



**Colorado's State
Advisory Council for
Early Childhood**

March 30, 2022

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The [Early Childhood Leadership Commission](#) (ECLC) would like to express our deepest gratitude to the families, providers, stakeholders, policy makers, and early childhood champions who continue to drive toward an early childhood system where all children are valued, healthy and thriving.

Over the past year, the ECLC brought together hundreds of diverse voices from across Colorado through a robust stakeholder engagement process and invited those most impacted by early childhood services, families with young children, to share their experiences - and their challenges - in navigating the complexities of systems.

We grounded our work in our shared guiding principles, in order to ensure that our discussions and decisions were rooted in what ultimately will bring the best outcome for children and families across the state.

This steadfast commitment to a unified early childhood system that is centered on the needs and experiences of children will best ensure access to high quality care and learning opportunities, advance equity, and prioritize family and community engagement. We believe that local communities know the needs of their families and can best develop local birth-to-5 early childhood plans to meet their unique needs, while ensuring a mixed-delivery system is available so parents have a choice in where their children receive early care and learning services, including the new universal preschool program.

We recognize the extraordinary need to recruit and retain a high quality, diverse workforce, including family, friend and neighbor providers, that is appropriately compensated and supported. It is essential that we support the entire early care and education industry - including small nonprofit, for-profit and faith-based business owners - who employ this critical workforce.

We also believe that the appropriate use of data to understand what is working, who is being served, and who is being left behind is critical as we work toward meeting the needs of families across a variety of programs and settings. We must continue to effectively utilize technology to break down barriers for families striving to access different programs and systems, while ensuring the highest security and privacy of all information.

Finally, we are grateful that our early childhood community remains rooted in the [Early Childhood Colorado Framework](#); we understand that for children and families to thrive, we must focus on all aspects of their development including Health & Well-being, Family Support & Education, and Learning & Development.

This is an incredible moment in Colorado's history. We are grateful to Governor Polis and to the members of the General Assembly for stewarding our shared vision and for working every day to ensure families can flourish.

It has been an honor to guide the transition process of creating a Department of Early Childhood and universal preschool program to this point, and we look forward to continuing to play a role, alongside all of you, to ensure all children, their families, and the early childhood professionals who support them are valued, healthy, and thriving.

Sincerely,
Members of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission