



1130 N Eglin Pkwy
Shalimar, FL 32579
850.833.3627
www.elc-ec.org

Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast Receives \$45,000 United for ALICE Grant to Support Local Families

SHALIMAR, FL — The Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast (ELC–EC) is proud to announce it has received a \$45,000 United for ALICE grant from United Way Emerald Coast in partnership with CHELCO, supporting the Coalition’s continued efforts to serve children and families throughout Okaloosa and Walton counties.

ALICE, which stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, represents individuals and families who are working but may still struggle to afford basic household necessities. For families with young children, access to affordable, high-quality child care and early learning opportunities can play an important role in both a child’s development and a family’s ability to remain in the workforce.

This funding will help the ELC–EC continue its work supporting families while also strengthening the resources available to the early childhood system, furthering the Coalition’s mission to support children, families and early learning providers across the community.

“We are incredibly grateful to United Way Emerald Coast and CHELCO for investing in the children and families of our community,” said Dana Hodges, CEO of the Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast. “For many working families, the cost of child care can have a significant impact on their household budget. Partnerships like this allow us to continue connecting families with the resources and support they need while helping give children a strong foundation for future success.”

The grant represents a shared commitment among ELC–EC, United Way Emerald Coast and CHELCO to strengthen local families and create opportunities for children to thrive. ELC–EC works throughout Okaloosa and Walton counties to connect families with early learning opportunities and resources, including Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK), School Readiness and child care resources and referral services. Through partnerships with early learning providers, community organizations and local supporters, the Coalition works to ensure families have access to resources that support their children’s development and future success.

To learn more about the Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast and the resources available to local families, visit www.elc-ec.org or call 850-833-3627 ext. 0.

About the Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast

The Early Learning Coalition of the Emerald Coast serves children, families and early learning providers throughout Okaloosa and Walton counties. The Coalition works to support access to high-quality early learning opportunities, connect families with resources and strengthen the early childhood education system throughout the communities it serves.

Media Contact:

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