

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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## **Women's Resource Center's Webinar Highlights Preschool Education Jobs**

**August 25**

*Panelists include representatives from the Early Learning Coalition, Children First, The Sky Family Y, and State College of Florida.*

(Sarasota-Manatee; August 10, 2021) Workforce shortages in the early education sector are creating a ripple effect as childcare providers cannot fill open positions and working parents cannot find facilities with available spots for their young children. The Women's Resource Center (WRC) hopes to help close some of these gaps by providing an online information session, August 25, noon-1 p.m., about free training programs and career opportunities in the early childhood education sector. The webinar is part of WRC's monthly Career Connections webinar series, which links women to quality jobs and funded training programs.

Panelists include representatives from the Early Learning Coalition (ELC), Children First, the Sky Family YMCA, and State College of Florida (SCF). Participants will learn how to enroll in a free "Introduction to Child Care" 45-hour training program with the ELC, as well as receive information about scholarship opportunities available at SCF for its A.S. and B.S. degrees in Early Childhood Education and stackable childcare certificates.

Participants can attend by phone or computer and will be able to ask questions via a chatbox. Those interested can register at [www.mywrc.org/earlyeducation](http://www.mywrc.org/earlyeducation) or call (941) 256-9721 for more information.

Many job openings are available to start working immediately in this high-demand field, serving children from infants to Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK), which Florida offers free to all 4-year-olds. No experience or credential is necessary for some positions.

“While many local sectors are currently experiencing severe labor shortages, a lack of childcare workers impacts a parent’s ability to work in any field, thereby exacerbating the problem across the region,” explains Lori Gentile, WRC’s Director of Client Services. “Quality Pre-K and childcare providers with trained staff are essential elements of our regional economy and directly impact our labor participation rates.”

To learn more about this Career Connections information session or other services available at WRC, please call 941-256-9721 or visit [mywrc.org](http://mywrc.org).

### **About the Women’s Resource Center:**

For more than 37 years, the Women’s Resource Center has been dedicated to engaging, educating, enriching, and empowering women of all generations and socioeconomic levels. Today, WRC serves thousands of women and families in Manatee and Sarasota counties. Its vision is to provide unique strategies and programs that strengthen women through life’s transitions and provide balance, confidence, and determination, which meet their immediate needs and provide hope for the future. To learn more, visit [www.MyWRC.org](http://www.MyWRC.org).