



2009-2010 Annual Report





Mission Statement

The mission of the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. is to prepare children in our counties to enter and succeed in school.

Data Summary

The following information is based on data collected from July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010.



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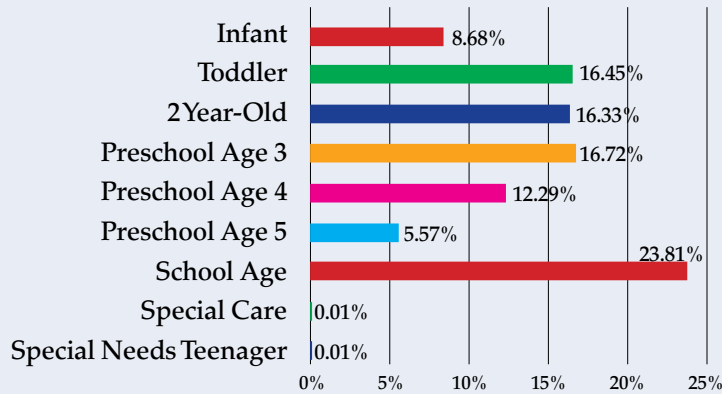
School Readiness

Number of unduplicated School Readiness (SR) children and families:

School Readiness Children	8,283
School Readiness Families	4,647

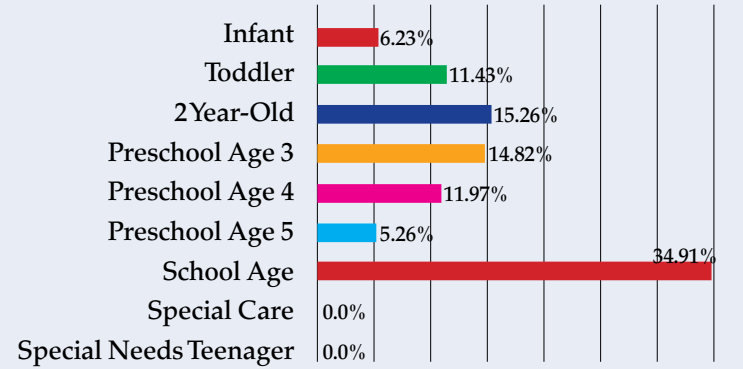
Pasco County

School Readiness - Pasco County: Percentage of total payments (including match) by care level

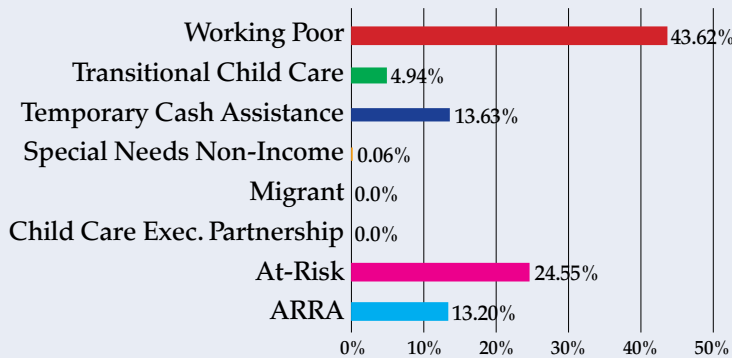


Hernando County

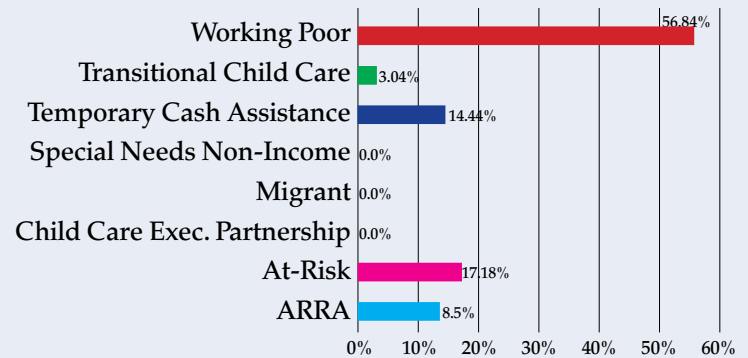
School Readiness - Hernando County: Percentage of total payments (including match) by care level



School Readiness - Pasco County: Percentage of total payments (including match) by funding category



School Readiness - Hernando County: Percentage of total payments (including match) by funding category

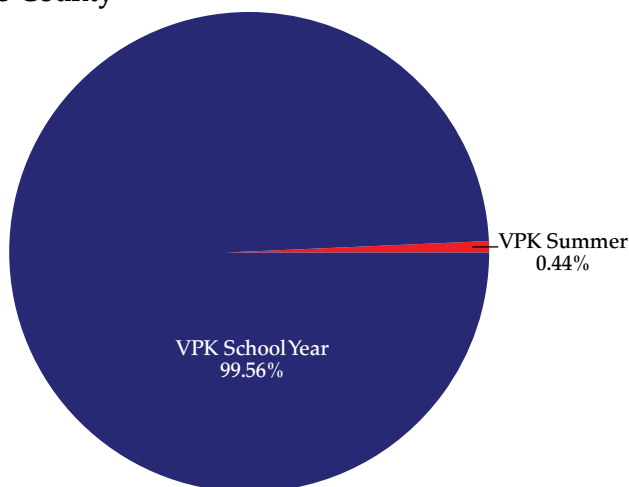


Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

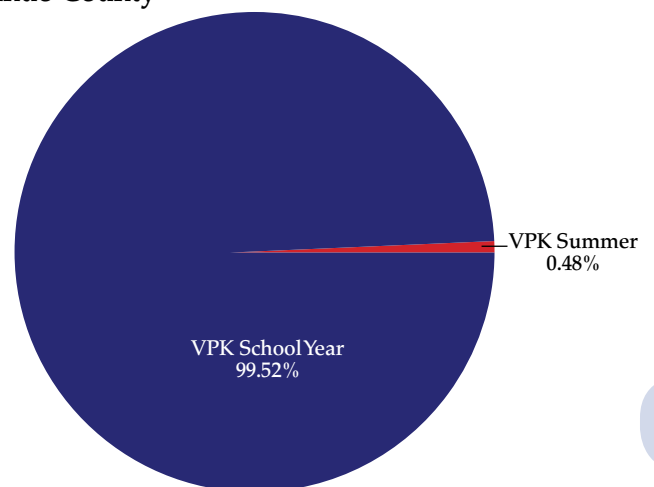
Number of unduplicated Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) children and families:

VPK Children	5,069
VPK Families	4,935

Total percentage of VPK payments by program type in Pasco County



Total percentage of VPK payments by program type in Hernando County



Pasco-Hernando Counties: Providers by Type

Pasco County

Total number of Pasco County providers that participate in the Coalition's early learning programs:

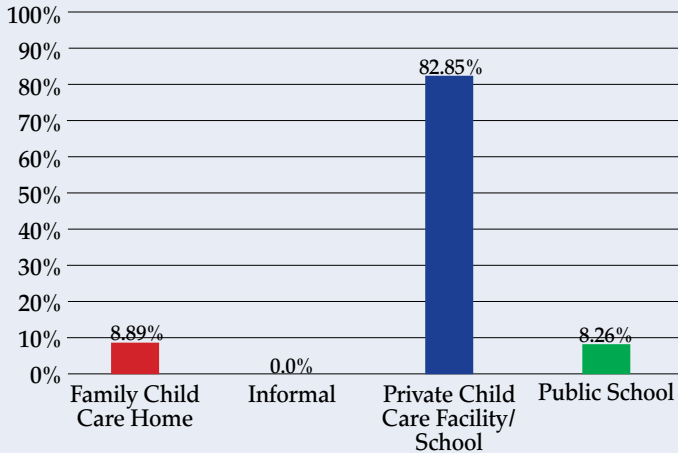
School Readiness Providers	265
VPK Providers	130

Hernando County

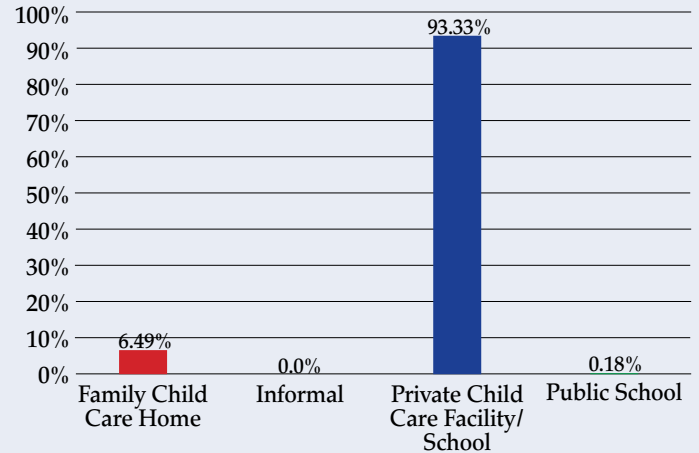
Total number of Hernando County providers that participate in the Coalition's early learning programs:

School Readiness Providers	108
VPK Providers	45

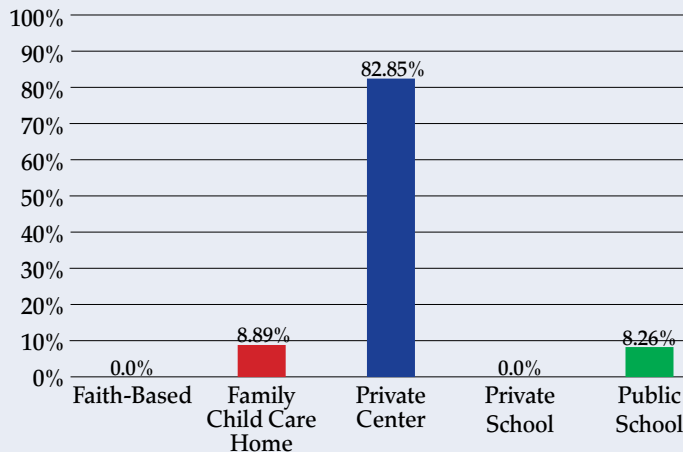
Participating Pasco County School Readiness providers by provider type:



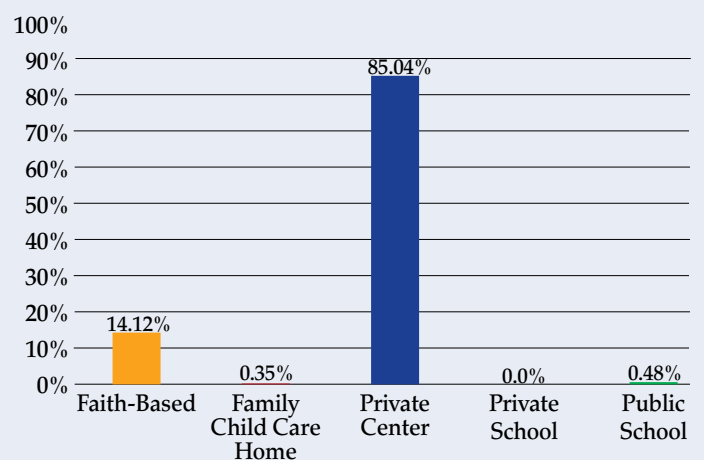
Participating Hernando County School Readiness providers by provider type:



Participating Pasco County VPK providers by provider type:



Participating Hernando County VPK providers by provider type:



Service Delivery Summary

Families are able to apply for VPK and School Readiness services through the "single point of entry" online system in Pasco and Hernando Counties. If a family is identified as being eligible to receive subsidized child care, they are placed on a Unified Waiting List according to Coalition priority. Families are contacted and offered subsidized child care based on eligibility and availability of funding.

Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) is a part of the statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network, funded by the Agency for Workforce Innovation/Office

of Early Learning. This is a free service to help parents, regardless of income, in locating quality child care services close to home or work. CCR&R also assists potential providers with information they need to become a provider.

Through the CCR&R database, families are given a full range of options for their child care selection. Informational packets are given to families along with a list of providers that meet their needs. Informational packets are customized for the type of family requesting care (i.e., single father raising children, grandparents raising grandchildren, etc.).

Quality Activity Summary

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Narrative</i>
<i>What opportunities are offered by the Coalition for comprehensive consumer education?</i>	<p>The Coalition conducts needs assessments with clients requesting services such as help with utilities, parenting, healthcare, etc.</p> <p>Resource lists of community agencies are available for clients in both counties we serve.</p> <p>Literature is displayed at all four locations for the purpose of consumer education.</p>
<i>Provide a list of grants or loans to providers to assist in meeting State and local standards.</i>	<p>The Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. recognizes the importance of high quality early learning environments. The Coalition has allocated funds and developed five special Quality Incentive Programs for childcare providers. Funding is offered in the areas of Accreditation, Curriculum Assistance, Provider Support, Recruitment and Expansion, and Professional Development and Scholarships for Training.</p>
<i>Describe the process for monitoring compliance with licensing and regulatory requirements.</i>	<p>All School Readiness providers must comply with state and federal statutes, rules and regulations, Coalition policies and procedures, and terms and conditions of the School Readiness Provider Payment Agreement, as applicable.</p> <p>Providers interested in becoming a School Readiness provider must first have a School Readiness Provider Assessment conducted and receive a score of 80% or higher.</p>
<i>Provide a list of available professional development opportunities that the coalition offers, including training, education, and technical assistance.</i>	<p>Trainings and education are offered on a continual basis throughout the year. Educational opportunities are offered in a variety of subject areas. Some of these include developmentally appropriate practices, curriculum, room arrangement, lesson plans, inclusion, physical movement, healthy eating, and parenting.</p> <p>Technical Assistance is provided to any School Readiness provider who falls below the minimum standard of 80%. Technical Assistance is available to a provider in the area of Training (Staff/Child Interaction, Role Modeling, Developmentally Appropriate Activities, and Transitions) and Curriculum (Coalition approved Curricula, Lesson Plans, and Schedules).</p>
<i>Describe initiatives by the coalition to improve salaries and other compensation for child care providers.</i>	<p>The Coalition advocates for providers at every opportunity including but not limited to legislative town hall meetings, county council/commission meetings, Association of Early Learning Coalitions, Early Learning Advisory Council, etc.</p>
<i>Describe activities to support a Quality Rating System.</i>	<p>The Coalition has two (2) Mobile Outreach Vans which serve as mobile libraries filled with books, toys, and teacher resources for promoting early literacy in young children. The vans visit over 300 child care providers in Pasco and Hernando Counties to provide classroom resources. This free service gives early educators the opportunity to check out materials to encourage children to learn through play.</p>
<i>Provide information on activities in support of early language, literacy, pre-reading, and early math concepts development.</i>	<p>Florida Three Year Old Standards and 2008 VPK Standards provide an overview of the Birth to Three and VPK Standards (guidelines that describe skills children should know and be able to do at the end each year) and examples of developmentally appropriate instructional techniques.</p> <p>Mobile Outreach Specialists bring the vans to community events throughout Pasco and Hernando Counties in order to promote VPK and School Readiness services as well as early childhood literacy. Thousands of books were distributed through the Mobile Outreach Vans at community events.</p>
<i>What activities has the coalition implemented to promote inclusive child care?</i>	<p>The Coalition has designated Inclusion/Warm-Line staff responsible for completing Inclusion/Warm-Line activities and reporting requirements. Inclusion/Warm-Line staff participate in conference calls, webinar and regional training, and conferences, as Coalition funds permit. The Coalition maintains a warm-line and informs Early Learning programs of the availability of training and technical assistance with regard to the inclusion of children with disabilities and special health care needs.</p>

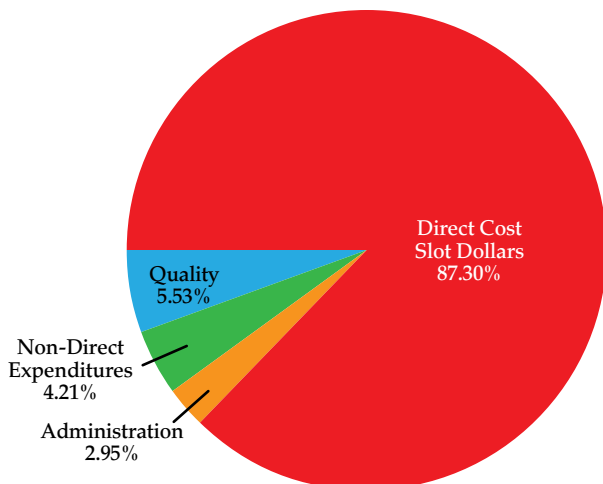
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Quality Activity Summary (cont'd)

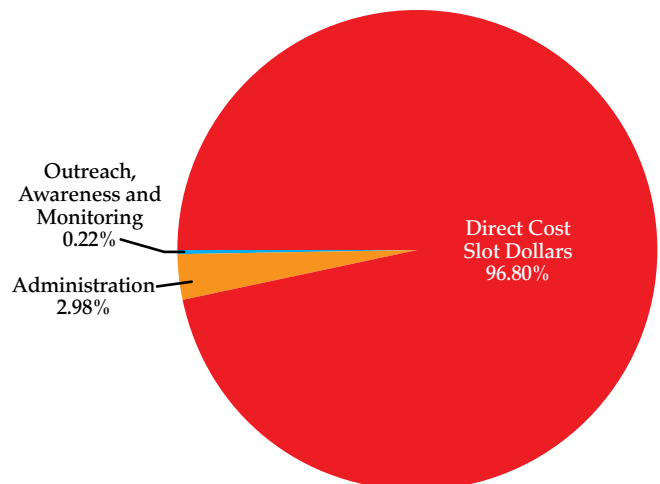
Activity	Narrative
<p><i>How does the coalition conform to Healthy Child Care America and other health activities including those designed to promote the social and emotional development of children?</i></p>	<p>Eat Smart for a Healthy Start is our back to school event with a goal to educate families and provide the tools needed to make healthy nutritional choices.</p> <p>Eating Smart Training Grant is a professional training program designed to empower child care providers to plan, prepare, and serve healthy meals and create a healthy food environment for children in their care. Each of its five modules offer child care providers hands on practice in the kitchen, interactive discussions on ways to make healthy choices about foods served to children, and strategies to promote positive attitudes about food among children.</p> <p>I am Moving, I am Learning is a training geared toward promoting physical activity in young children. Participants learn the importance of facilitating movement with activities for children that can be related to the state standards.</p>
<p><i>Please describe other quality activities that increase parental choice, and improve the quality and availability of child care. (§98.51(a)(1) and (2))</i></p>	<p>CCR&R – The Coalition’s Resource & Referral program offers free information and referral services to all families seeking quality early care and School Readiness programs and out of school time solutions. CCR&R also assists in the recruitment, startup and support of providers and promote quality, availability and affordability of services available within their communities.</p> <p>There are no charges/fees associated with a provider listing in the Child Care Resource & Referral Database or for referrals to the provider’s program. The information reported about a provider’s program is objective program information based on standards that are attainable for providers based on their type of care.</p> <p>Community Outreach Events – The Coalition participated in the World’s Largest Baby Shower, Hernando County’s Week of the Young Child, Parent Institutes, Mom’s Club events, and community parades. The Coalition sponsors and hosts Pasco County’s Week of the Young Child, Back to School Eat Smart events, and an Annual Early Learning Conference for early childhood professionals.</p>

Fiscal Summary

During the 2009-2010 fiscal year the Coalition’s total **School Readiness Program** operating budget was \$15,508,087.91. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



During the 2009-2010 fiscal year the Coalition’s total **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Education Program** operating budget was \$11,865,393.45. Below is a breakout of expenditures by category.



Program Year Summary

Achievements and Outcomes

- *Pasco County*

A total of 5,903 unduplicated School Readiness children were served in Pasco County during the 09/10 year. There were 5,673 unduplicated children served during the 08/09 year. These numbers reflect an increase of 230 children served over the previous year. As of June 30, 2010, there were 234 children ages birth through eight (8) on the waiting list for School Readiness services. A total of 3,779 children were enrolled in the 09/10 school year VPK program, representing an increase of one (1) child over the 08/09 Fall VPK program. A total of 86 children were enrolled in the 09/10 Summer VPK program.

- *Hernando County*

A total of 2,380 unduplicated School Readiness children were served in Hernando County during the 09/10 year, representing an increase of 156 children over 08/09 numbers. There were 55 children ages birth through eight (8) on the waiting list for School Readiness services as of June 30, 2010. A total of 1,248 children were enrolled in the 09/10 school year VPK program, representing an decrease of 59 over the 08/09 School Year VPK program. A total of 39 children were enrolled in the 09/10 Summer VPK program.

School Readiness

The School Readiness program prepares children to enter kindergarten ready to learn and builds a foundation for success in life. The program also helps families become financially self-sufficient by offering child care assistance to income-eligible families. One of the key aspects of the program is to involve parents as their child's first teacher and, in addition, to provide parents with information on child development and other related topics.

Child Care Providers offering School Readiness programs are required to select and utilize one of nine coalition-approved curricula. In addition, School Readiness programs are assessed for quality and are required to meet minimum scoring requirements to continue providing School Readiness services.

In addition to financial assistance, eligible children receive developmental screenings and families receive a family needs assessment. The Early Learning Coalition directs families to other community resources that best meet their needs.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

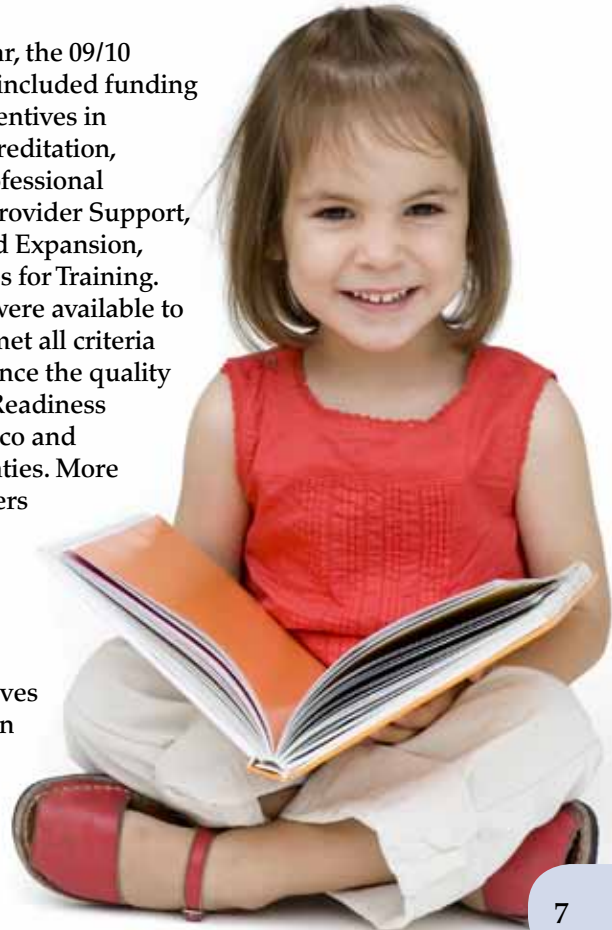
Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Education (VPK) was created to prepare every four-year-old for Kindergarten and continued school success and is free to children who are four years old on or before September 1 of the current school year. The state has done analysis on the VPK program and this analysis has shown that the more time spent in quality VPK programs, the better prepared children are for entering Kindergarten.

Providers are the key to the success of the VPK program. The Coalition consistently offers trainings to our early learning educators to ensure our children receive the best possible start on their future. VPK programs must use a developmentally appropriate curriculum that meets the VPK Education Standards and that has an emphasis on early literacy skills. VPK providers must also maintain qualified instructors in each VPK classroom.

Quality Initiatives

Efforts to improve the quality of services available to young children and their families are a primary focus. The Coalition sets aside a substantial portion of funding to target these areas. The Coalition employs three (3) Inclusion Specialists, an Infant-Child Therapist, two (2) Mobile Outreach Drivers, a Screening Specialist, a Curriculum Specialist, and a Training Specialist.

For a second year, the 09/10 Quality Budget included funding for Provider Incentives in the areas of Accreditation, Curriculum, Professional Development, Provider Support, Recruitment and Expansion, and Scholarships for Training. The Incentives were available to Providers who met all criteria in order to enhance the quality of their School Readiness programs in Pasco and Hernando Counties. More than 120 Providers submitted over 170 applications resulting in approximately \$114,000.00 in Provider Incentives being awarded in 09/10.



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