

Thank you for joining! We will begin shortly.

# ECLC

*Early Childhood Leadership Commission*

April 25, 2024

9:00 - 12:00

CDEC Offices 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](http://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/eclc-meeting-information) ●



# Welcome, Introductions & Approve Minutes

# Meeting Objectives

- Learn about efforts in ECLC Subcommittees and Working Groups and consider ways that ECLC can support alignment and collaboration
- Learn about the State Budget Process and discuss recommendations for budget priorities
- Create an Ad Hoc Working Group to support the RAC member application process
- Provide input on the content of the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Report
- Vote on whether to endorse the Statewide Strategic Plan: Elevating Early Childhood
- Learn about the process of creating the Child Care Development Fund Plan and provide initial input
- Advance the goals of the ECLC Strategic Plan



# Subcommittee and Work Groups- Updates and Q&A



# Subcommittee and Working Group Updates

## Highlights

The Data Subcommittee is supporting the initial steps toward creating an Early Childhood Integrated Data System

The ECWD Subcommittee is forming Working Groups that will support effort funded by the [Early Childhood Investment Collaborative \(EEIC\) Grant](#)

The ECCS Working Group completed their [annual report](#) on grant activities

The IECMH Working Group is holding discussions to develop recommendations on IECMH Workforce and Funding. Email [lisa.schlueter@state.co.us](mailto:lisa.schlueter@state.co.us) if you want to be involved.

Several groups are supporting the new **New PDG B-5 Implementation Grant**, which will be due late summer.

See all updates [here](#)



# State Budget Process Overview

Michele Stillwell-Parvensky

# Colorado State Budget Process

May - July

July - Nov

Nov - March

April

May - July

State Agency  
Recommendations

Governor's  
Review & Budget  
Proposal

JBC Review

Long Bill Writing  
& Voting

Governor Signing  
&  
Implementation

State agencies examine existing programs, increase or decreased costs and additional needs and priorities.

State agencies make budget requests.

The Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) examines all requests and makes recommendations to the Governor.

Governor submits a full budget proposal to the legislature.

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) reviews and makes decisions on agency budgets.

JBC staff make recommendations and the six JBC legislators vote.

JBC hears testimony from state agencies and the public.

JBC writes line-by-line budget, the "Long Bill," to be voted on by the Legislature, with few changes allowed.

A small portion of revenue is set aside for all other bills.

Governor signs the budget. The governor can exercise line-item veto power to remove (but not add) specific items.

Agencies implement the budget at the start of the fiscal year, July 1.



# Discussion

- What next steps should the ECLC take to inform this process?
- What should the ECLC recommend prioritizing in a tight budget year?



# CDEC Rules Advisory Council Member Application Process

# Rules Advisory Council (RAC)

Updates and Call for Applications



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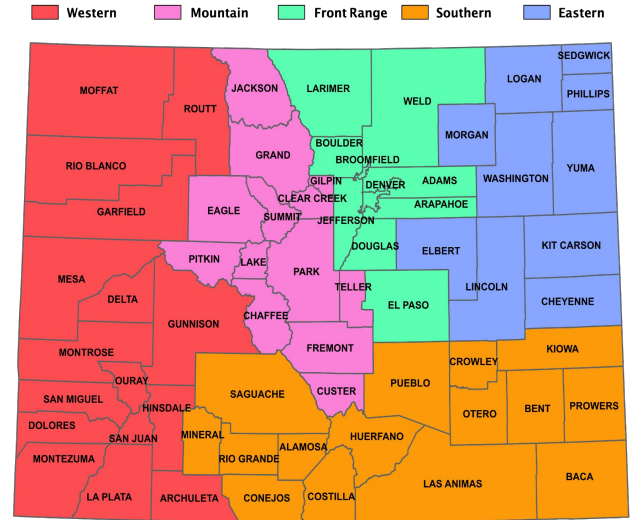
# Rules Advisory Council (RAC)



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## What is the Rules Advisory Council (RAC)?

The Rules Advisory Council (RAC) is a fifteen (15) member advisory group comprised of members from various sectors of the early childhood community. Members of the RAC represent a wide range of voices and perspectives from urban, suburban, and rural settings; and embodies diversity in race, ethnicity, immigration status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, culture, and language.



## Criteria for RAC Membership

|   |  |
|---|--|
| School-based preschool provider (1)   | Institutions of higher education (1)   |
| Private early childhood provider: Family Child Care Home or Head Start. (1)                                       | Early childhood health-care or mental health-care professional. (1)  |
| Nonparental family member, friend, or neighbor. (1)   | Links to children enrolled in a Community Based Organization, Public, Private early childhood program. (8) |
| County Department Representatives ( 2)  | Early childhood workforce, including educators in school and community-based programs. (8)                 |
| Foundation, business, or early childhood advocacy organization. (1)   | Historically underserved and under-resourced communities. (8)  |
| Expert in Funding, Federal Rules/Regs, and Family and Support Programs, including children with disabilities. (1) | Diversity in Geography, Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Culture, Language, and Immigration Status. (8)   |



## What is the purpose of the RAC?

The RAC reviews all rules and amendments proposed by the Department to guide the functions, programs, and services overseen by the Department; and provides advice to the Executive Director for consideration before the rules are adopted.

## RAC Recommendations

When preparing recommendations for the Executive Director to consider, the RAC strives to develop recommendations that are detailed, measurable, and consider the impacts on children, parents, families, providers, school districts, counties, and local coordinating organizations.

## Opposing Opinions

Members of the RAC voting in the minority may submit a written explanation of their opposition to the recommendations to the executive director.



# Recent Rules and Discussions

- Colorado Universal Preschool Program (UPK)
  - Qualifying Factors
  - Quality Standards
- Child Care Licensing
  - Family Child Care Homes
  - Neighborhood Youth Organizations
  - Child Care Centers
  - School-Aged Child Care
  - Children's Resident Camps
  - Special Activities
  - Substitute Placement Agencies
- Colorado Child Care Assistance Program
- Nurse Home Visitor Program
- Administrative Appeals
- Early Childhood Councils

Please review the [CDEC Rule Tracker](#) for a comprehensive list





# Upcoming Rules

- Colorado Universal Preschool Program (UPK)
  - Rate Setting
  - LCO Community Plans
- Child Care Licensing
  - School-Aged Child Care
  - Children's Resident Camps
  - Special Activities
  - Outdoor Nature Based Programs
- Early Intervention Colorado Program (EI)
  - Updated Dispute Resolutions



# ECLC Role in Nominations



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The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) is the state's federally-recognized advisory body for early childhood.

To ensure that the RAC is representative and collaborative and embodies a wide range of perspectives and experience with regard to early childhood and family support programs and services:

- The ECLC is required to conduct outreach to a wide range of early childhood partners to solicit applications
- Submit a list of nominees for consideration by the CDEC Executive Director

Emphasis on diverse voices and perspectives, including a majority of members representing parents/ families/ caregivers, early childhood workforce, and historically underrepresented communities

5 Open Seats; members are eligible to be reappointed. They must submit an application and will be considered by the ECLC and the CDEC Executive Director.

# Timeline



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- **Application Links opened on Thursday, April 11, 2024**
  - Applications available in English and Spanish: <https://bit.ly/CDECRCAC>
  - RAC Overview available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- **Application Deadline (to be considered for July 1 appointments): Thursday, May 2, 2024**
- May: ECLC convenes a working group for review of RAC applications to develop recommendations for CDEC Executive Director
- June: Appointed RAC members notified
- July 1, 2024: New RAC member appointments begin

The application links will remain open; individuals can apply at anytime to be considered for future openings. Applications will be considered for 2 years after submission.

# We Need Your Help!

- **Share the Application and Encourage People to Apply!**
  - Applications available in English and Spanish: <https://bit.ly/CDECRAC>
  - RAC Overview available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- **Volunteer to Serve on the Working Group (ECLC Members)**
  - Review all applications
  - Meet 2 times between May 2-15
- **Review Recommendations from Working Group**



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A woman with long brown hair, wearing a purple shirt and a necklace, is sitting at a table in a classroom, reading a book to a group of young children. The children are sitting around the table, looking at the book. The classroom has shelves with books and toys in the background. The text "THANK YOU!!" is overlaid on the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font, enclosed in a white L-shaped graphic element.

**THANK YOU!!**

For more information regarding CDEC Rulemaking or the RAC please visit:  
<https://cdec.colorado.gov/for-partners/rulemaking-rules-advisory-council>



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# Child Care Contribution Tax Credit Input

Josh Pens, Department of Revenue



# What is the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit?

- Colorado allows an income tax credit to taxpayers who make a monetary contribution to “promote child care” in the state.
- Credit amount is 50% of the contribution. For every \$2 donated, a taxpayer reduces their tax liability by \$1.
- Maximum credit is \$100,000 per tax year.
- Not refundable - 5 year carryforward period for unused credit.

# Who is claiming the credit?

|                     | Income Tax Year |                 |                 |                  |                  |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
|                     | 2017            | 2018            | 2019            | 2020             | 2021             |
| <b>Individuals</b>  |                 |                 |                 |                  |                  |
| # of Claims         | 18,414          | 18,094          | 17,671          | 16,850           | 16,388           |
| Rev Impact          | \$28,880,707    | \$30,177,955    | \$28,791,404    | \$28,392,221     | \$33,075,219     |
| Rank                | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| <b>Corporations</b> |                 |                 |                 |                  |                  |
| # of Claims         | 70              | 72              | 69              | 57               | 57               |
| Rev Impact          | \$566,810       | \$640,964       | \$503,061       | \$467,628        | \$337,634        |
| Rank                | 8 <sup>th</sup> | 8 <sup>th</sup> | 9 <sup>th</sup> | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 11 <sup>th</sup> |

# Who is receiving the credit?

- For tax year 2022, we reviewed all 51 corporate and partnership income tax returns that claimed credit and 1,000 (6%) of the 15,267 individual income tax returns that claimed the credit.
- Reviewed 1,380 DR 1317 claim forms. These revealed:
  - 202 unique taxpayer identification numbers received contributions.
  - 8 organizations received 33% of the number of donations.

# HB23-1091 Report Opportunities

- Is the current credit designed to induce the contributions necessary to build a strong child care system?
  - Allowable contribution types
  - Leverage calculations and limits
  - Eligibility criteria
- Is the current credit fully aligned with the principles of the Early Childhood Colorado Framework?

# Questions for Discussion


- What is the role of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission and/or the Early Childhood Councils with respect to the credit?
- Are there opportunities to modify the eligibility criteria to better align the credit with the desired outcomes of the Early Childhood Colorado Framework?
- When a donor contributes real property, must that property be used as a child care facility? If so, for how long?

The background of the slide is a solid orange color. In the top right and bottom right corners, there is a faint, light-colored geometric pattern consisting of overlapping triangles that form a larger, complex shape. The text is centered in a white horizontal band.

**Break Time!**  
*Back in 10 minutes...*



# Public Comment and Commissioner Updates



# Statewide Strategic Plan Endorsement and Next Steps

Rebecca Klein, Start Early, and members of the Strategic Plan Working Group



# ELEVATING EARLY CHILDHOOD

A BRIGHT FUTURE  
FOR ALL COLORADO'S  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Early Childhood System **STRATEGIC PLAN 2024**

# AGENDA

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1. Introduction of the Strategic Plan and Summary of Strategic Plan Process
2. Highlights of the Process and the Early Childhood System Strategic Plan from the Working Group Members
3. Endorsement
4. Next steps and PDG application



# INTRODUCTION TO ELEVATING EARLY CHILDHOOD





# WHAT IS ELEVATING EARLY CHILDHOOD?

- ➤ It is Colorado's new Early Childhood System Strategic Plan.
- ➤ It was developed by and for families, early childhood professionals, policymakers, and others.
- ➤ The Plan seeks to bring about a system where young children, their families, and the professionals who care for them are valued, healthy, and thriving.



# HOW WAS THIS STRATEGIC PLAN CREATED?

## GROUPS TO GUIDE THE PROCESS:

- Strategic Planning Working Group - a diverse group of 30 early childhood professionals, leaders, and families
- Family Voice Council
- The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) and its subcommittees



## Community Conversations

with 12 different groups

e.g., Family Voice Council,  
ECLC subcommittees, ECCLA, FRCA

## Focus Groups

with 78 participants

- 4 with families,  
6 with EC professionals and  
1 combination
- 8 in English and 3 in Spanish



## Survey Responses

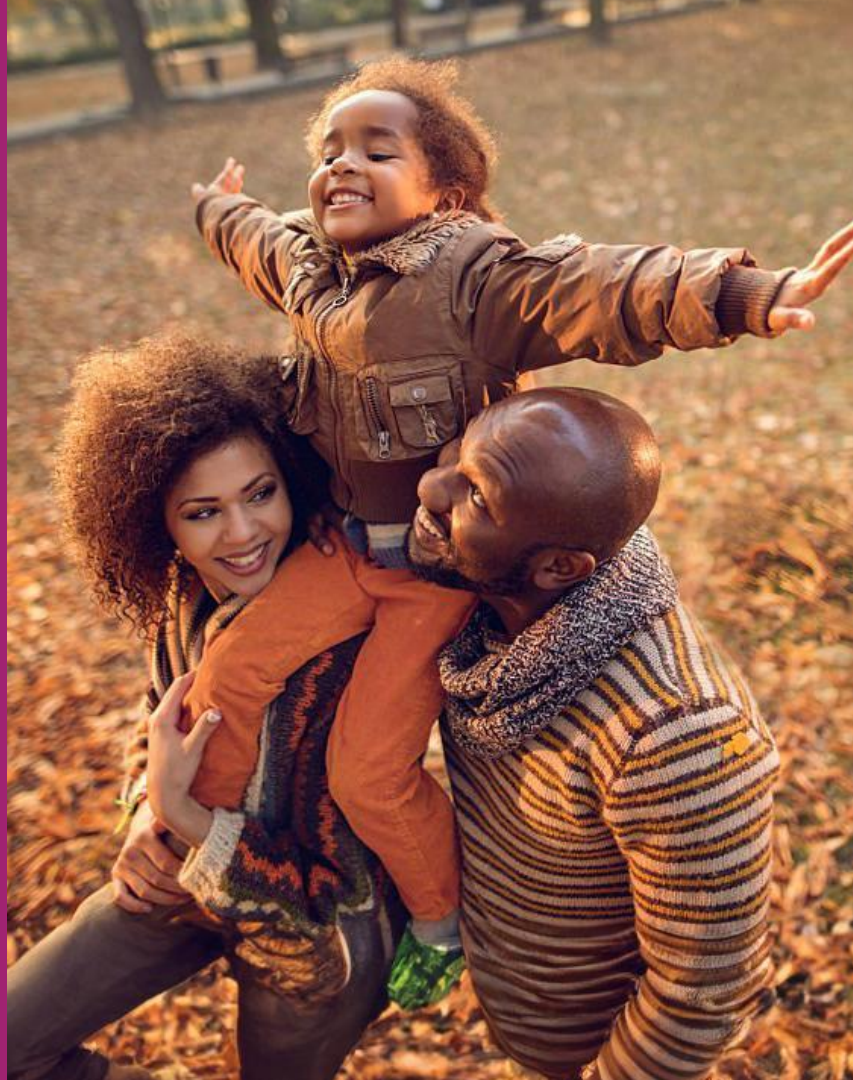
21.5%/131 from families  
78.5%/457 from professionals

## Key Informant Interviews



# HOW WILL THIS STRATEGIC PLAN WORK?

- This is a plan for collective action.
- This plan is not solely for the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, the Early Childhood Leadership Council, or the Preschool Development Grant; the responsibility of any one department or organization; prescriptive on how organizations can contribute.
- People at all levels of the system and across multiple sectors can actively contribute and collaborate to bring about the changes Colorado's children, families, and professionals need and desire.

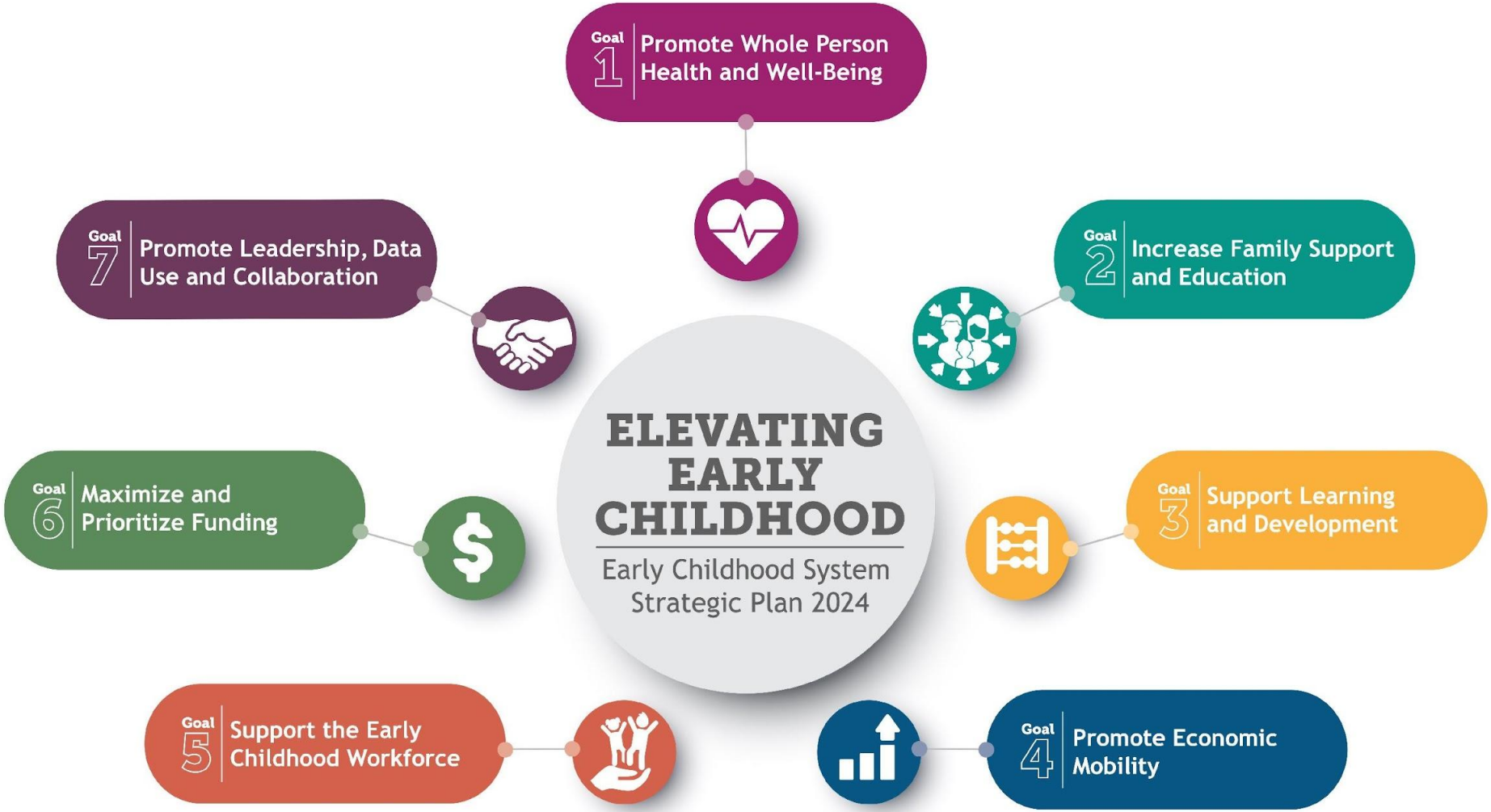


A photograph of a family of three outdoors. A man in a dark jacket is carrying a baby on his shoulders. A woman in a light-colored jacket is standing next to him, smiling and looking at the baby. The background is a blurred natural setting with trees and a path.

2

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE  
PROCESS & PLAN**







# 3

## Discussion Next Steps

# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- What questions or comments do you have about the **Elevating Early Childhood** strategic plan, how it was created, and how it can be used?





# ENDORSEMENT VOTE

- Can we have a motion to endorse the Elevating Early Childhood Statewide Strategic Plan?





## Next Steps

- Promotion of the plan
- In-person meetings to engage communities throughout the state in implementing the plan
- Pursuing a collective impact implementation approach - feedback at May PQAA
- What thoughts or guidance do you have on next steps?



# ELEVATING EARLY CHILDHOOD

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THANK YOU



## Early Childhood System STRATEGIC PLAN 2024

*The project described is supported by the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative (PDG B-5), Grant Number 90TP0114, from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Administration for Children and Families, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*



# Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Plan Process

Mary Alice Cohen, CDEC



# Agenda

- Overview of CCDF
- What does CCDF fund at CDEC?
- Process for creating CCDF Plan
- Timeline of Implementation
- ECLC Work Session May 2024
- Changes to the CCDF State Plan
- Federal Rule and Waiver Process



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**CCDBG  
Act**

**CCDF  
Final Rule**

**CCDF  
Plan**

- The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act is the law that, along with Section 418 of the Social Security Act, authorizes the federal child care subsidy program known as the Child Care and Development Fund.
- CCDF is the primary federal funding source devoted to providing low-income families that are working or participating in education and training with help paying for child care. Additionally, these funds are used to improve the quality of child care for families.
- The Plan describes the Child Care and Development Fund program to be administered by the State or Territory for the period from 10/01/2024 to 9/30/2027, as provided for in the applicable statutes and regulations.



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# Purposes of the Child Care & Development Block Grant

1. "To allow each state maximum flexibility in developing child care programs and policies that best suit the needs of children and parents within that state"
2. "To promote parental choice to empower working parents to make their own decisions regarding the child care services that best suit their family's needs"
3. "To encourage states to provide consumer education information to help parents make informed choices about child care services and to promote involvement by parents and family members in the development of their children in child care settings"

4. "To assist states in delivering high-quality coordinated early childhood care and education services to maximize parents' options and support parents trying to achieve independence from public assistance"
5. "To assist states in improving the overall quality of child care services and programs by implementing the health, safety, licensing, training, and oversight standards established in this subchapter and in the state law (including state regulations)"
6. "To improve child care and development of participating children"
7. "To increase the number and percentage of low-income children in high-quality child care settings"



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# CDEC FY 2024-25

## FY 2024-25 CDEC Long Bill (Draft - pending Governor's signature)

| Division                             | Total Funds          | General Fund         | Cash Funds           | Reappropriated Funds | Federal Funds        |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| EDO -General Administration          | \$16,411,913         | \$5,506,370          | \$1,548,739          | \$6,177,605          | \$3,179,199          |
| Information Technology Systems       | \$29,210,496         | \$18,618,730         | \$3,260,000          | \$2,277,962          | \$5,053,804          |
| Partnerships & Collaborations        | \$12,160,885         | \$3,074,639          | \$2,800,000          | \$0                  | \$6,286,246          |
| Early Learning Access and Quality    | \$32,069,626         | \$7,806,416          | \$1,073,128          | \$0                  | \$23,190,082         |
| <i>Universal Preschool Program</i>   | <i>\$344,060,184</i> | <i>\$146,333,200</i> | <i>\$197,726,984</i> | <i>\$0</i>           | <i>\$0</i>           |
| <i>Child Care Assistance Program</i> | <i>\$177,656,002</i> | <i>\$32,058,921</i>  | <i>\$17,375,025</i>  | <i>\$0</i>           | <i>\$128,222,056</i> |
| Community and Family Support         | \$142,847,638        | \$76,975,338         | \$39,225,450         | \$9,940,111          | \$16,706,739         |
| Licensing & Administration           | \$14,622,185         | \$2,613,584          | \$2,673,377          | \$0                  | \$9,335,224          |
| Total                                | \$769,038,929        | \$292,987,198        | \$265,947,302        | \$18,395,678         | \$191,708,751        |



# Plan Sections

1. CCDF Program Administration
2. Child and Family Eligibility and Enrollment and Continuity of Care
3. Child Care Affordability
4. Parental Choice, Equal Access, Payment Rates, and Payment Practices
5. Health and Safety of Child Care Settings
6. Support for a Skilled, Qualified, and Compensated Child Care Workforce
7. Quality Improvement Activities
8. Lead Agency Coordination and Partnerships to Support Service Delivery
9. Family Outreach and Consumer Education
10. Program Integrity and Accountability



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# CCDF State Plan Changes

The CCDF State Plan has been revised for the 2025-2027 years to include CCDF regulatory changes published 3/1/2024.

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The Plan has also been revised to include more picklists instead of primarily text responses for many sections.



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# New CCDF Rules



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## Provider Payments § 98.45

Lead Agencies shall establish payment practices that reflect generally accepted private-pay payment practices including:

- Advanced Enrollment-Based Payments
- Payment of Reasonable Registration Fees
- Reimbursement for Holidays
- Use of Grants and Contracts

## Simplified Application Process § 98.21

Lead Agencies shall establish procedures and policies to ensure parents are not required to unduly disrupt their activity to complete the application or re-determination process, including the use of online forms and other measures, to the extent practicable.

## Adjusted 12-Month Eligibility § 98.21

Lead Agencies shall ensure a minimum of 12 months of eligibility for children newly added to a case.

## Parent Fees (Copays) § 98.33, §98.45

Parent fees cannot exceed 7% of income, regardless of the number of children in care.

Lead Agencies must provide Consumer Education on parent fees including fee amounts and policies for waiving parent fees.

## Additional Options

Encourages or allows for:

- Expanding the population in which may have a waived parent fee
- Paying above private pay rates
- Presumptive eligibility

# Federal Rule & Waiver Process

- States must indicate in the Plan how they will implement requirements in the Federal Rule.
- If states are unable to be in compliance with the Federal Rule by 5/1/2024, they will be permitted to apply for waivers of up to 2 years.
- The Department will be requesting a waiver to allow time for proper implementation of the new requirements as outlined in [IM-CCCAP-2024-0001](#).



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# Timeline

**April 29, 2024**

The Department will complete initial drafts of the Plan

**June 3, 2024**

The Department will convene a public hearing

**June 14-24, 2024**

The Plan will be shared with the Governor's Office for clearance

**May 14, 2024**

Final draft of the Plan will be completed

**June 4-17, 2024**

The Department will revise the Plan based upon feedback

**June 25-28, 2024**

The final draft of the Plan will be finalized



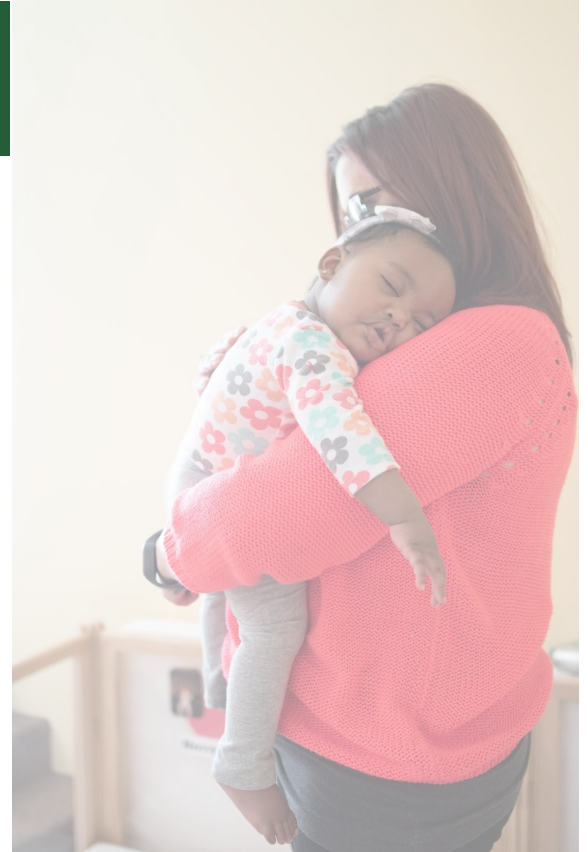
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# ECLC Work Session

- **May 20, 9:00-10:00 am**
- **Commissioners will provide feedback on the draft of the plan that is open for public comment**
- **The meeting will be open to the public, but discussion will be limited to Commissioners**
- **Look for Google Calendar invite soon!**



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# Questions?

## Thank you!

[maryalice.cohen@state.co.us](mailto:maryalice.cohen@state.co.us)



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# Next Steps and Final Thoughts

# Save the Date!

Next Meeting: June 27, 2024

We plan to hold this meeting in the mountain  
region

At this meeting, we will honor several  
commissioners whose terms on the Commission  
are ending

# ECLC

*Early Childhood Leadership Commission*

Next Meeting:

June 27, 2024

Hybrid

Thank you!

