



Thursday, October 26, 2023

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

CDEC Office: 710 South Ash Street Denver, CO 80246

Google Hangouts: <https://meet.google.com/xzy-mmob-gqs>

Or by phone: 732-639-1054 PIN: 201 587 780#

Meeting Materials

www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/eclc-meeting-information

AGENDA

Meeting Objectives:

- Determine how ECLC can support UPK in alignment with our Strategic Plan
 - Learn about ways to provide feedback and support the creation of the Statewide Strategic Plan
 - Learn about the current efforts at state agencies and consider opportunities for alignment
 - Understand the decision-making strategy used to examine CDEC's stimulus funding
 - Learn how to provide feedback on the Statewide Comprehensive Workforce Plan
 - Hear about the progress on the Home Visiting Task Force report and determine how the ECLC can support this work
 - Hear comments from the Early Childhood Community
 - Advance the goals of the [ECLC Strategic Plan](#)
-

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 8:30-9:00 | Commissioners Breakfast (coffee and light breakfast provided for Commissioners) |
| 9:00-9:10 | Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome new Commissioner Sam Fogleman, CDHE• ACTION: Approve the August 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes |
| 9:10-9:35 | ECLC Strategic Plan + ECLC's Role in Supporting UPK (ECLC Co-Chairs) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Type of Agenda Item: Commissioner Feedback Needed |
| 9:35-10:05 | Putting Data into Context: Innovation, Investments, and Impact. Evidence-Based Decision-Making at CDEC (Mary Alice Cohen, CDEC, and Whitney LeBoeuf, Courtney Everson, and Kristin Klopfenstein, Colorado Lab) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Type of Agenda Item: Informational• ECLC Function: Advocacy and Accountability• Strategic Plan A3.1 |
| 10:05-10:20 | Statewide Comprehensive Strategic Plan Update and Feedback (Rebecca Klein and Tamilah Richardson, Start Early) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Type of Agenda Item: Commissioner Feedback Needed |

- ECLC Function: Alignment
 - Strategic Plan A1.4
- 10:20-10:30** Break
- 10:30-10:55** State Agency Updates
- Type of Agenda Item: Informational
 - ECLC Function: Alignment
 - Strategic Plan A1.4, A1.5
- 10:55-11:05** Public Comment and Commissioner Updates
- 11:05-11:25** Comprehensive Workforce Plan (Tanya Weinberg, Kacee Miller, and Emily Landes, Early Milestones Colorado)
- Type of Agenda Item: Commissioner Feedback Needed
 - ECLC Function: Alignment
 - Strategic Plan A2.1.1
- 11:25-11:40** Home Visiting Task Force Annual Report (Aaron Miller and Joyce Johnson, CDEC)
- Type of Agenda Item: Informational
 - ECLC Function: Accountability
 - Strategic Plan A1.3
- 11:40-11:55** Universal Preschool Quality Standards (Dawn Odean, CDEC)
- Type of Agenda Item: Commissioner Feedback Needed
 - ECLC Function: Alignment and Accountability
 - Strategic Plan: A1.3.2
- 11:55-12:00** Next Steps and Final Thoughts
- 12:00 pm** Adjourn

ECLC 2023 Meeting Schedule

- February 23, 2023
- April 27, 2023
- June 22, 2023
- August 24, 2023
- October 26, 2023
- December 21, 2023

Note: Any presentation requested by the ECLC does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the product, process, service or organization by the ECLC.

The next ECLC Meeting will be on December 21, 2023 from 9:00am to 12:00 pm.
 For information about future meeting dates, times and locations, visit www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org.



Early Childhood Leadership Commission June 2022, 2023 ~ 9:00am - 12:00pm

MINUTES

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve the June 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Consider methods to advance the goals of the ECLC Strategic Plan
- Vote on the endorsement of the refreshed *Early Childhood Colorado Framework*
- Learn about the Statewide Needs Assessment findings and provide feedback on the Statewide Comprehensive Strategic Plan
- Provide feedback to inform the completion of the Comprehensive Workforce Plan
- Hear updates about the state of Early Childhood Councils and the work of ECCLA
- Learn about the current campaign for Proposition ii and consider ways to support
- Hear comments from the Early Childhood Community

Attendees: Adeeb Khan, Happy Haynes, Floyd Cobb, Glenn Robinson, Heather Craiglow, Jake Williams, Jasmin ramirez, Jeanne McQueeney, Leslie Nichols, Lisa Roy, Lucinda Burns, Maria Tarajano Rodman, Pamela Harris, Sue Renner, Susan Steele, Tamara Hiler.

Welcome and Introductions

Sue Renner called the meeting to order at 9:05. Commissioners introduced themselves. Sue announced that Adeeb Khan has been appointed as a new ECLC co-chair and Tammi Hiler will be stepping down but will remain on the Commission. She then asked for a motion to approve the June 22, 2023 meeting minutes. Lucinda Burns motioned to approve the minutes as drafted, Susan Steele seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Universal Preschool Update

Dawn Odean provided updates on the current status of Universal Preschool. The Department, along with research partners, are working toward the required three year evaluation. The first round of payments were made to providers in August. The process of creating Quality Standards is underway in partnership with the CDEC Policy and Legislation team and Early Milestones. There are efforts to increase data collection and transparency for evaluation and continuous improvement, including verifying enrollment information with providers.

A Commissioner commented that, while we celebrate the successes of UPK, we should also consider the challenges. Challenges include families accessing the application through the portal, whether we are achieving equity, ensuring that the quality standards recognize that school readiness includes social emotional development, and providing education around mixed-delivery. Another Commissioner suggested that Commissioners need additional talking points to share when they are in the community, and another suggested that we need to consider how the Commission can create additional communication channels for community members to better understand what is happening.

ECLC Strategic Plan Updates and Next Steps

Sue Renner provided updates on the ECLC Strategic Plan. She re-shared the 10 Year Strategic Plan and the 2023-2025 Work Plan. The co-chairs are considering how the Subcommittee structure can best support the goals of the Strategic Plan. Commissioners were asked to fill out [a chart](#) to explore what Subcommittee can best support each section of the plans and if additional subcommittees are needed. Sue announced that, based on the work so far, the co-chairs have decided to sunset the Communications Subcommittee based on the strategic plan and recommendations from the Subcommittee chair. Subcommittees are also being asked to review their charters to align with the Strategic Plan.

Early Childhood Colorado Framework Refresh Endorsement

Heather Craiglow, who served as a co-chair for the Framework refresh process, expressed excitement about presenting a final draft of the Framework for endorsement. Nicole Sharpe, School Readiness Consulting, explained the process of creating the refreshed Framework, including working with a steering committee, conducting a literature review, engaging stakeholders, and sharing recommendations and gathering feedback. The process reached over 600 people, and the recommended updates were shared with several partner groups. The resulting refreshed Framework is meant to be a shared vision for early childhood throughout the state and is meant to be a living document with shared accountability. Maria Tarajano Rodman, another co-chair, shared how valuable the process was and how responsive it was to community needs.

Heather Craiglow then shared the newly refreshed Framework and highlighted the changes that have been made. Changes include adding additional definitions and examples so that families can see themselves in and understand the Framework; adding economic development as a domain; changing a domain title to “Whole Person Health and Well-Being”; aligning the principles to the guiding principles adopted by the ECLC; and elevating the workforce to a key component of the early childhood system. Shannon Wilson, ECLC Administrator, explained that next steps include creating a communications toolkit, planning a launch event, and supporting organizations to utilize the Framework.

Heather Craiglow moved to endorse the refreshed Early Childhood Colorado Framework. Maria Tarajano Rodman seconded. Commissioners unanimously approved.

Statewide Needs Assessment and Comprehensive Strategic Plan

Emily Johnson, Colorado Health Institute, presented the initial findings from the Statewide Needs Assessment. She explained the research questions that were used for the needs assessment, the research process, definitions that were used in the assessment, and the select family contexts that were examined. She then listed the findings, which were categorized into availability, quality, sustainability, family engagement, and workforce. They are currently gathering reaction to these findings and will be digging deeper before releasing the final report in the late fall.

Tamilah Richardson, Start Early, explained that they are working to update the comprehensive statewide strategic plan which will respond to the findings of the Needs Assessment and be aligned with the refreshed *Early Childhood Colorado Framework*. The purpose of the update is to respond to the current needs assessment and current context of early childhood in the state and to better integrate equity and ensure that the plan is comprehensive of all aspects of the early childhood system. They are currently examining current early childhood plans and engaging with stakeholders to determine what should be included in the new plan. Next, they will create drafts of the new plan and key performance indicators and then finalize, print, and distribute the new plan. The process will also include re-branding the plan.

Commissioner feedback included ensuring that they examine the financial needs within the early childhood system and including strategies for long term solutions; including strategies toward ensuring that funding exists to cover the cost of quality care; considering funding sustainability; ensuring that the plan brings in partners from other state agencies and organizations; adding strategies focused on transitions; and considering the intended and unintended consequences of strategies for providers.

Public Comment and Commissioner Updates

- Written [State Agency Updates](#) were shared.
- Felicia Mendes, Workforce Development Specialist for Early Childhood Mental Health at CDEC, shared resources promoting Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants including videos that include provider and family voice. The videos can be seen [here](#).

- Mike Keglovits, First Steps, explained that First Steps has programs to support families to save money for their child's college education. Learn more [here](#) or email mkeglovits@collegeinvest.org.
- Angela Ben-Zekry shared that there are two upcoming Compensation and Benefits Task Force focus groups and shared registration links.
- Sue Renner encouraged Commissioners to share their experiences with designing and supporting Universal Preschool with the public. She and Nicole Riehl have recently shared their thoughts with local media.
- Leslie Nichols shared that school districts are well-poised to ensure that families with children with special needs are well-served and encouraged Commissioners to work to ensure that UPK is best serving students in Special Education.

Comprehensive Workforce Plan Update

Angela Rothermel, Early Milestones, explained the current effort to create a comprehensive early childhood workforce plan. She shared the draft explanation of what is meant by the comprehensive early childhood workforce. Kacee Miller then shared the draft outline of the plan: introduction, progress and history, what's included in comprehensive, related plans, frameworks, and efforts; sector specific two-pagers; anchor theme sections; tools; appendix. There will be several "two-pagers" about different roles within the early childhood workforce. The anchor theme sections will be: recruitment and career pathways, retention and wellness, compensation and finance, and system learning and leadership.

Commissioner feedback included possibly adding Head Start, health care, and nursing to the sector-specific two pagers and ensuring alignment with the refreshed *Early Childhood Colorado Framework*.

ECCLA Presentation

Maeghan Lokteff, ECCLA, shared updates from the Early Childhood Council System. She explained that Early Childhood Councils were first formed in the mid-1990s and engage with a wide variety of community partners in their local communities. ECCLA has developed a tool to help Councils measure their impact on targeted outcomes. There is now an Early Childhood Council serving every county in the state. Councils serve various roles according to community need, such as serving as Child Care Resource and Referral Catchments or Local Coordinating Organizations and providing Early Childhood Mental Health Consulting. She shared a document explaining the Core Function of Early Childhood Councils. Recent impacts of Early Childhood Councils include supporting the workforce, enhancing early childhood health and wellbeing, and supporting family resource and program navigation. Councils leverage a variety of funding streams to support their work.

A commissioner asked how the collaboration works between Councils and LCOs and if collaboration is required through statute. Maeghan explained that they work closely together. One challenge is that there is duplication between statutory requirements for Councils and LCOs. It is not statutorily required but there is room to improve collaboration.

Proposition ii Update

Jake Williams, co-chair of the Proposition II issue committee, shared background about Proposition II and explained the efforts to support the ballot measure. Position EE, passed in 2020, is bringing in more revenue than was estimated, and TABOR requires that voters approve the retention of excess revenue. If proposition II does not pass, Colorado will have to refund the excess funds to tobacco distributors. Passing Proposition II will allow the state to retain \$23.65 and use those funds for Universal Preschool. The retained funding will allow the state to provide additional UPK hours for children with qualifying factors. To support the measure, Commissioners and other partners can endorse the measure, share communications materials with networks, and share stories of the impacts of Universal Preschool.

A commissioner asked about current polling, and Jake shared that the polling is positive but also indicates that more education is needed for voters to fully understand the measure.

Co-Chairs' Next Steps and Final Thoughts

Adeeb thanked everyone for attending and participating. The next meeting will be hybrid on October 26, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 pm.

Note: Any presentation requested by the ECLC does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the product, process, service, or organization by the ECLC.

DRAFT

Thank you for joining! We will begin shortly.

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

October 26, 2023

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

CDEC Office and Google Meet

In-Person WiFi: publicwifi

- Please remember to mute your computer or phone when not speaking ●
 - We will be recording and transcribing the meeting ●
- All materials can be found at: www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/eclc-meeting-information ●

Meeting Logistics

In-person attendees

- If logged into Google, mute yourself and your computer
- The OWL will track your voice
- Be prepared to access digital documents throughout the meeting
- Try to limit side conversations or talking at the same time as someone else

Virtual attendees

- Keep microphone muted until speaking
- Turn camera on when speaking (you are welcome to leave camera on the full time)
- For questions or comments
 - Use the hand raise feature
 - Unmute
 - Type in chat



Welcome, Introductions & Approve Minutes

Meeting Objectives

- Determine how ECLC can support UPK in alignment with our Strategic Plan
- Learn about ways to provide feedback and support the creation of the Statewide Strategic Plan
- Learn about the current efforts at state agencies and consider opportunities for alignment
- Understand the decision-making strategy used to examine CDEC's stimulus funding
- Learn how to provide feedback on the Statewide Comprehensive Workforce Plan
- Hear about the progress on the Home Visiting Task Force report and determine how the ECLC can support this work
- Hear comments from the Early Childhood Community
- Advance the goals of the ECLC Strategic Plan



ECLC Strategic Plan Updates + ECLC's Support for UPK

10-Year Strategic Plan

Vision: All children are valued, healthy and thriving

Guiding Principles & Functions

From its unique position as the federally authorized state advisory council on early childhood....




Strategies


...the ECLC focuses its time, energy, and resources to influence systems and policy advancements.....


- Center family experience, satisfaction, and need, ensuring responsive and accessible service delivery
 - Create a public forum to examine challenges and barriers to an equitable, comprehensive early childhood system and identify creative solutions
 - Request data needed from public and private partners to inform strategic policy recommendations
 - Develop and promote innovative policy change to strengthen Colorado's statewide mixed delivery system, increasing access to affordable, quality care
 - Monitor and provide feedback on state agency strategic plans and priorities to promote alignment, mutual reinforcement, and interagency partnerships
-
- Develop policy strategies for stronger recruitment and retention, increasing workforce diversity across all leadership levels
 - Champion strategies to enhance early childhood workforce compensation across public and private settings
 - Advocate for the public and private funding needed to fully implement Colorado's Comprehensive Early Childhood Workforce Plan
 - Regularly review workforce data to advise on new opportunities and any course corrections
-
- Advocate for and monitor progress on a multi-agency integrated early childhood data system
 - Inform and support the use of a data-driven evaluation and learning approach so state initiatives are designed with accountability measures and a plan to evaluate impact
 - Promote collaborative, interagency, multi-year fiscal planning for early childhood
 - Set the direction for fiscal policies and decisions that prioritize children and families across public and private systems

Results

...so that Colorado achieves its vision for early childhood.

- 

Colorado is successful in administering a system of comprehensive early childhood care, education, and supports so that *all families can easily identify, navigate and access services for their children.*
- 

Colorado recruits, retains, and equitably compensates a diverse and qualified early childhood workforce that *provides quality care, education, and supports to children and their families.*
- 

Colorado's early childhood system has the data needed to make evidence-based decisions and the funding resources to put best practices and plans into place, so *all communities have what is needed to best support children and families.*

Levers of Change: The ECLC aims to increase access to data, enhance financing, and inform policies by utilizing a variety of public and private resources, such as:

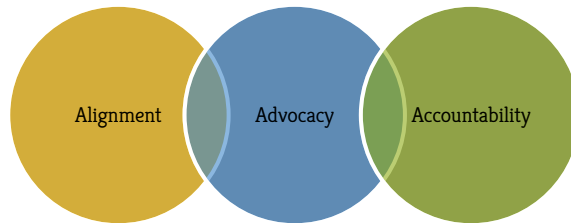
- Family, provider, and community voice
- Federal, state and local public investments
- State agency plans, goals and budgets
- National best practices
- State early childhood plans and roadmaps
- Private investments
- Service and program data
- Workforce data

Strategic Plan Updates

- Updating Subcommittee Charters and creating work plans aligned with strategic plan- to be finalized in December
- Considering how the subcommittee structure can best meet the goals of the plan - discussion in progress
- Adding connections to the strategic plan to meeting agendas
- Asking presenters to share connections to the plan when presenting
- Creating a document to describe the Responsibilities and Expectations of Commissioners
- Holding Executive Subcommittee meetings to align work

ECLC and Universal Preschool

- **S1.1-** Center family experience, satisfaction, and need, ensuring responsive and accessible service delivery
- **S1.2-** Create a public forum to examine challenges and barriers to an equitable, comprehensive early childhood system and identify creative solutions
- **S1.3-** Request data needed from public and private partners to inform strategic policy recommendations
- **S1.4-** Develop and promote innovative policy change to strengthen Colorado's statewide mixed delivery system, increasing access to affordable and quality care
- **A1.3.2-** By spring 2024, provide guidance and recommendations to inform the universal preschool quality standards development
- **A3.2-** By Spring 2024, make recommendations and support the implementation of a comprehensive universal preschool evaluation system to ensure legislative intent for an equitable statewide mixed delivery system that results in positive outcomes for children and families





Putting Data into Context: Innovation, Investments, and Impact. Evidence-Based Decision-Making at CDEC

Mary Alice Cohen, CDEC, and Whitney LeBoeuf, Courtney Everson, and Kristin Klopfenstein, Colorado Lab

Putting Data into Context: Innovation, Investments, Impact

Evidence-Based Decision-Making at CDEC

October 26, 2023

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Mary Alice Cohen, CDEC

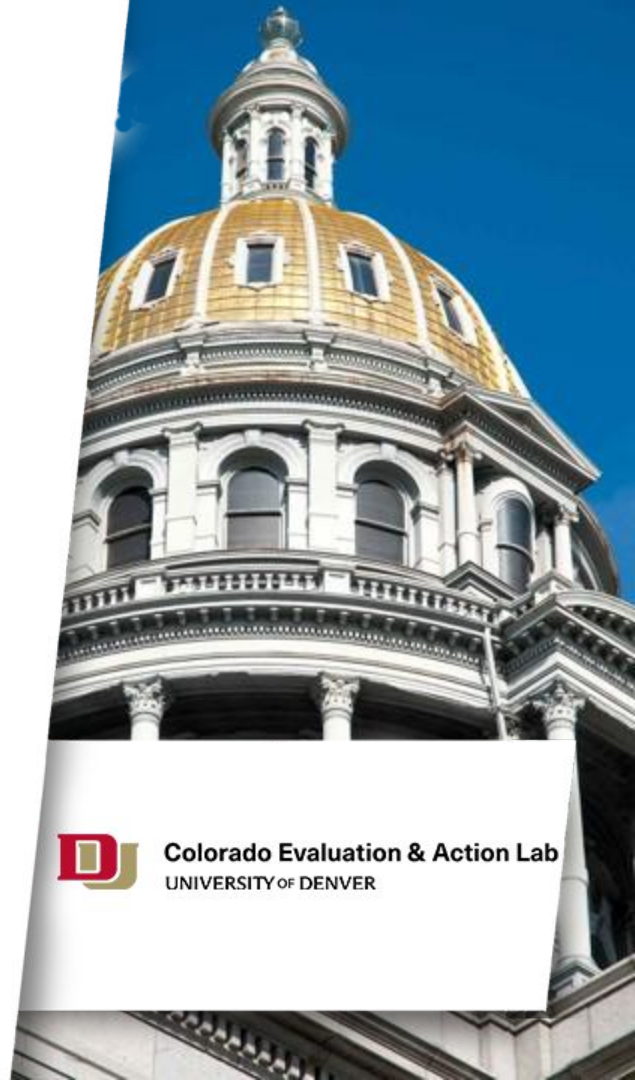
Courtney Everson, PhD

Kristin Klopfenstein, PhD

Whitney LeBoeuf, PhD



Colorado Evaluation & Action Lab
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



What to Expect Today

Goal: to share how CDEC has adopted an evidence-based decision-making approach to drive innovation, investments, and impact

To achieve:

1. The need for a sustainability framework
 - a. Role of an Early Childhood Evaluation Hub
2. The Evidence-Based Decision-Making Approach
 - a. Evidence Portfolio Process
 - b. Evidence Briefs
3. Wrap-up and Discussion



Colorado Evaluation & Action Lab
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER





Colorado Evaluation & Action Lab
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

The Need for a Sustainability Framework

The Need

The Challenge: stimulus funds have touched nearly all divisions within CDEC, but they are time-limited funds without renewal and without extension beyond federal fiscal year 2024.

The Opportunity: CDEC is committed to developing and activating a sustainability approach that can guide the agency in determining which initiatives should be sustained, and how.



Planning for Sustainability

- Approach co-developed with the Colorado Lab through its role as the Early Childhood Evaluation Hub
- Leverages Colorado's Evidence-Based Decision-Making framework
- Keeps CDEC Values and Goals at the center

Values

- Equity
- Family & Community Focused
- Excellence
- Innovation
- Strengths-based

Foundational Goals

- Build a Sustainable Early Childhood System
- Use Resources in Ways that Maximize Impact
- Use Data to Inform Decisions and Drive Action

Early Childhood Evaluation Hub

- **Coordinate & oversee stimulus evaluation activities**
 - Recommend priority evaluations of stimulus-funded activities
 - Identify and contract with expert evaluation teams
 - Proactively coordinate evaluation design & planning
 - Bear administrative burden of evaluation work
 - Obtain & translate findings to actionable insights
- **Serve as expert advisors on evidence-building strategic visioning**
 - Evidence-based decision making consultation
 - UPK evaluation planning



Colorado Evaluation & Action Lab
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Evidence-Based Decision-Making

Evidence-Based Decision-Making (EBDM)



Core Principles

- The better the evidence, the more confident we are in our decisions
- Research evidence alone is never sufficient to make decisions

EBDM is not the same as “evidence-based practice”

Activating this Vision at CDEC: Concrete Ways

1. **Evidence Portfolio Process** to inform CDEC sustainability decision-making: internal to agency to support critical decisions
2. **Evidence Briefs** to move learnings from Hub evaluation partners into actionable insights. Opportunity to activate learning with partners (you all!)



Colorado Evaluation & Action Lab
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

The Evidence Portfolio Process

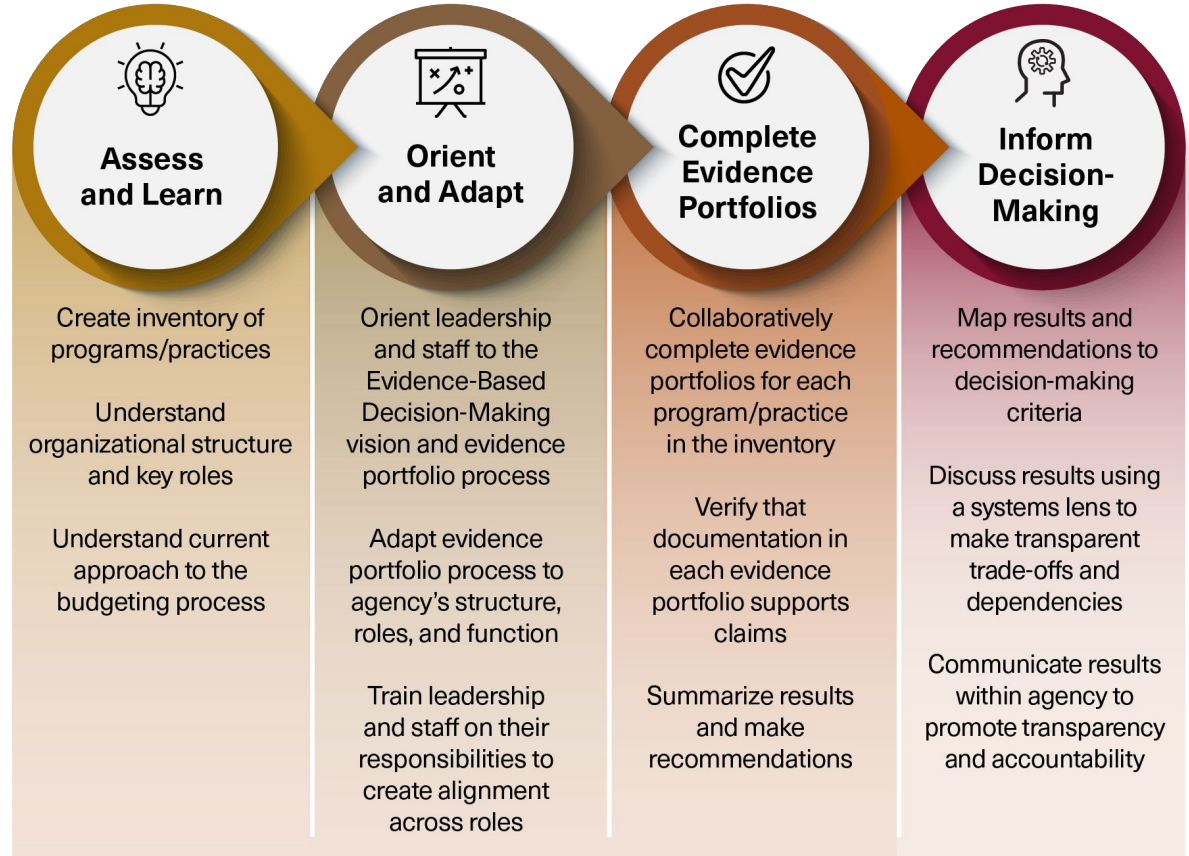
Partnering with CDEC to Develop Evidence Portfolios

Anchored in the following principles:

- ***Evidence-based decision-making (EBDM)***: the approach will align with [Colorado's vision for EBDM](#) to provide a holistic approach to decision making (rather than shark tank style). Especially important for innovative activities.
- ***Proactive***: the approach will help CDEC take a proactive approach to innovating, sustaining, and scaling stimulus-funded activities.
- ***Learning Mindset***: the approach will inform CDEC as a learning organization—important to avoid compliance exercises—and create value for budgeting *and* other purposes.
- ***Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Integration***: the approach will embed EDI considerations into the process and make transparent how the decision may affect different communities.


The Evidence Portfolio Process

Evidence portfolios are created for each stimulus activity to facilitate conversations about trade-offs within and across divisions



Making it Concrete: Evidence Portfolios

EBDM Domain: Best Available Research Evidence

Criteria	1 (Not at all present)	2 (Low presence)	3 (Somewhat present)	4 (Strongly present)	Documentation
Systems are in place for routinely collecting data on outputs and, ideally, outcomes <i>EDI Consideration:</i> do data systems facilitate exploration of disproportionality and disparity?					
Processes are in place to leverage routinely-collected and other data to inform program improvement and learning					
Has initial reach/access output evidence and is reaching target populations					
Has initial evidence that shows promise of outcomes for the target populations					
Has a viable evidence-building plan <i>EDI Consideration:</i> does the evidence-building plan pay attention to understandings of equitable reach, access, and impact?					

Making it Concrete: Evidence Portfolios

EBDM Domain: Family Needs and Implementation Context

Criteria	1 (Not at all present)	2 (Low presence)	3 (Somewhat present)	4 (Strongly present)	Documentation
Staff have the skills, resources, and desire to continue implementing the activity					
Is aligned with family needs and community-identified priorities <i>EDI Consideration:</i> have priorities of underserved communities and those experiencing disparities been included?					
Is aligned with the Governor's priorities					
CDEC is uniquely situated to have ownership of this activity (i.e., another agency / organization could not absorb this)					
Has champions outside of CDEC who strongly support the activity					

Making it Concrete: Evidence Portfolios

EBDM Domain: Professional Expertise

Criteria	1 (Not at all present)	2 (Low presence)	3 (Somewhat present)	4 (Strongly present)	Documentation
No major challenges exist that could get in the way of sustaining (and, if applicable, scaling) the activity OR there is a clear, viable plan in place to address those challenges					
Opportunities / facilitators are present that could help with viability of sustaining (and, if applicable, scaling)					
Has strong organizational systems already in place to support continued delivery (and, if applicable, scaling)					
Activity uniquely contributes to CDEC strategic outcomes (versus, there are other efforts in the state that may be better positioned to achieve the intended outcomes)					
Fills a specialized purpose (e.g., targeted approach to address an identified disparity, level-up resourcing to an underserved community, act as a complementary effort) necessary for CDEC to achieve organizational goals					

Taking a Systems View: Understanding Trade-offs and Dependencies

Based on the evidence portfolios, is there a good **rationale** for continuing funding?

- If yes, should funding level be maintained, increased, or decreased?
- If yes, what funding sources are best positioned to continue the activity?

Systemic Considerations that a systems view can highlight:

- **Scale:** is there a balance of activities with different levels of maturity and scale in Colorado?
- **Equitable Reach:** is there a balance of programs targeted at both the general population as well as historically underserved/under-resourced communities or those experiencing social/health disparities?
- **Budget:** is there a balance of activities with different amounts of funding?
- **Evidence Base:** is there a balance of activities along the Steps to Building Evidence?
- **Strategic Goals:** is there a balance of activities across CDEC strategic goals?

Learnings To-Date

- Creates a reflective pause: what needs to be revisited? what needs some TLC? what is promising?
- Enables a systems view: what are the ripple effects? what are the trade-offs? where is the balance?
- Promotes consistency and sustainability across units/activities: how can we efficiently meet multiple use cases/needs that require data?
- Messaging and onboarding matters: the process needs to be clear and transparent across all staff levels
- Checks and balances are critical: collaboration among SMEs, neutral parties, skeptics essential
- Give it the time it needs and deserves: rushing can undo or lessen potential benefits
- **Close the loop and celebrate:** transparency in decisions and continuity in “what’s next”

Model Process for Systemic Change

- Adapting to use for all CDEC programs/practices moving forward
- Identifying use cases beyond budgeting, such as:
 - repository of information / onboarding
 - CQI
 - grant application efficiency
 - identifying partnership opportunities
 - incentivizing innovation with evidence-building
- **Inspiring EBDM culture change in Colorado!**
 - Traction with Governor's Office and JBC staff
 - Replicability with other state agencies



Colorado Evaluation & Action Lab
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Evidence Briefs

News you can use

Evidence Building Briefs

Access & Quality (Strategic Goal #1)	Workforce (Strategic Goal #2)	Family Strengthening (Strategic Goal #3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Stabilization and New Provider Success Grants● Emerging & Expanding Grants● Employer-based Child Care Grants● CCCAP Enrollment-Based Payments● CCCAP Increased Absence Payments● CCCAP Reimbursement Rate Increase● CIRCLE Grants● Availability of Care Navigator Program● Family Child Care Home Navigator Programs● Project Include	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● CCCAP Teacher Salary Increase Pilot● Recruitment & Retention Scholarships● Free ECE 1011/1031 Coursework● Apprenticeship Program● CDA Support Specialist Program● ECMH Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● CCCAP Reduced Co-Payments● CCCAP Expanded Income Eligibility● Early Literacy & Family Engagement: Imagination Library

Highlights: Nearly 90% of providers received grants. Provider closure rates reduced to pre-pandemic levels. Most providers maintained or increased starting wages for staff and provided family tuition relief.

**Family Strengthening
(Strategic Goal #3)**

- **Stabilization and New Provider Success Grants**
- Emerging & Expanding Grants
- Employer-based Child Care Grants
- CCCAP Enrollment-Based Payments
- CCCAP Increased Absence Payments
- CCCAP Reimbursement Rate Increase
- CIRCLE Grants
- Availability of Care Navigator Program
- Family Child Care Home Navigator Programs
- Project Include

- CCCAP Teacher Salary Increase Pilot
- Recruitment & Retention Scholarships
- Free ECE 101/103 Coursework
- Apprenticeship Program
- CDA Support Specialist Program
- ECMH Consultation

- CCCAP Reduced Co-Payments
- CCCAP Expanded Income Eligibility
- Early Literacy & Family Engagement: Imagination Library

Evidence Building Brief

Highlights: Promising early results, with 27% increase in teachers at participating providers (255 to 323). Complementary CDEC pilot for FCCH providers to improve access to benefits.

Access & Quality (Strategic Goal #1)

- Stabilization and New Provider Success Grants
- Emerging & Expanding Grants
- Employer-based Child Care Grants
- CCCAP Enrollment-Based Payments
- CCCAP Increased Absence Payments
- CCCAP Reimbursement Rate Increase
- CIRCLE Grants
- Availability of Care Navigator Program
- Family Child Care Home Navigator Programs
- Project Include

- CCCAP Teacher Salary Increase Pilot
- Recruitment & Retention Scholarships
- Free ECE 101/103 Coursework
- Apprenticeship Program
- CDA Support Specialist Program
- ECMH Consultation

- CCCAP Reduced Co-Payments
- CCCAP Expanded Income Eligibility
- Early Literacy & Family Engagement: Imagination Library

Evidence Building Briefs

Access & Quality (Strategic Goal #1)	Highlights: Books reach tens of thousands of Colorado families each month (361,108 as of August, with over 5,500 in both English & Spanish). Stimulus funding has greatly expanded the program's reach in underserved communities, and family feedback is strongly positive.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Stabilization and New Provider Success Grants● Emerging & Expanding Grants● Employer-based Child Care Grants● CCCAP Enrollment-Based Payments● CCCAP Increased Absence Payments● CCCAP Reimbursement Rate Increase● CIRCLE Grants● Availability of Care Navigator Program● Family Child Care Home Navigator Programs● Project Include	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Recruitment & Retention Scholarships● Free ECE 101/103 Coursework● Apprenticeship Program● CDA Support Specialist Program● ECMH Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Early Literacy & Family Engagement: Imagination Library

What's Next? On the Horizon

1. [Evidence briefs](#): Hot off the press!
2. Stimulus webpages: Learn more about evidence portfolios and the EBDM approach!

Our invitation: activating insights to drive change

Guiding questions for you:

- How can the evidence-based decision-making approach support you in your piece of building a comprehensive early childhood system?
- What insights from the evidence briefs are you positioned to use in your work to drive change?

Contact Us

Mary Alice Cohen

Maryalice.cohen@state.co.us

Courtney Everson, PhD

Courtney@coloradolab.org

Kristin Klopfenstein, PhD

Kristin@coloradolab.org

Whitney Leboeuf, PhD

Whitney@coloradolab.org

Key Links

[CDEC Website](#)

[EBDM Webpage](#)

[Evidence Portfolio Synthesis](#)

[Evidence Briefs](#)



Colorado Evaluation & Action Lab

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

In partnership with



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood



Statewide Comprehensive Strategic Plan

Tamilah Richardson and Rebecca Klein, Start Early



Consulting

10/26/23

Colorado Early Childhood System Strategic Plan

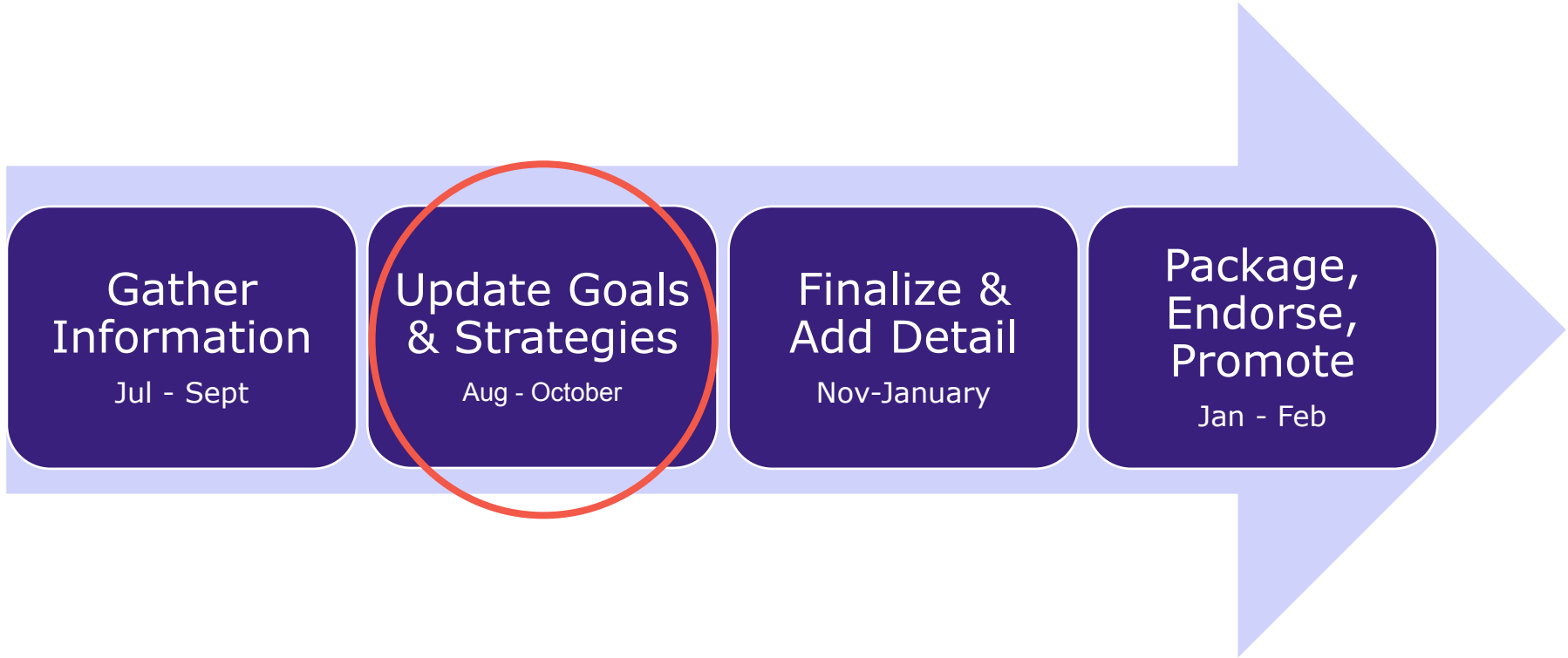
Early Childhood Leadership
Commission



Agenda

- Update on Strategic Planning progress
- Strategy survey - outreach support & strategic engagement
- Next Steps

Process: New, Comprehensive Early Childhood Strategic Plan



Overview of Data Gathering and Synthesis

- **14 Community conversations (12 groups)**
 - e.g., ECLC subcommittees, Family Voice Council, ECCLA, FRCA
- **11 Focus groups (78 participants)**
 - 4 with families, 6 with EC professionals, 1 combo
 - 8 English and 3 Spanish
- **17 Key informant interviews**
- **3 Strategic planning working group meetings**
- **CO Shines Brighter strategy updates**
- **20 Plans reviewed**
 - e.g., CDEC Strategic Plan; CDEC Transition Plan; Child Care and Development Fund Plan; Maternal Child Health Priorities & State Strategies, Behavioral Health Administration Strategic Plan, etc.
- **Additional information gathered from other partners** (e.g., EC CO Framework survey)

DATA SYNTHESIS DOCUMENT

Organized by topics related to the [Needs Assessment Findings](#) and/or [Early Childhood Colorado Framework Domains](#)

Data Groupings for Strategic Planning Working Group

Family Support & Education

- Warm Hand-offs/Referrals and Family Awareness (FE1)
- Two-Gen Approaches (FE2); Family Support and Education

Whole Person Health and Well-Being

- Child Health; Perinatal Health
- Special Health Needs and Disabilities (A2); Early Intervention
- Mental/Behavioral Health; Suspension and Expulsion

Economic Mobility

Learning and Development

- Early Childhood Special Education, Least Restrictive Environment, Parent Choice in UPK
- Care at All Hours (A3); Infant Toddler Care (A5); Supporting Family Friend and Neighbor Providers (S3)
- UPK Roll-Out; Provider Participation in UPK (A4)

Quality

- Whole Child Approach (Q1)
- Provider Participation in CO Shines (Q2)
- Family Views of Quality and Use of Ratings (Q3)
- Linguistic Responsiveness; Cultural Responsiveness and Equity (A1, FE3)

Leadership

- Family Voice/Leadership

Sustainability/Funding

- Aligning/Combining Funds (S1); Need for Operational Funding (S3)

Workforce

- Recruitment & Career Pathways; Retention & Wellness, Compensation & Financing, System Leadership & Learning (WF1,WF2)

Strategic Planning Retreat Outcome

Many new strategy ideas and updates to existing ones (~100 total), including (but not limited to):

- 7+ potential new strategies to improve perinatal health and child health, for example:
 - **Perinatal Health Models.** Explore local exemplars (e.g., FamiliesForward Resource Center), national models (e.g., Centering Pregnancies), and innovative practices (e.g., Doula services covered by Medicaid as in CA) that support positive perinatal outcomes, decrease maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, and eliminate racial disparities. Expand these models, lift up key effective factors and determine how to spread these through the state.
- 10+ potential new strategies on cultural relevance/responsiveness; language access/linguistic responsiveness, for example:
 - **Culturally Relevant Programming.** Expand programming options that are culturally relevant for families through increased investments / support for diverse curriculum (e.g., American Indian/tribal early childhood options; language supports).
- 8 potential new strategies on economic mobility, for example:
 - **State Enrollment Initiative.** Enroll pregnant people and families with young children in all state and federal benefits programs they are eligible for (e.g., Medicaid, WIC, SNAP/food assistance, rental/housing assistance, energy assistance), including tax credits. Streamline eligibility and enrollment so families found eligible for one program can be automatically enrolled in others. Monitor progress, identify disparities and reasons for under-enrollment, and continue to improve access...

Survey

- Purpose to share back the ideas gathered to date to make sure we have identified strategies that families, EC professionals, and system leaders think are important and to get their feedback on changes or additions.
- Available in English, Spanish, and Arabic
- Survey window is October 30 - November 10 (2 weeks)
- Targeted dissemination strategies to specific people and through range of partners and local organizations, rather than public flyers and social media blasts. Also, providing stipends to family voice council members and others to do outreach in their communities and convene families to complete the survey.

- What are your ideas for how to get the survey out?

Outreach

Strong outreach led to strong response for focus groups

Bright by Text

Migrant Head Start

Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance

Early Learning Ventures

Colorado Home Visiting Coalition

CDEC, Tribal Liaison

CDEC, Early Intervention

CDEC, Family Strengthening Unit

CDEC, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Colorado Association of Family Child Care

Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission

Family Leadership Training Institute of Colorado

Colorado Department of Education McKinney-Vento

Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition

Valley Settlement

Hispanic Affairs Project

IECMH

Blazing Cloud Consulting

Colorado Backpackers

Heritage Camps

Red Rocks

Colorado Mesa University

CU Colorado Springs

Illuminate CO

Department of Public Health

Family Voice Council

Family Resource Centers



Next Opportunities for Engagement

- **Survey window October 30- November 10**
 - Please take the survey and help disseminate!
- **PQA meeting November 3rd**
 - Discuss strategies in more detail, level of specificity and how to organize them under new goals
 - Discuss rebranding of the plan
- **ECLC meeting December 21st**
 - Review full draft of the strategic plan and provide feedback



Break Time!
Back in 10 minutes...



State Agency Updates



Colorado Department of Early Childhood

Lisa Roy



Governor's Office
Tammi Hiler



Colorado Department of Education
Floyd Cobb



- CDE continues to partner with CDEC on the implementation of the special education portion of universal preschool
- Colorado READ Act training for administrators is underway.
- The State Board of Education will conduct a rulemaking hearing on tuition cost reimbursements for charter schools
- Colorado was accepted as a member of the Kindergarten Sturdy Bridge community of practice.



Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
Robert Werthwein





Colorado Department of Higher Education

Sam Fogleman

Early Childhood Education Programs Fiscal Year 2023-2024

10/10/2023



COLORADO
Department of
Higher Education

ECE Scholarship Program

Overview and Priorities:

- To aid in the expansion of the ECE educator workforce in Colorado.
- Encourage retention of our educators through professional development.



Eligibility Criteria:



Students who have declared a path certificate/degree in ECE.



Students pursuing a Certificate or license with or without a degree in ECE, Child Development, EC Special Ed or an equivalent ECE field.

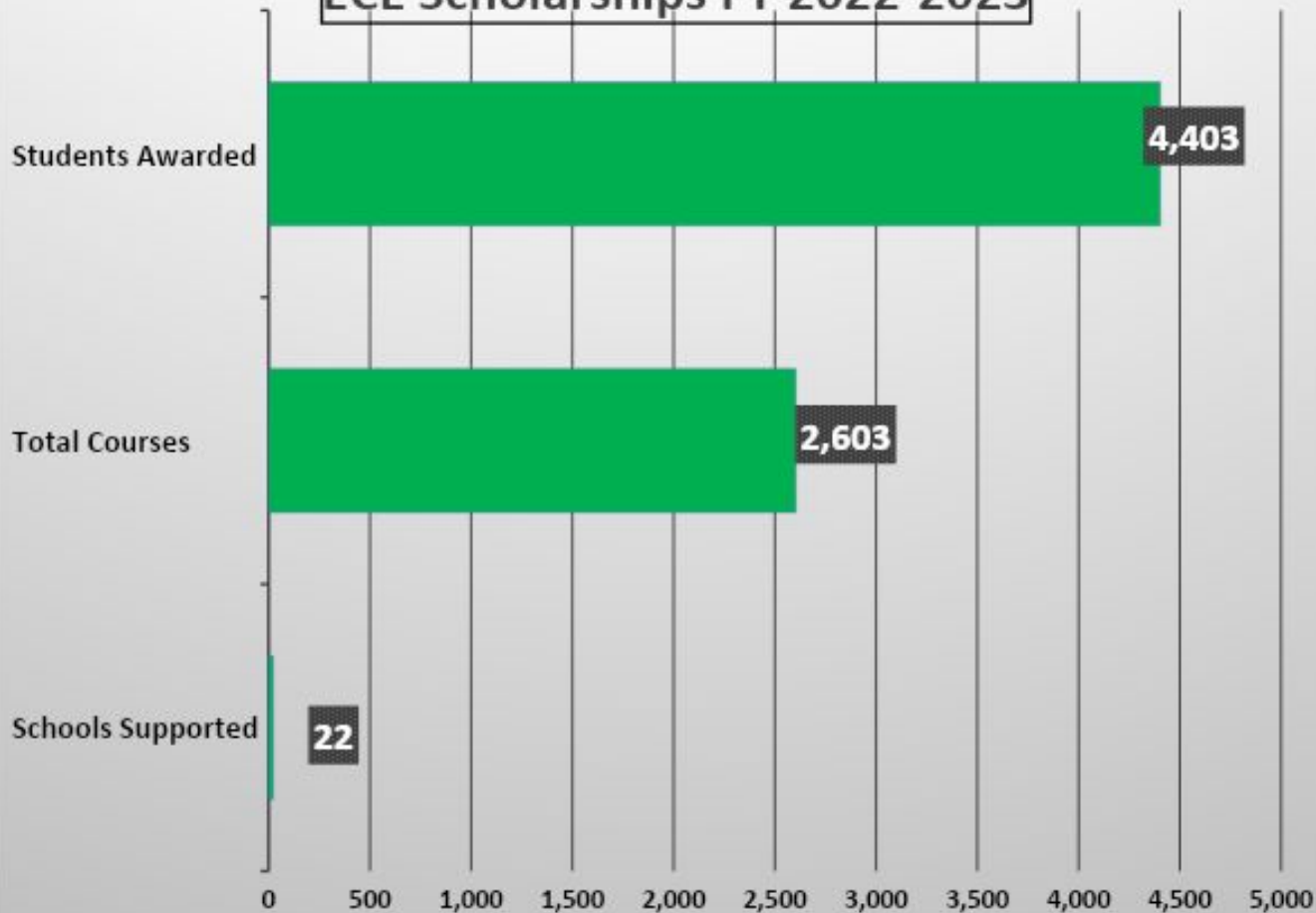


Coursework focused specifically on ECE.

Allowable use of Scholarship Funds

1. Tuition
2. Fees
3. Books, Materials, Supplies
4. Other Support including wraparounds, i.e., childcare or transportation.
5. Up to 10% for program or professional development or up to 10% for Recruitment and marketing materials
6. Prior Learning Assessments/Credit for Prior Learning
7. Challenge tests or equivalent processes to allow students to test out of a course.

ECE Scholarships FY 2022-2023



**Total
Disbursements
\$5,340,538**



ECE 1011 and 1031 Stipends

Overview and Priorities:

- To aid in the expansion of the ECE educator workforce in Colorado.
- Encourage retention of our educators through professional development.

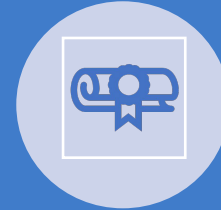
Eligibility Criteria:



Students who have declared a path certificate/degree in ECE.

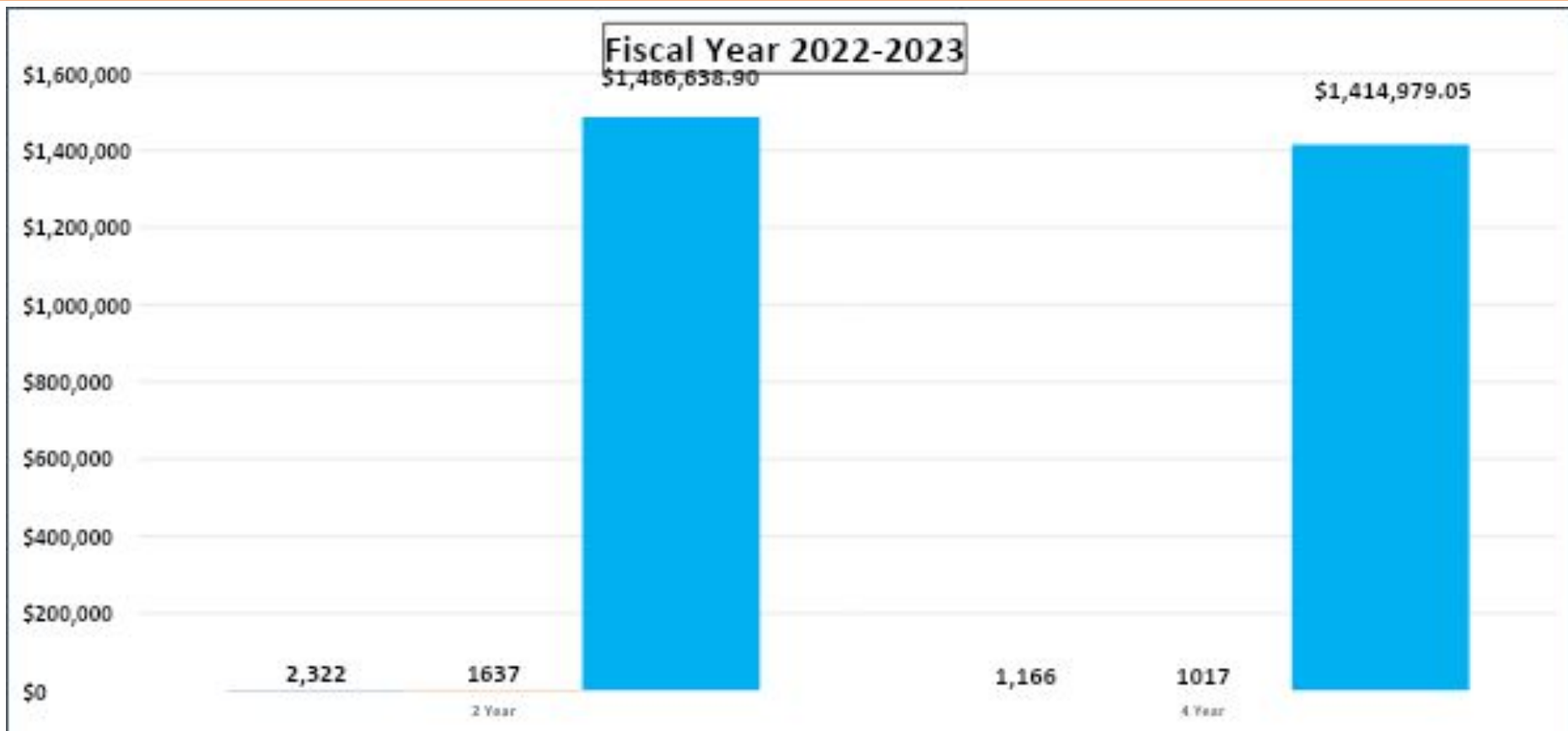


Register for classes at a community college or public 4-yr IHE that offers the equivalent courses.



Students who need the ECE 1011 and 1031 courses to meet the Level 1 ECE Teacher qualification.

ECE Stipends



Thank You!



Colorado Department of Human Services

Minna Castillo Cohen

CDHS Updates

- CDHS recently signed an IA with CDEC allowing CDEC to continue their administration of the \$3 million Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program.
- PSSF:
 - Serves families through four target areas: family support, family preservation, time-limited family reunification and adoption promotion and support services.
 - Supports 22 PSSF sites serving 35 counties in Colorado.
 - Funds a wide range of priorities from which awarded PSSF sites chose to implement in their communities through the competitive application process.
- October 25th is the final meeting of the child welfare Interim Committee. While there are some opportunities in drafted bills for enhancing what we do, you can review the list for areas of interest/concern [here](#).



Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Rachel Hutson





Public Comment and Commissioner Updates



Comprehensive Workforce Plan

Kacee Miller, Tanya Weinberg, Angela Rothermel, Early Milestones

Colorado's Comprehensive Early Childhood Workforce Plan

*ECLC Presentation
October 26, 2023*



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood



EARLY MILESTONES
COLORADO

Agenda



PROCESS TO DATE AND HIGHLIGHTS



PLAN OUTLINE



STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS



ROLE-SPECIFIC PRIMERS



UPDATED PROJECT TIMELINE



ANCHOR THEME SECTIONS

Process to Date

September 2022 – January 2023



February – July 2023

May 2023 – February 2024





Comprehensive Workforce Plan Highlights

Celebration of
accomplishments

Foundation for the
future

Distinct, new approach

- Broad not deep
- Education-oriented
- Unique process

Strategic Advisory Group Members

Martha Tien
Mountain Montessori

Shelley Smith
Eagle County School District

Diane Lauer
St. Vrain Valley School District

Janiece Knepe
Red Rocks Community College

Shannon Beckman
Right Start/Well Power

Heather Hawk
ECC of La Plata County

Khatira Amn
Spring Institute

Aaron Leavy
CHVC

Iesha Mitchell
Invest in Kids

Leah Grossman
CDEC

Taran Schneider
Healthy Child Care Colorado

Kelly Hurtado
Joint Initiatives

Liliana Flores Amaro
UCD

Jennifer O'Brien
CDE

Amber Bilby
Amber's Kids

Lucinda Burns
Early Childhood Options

Ty Johnson
Early Learning Ventures

Shannon Hall
ECCLA

Kristina Heyl
ECLC/CDEC

Kenia Pinela
Valley Settlement

Angela Ben-Zekry
CDEC

Sena Harjo
CDEC

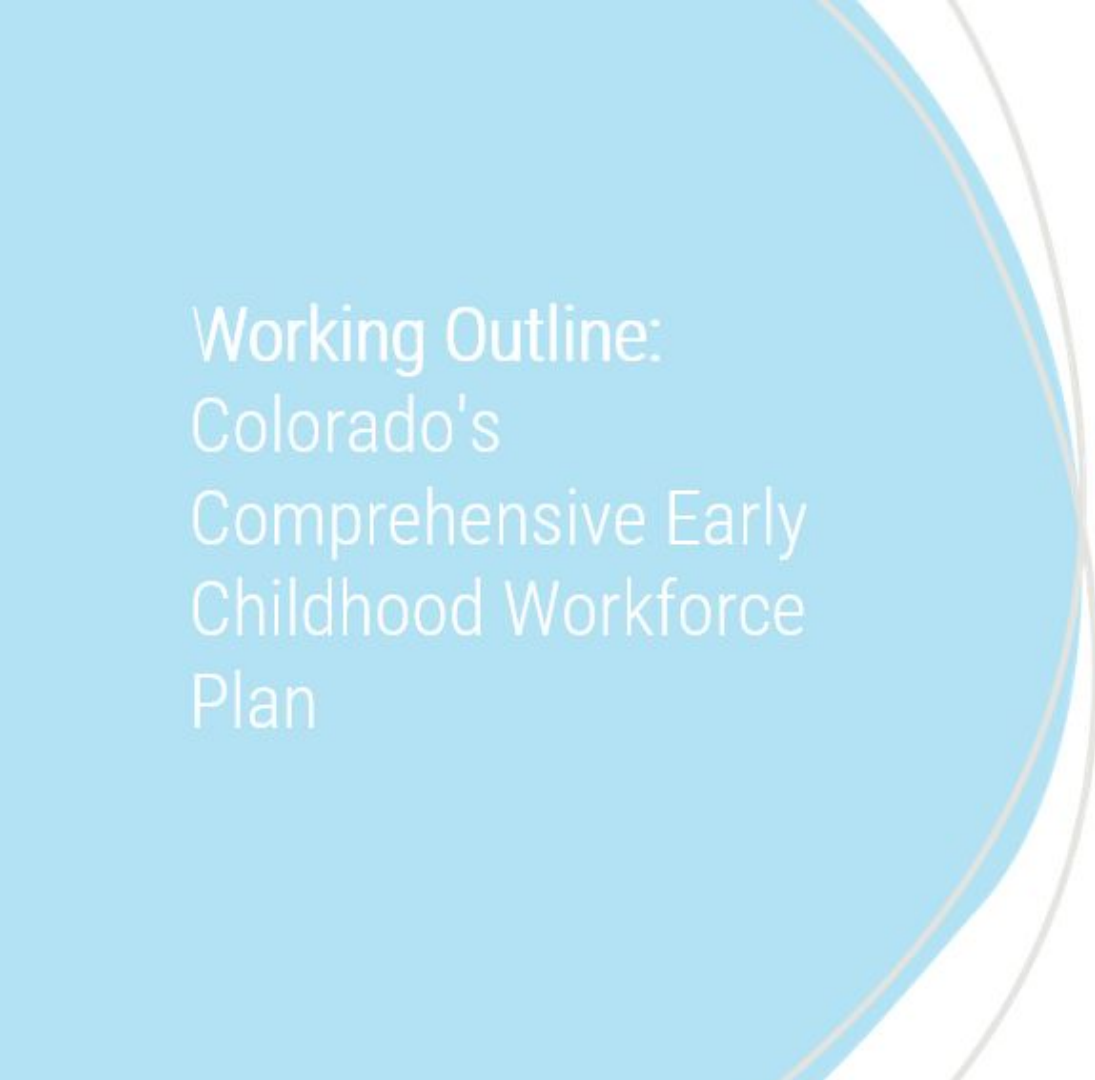
Shannon Wilson
ECLC/CDEC

Sarah Roberts
ECLC/CDEC

Updated Project Timeline

- October 18: ECWD (review partial plan)
- October 26: ECLC (review partial plan)
- November 29: Strategic Advisory Group (review full plan)
- December 12: ECWD (review full plan)
- December 21: ECLC (review full plan)
- February 6: ECWD (recommend for endorsement)
- February 22: ECLC (endorsement)





Working Outline:
Colorado's
Comprehensive Early
Childhood Workforce
Plan

INTRODUCTION

**WHAT'S INCLUDED IN
COMPREHENSIVE**

PROGRESS & HISTORY

ROLE-SPECIFIC PRIMERS

ANCHOR THEME SECTIONS

**RELATED PLANS, FRAMEWORKS &
INITIATIVES**

Role-Specific Primers

Purpose

- High-level description
- How the sector fits within larger early childhood system
- Relevant statewide investments/initiatives
- Relevant regulations/rules

Role-Specific Primers

- Early Intervention
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- Home Visiting
- Child Care Health Consultants
- Teaching Roles
- Center Directors
- Family Child Care Home Providers
- Family Friend and Neighbor Providers
- Coaches and Trainers



Anchor Theme Sections

Purpose

- Brief overview
- Context & data
- Strategies & recommendations

Anchor Theme Sections

- Recruitment and Career Pathways
- Retention and Wellness
- Compensation and Finance
- System Learning and Leadership



Related Plans, Frameworks & Initiatives

Whole Person Health

- Early Intervention Provider Compensation Study
- Catalyzing Health and School Readiness in Child Care: Recommendations for building a strong system of child care health consultation in Colorado
- The Root of the Problem A Roadmap for Early Childhood Oral Health Equity
- ECMHC Workforce, Recipients, and Reach
- Building an ECMHC Workforce in Colorado: An Environmental Scan of Training and Professional Development Programs
- The Maternal Mental Health Framework
- Colorado Behavioral Health Administration 2023 Strategic Plan

Family Support & Education

- Colorado Home Visiting Investment Plan
- Colorado Home Visiting Financing Options Policy Memo
- Engaging Colorado's FFN Child Care Providers in Early Childhood Systems

Learning & Development

- Early Childhood Workforce Index 2020 Colorado
- Early Childhood Workforce Discovery Synthesis
- The Colorado Early Childhood Workforce Survey 2017
- Early Childhood Workforce Survey Summary (2022)
- Colorado Early Care and Education Workforce Dashboard
- Colorado Early Childhood Compensation & Benefits Task Force

System Wide

- Colorado Shines Brighter Birth Through Five 2020-2025 Strategic Plan
- Early Childhood Leadership Commission 10-Year Strategic Plan
- Analysis of Listening Session Themes

Questions

- What are you pleased to see incorporated?
- Are all key topics included?
- How do you see the plan being used and by whom?

THANK YOU

Kacee Miller

Portfolio Director, Early Learning

EMAIL: kmiller@earlymilestones.org

Tanya Weinberg

Portfolio Director, Health and Well-being

EMAIL: tweinberg@earlymilestones.org





Home Visiting Task Force Annual Report

Joyce Johnson and Aaron Miller, CDEC





Home Visiting Investment Task Force

August 2023 Annual Progress Update

Home Visiting Investment Task Force Co-Chairs:
Ida Rhodes, Catholic Charities of Southern Colorado
Kendra Dunn, Colorado Department of Early Childhood

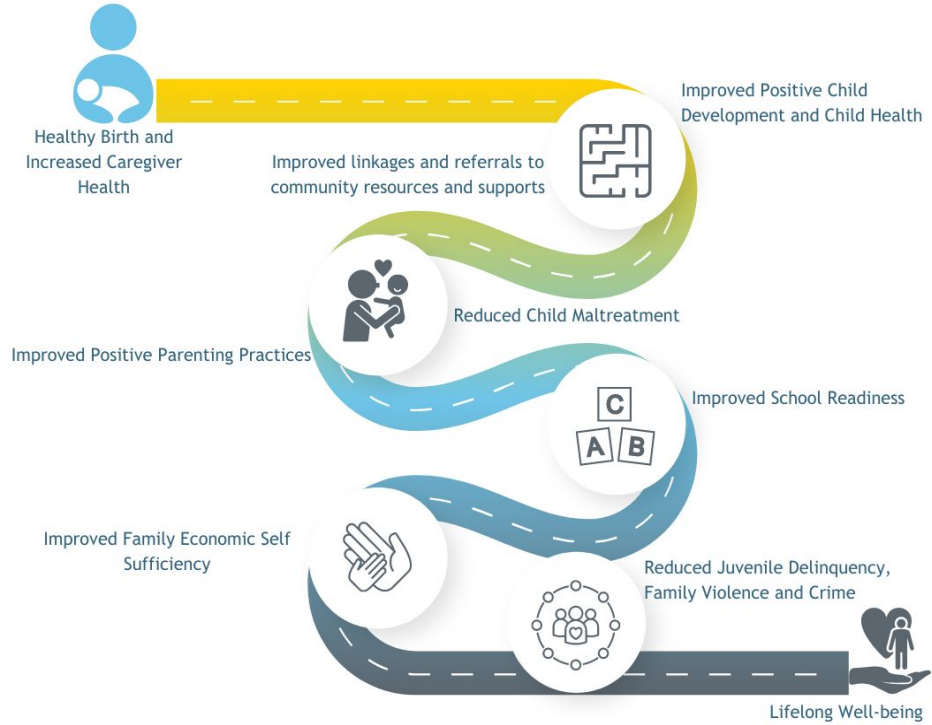
Home Visiting

Home visiting is a prevention strategy used to support pregnant moms and new parents/caregivers with children from birth to six. Evidence-based home visiting programs have been shown to promote positive outcomes for families in the areas of child development and school readiness, child and maternal health, family economic well-being, and preventing child maltreatment.

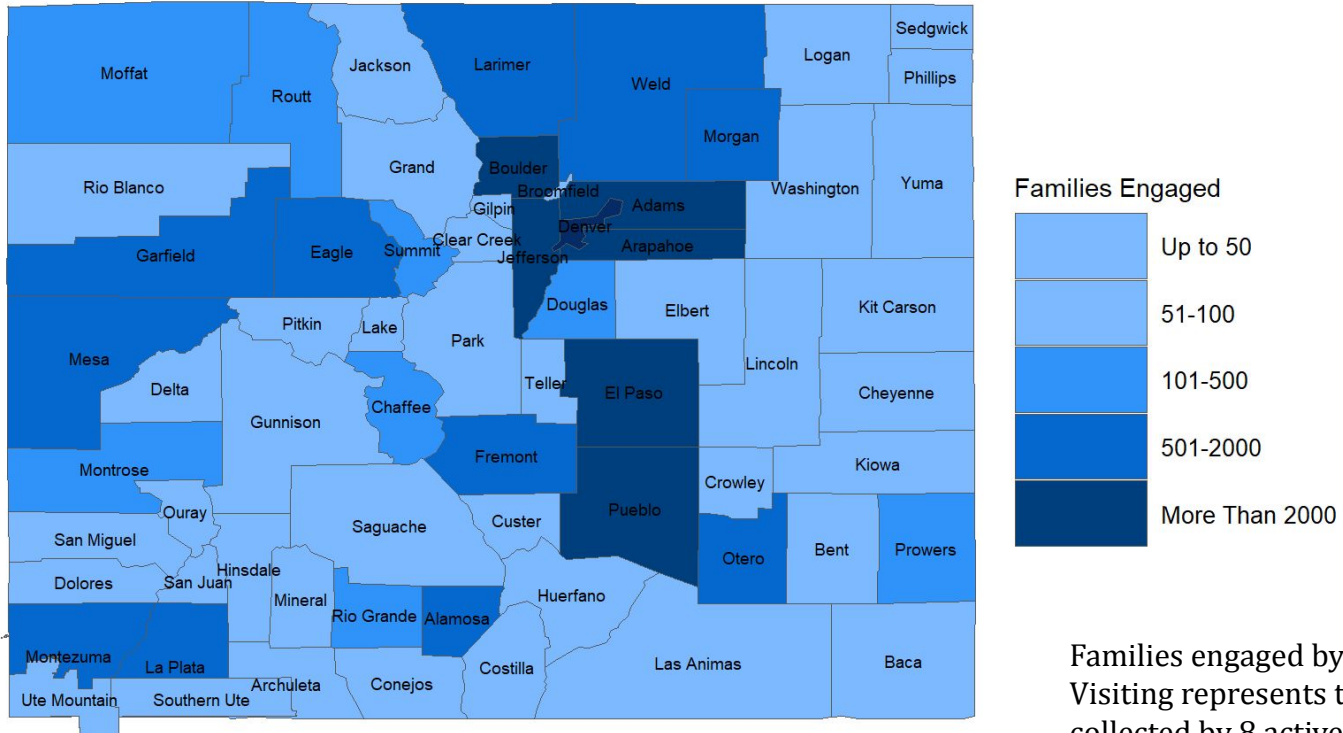
- Colorado supports 9 evidence-based models that provide home visiting services to families/caregivers with children from birth to six.
- Positive effects of home visiting have been found across different types of families and across different settings.
- Home visiting provides a return on investment ranging from \$1.75 to \$20.82 for every dollar invested.

Home Visiting Outcomes

How Home Visiting Promotes Healthy Outcomes Across Generations

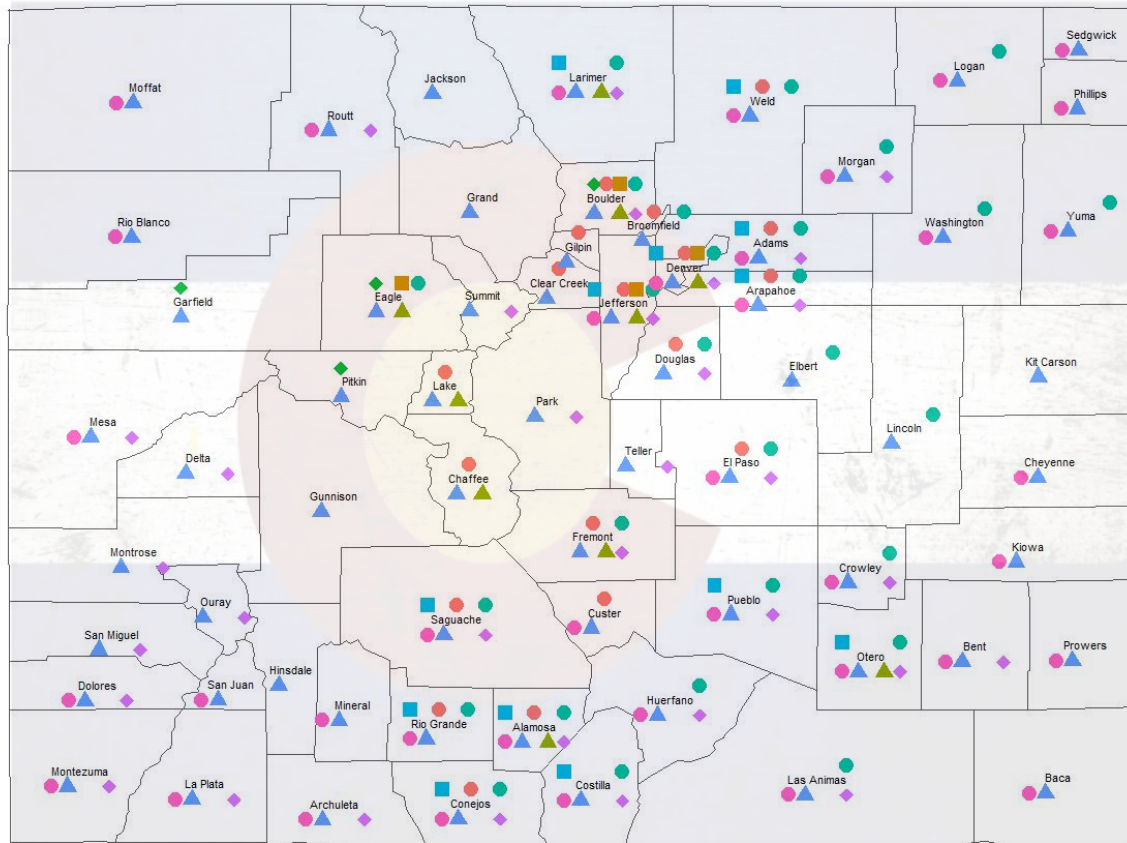


11,314 families served through 99,863 home visits



Total Families Engaged by County

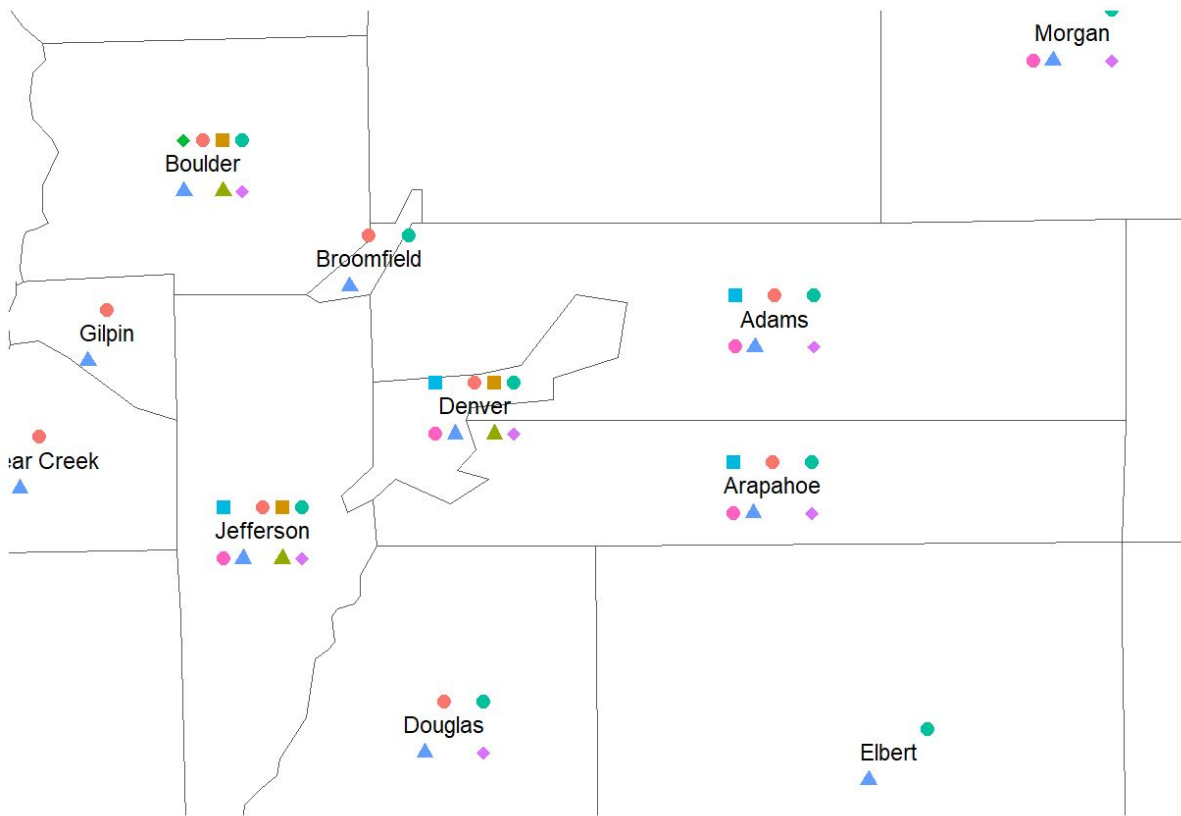
Families engaged by Home Visiting represents totals collected by 8 active models during the 2021-2022 State Fiscal Year.



- Child First
- Family Connects
- ▲ Head Start
- ◆ Healthy Families
- HealthySteps
- HIPPY
- ▲ NFP
- ◆ PAT
- SafeCare

Home Visiting Models by County

Models serving each county are current as of July 1, 2023.



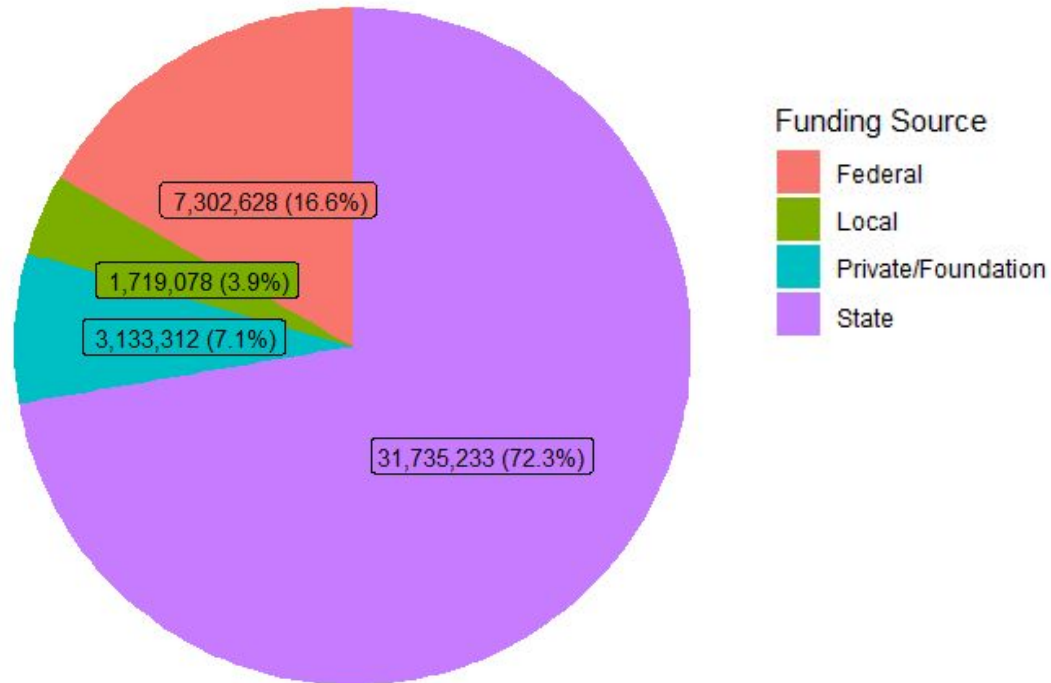
- Child First
- Family Connects
- ▲ Head Start
- ◆ Healthy Families
- HealthySteps
- HIPPY
- ▲ NFP
- ◆ PAT
- SafeCare

Home Visiting Models by County: Metro Denver/Front Range

Models serving each county are current as of July 1, 2023.

Home Visiting Funding by Source

(Total: \$43,890,251)



Note: Data about sources and amounts of funding were collected from all 9 evidence-based Home Visiting models in a new survey tool during Summer 2023 for the previous year. This survey will be repeated annually. Total financing is given across all models, split by funding source. Some administrative costs internal to CDEC related to overseeing home visiting funding were not included.














Task Force Overview

- Approved in 2020 by the Early Childhood Leadership Commission to develop a strategy to scale a continuum of home visiting services and guide future funding solicitations by the Colorado Department of Early Childhood.
- Released the Home Visiting Investment plan in 2021 and began identifying strategies to implement and achieve the goal of expanding HV services by 20%.
- Task force supported by 4 working groups continuing to meet through June 2026 to implement strategies for achieving recommendations from the Home Visiting Investment Plan.

Task Force Values








Task Force Voting Members

1. Carsten Baumann, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment 
2. Catalina Gonsales, Mile High United Way
3. Melissa Buchholz, Assuring Better Child Health and Development 
4. Amy Call, Nurse Family Partnership
5. Katherine Casillas, Kempe Center 
6. Alysia Chang, Colorado Department of Human Services 
7. Alexa Chenoweth, Healthy Families America
8. Heather Craiglow, Colorado Department of Early Childhood
9. Deborah Daro, Chapin Hall at University of Chicago 
10. Gretchen Davidson, Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council
11. Jennifer Deam, Baby Bear Hugs 
12. Kendra Dunn, Colorado Department of Early Childhood 
13. Sarah Dutcher, Caring for Colorado 
14. Courtney Everson, Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab, University of Denver 
15. Lynne Fabian, Carelon Behavioral Health 
16. Senator Rhonda Fields, Senate District 29
17. Brooke Greenky, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing  
18. Lisa Hill, Invest in Kids 
19. Janiece Kneppe, Red Rocks Community College 

Work Group Participation

-  Availability, Collaboration, and Innovations
-  Finance & Funding Opportunities
-  Qualified Workforce
-  Outreach and Advocacy

Task Force Voting Members

20. Jenny Lerner, Colorado Department of Education
21. Maegan Lokteff, Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance
22. Kim Mauthe, Teller County Human Services Director
23. Christine (Chris) Meyer, Behavioral Health Administration
24. Jennie Munthali, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment 
25. Lesa Nesbit, Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation 
26. Hunter Nelson, Colorado Children's Campaign 
27. Ida Rhodes, Catholic Charities Southern Colorado 
28. Lisa Schell, Jeffco Public Schools
29. Christy Scott, Colorado Department of Early Childhood 
30. Kelly Stainback-Tracy, Perinatal Health Program Coordinator, Denver Health 
31. Heather Tritten, Parent Possible 
32. Sarabeth Upson, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing 
33. Patty Velasquez, Family Resource Center Association
34. Christina Walker, Healthier Colorado 
35. Jade Woodard, Illuminate Colorado 
36. Tammi Hiler, Governor's Office - *non-voting*
37. Kristina Heyl, Early Childhood Leadership Commission - *non-voting*

Work Group Participation

-  Availability, Collaboration, and Innovations.
-  Finance & Funding Opportunities.
-  Qualified Workforce
-  Outreach and Advocacy

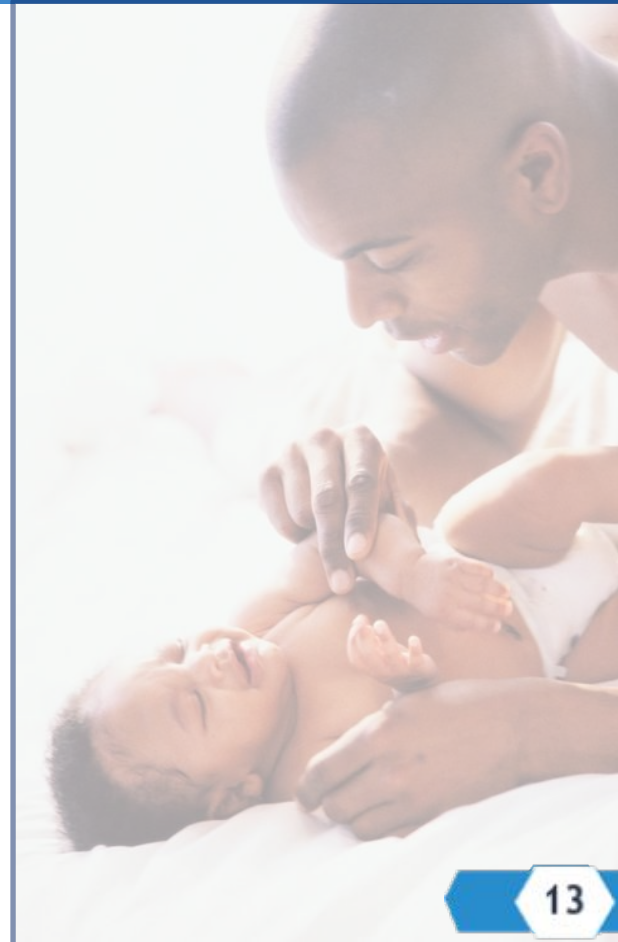


Working Group Progress: *Availability, Collaboration, and Innovations*

Availability, Collaboration, and Innovations Working Group

Purpose of Group: To expand equitable access to appropriate and effective evidence-based early childhood home visiting programs in Colorado. Our objectives are to:

1. Increase capacity of evidence-based home visiting program models by at least 20% from the state's 2019 baseline capacity.
2. Extend access to culturally and linguistically appropriate family services in all regions of the state.
3. Create mechanisms that provide all new parents with systematic opportunities to discuss their concerns and learn about the parent support resources available in their communities.
4. Examine strategies to improve data integration and interoperability across home visiting models and between home visiting programs and other early intervention efforts.



Availability, Collaboration, and Innovations Working Group



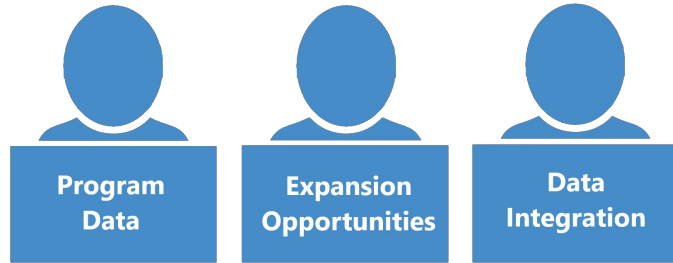
Working Group Accomplishments

Accomplishment 1: Created a reliable process for collecting and aggregating volume data on Home Visiting services. Using this new process and with data from 8 of the 9 Home Visiting models, there were 11,314 families served through 99,863 home visits.

Accomplishment 2: The 2022 report on innovations and best practice standards in adopting virtual service delivery methods dissemination. Report provided Home Visiting Investment Task Force, program state intermediaries, Parent Possible Home Visiting State Conference.

Accomplishment 3: The Family Connects model lifted in 4 counties -Eagle, Boulder, Jefferson and Denver.

Availability, Collaboration, and Innovations Working Group



To accomplish its goals in 2023-2024, this working group needs:

- Staff support to examine, in greater detail, home visiting program data and explore opportunities to expand program capacity across models.
- Staff support to begin exploring how best to integrate home visiting data with other state early childhood service data.



Working Group Progress: *Finance & Funding Opportunities*

Finance and Funding Opportunities



Purpose of Group:

The Finance and Funding Opportunities workgroup focuses its efforts on growing and diversifying investments in home visiting to create a sustainable annual funding base for a continuum of evidence-based home visiting models statewide.

Working Group Accomplishments



Accomplishment 1: Created a process to consistently collect data year over year.

Accomplishment 2: Developed fact sheets regarding the use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) funds.

Accomplishment 3: Actively monitoring the development of Colorado's Health Services Initiative to determine potential support of home visiting services.

Accomplishment 4: Successfully advocated for use of Preschool Development Grant planning grant funds to support a HV Mileage Pilot and HV Messaging work



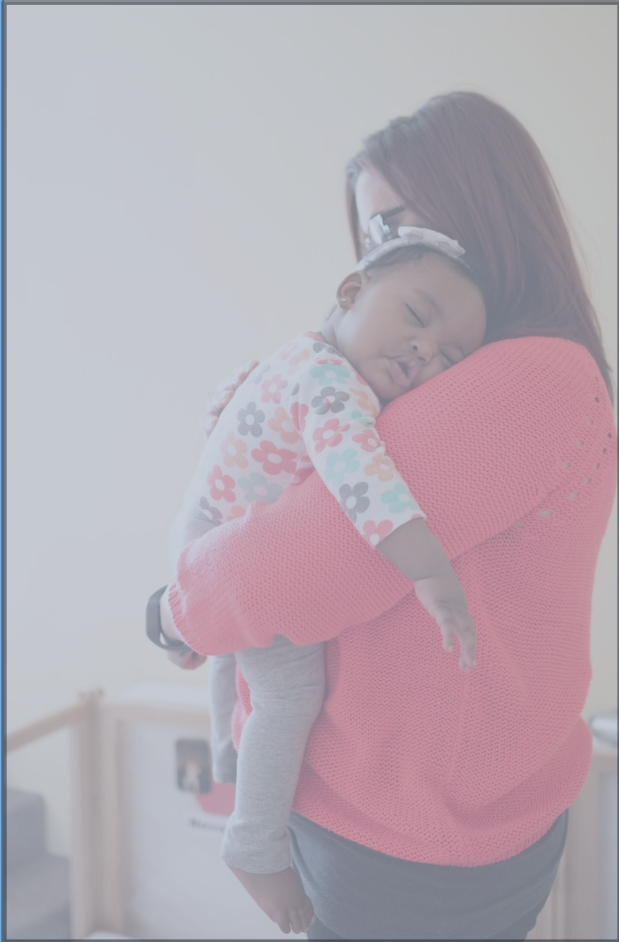
To accomplish its goals in 2023-2024, this working groups needs:

- **Support to gather additional information on local tax initiatives that can support early childhood programs/services.** Providing the workgroup with examples of communities that have successfully passed these initiatives and contact information for stakeholders that were involved with those endeavors would be helpful.



Working Group Progress: *Qualified Workforce*

Qualified Workforce Working Group



Purpose of Group:

Support the recruitment, training, and retention of a diverse home visiting workforce while elevating their role as professionals within the early childhood system

Qualified Workforce Working Group



Working Group Accomplishments

Accomplishment 1: Supported the creation the PDG Planning Grant application which funded the home visitor mileage reimbursement pilot.

Accomplishment 2: Used data from 2022 Home Visiting Survey to identify mechanisms to support the workforce.

Qualified Workforce Working Group

To accomplish its goals in 2023-2024, this working group needs:

- Support in requesting home visiting agency-level data that will help to continue our efforts to diversify the benefit opportunities for home visiting workforce.
- Connections with Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) or another state agency supporting the implementation of the FAMLI leave program to put together an information session for home visiting programs on what to expect upon the implementation of that program.





Working Group Progress: *Outreach and Advocacy*

Purpose of Group:

Elevating and articulating the strengths and benefits of home visiting for multiple audiences to increase home visiting awareness, access, funding, and participation across Colorado.



Outreach and Advocacy



Accomplishment 1: Successfully merged two separate work groups around a common goal of establishing a shared messaging framework.

Accomplishment 2: Completed a scan of previous home visiting messaging campaigns and approaches to understand the full landscape of what other partners had done.

Accomplishment 3: Secured funding through the PDG to contract with a marketing vendor to work with the group to develop a shared home visiting messaging platform and toolkit.

Accomplishment 4: Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) was successfully reauthorized in December of 2022 with additional funding that will double the total funding of the MIECHV grant over five years.

Outreach and Advocacy

To accomplish its goals in 2023-2024, this working groups needs:

- Additional support to develop educational briefings for legislators
- **Funding** for an Outreach and Engagement Coordinator
- **Determining a strategy for messaging dissemination** that would support elevating the role of home visiting in the early childhood
- **Support strengthening the referral system in home visiting** to ensure children are referred to preventative services that might support them, such as Early Intervention, etc.



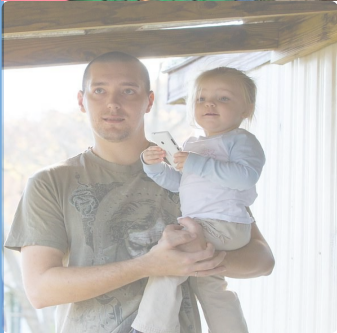
Legislative Wins

State stimulus funding was allocated in legislation to support the expansion of the HIPPY and Child First programs in 2023 session

Continued tracking recent laws enacted to support health care for mothers and young children:

- SB21-194- Extends postpartum care from 60 days to 12 months
- HB22-1289- Provides full health insurance coverage for Colorado pregnant people who would be eligible for Medicaid and the Children's Basic Health Plan (CHIP) if not for their immigration status and continues that coverage for 12 months postpartum
- SB23-288- Requires the department to initiate a stakeholder process to promote the expansion and utilization of doula services for pregnant and postpartum Medicaid recipients

Thank You



The Home Visiting Investment Task Force (HVITF) has been actively engaged and working towards its goals during the past year, with significant success:

- Launch of the Family Connects model in Colorado
- Expansion of HIPPEY, Child First, and Healthy Steps models through stimulus funds
- Continued to weather pandemic impacts and saw increased home visiting in some counties
- Funded and started work on a home visiting messaging campaign
- Provided additional support opportunities for the home visiting workforce

The HVITF would like to sincerely thank the ECLC for its continued recognition and support of home visiting services for young children and their families.

Thank You!

UPK Quality Standards

Dawn Odean, Colorado Department of Early Childhood



UPK Colorado - continued

- **Quality Standards Rule**
 - **FAQ**
 - **Concept**
 - **Rule DRAFT**
 - **Stakeholder engagement**
- **Other updates:**
 - **38,936 enrolled**
 - **Qualifying Factor Rule**
 - **Year Two Planning**



Quality Standards Stakeholder Engagement

- Vision and Concept released for Public Comment in September
 - Received 141 unique comments from 66 respondents. 68% of respondents (45) were from ECE programs with the remainder being LCOs (8) and other stakeholders (13)
- Draft Rule will be released next week.
 - Webinar Tentatively Scheduled for November 13, 3:00-4:00 pm: [Register Here](#)
 - LCO Meetings will be held next week; LCOs are encouraged to gather feedback from their communities
 - Anyone will be able to complete the Public Comment form which will be posted [here](#) and you can track the rule's progress [here](#)

ECLC Role

- Does the ECLC want to provide feedback on the Quality Standards?



Next Steps and Final Thoughts

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Next Meeting:

December 21, 2023

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Hybrid



Thank you!