



Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Working Group

The ECCS Working Group will guide the implementation of the Colorado Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant: Health Integration Prenatal-to-three Program (CO-ECCS). This project works to advance the infrastructure, capacity, equity, and sustainability of Colorado’s maternal and early childhood systems of care and will be implemented collaboratively by key agencies comprising Colorado’s infrastructure for the delivery and coordination of prenatal-to-three (P-3) services. The ECCS Grant supports Colorado in achieving its vision that: *“All children are valued, healthy, and thriving and have equal access to services, supports and resources.”*

Working Group Charge

The Working Group is charged as an advisory group for the ECCS Grant. The Working Group will engage stakeholders in the system of wrap-around supports for families during pregnancy through the first three years of a child’s life to ensure alignment of Colorado’s early childhood and maternal child health systems. In order to advance health equity of P-3 services, the Working Group will collect information and examine data from diverse partners to inform a Health Equity Action Plan.

ECLC Areas of Opportunity

After engaging with stakeholders to understand the history and progress of early childhood in Colorado, as well as the wide array of policy strategies and opportunities that exist to ensure the state continues to move forward, the Commission has identified three Areas of Opportunity that are most critical to continue the advancement of work in early childhood across the state. The following Areas of Opportunity align with the goals of the ECCS Grant.

Area 3: Support improved family health and economic security through a Two Generation approach.

ECLC Legislative Duties

§ 26-6.2-104. Early Childhood Leadership Commission duties associated with the Working Group:

- (a) To identify opportunities for, and barriers to, the alignment of standards, rules, policies, and procedures across programs and agencies that support young children;
- (b) To advise and make recommendations to the state department and to other relevant early childhood entities concerning implementation of the early childhood Colorado framework;
- (c) To assist public and private agencies in coordinating efforts on behalf of pregnant women and children and their families, including securing funding and additional investments for services, programs, and access to these services and programs for children and their families;

- (f) To develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning:
- (I) Increasing children’s school readiness;
 - (II) Increasing participation in and access to childcare and early education programs; and
 - (III) Promoting family and community engagement in children’s early education and development.

Goals of the ECCS Working Group

- Expand health care providers’ use of a single point of entry and coordinated intake and referral system.
- Identify and assess policy barriers across early childhood systems and build on health innovations to improve systems.
- Align family engagement strategies across early childhood and maternal child health initiatives and create a structure for incorporating feedback into planning.
- Support local communities in collaborative planning and blending funds for program implementation.
- Merge health into the early childhood system by examining existing needs assessments that impact the early childhood population and implement health equity strategies.
- Examine racial disparities identified in data sets and needs assessments and use data to inform the health equity plan.
- Collect information from diverse partners through existing advisory councils to inform the P-3 Health Equity Action Plan.
- Produce and disseminate an Early Childhood Health Equity Action Plan.

Membership Sectors

Members of the Working Group serve as voting members with all stakeholders encouraged to actively participate.

- Families
- Colorado Department of Human Services
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado Early Childhood Leadership Commission
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- Statewide Early Childhood Organizations
- Local Regional Accountability Entities (RAEs)
- Local Community Providers for Oral, Mental and Physical Health (including Nutrition)
- Local Departments of Public Health
- Health Care System Partners
- Refugee Services
- Housing Services
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Services
- Colorado Office of eHealth Innovation

ECCS Working Group Next Steps

- Identify co-chairs
- Determine and invite members from identified sectors to serve on the workgroup.
- Implementation teams formed and meetings to work on implementation strategies and efforts with monthly reports to the full workgroup of progress and challenges for insights, support, and coordination.
- Monthly coordination meetings to ensure that work activities are aligned and that synergies are

occurring throughout the teams.

- Facilitate the implementation of the goals and objectives for the ECCS Grant.
- Create and disseminate an Early Childhood Health Equity Action Plan.

Meetings

The Working Group will meet monthly. All meetings will be supported through an independent facilitator and have remote participation options

Duration

The Working Group membership was designated on December 16, 2021, until August 2022, and subject to annual review and reauthorization.