

Press Release



Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc.

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For Immediate Release:

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Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc. is awarded: A \$1.5 million State of Florida, Department of Education Grant to Develop and Manage a Community Compact in Pinellas County.

Pinellas Park, FL (January 4, 2012): Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc. (CCC) a private not-for-profit 501(c) 3 corporation with over 40 years of rich history of facilitating access to high quality early childhood and school age education and care; Out of School Time programs; and family, provider and community support services, today announced the receipt of a State of Florida, Department of Education (FDOE) Grant to Develop and Manage a Community Compact Program. CCC was one of only four agencies awarded a Community Compact grant in Florida. This award will bring up to \$1.5 million of funding into Pinellas County over the next 2.6 years. The general purpose is to promote and increase partnerships between local education agencies, schools, families, businesses and communities.

The FDOE was awarded a US Department of Education Race to the Top Grant to competitively bid out to interested Community Based Organizations to develop and manage multi-institutional community compacts. These partnerships must provide direct support and training to parents and additional support systems and workforce networking opportunities for all students served by the Community Compact. Specifically, these partnerships must enhance family literacy programs, expand or implement parent academies that develop parent leaders at the school site, and engage businesses and the community to increase volunteers, mentors, internships, and shadowing for students enrolled in addition to, promoting a sense of urgency, activism, knowledge, and support in schools and communities where children are attending lowest-achieving high schools and K-8 feeder schools. CCC is very pleased to be selected through such a competitive process to bring one of these grants to Pinellas County.

The Community Compact Program will provide services to students, families, and communities associated with two (2) low-performing high schools in Pinellas County. These schools, located in Gulfport and St. Petersburg, are Boca Ciega High School and Gibbs High School. The award of the Community Compact was made possible as a result of support through existing partnerships and funded programs at feeder middle and elementary schools, including: the **Juvenile Welfare Board Children's Services Council of Pinellas County's**, Out of School Time

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and Low Income Employed Families programs, the FDOE 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant programs and multiple community preschool and school-age funded programs.

The initial Community Compact partners will include the Pinellas County School District, the Juvenile Welfare Board Children’s Services Council of Pinellas County (JWB); the South County Community Council; WorkNet Pinellas; and the United Way of Tampa Bay. Additional partners, (local businesses, governmental agencies, educational agencies, faith-based organizations, community organizations, early childhood and school age providers and other interested groups) will be actively recruited to participate in the Community Compact.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our community to be able to develop and implement a Community Compact Program that will integrate and enhance existing services for students in schools and programs that feed into the target high schools,” states Paul Runyon, CCC Director of Operations. “This is a chance for us to collaboratively build a community model from cradle-to-college that other communities in Pinellas and the State could replicate. It is especially gratifying that our combined resources will significantly increase Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education and enrichment services as well as strengthen strong parent engagement programs that have proven to make a difference in school and life success.”

Businesses, agencies and organizations interested in getting involved in the Community Compact program can contact Sharon Carie at (727) 547-5781 or scarie@ChildCarePinellas.org

About Coordinated Child Care of Pinellas, Inc. (CCC)

CCC facilitates the availability of affordable, accessible, high quality early education and care and related school age programs by acting as a primary resource in Pinellas County for children, families, providers, and employers. Visit CCC website at www.ChildCarePinellas.org