

## Colorado Statewide Early Childhood Vision

Colorado has made significant strides in the quality, access, and equity in early childhood supports and services across the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework (Framework)* domains of Family Support and Education, Health and Well-being, and Learning and Development. Representatives from all of these areas across Colorado will begin a multi-faceted effort to document major milestones, understand current and future opportunities to improve quality, access and equity, and prioritize the short- and long-term actions and investments to help guide future efforts to advance outcomes for Colorado children and families.

**Early Milestones Colorado** will develop a comprehensive history concerning the evolution of early childhood efforts across the Framework domains in Colorado. The main outcomes of this project will be to:

- Educate new policy makers concerning current and past progress;
- Help inform future priority-setting for those new to the field, including local and state administrators;
- Provide additional analysis of principles and conditions to be considered to help guide next steps; and
- Share the story of Colorado's progress and accomplishments with national stakeholders.

Colorado organizations the **Colorado Children's Campaign** and **Clayton Early Learning** will convene thought leaders, solicit input from community voices and practitioners, and review the best evidence of what works for young children to develop a menu of policy opportunities and strategies Colorado could utilize to advance outcomes for kids and families. They have formed a cross-sector policy vision advisory board to guide and inform the policy opportunities and investments and are engaged in community feedback collection and policy analysis that will result in:

- A comprehensive platform of policy opportunities and investments that include measures of unmet need, equity impacts, and cost considerations for various policy strategies;
- A product that will be searchable and includes policy opportunities with measurable outcomes, data and community insights; and
- Increased capacity, diversity, and volume of voices to advance a shared policy agenda.

The **Early Childhood Leadership Commission**, Colorado's state advisory council on early childhood, will build on the history and platform of policy opportunities and investments described above, along with engagement with additional stakeholders, to prioritize the issues most in need of policy advancement and investments to support kids and families as Colorado transitions to new state leadership. The ECLC will:

- Reflect upon the areas where policy advancements are most needed in Colorado and draft an initial prioritized early childhood vision;
- Gather feedback from stakeholders by asking Commissioners to engage with their communities, developing a questionnaire to stakeholders based on the draft prioritized statewide vision, and facilitating several listening sessions throughout the state; and
- Develop and share a prioritized shared vision for early childhood in Colorado.

The goal of this work is to summarize and prioritize a set of opportunities, policies, and investments that the collective early childhood community will use to advance efforts to ensure that all children across Colorado are healthy, valued and thriving.