

# CDFIS: EXPANDING ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

## FCLF PROVIDES FINANCING FOR CHILDCARE RESOURCES OF INDIAN RIVER

NEW FACILITY EXPANDS TO BRING HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING EXPERIENCES TO MORE WORKING FAMILIES.

### Indian River County, FL

CDFI: FLORIDA COMMUNITY LOAN FUND, INC.

Childcare Resources (CCR) provides research-based learning experiences for working, economically challenged families and their young children in Florida’s Indian River County. Over its 30-year history, CCR has become recognized as a center of excellence in the community. With \$12.75 million in financing from Florida Community Loan Fund, CCR purchased an existing building in Vero Beach to serve as its new home and will undertake a complete interior renovation. This relocation and expansion will provide childcare and education for infants through kindergarteners, as well as additional wellness and early intervention services, ongoing formal professional development for educators, and collaborative space – all strengthening CCR’s impact as a model of high-quality educational practice.



"With the backing and help of Florida Community Loan Fund, we will now be able to accelerate progress toward this aspirational vision and establish an Early Childhood Center of Excellence focused on deepening and strengthening our work here in Indian River County and beyond," said Shannon McGuire Bowman, Executive Director of CCR.

## RANGELEY CHILD CARE

INVESTING IN CHILD CARE TO HELP WORKERS STAY IN THE WORKFORCE

### Rangeley, ME

CDFI: COASTAL ENTERPRISES, INC. (CEI)

In Rangeley - and in rural communities across Maine - finding steady, year-round work is a constant challenge. Many parents want full-time jobs with reliable pay and benefits, but the lack of affordable childcare forces them into part-time or seasonal work that doesn’t come close to a living wage.



To help address these gaps, Coastal Enterprises, Inc. launched the Child Care Business Lab, a program that combines free small business training with child care specific coaching and access to flexible financing options. The Child Care Business Lab helps entrepreneurs open financially sustainable, high quality child care programs. Since its founding in 2020, the Child Care Business Lab has supported the creation of 57 new child care businesses across Maine, expanding access for families while enabling over 500 parents to work full time and creating 1,300 new child care slots.

Rangeley Child Care is an example of what this kind of investment makes possible. The center offers free tuition for employees’ children, paid time off, retirement savings, and health coverage—benefits that strengthen the child care workforce and help retain staff. It now supports 15 stable jobs for people with a high school diploma and provides care for 74 children. With reliable childcare, parents are able to take full time positions at hospitality businesses on the nearby mountain and throughout the town.

By addressing a basic but critical barrier to work, this project strengthened families, employers, and the local economy all at once.