quality child care, but the Coalition now has the ability to provide a scholarship for child care for up to 60 days for these critical employees.

This program would not be possible without the steadfast support of Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor, and the entire Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County organization, along with a generous donation from a private foundation in Palm Beach County.

“Now that the school district is closed until further notice, our first responders and emergency personnel need safe and consistent high-quality child care for their young children and elementary-aged children,” said Warren Eldridge, CEO of the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County. “The last thing they need to worry about right now is finding and paying for child care for their children...it’s the least we could do to help.”

**About ELCPBC Emergency Personnel Child Care Scholarship Program:** If you are a first responder, emergency personnel, or essential worker in Palm Beach County with children aged 6 weeks to 12 years old, please call our family resource line: 561.514.3300 to apply.

**About the Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County:** The Early Learning Coalition of Palm Beach County makes sure that every child is ready to succeed in school and life. We coordinate with community partners to provide parents with information and assistance to select high-quality child-development services, including [Voluntary Prekindergarten](#), [School Readiness](#), and other vital early learning programs. For more information, visit: [elcpalmbeach.org](#)

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