

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

August 27, 2020

9:30am- 12:00pm



Webinar Only

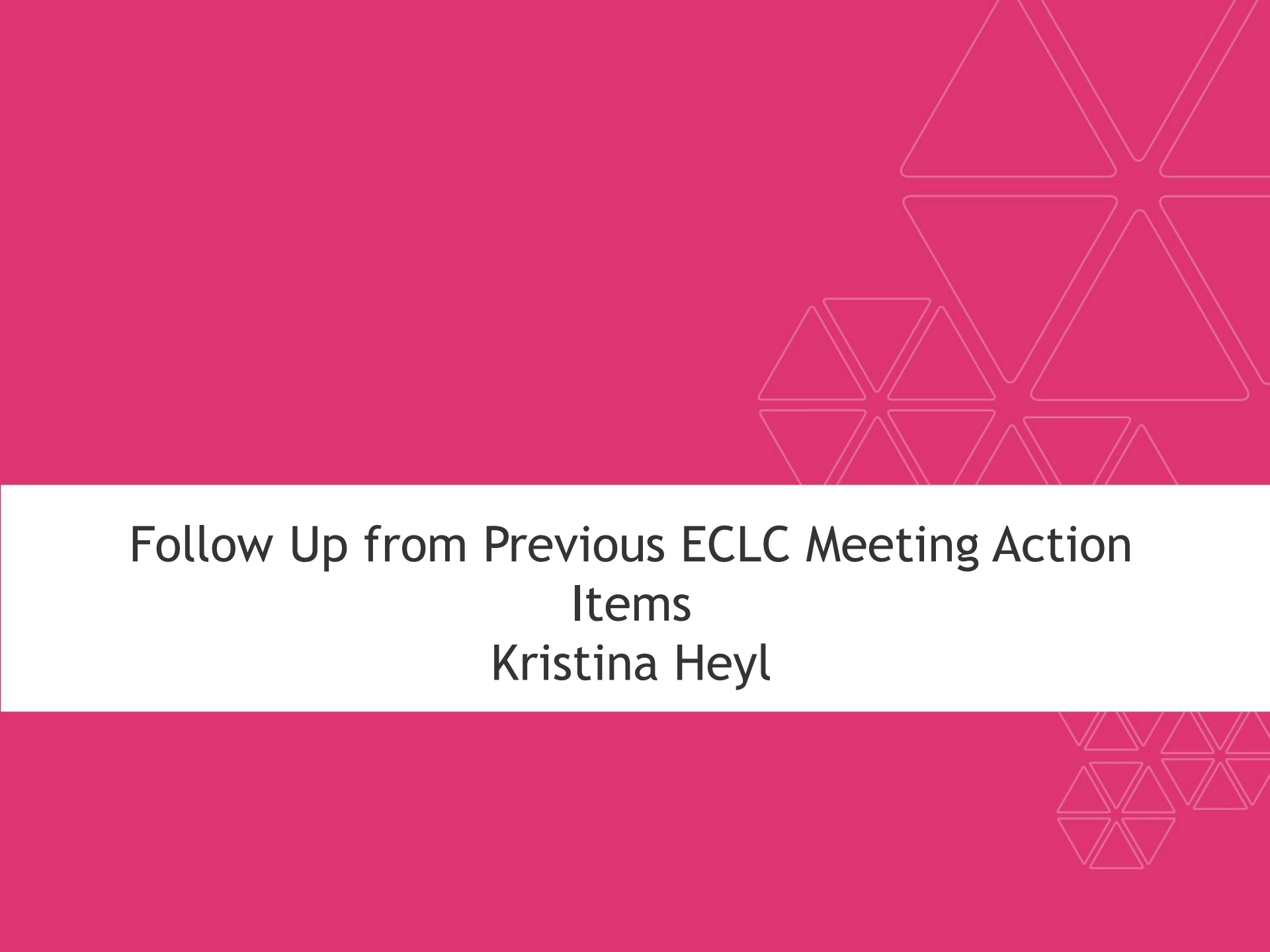
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3807444249121509392>



Old Business

Business Meeting

- Welcome New Members: Adeeb Khan, Happy Haynes & Rebecca Kantor
- Review Meeting Objectives:
 - Approve Meeting Minutes from June 25, 2020 Meetings
 - Hear updates from State Agencies
 - Discuss COVID-19 Research + Opportunities to Share the Information
 - Learn about Implementation Planning for the Future of Preschool
 - Consider Endorsement of Ballot Measure
 - Approve Subcommittee Co-chairs
 - Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment
- Approval of June 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes



Follow Up from Previous ECLC Meeting Action
Items
Kristina Heyl

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - Next Steps

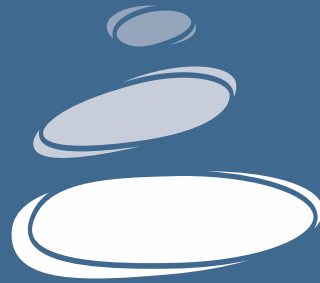
- Discussion Questions for Subcommittees:
 - Who is missing from the table? Are there communities that we should be reaching out to be part of our Subcommittees?
 - What are the Subcommittees doing to ensure equitable outcomes for all Colorado children and families?
 - What are some actionable steps for the Subcommittees to increase our focus on equity, diversity and inclusion?

Family and Parent Engagement Plan

- Stipends for Parent Representatives
- Connect to Other Parent and Family Engagement Groups
 - Family Voice Council
- Thoughtful and Intentional Coordination on ECLC Efforts



COVID-19 Early Childhood Sector Research
Meg Franko & Suzanne Delap, Early Milestones
Colorado



EARLY MILESTONES

COLORADO

COVID-19 EC RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP EMERGING FINDINGS

Note: all data is preliminary and subject to adjustments as analyses continue

AUGUST 26, 2020

SURVEY RESPONSES *(as of 8-16-20; 9:00am)*

Closed



Providers: 1,225

Open through August



Families: 8,000+

Closed



Workforce: \approx 6,000

PROGRAM SUPPLY/CAPACITY



KEY SUPPLY/CAPACITY HIGHLIGHTS

- 10% of providers have closed
 - Some are reopening, but many are not or are not yet certain
- Enrollment has dropped by:
 - 39% for children under 5
 - 30% for school-age children
- Some regions of the state have been hit harder than others
- Public funding helped programs sustain unexpected downturns
- Programs need grants or forgivable loans to re-open or stay open
- Operational changes are having negative impact on business viability

WHO CURRENTLY IS OPEN/CLOSED?

OPEN/CLOSED STATUS – BIRTH-12 YEARS

OPEN

41%

OPEN WITH
REDUCED
ENROLLMENT

33%

CLOSED
BECAUSE OF
PANDEMIC

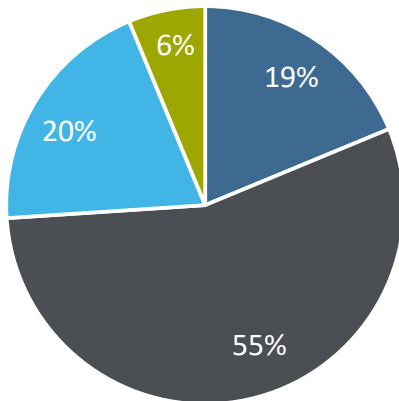
10%

CLOSED FOR
SUMMER

17%

RE-OPENING PLANS

(AMONG THOSE CLOSED BECAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC n=93)



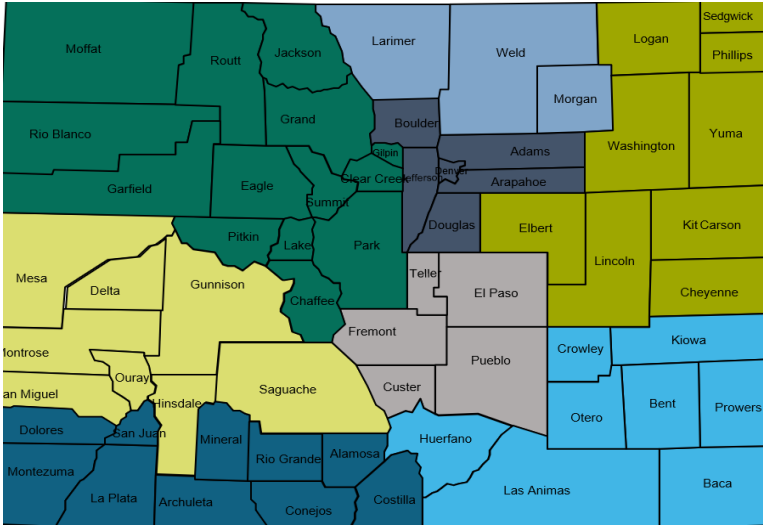
- Re-opening with restrictions
- Re-opening within 3 months
- May not re-open
- Closed permanently



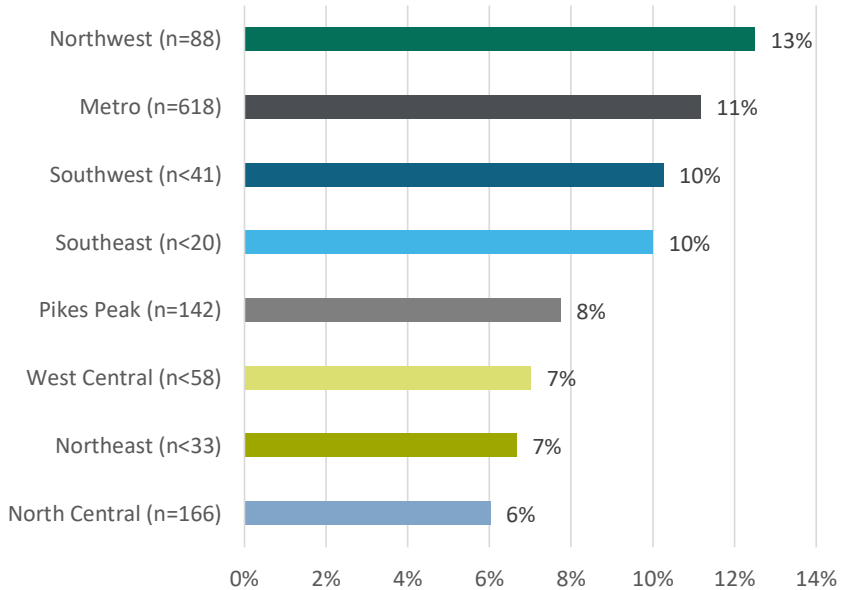
WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO BE CLOSED?

Those who do NOT participate in federal, state, or local early childhood funding programs*

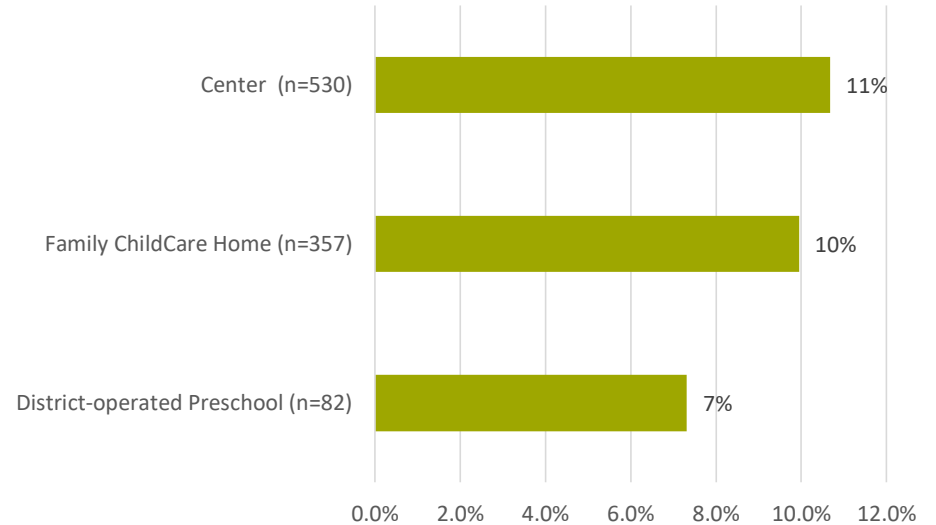
*Child Care Assistance Program, Colorado Preschool Program, Denver Preschool Program, Head Start/Early Head Start, Summit Preschool Program



% Closed by Region



% Closed by Program Type



HOW HAS ENROLLMENT CHANGED SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC?

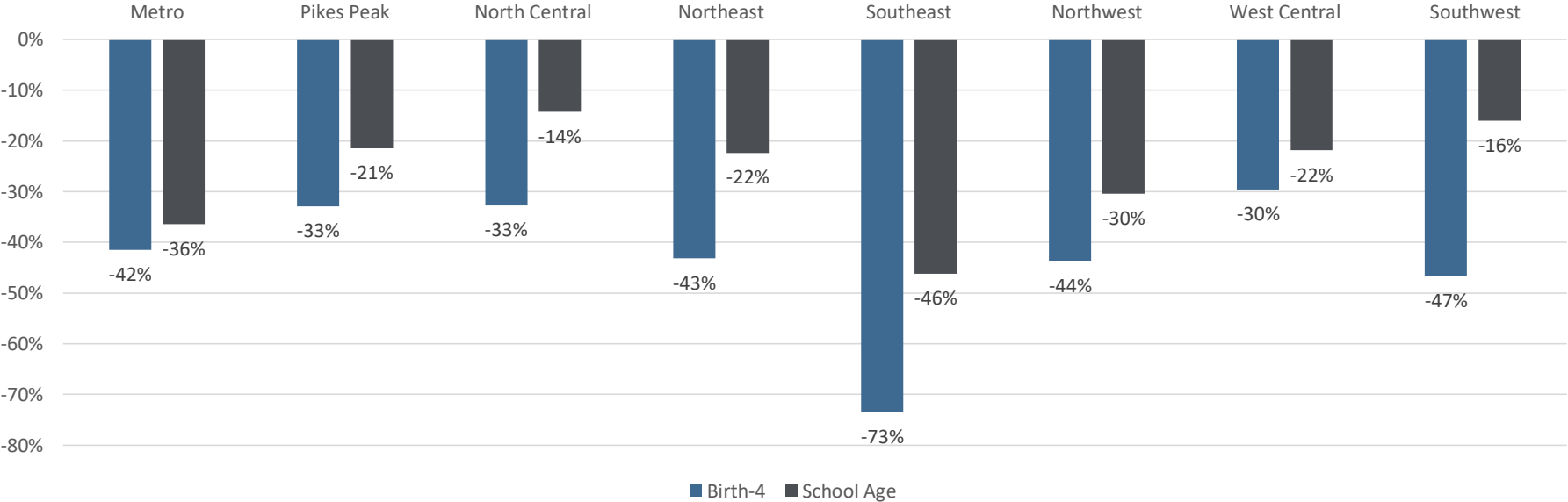
BIRTH-AGE 4

↓ 39%

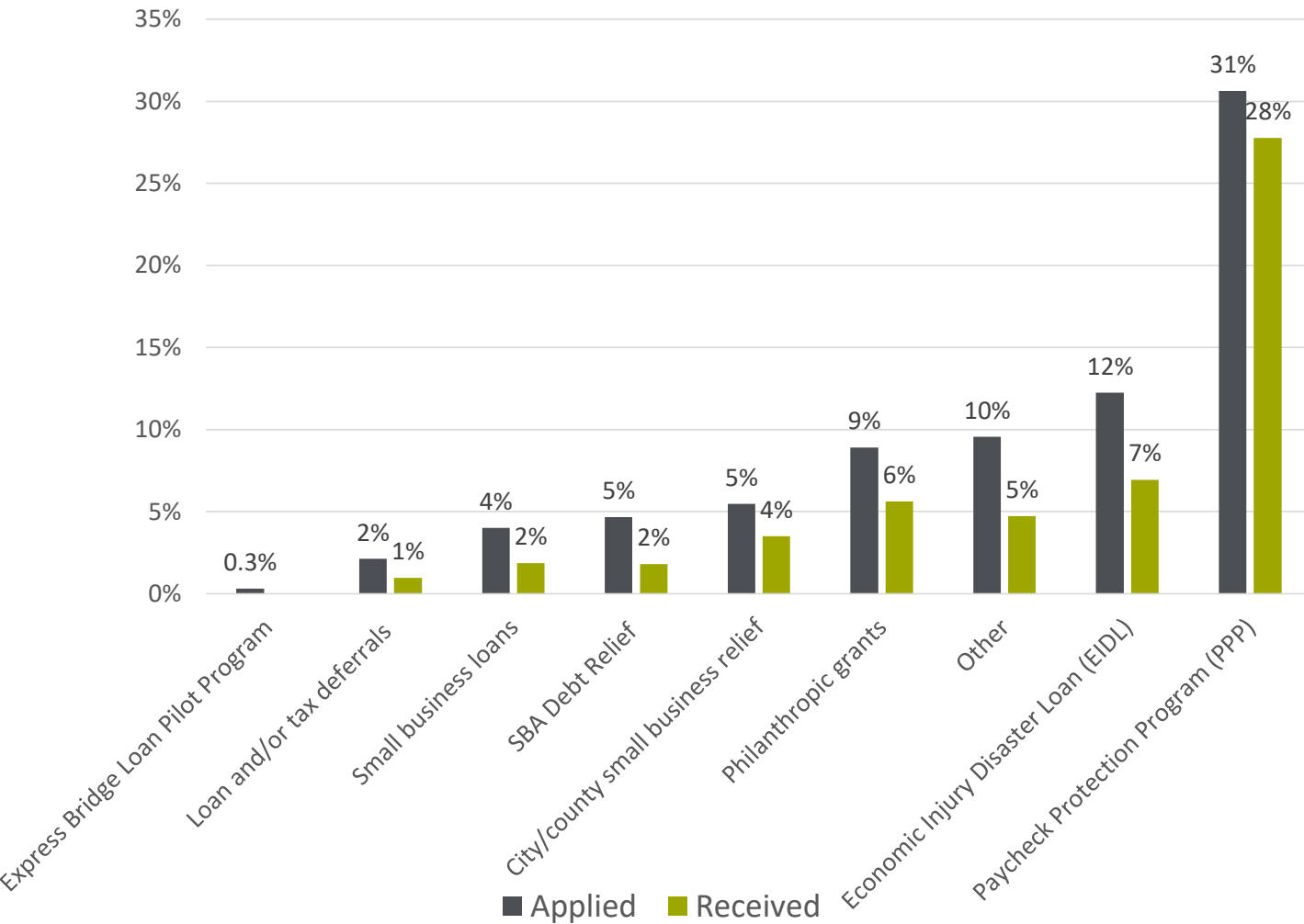
SCHOOL AGE

↓ 30%

Reduction by Age and Region



FUNDING SOURCES APPLIED FOR/RECEIVED



QUOTES

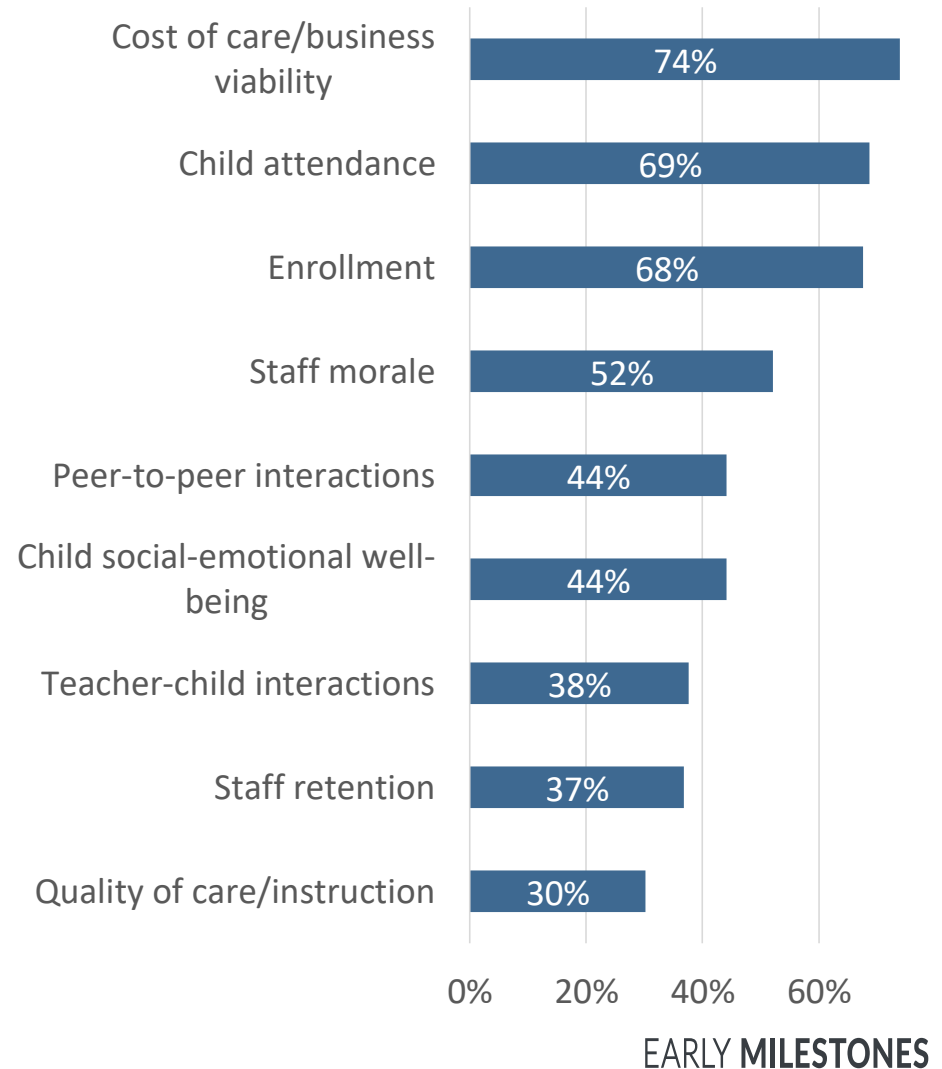
- *“Not mixing groups will continue to make viability difficult.”*
- *“[We] need more CCCAP absences paid during this time – counties are going back to previous limits.”*

PROGRAMS' OPERATIONAL CHANGES

Most Common Changes

- Increased cleaning of toys
- Increased cleaning of space
- Increased hand washing
- Health screenings at check-in
- Staff use of masks, gloves, other PPE
- Limitation of family access to classrooms
- Limitation of group sizes to 10 or fewer
- Six-foot distancing between adults
- Curb-side drop-off and/or pick-up
- Limitation/elimination of mixed group activities
- Limitation of each staff person to one group of children

Perceived Negative Impacts of Operational Changes On...



WORKFORCE RETENTION

Note: All workforce data is PRELIMINARY



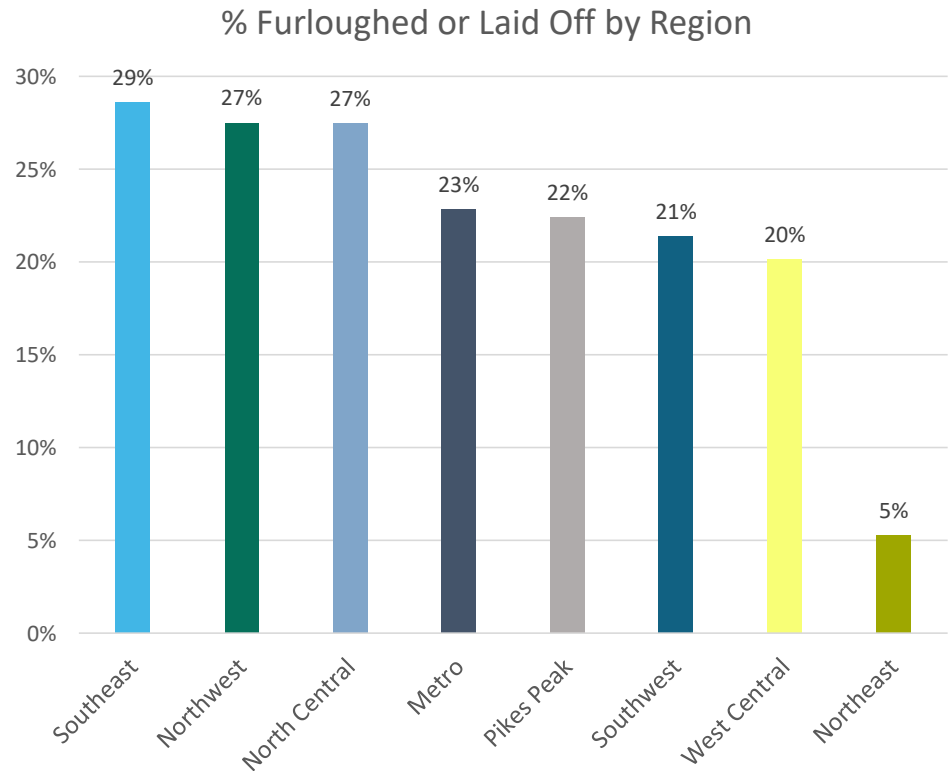
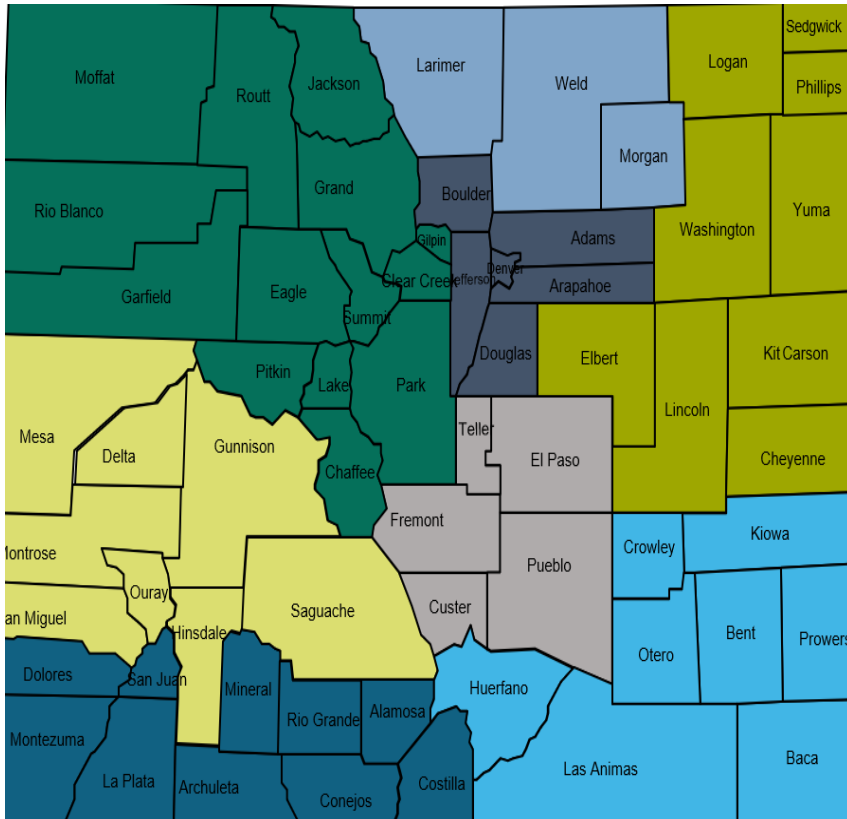
KEY WORKFORCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Nearly **25%** of the workforce was furloughed or laid off
 - Furloughs/lay-offs varied by **region** and **credential level**
- **10%** of out-of-work workforce doesn't plan to go back
- **50%** of the workforce saw their hours decrease and **46%** saw their household income decline
- **16%** are having difficulty paying bills
 - Rates are much higher depending on **race/ethnicity**
- Early educators need significantly more **technology** and **instructional support**

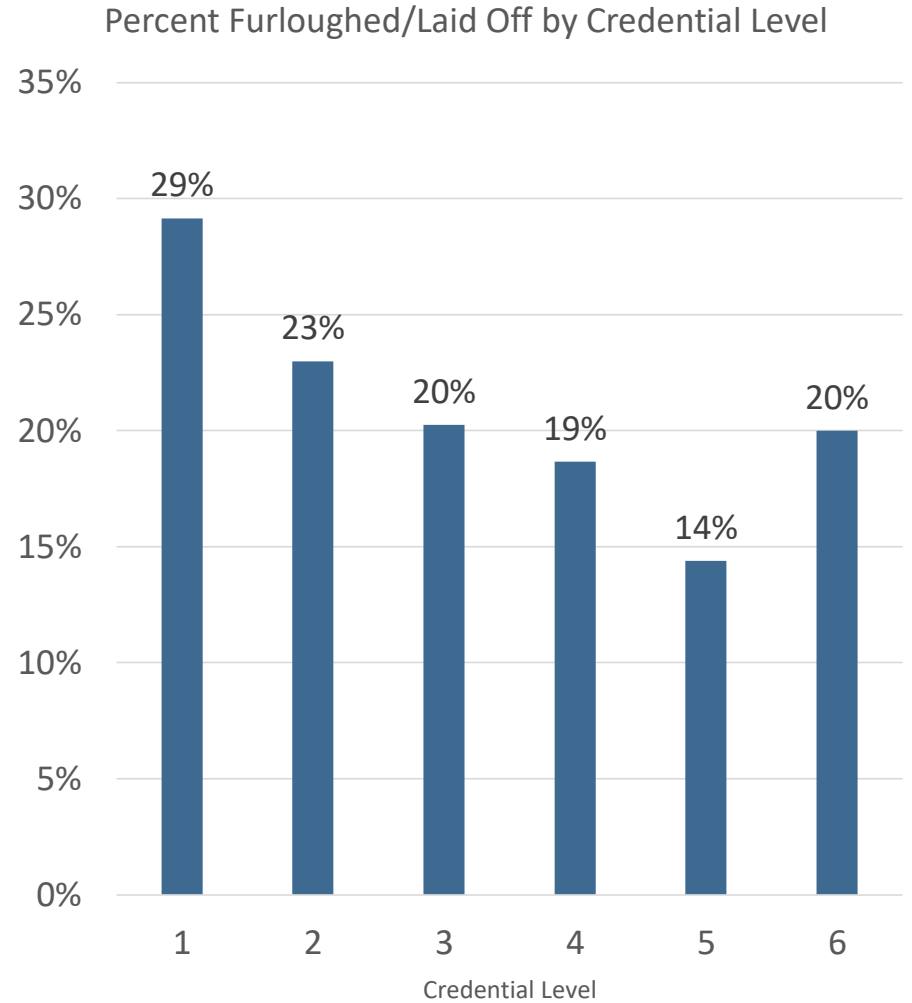
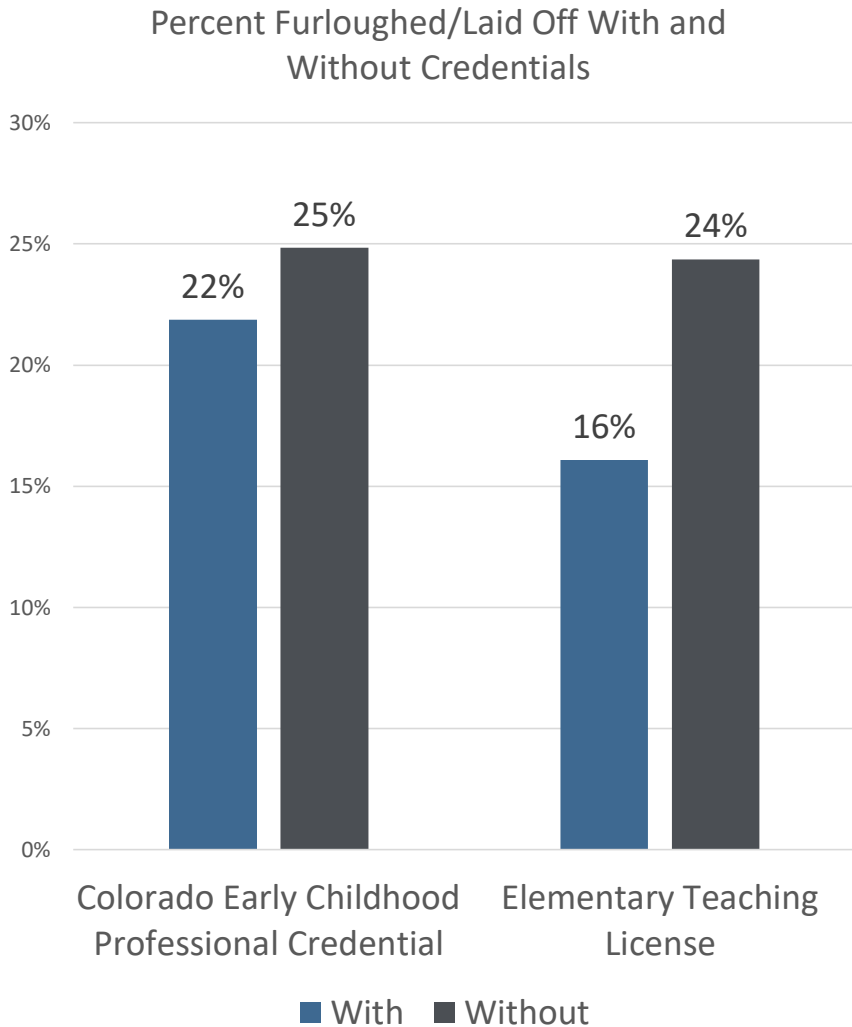
HOW HAS THE PANDEMIC IMPACTED TEACHER EMPLOYMENT?

FURLOUGHED OR LAID OFF
(Reported by Workforce)

23%



DID EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER CREDENTIALS PROTECT AGAINST FURLOUGHS AND LAYOFFS?



WHY ARE SOME WORKFORCE NOT RETURNING?

Not currently working or planning to
return to work in next 3 months
(n=249)

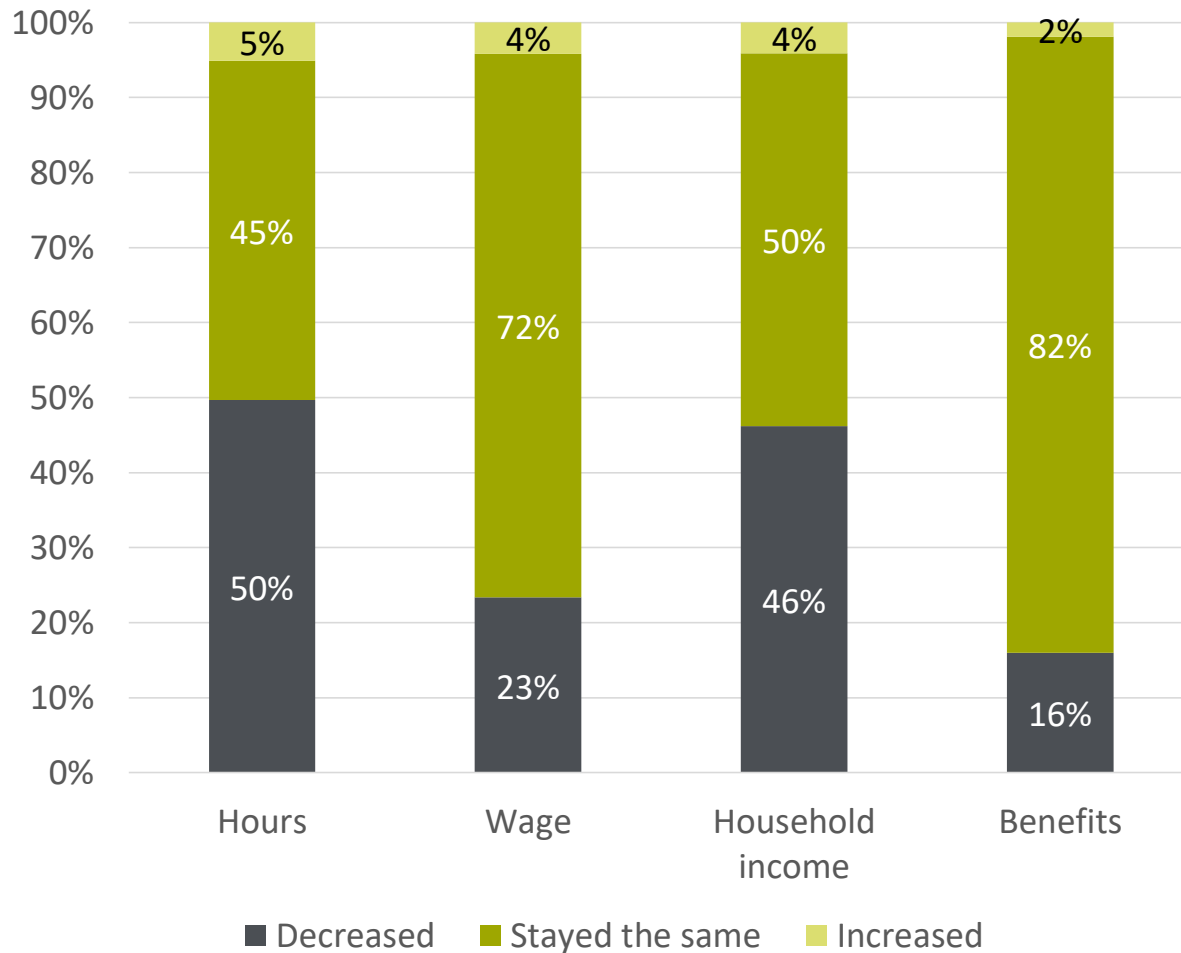
10%

Reason(s) for not returning to work	%
Health and safety concerns	32%
Taken another job outside EC sector	14%
Program is still closed	14%
No childcare for own children	13%
Retiring	5%



WORKFORCE FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Status of Financial Factors



10%

Receiving grocery assistance

5%

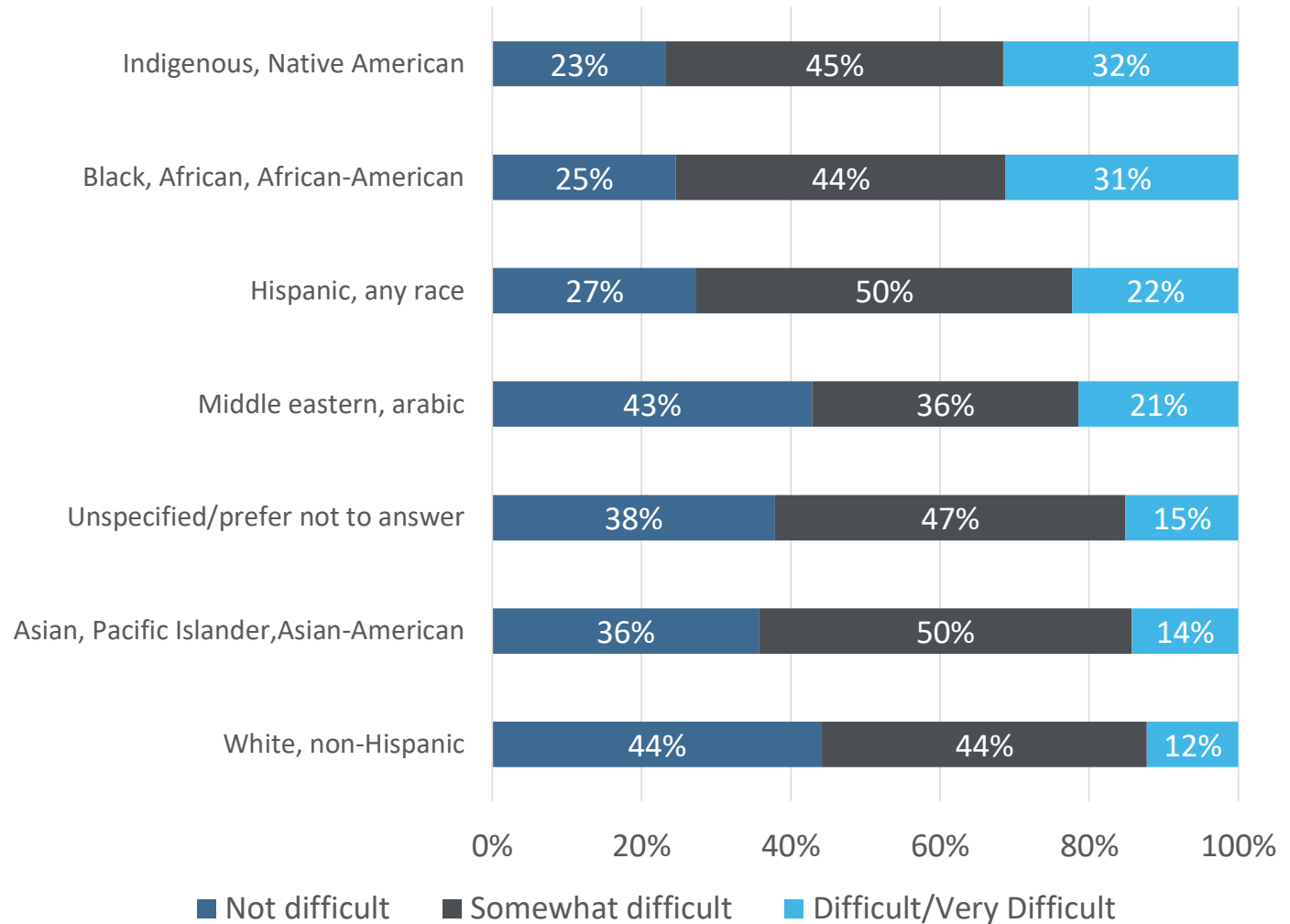
Receiving rent or mortgage relief

WORKFORCE FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

DIFFICULTY PAYING BILLS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

16%

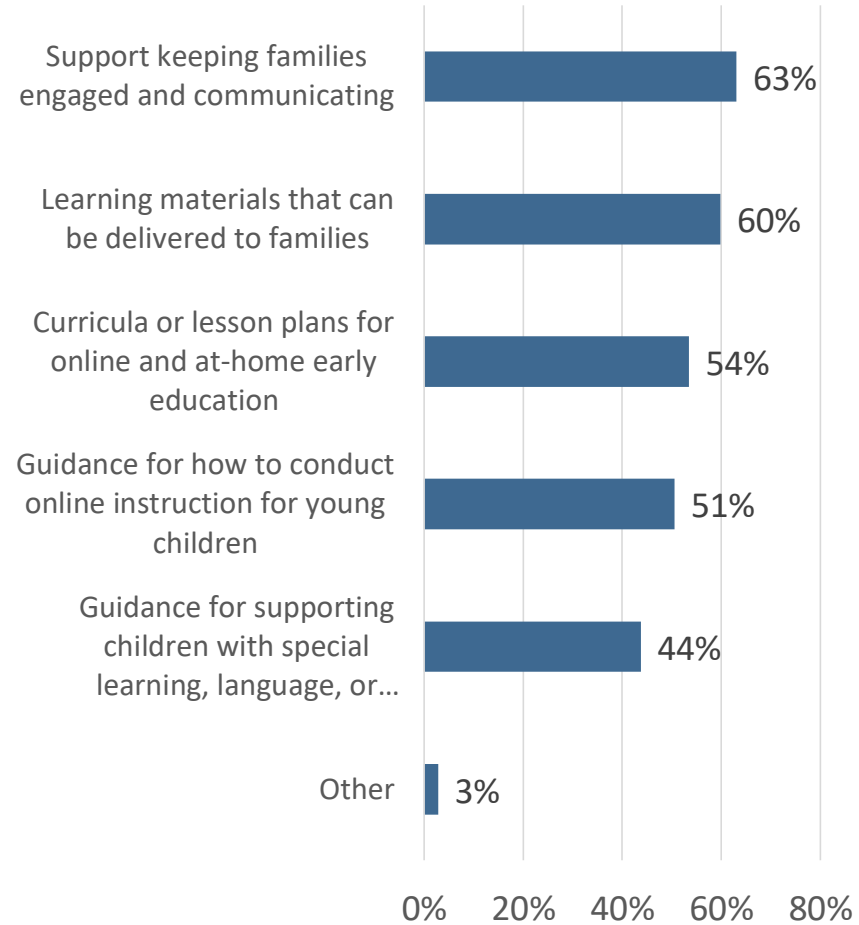
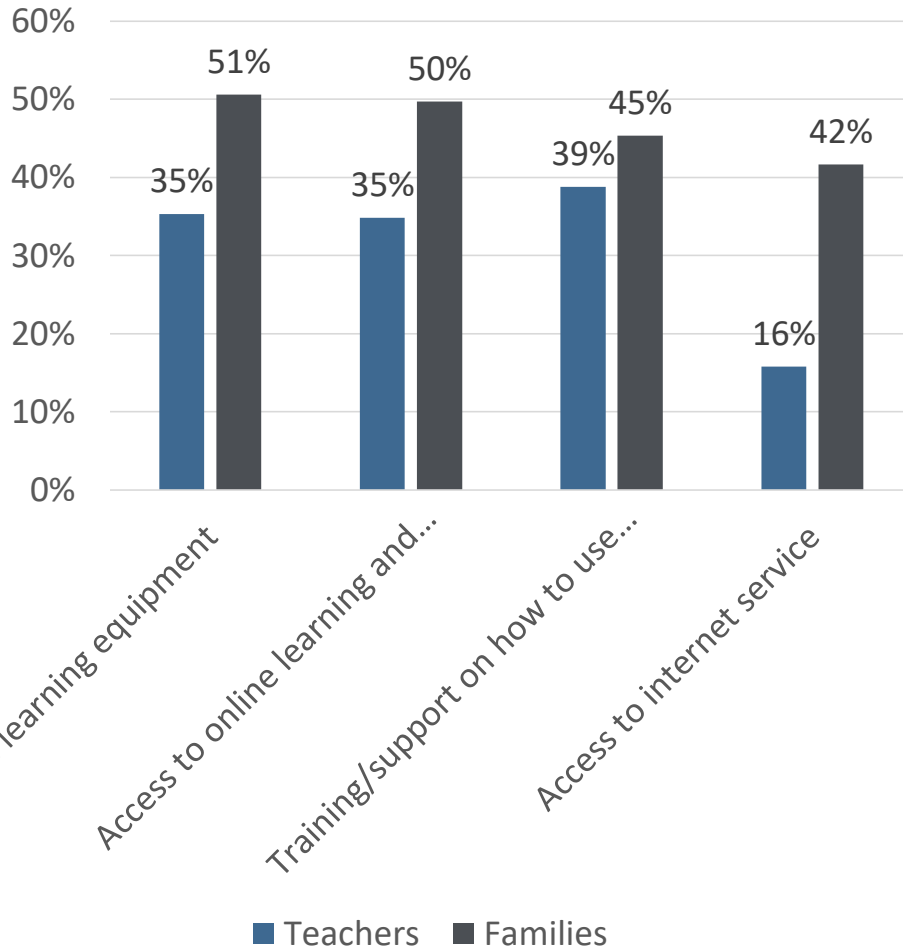
Finding it “difficult”
or “very” difficult
to pay bills



WHAT TECHNOLOGY AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORTS DO TEACHERS/CAREGIVERS NEED FOR REMOTE LEARNING?

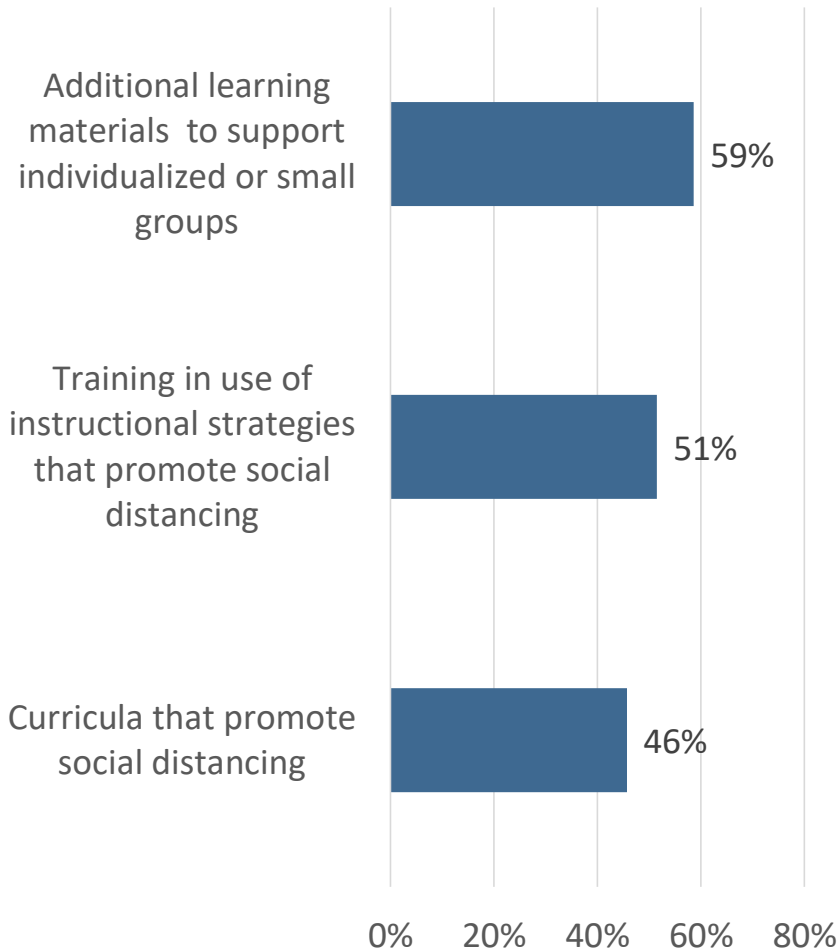
% OF TEACHERS/FAMILIES WITH TECH NEEDS

% REQUESTING SUPPORT

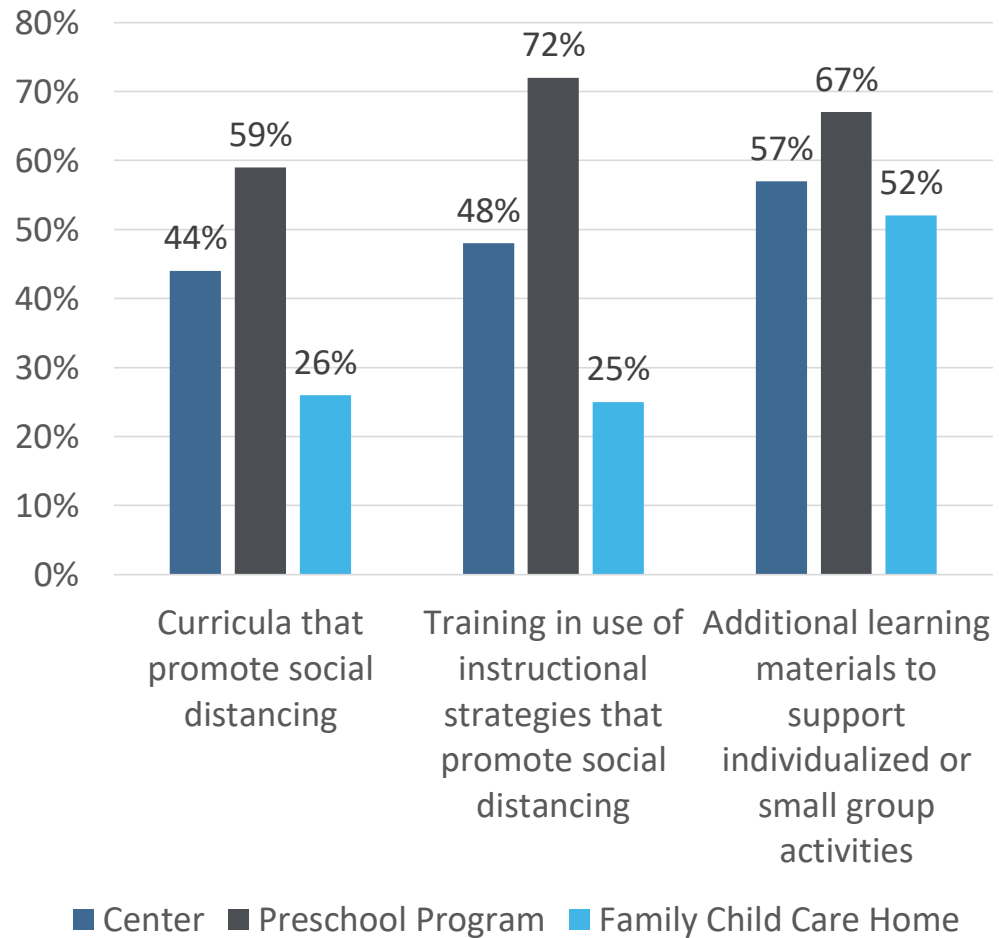


WHAT INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORTS DO TEACHERS/CAREGIVERS NEED FOR SOCIALLY-DISTANCED LEARNING?

% REQUESTING SUPPORT



% REQUESTING SUPPORT BY PROVIDER TYPE



FAMILIES

Note: All family data is PRELIMINARY



KEY FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

- **66%** of families had to alter child care arrangements due to the pandemic
 - Rates were highest for school age children
- **30%** of families do not currently have needed child care
- **57%** of families have not finalized child care plans for the fall
 - Security of plans vary by the **age of child** and **race/ethnicity**
- **Most** parents are caring for children themselves or have children in non-preferred arrangements
- A **majority** of families want small groups under 10 children and daily attendance
- **50%** of parents have seen their incomes decrease
 - Rates differ by **race/ethnicity**

FAMILY SAMPLE: WHO IS RESPONDING?

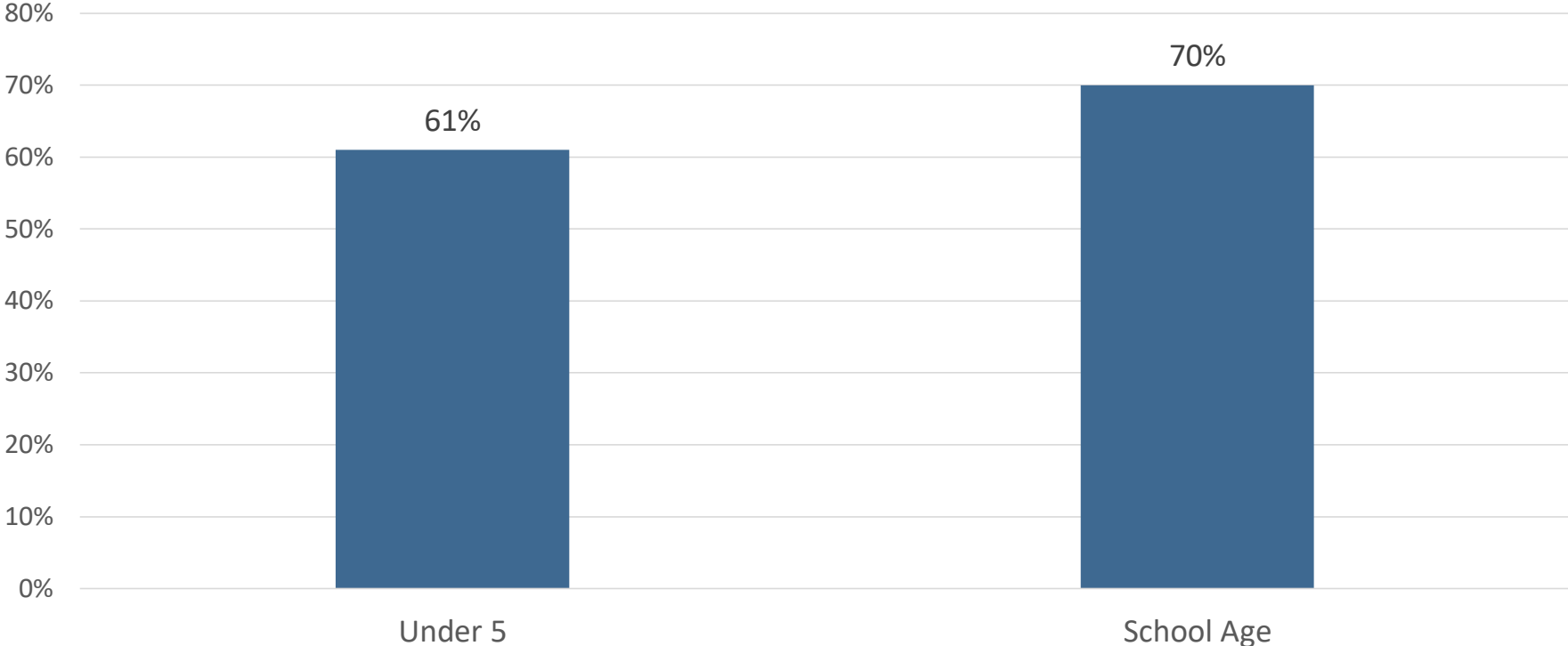
Demographic	Sample Percent (as of 8/21)	Census Comparison (%)
Race (check all that apply) (N =7,460)		
White	79.3%	87.4%
Black or African-American	7.2%	5.3%
Asian	3.2%	4.2%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3.0%	2.1%
Some other race or races	2.8%	4.6%
Don't know	1.1%	-
Prefer not to answer	7.7%	-
Latino, Hispanic, or Spanish Ethnicity (N = 7,525)		
Yes	18.7%	21.4%
No	76.0%	78.6%
Prefer not to answer	5.2%	-
Child Age (N = 7,874)		
Families with at least one child 5 and under	71.10%	-
Families with at least one child 6 and over	57.90%	-
Annual Household Income (N = 7,456)		
Less than \$25,000 per year	17.6%	15.9%
\$25,000-\$45,000	19.6%	20.3%
\$45,001 to \$60,000	12.8%	17.8%
\$60,000 to \$100,000	23.3%	13.6%
More than \$100,000 per year	26.9%	32.4%

DO FAMILIES HAVE NEEDED CHILD CARE?

CHILD CARE CHANGED DUE TO PANDEMIC

66%

% with Changed Child Care by Age



DO FAMILIES HAVE NEEDED CHILD CARE?

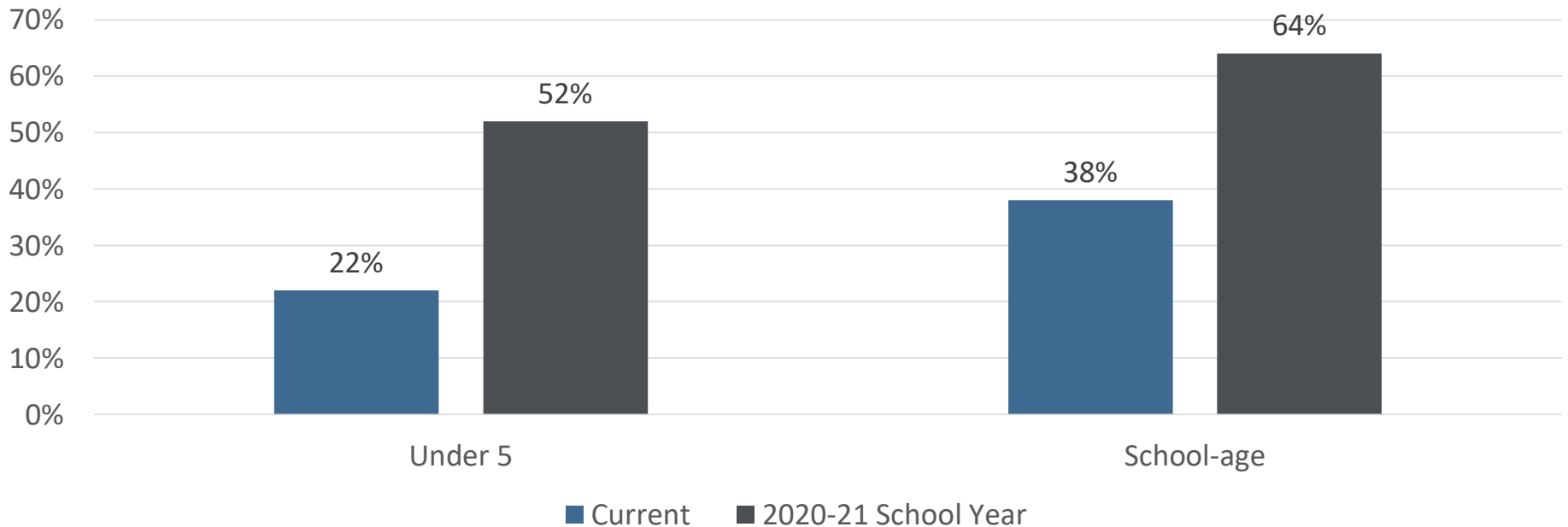
CURRENT UNMET NEED – ALL AGES

30%

SCHOOL YEAR UNMET NEED – ALL AGES

57%

UNMET CHILD CARE DEMAND BY AGE GROUP

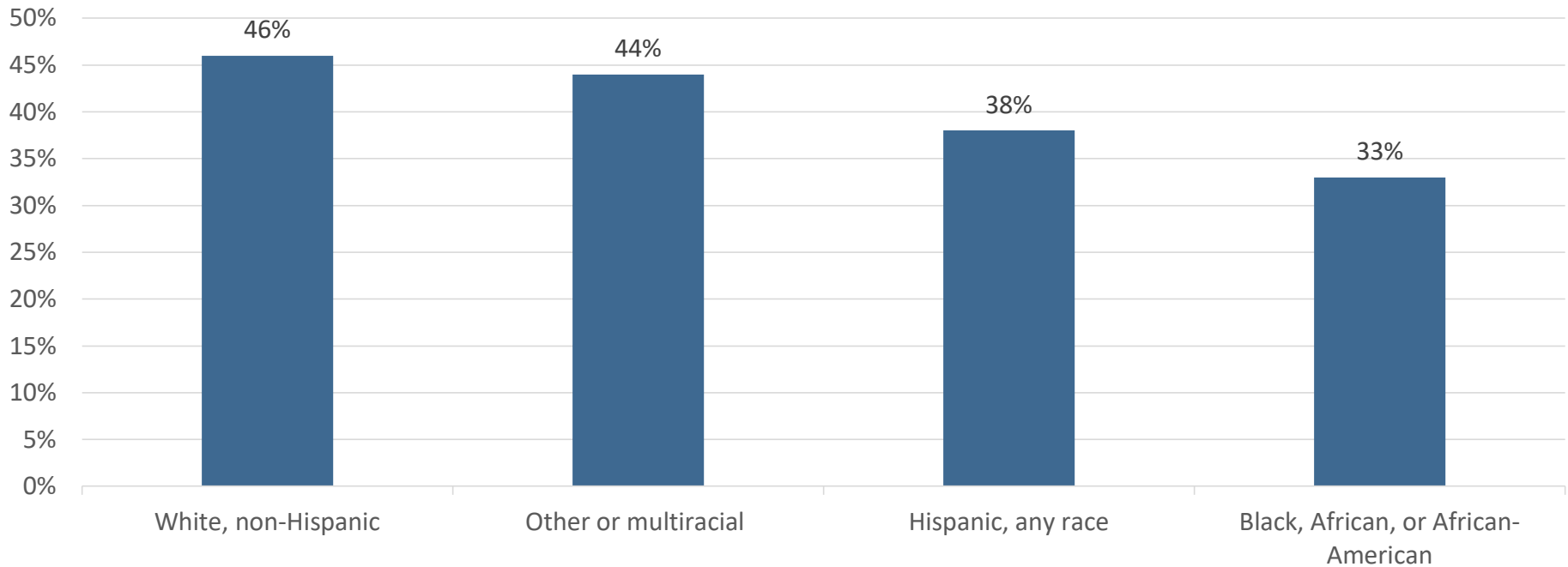


HAVE FAMILIES FINALIZED CHILD CARE PLANS FOR THE FALL?

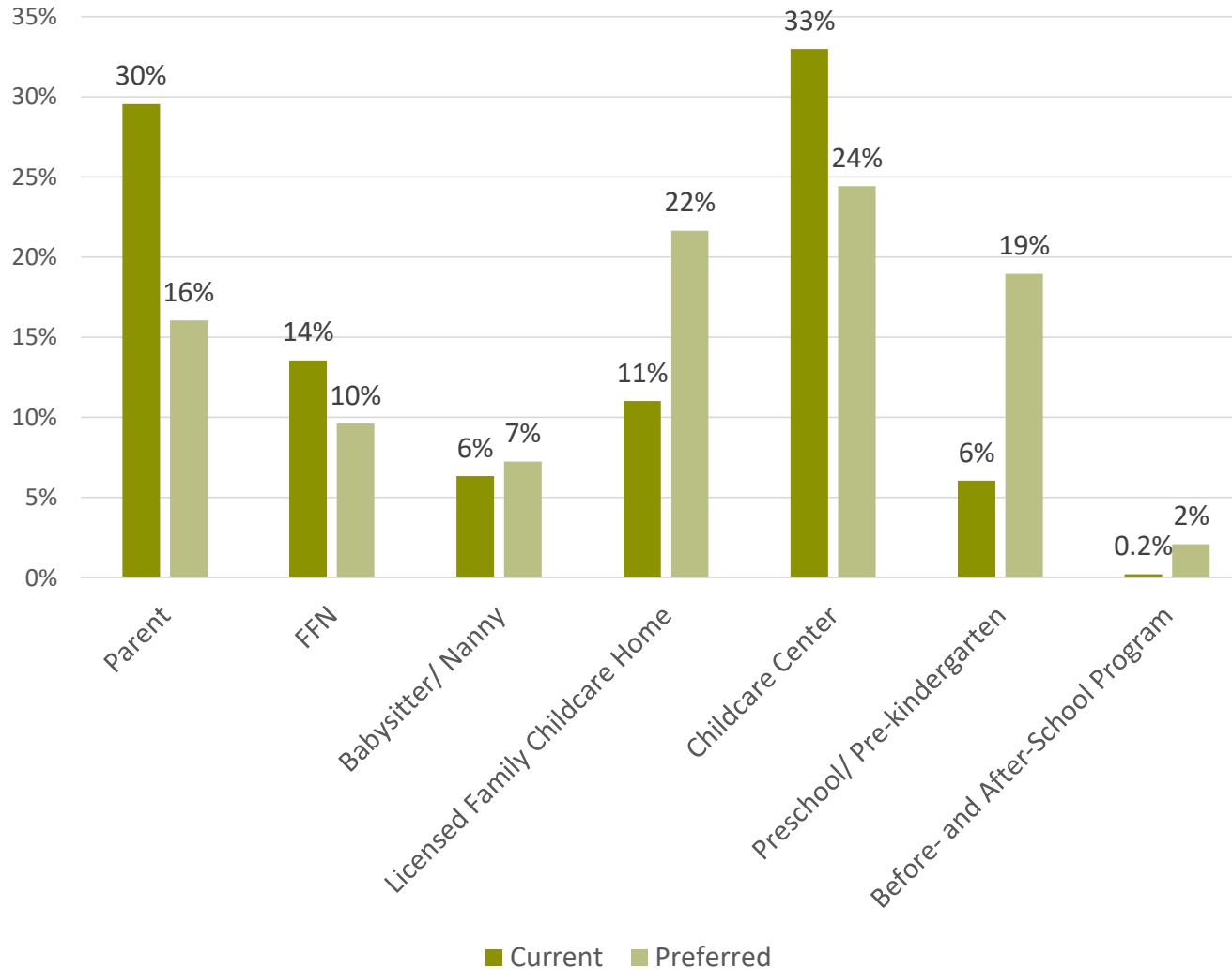
FAMILIES WITH CHILD CARE PLANS FOR FALL

43%

Families Who Have Finalized Plans for Child Care for 2020-21 School Year (all ages)



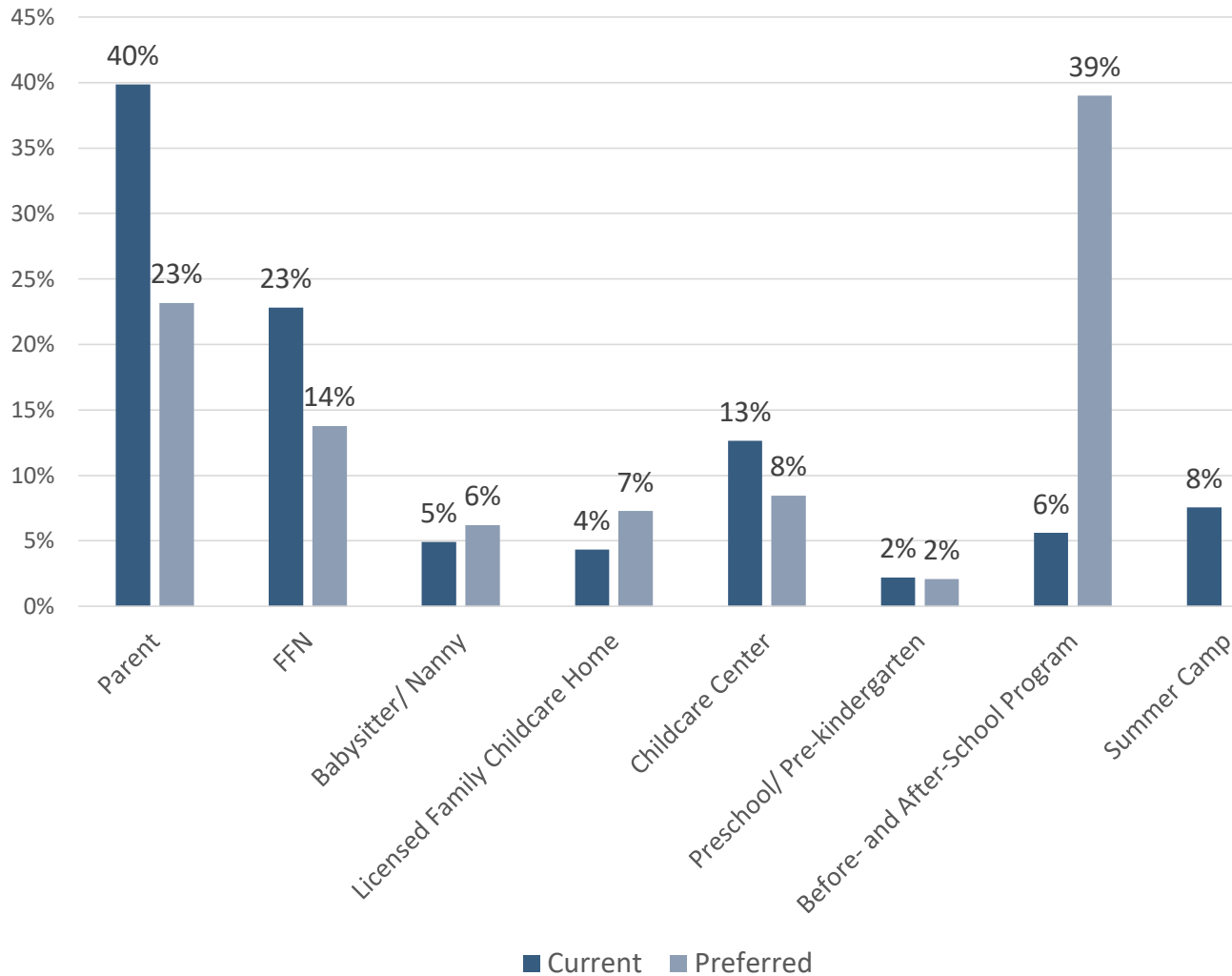
CURRENT vs PREFERRED CHILD CARE – UNDER AGE 5



INTERPRETATION

- Parents with children under 5 are generally providing care themselves or are using child care centers
- For the 20-21 school year, many parents would prefer to shift their children to licensed family child care homes or preschool settings

CURRENT vs PREFERRED CHILD CARE – SCHOOL AGE



INTERPRETATION

- A **majority** of parents are currently caring for school-age children themselves or are having family, friends, or neighbors care for them
- For the 20-21 school year, more than a **third** of parents would prefer to shift their children to a before- or after-school program

PRELIMINARY FAMILY DATA

While the pandemic lasts, please indicate your preference for how to have your child/children participate in childcare, camp, or school:

More like this

In Between

More like this

Children are in small groups (10 or less)

71%

12%

17%

Children are in typical group sizes (more than 10 based on age)

All social distancing and public health guidelines are strictly followed

49%

17%

35%

Flexibility on following social distancing and public health guidelines

Children are in care/school on alternate/rotating schedules

33%

19%

50%

Children are in care/school daily

n = 7,570-7,607

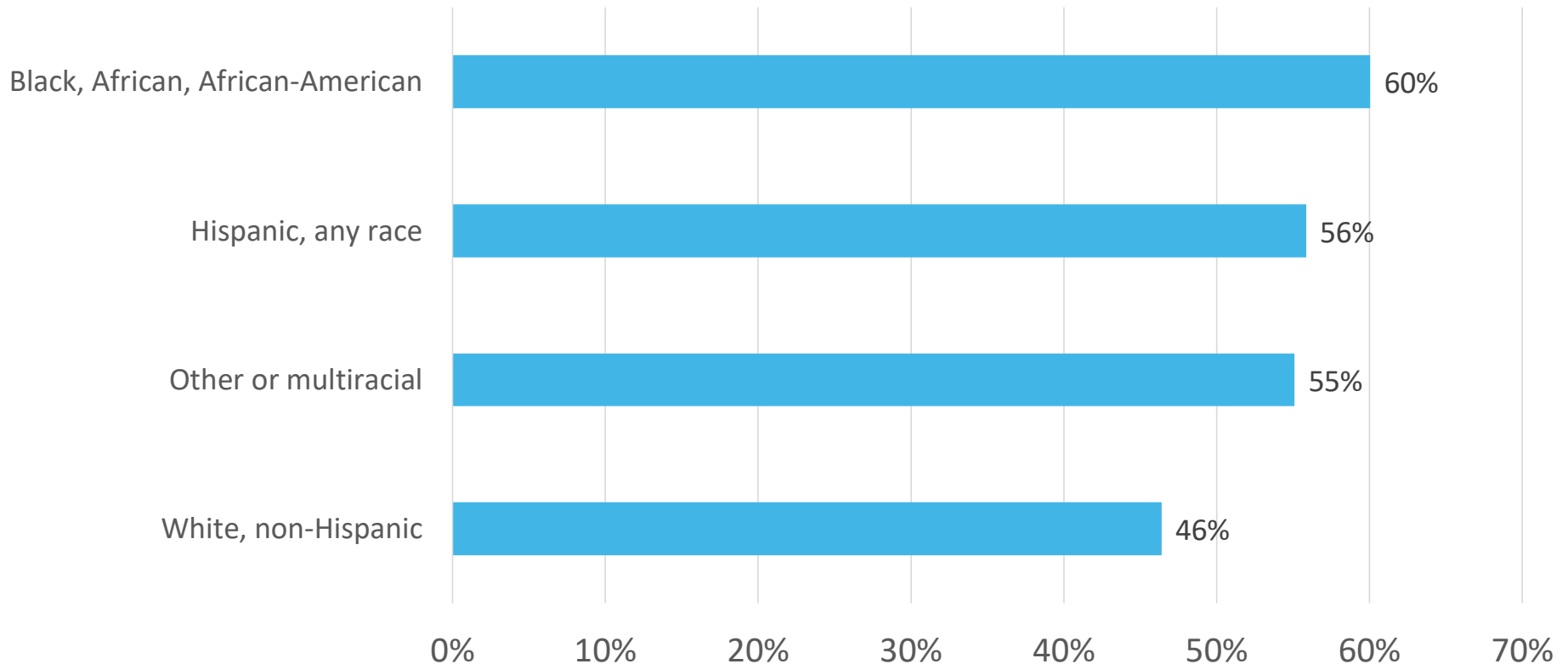
EARLY MILESTONES

PRELIMINARY DATA

Percent of families whose income has DECREASED since the beginning of the pandemic:

50%

Decreased Income by Race/Ethnicity





ACTION ITEMS

- Sustainability funding for providers who have lost enrollment and/or are at risk of permanent closure
 - Target to regions that have been hardest hit
- Income stabilization for the early educators and families, targeted to hardest hit populations
- More specific guidance on how to implement social distancing guidelines in early childhood settings
- Tech and instructional support for remote and socially-distanced learning
- Work with districts to develop clear plans for different scenarios that caregivers and families can plan around
- Support for small group, consistent, and structured care and learning in all settings



Department Updates

Department Updates

- Colorado Department of Higher Education (Angie Paccione)
- Colorado Department of Education (Melissa Colman)
- Colorado Department of Human Services (Anne-Marie Braga)
 - Office of Early Childhood (Mary Anne Snyder)
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (Tom Massey)
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (Tracy Miller)

A young child with dark hair, wearing a red shirt, is smiling broadly while sitting at a dining table. The child is holding a piece of green vegetable. In front of the child is a plate of food, including what looks like a sandwich or burger, and a glass of orange juice. To the left, a woman with long dark hair is partially visible, looking towards the child. The table is set with various dishes, including a large bowl of green salad, another plate of food, and another glass of orange juice. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window and a chair.

CO Department of Public Health & Environment Early Childhood Updates

Presented to the Early Childhood Leadership Commission
August 27, 2020

Tracy Miller, MSPH, RD
Chief, Nutrition Services Branch
Prevention Services Division
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Today's CDPHE Updates

- Immunizations progress
- Maternal mortality report
- Maternal & Child Health
new priorities and
strategies
- WIC remote services
- Child & Adult Care Food
Program innovation
- Farm to early care and
education funding
application

Immunizations

- 2020 school year: Whether virtual or in-person, Colorado school and child care immunization entry requirements are unchanged
- 2019-2020 school & child care immunization data are available here:

<http://covaxrates.org>

- ❖ 95% of children in 1,747 child care facilities are compliant

For more information contact Heather Roth,

heather.roth@state.co.us

Maternal Mortality in Colorado, 2014- 2016

For more information
contact Shivani Bhatia:

shivani.bhatia@state.co.us

preventmaternalmortality@state.co.us

Find the report here:

<https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/maternal-mortality>

- Maternal mortality in Colorado is increasing, similar to the nation
- Suicide, drug overdose, injury, & homicide are leading causes
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of deaths were determined to be preventable
- Some people and populations are more likely to experience maternal death
- Report includes 13 recommendations to prevent maternal deaths & support maternal health and equity



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Maternal & Child Health (MCH)

Priorities and FY 2021 strategies

(Draft: Final version in development, to be posted in October)

For more information contact Rachel Hutson,
rachel.hutson@state.co.us



Seven MCH priorities

- ❖ Positive Child & Youth Development
- ❖ Reduce Racial Inequities
- ❖ Economic Mobility
- ❖ Social Emotional Wellbeing
- ❖ Access to Supports
- ❖ Prosocial Connection
- ❖ Built Environment



WIC is open!

WIC continues to serve families remotely

- Preparing for expiration of remote service waivers & waiting for possible extension
- Main focuses:
 - Retention: Fewer families are leaving WIC by choice compared to last year
 - Converting referrals to enrollments

For more information, contact Heidi Hoffman,
heidi.hoffman@state.co.us

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)



- Implemented joint claims & application system with CO Dept. of Education, Office of School Nutrition: less administrative burden for participants
- Preschool Development Grant efforts with CDHS & others:
 - Expand access to quality nutrition
 - Support child care business sustainability
 - Outreach to non-participating providers

For more info contact Naomi Steenson,
naomi.steenson@state.co.us



Farm to ECE grant funding application:

- Develop farm to ECE roadmap with community and stakeholder engagement
- Develop strategic plan including policy and programmatic focuses

For more information contact
Jennifer Dellaport
jennifer.dellaport@state.co.us

Questions?

Tracy Miller

Nutrition Services Branch Chief

Prevention Services Division

CDPHE

tracymarie.miller@state.co.us



Public Comment & Commissioner Updates

Public Comment

- Each speaker may take up to five (5) minutes to make his or her comments. This time constraint may be modified by the ECLC Co-chairs.
- Any opinions, advice, statements, services, offers, or other information or content expressed or made available by stakeholders or members of the public during public comment does not constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the ECLC.

Colorado Early Care and Education Workforce Data Dashboard

HOME

DATA OVERVIEW

ECE PROFESSIONALS

DEMOGRAPHICS

QUALIFICATIONS

NEW TO FIELD

JOB TURNOVER

DOWNLOAD REPORTS

Colorado Early Care and Education Workforce Data Dashboard

Colorado knows that a *qualified and committed early care and education (ECE) workforce is essential* for the success of policies and programs designed to improve the lives of children birth to five. This data dashboard was designed to provide the most up-to-date information on *Colorado's ECE professionals who were employed throughout 2019*.



23,702

working ECE professionals



48%

earned a college degree



21%

were new to the ECE field



28%

changed jobs in 2019

[Click here for the full ECE professional 2019 Snapshot Report.](#)



Updates from the Governor's Office
Scott Groginsky, Special Advisor for Early
Childhood



Future of Preschool Policy Planning Overview

Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children's Campaign and Jennifer Stedron,
Early Milestones Colorado



Discussion and Consider Endorsement of Cigarette Tobacco and Nicotine Products Tax Ballot Measure



Approval of Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Kristina Heyl

- Program Quality and Alignment: Anna Jo Haynes and Anji Gallanos
- Communication Subcommittee: Tom Massey and Katie Facchinello
- Data Subcommittee: Susan Steele
- Early Childhood Workforce Development: Heather Craiglow, Rebecca Kantor, Pamela Harris, and Jennifer O'Brien
- Approve Home Visiting Initiative Working Group Charge



Co-Chair Final Thoughts and Adjourn

ECLC 2020 Meeting Schedule:

- October 22, 2020
- December 17, 2020

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

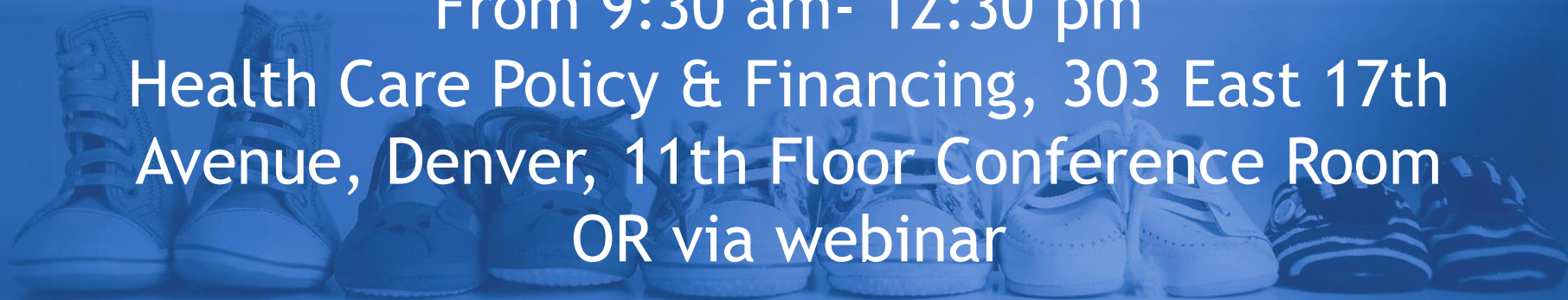
Next Meeting:

Next Meeting: October 22, 2020

From 9:30 am- 12:30 pm

Health Care Policy & Financing, 303 East 17th
Avenue, Denver, 11th Floor Conference Room

OR via webinar





Thursday, August 27, 2020

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

WEBINAR ONLY: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3807444249121509392>

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve Meeting Minutes from June 25, 2020 Meetings
 - Hear updates from State Agencies
 - Discuss COVID-19 Research + Opportunities to Share the Information
 - Learn about Implementation Planning for the Future of Preschool
 - Consider Endorsement of Ballot Measure
 - Approve Subcommittee Co-chairs
 - Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment
-

9:30-9:35am	Welcome & Introductions (Tom Massey) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACTION: Approval of June 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes• Welcome Adeeb Khan, Happy Haynes and Rebecca Kantor!
9:35-9:50am	Follow Up from Previous ECLC Meeting Action Items (Kristina Heyl) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - Next Steps• Family and Parent Engagement Plan
9:50-10:20am	COVID-19 Early Childhood Sector Research (Meg Franko & Suzanne Delap, Early Milestones Colorado)
10:20-10:50am	Department Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colorado Department of Higher Education (Angie Paccione)• Colorado Department of Education (Melissa Colzman)• Colorado Department of Human Services (Anne-Marie Braga)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Office of Early Childhood (Mary Anne Snyder)• Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (Tom Massey)• Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (Tracy Miller)
10:50-11:00am	Public Comment (Susan Steele) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early Care and Education Workforce Data Project (Whitney LeBoeuf, Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab)
11:00-11:10am	Updates from the Governor's Office (Scott Groginsky, Special Advisor for Early Childhood)
11:10-11:30am	Implementation Planning for Universal Preschool (Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children's Campaign; Jennifer Stedron, Early Milestones Colorado)

- 11:30-11:45am** Discussion and Consider Endorsement of [Cigarette Tobacco and Nicotine Products Tax](#) Ballot measure (Pamela Harris)
- 11:45-11:55am** Approval of Subcommittee Co-Chairs (Kristina Heyl)
- Program Quality and Alignment: Anna Jo Haynes and Anji Gallanos
 - Communication Subcommittee: Tom Massey and Katie Facchinello
 - Data Subcommittee: Susan Steele
 - Early Childhood Workforce Development: Heather Craiglow, Rebecca Kantor, Pamela Harris, and Jennifer O'Brien
 - Approve Home Visiting Initiative Working Group Charge
- 11:55-12:00pm** Co-Chairs' Final Thoughts and Adjourn (Pamela Harris)
-

ECLC 2020 Meeting Schedule

- **October 22, 2020**
 - **December 17, 2020**
-

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

ECLC Meetings:

The next **ECLC Meeting** will be held on October 22, 2020 at Health Care Policy & Financing, 303 East 17th Avenue, Denver, 11th Floor Conference Room or by webinar

For information about future meeting dates, times and locations, visit www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org.



Early Childhood Leadership Commission Minutes
Thursday, June 25, 2020
9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Webinar Only

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2020
- Discuss Opportunities and Challenges in Early Childhood & the ECLC's Role
- Hear Updates from the Governor's Office
- Learn about the Outcomes from the Emergency Child Care Collaborative
- Vote on the changes to the ECLC Subcommittee Charges
- Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment

Attendees:

Mary Anne Snyder, Susan Steele, Tom Massey, Jehan Benton-Clark, Amanda Culbertson, Pamela Harris, Sue Renner, Ida Rhodes, Jai Scott, Ryan Beiser, Jeff Kuhr, Angie Paccione, Tracy Miller, Melissa Colman, Jeff Kuhr, Heather Craiglow, Kristina Heyl, George Welsh, Elsa Holguin, Anne-Marie Braga, Letty Bass

Guests: Bill Jaeger, Brittany Lane, Erin Mewhinney, Matt Tessar, Rob McDaniels, Scott Groginsky

Welcome & Introductions

Elsa Holguín thanked everyone who joined the meeting. She called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2020 meeting. George Welsh moved to approve the minutes as distributed, Pamela Harris seconded the motion; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

ECLC Statement & Action on Racial Justice

Elsa Holguín began the meeting by recognizing the unprecedented times not just due to the global pandemic but the unrest across the county and world in response to the unjust and unequitable treatment of people of color. The Commission shared a statement in the Our Voice Newsletter that discusses the Commission's foundation in the Early Childhood Colorado Framework that drives the work of the Commission towards access, quality and equity. Elsa stated that it is critical that the Commission re-commit their work in a way that acknowledges the inequities in our systems that serve children and families and embrace the changes that are needed to fight for equity and justice for all children. The group discussed action items for the Commission to support equity. Some of the action items from the group were:

- Subcommittees reevaluate how their work is supporting equity and inclusion,
- Ask presenters to speak to equity during their presentation,
- Ensure that the Subcommittee and Commission membership is reflective of the diverse population in Colorado and,
- Ensure that the Commission and Subcommittee meetings are accessible for all who are interested in joining.

Opportunities & Challenges around COVID-19

Susan Steele shared that there is a lot of work happening and that needs to happen in the future to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic. She stated that the Commission has to be thoughtful about how Colorado rebuilds the early childhood systems to be stronger, more efficient and effective than in the past to ensure children and families are served. Susan discussed a few major efforts happening that the Commission should monitor and when possible provide recommendation or help inform as the work moves forward such as the Emergency Child Care Collaborative, federal funding, child care supply and demand and data. The

Commissioners then shared the major efforts they are involved with or are aware of during this time to help support children and families.

Budget and Legislative Updates

Tom Massey stated that it has been a tough few months at the Capitol with a shortened legislative session and within the state agencies. The state agencies have been asked to make budget cuts to programs and service. They are already looking to next year's budget and legislative asks, which is a challenge given the economic forecasts and the reduction in general fund dollars that will be available to support programs. Tom explained that the state agency members have provided written updates for the meeting rather than going through each of them on the webinar, they are available on the [ECLC website](#). Tom introduced Bill Jaeger from the Colorado Children's Campaign to discuss the legislative session and some of the major impacts to programs that serve children and families.

Legislative Session Outcomes- Bill Jaeger from Colorado Children's Campaign shared the [Early Childhood Legislative Update - 2020 General Assembly](#) handout. He reviewed the handout with the Commission, discussed the legislation that passed this session and noted the legislation that failed. He reviewed the budget actions relevant to children and families. Lastly, he shared the ballot measures of relevance anticipated for November of 2020.

Public Comment & Commissioner Updates

Meg Franko shared that Early Milestones Colorado is conducting a research study to understand the impact of the pandemic on the early childhood sector in Colorado. They are launching three surveys to better understand how the shifting landscape has impacted families, child care providers and the early childhood educator workforce. They have developed website/social media content to communicate about the survey with each audience. Meg asked that the group share the information about the surveys to their networks.

Updates from the Governor's Office

Scott Groginsky thanked Gerri Gomez Howard, Letty Bass and Elsa Holguín the three departing Commissioners for their leadership and dedication to the early childhood field. Scott announced the three new Commission appointments by the Governor; Rebecca Kantor, Allegra "Happy" Haynes and Adeeb Khan. He informed the Commission that Susan Steele has been reappointed to the Commission.

Scott discussed legislative updates including the Preschool referendum HB 20-1427: Tobacco & Nicotine Tax for Education, Housing & ECE which places an increase tobacco tax and new nicotine/vaping tax on the ballot. If passed it would provide funding for universal preschool for all four year olds. The implementation process will be announced soon, Scott stated there will be role for ECLC in the process. He shared updates on child care legislation that passed, stating that Governor Polis plans to sign HB 20-1053: Supports for the Early Childhood Workforce, which presents significant opportunities for the early childhood workforce, SB20-126: Allow Home Child Care In Homeowners' Association Community and HB20-1347: Licensure Exemption For Family Child Care Homes. These bills will provide greater opportunities for increases in family child care capacity.

He stated that the COVID crisis caused an economic recession and that they do expect a tough budget year. They are already preparing for the next legislative cycle, looking at options from fiscal year 2022 budget, looking at top priorities and want stakeholder input. The Policy Office and OSPB have been reaching out to stakeholders to hear their recommendations on the budget. Scott encouraged the Commission to consider budget and policy ideas they have and provide recommendations to the Governor's Office.

Scott shared that the Governor's Office is in the final stage of approval for spending the Federal CARES ACT funding they are looking at a variety of strategies to support child care. They are in the process of collaborating with philanthropic, nonprofit and business leaders to have a coordinated effort to distribute

funds to the field. Some of the strategies for the funds are to provide sustainability grants to child care programs, continue support for CCCAP funded programs struggling with child attendance, provide coverage for more affordable copayments and look at the critical issue of early childhood mental health professionals.

Scott reminded the group that the Colorado State Board of Education voted 6:1 to accept the recommendation of the Commission to allow the reporting system for state level Kindergarten Readiness data be revised to allow for analysis of children's school readiness by each of the six domains, rather than the current reporting only of number of domains in which students demonstrate readiness. This policy will take effect in 2022.

Colorado Emergency Child Care Collaborative Data

Erin Mewhinney & Jacob Barney from the Office of Early Childhood and Rob McDaniel & Matt Tessar from Metrix IQ discussed data and outcomes from the Emergency Child Care Collaborative (ECCC). Erin shared that the Collaborative, which provided a full tuition credit for child care to the families of essential workers, concluded on May 24, 2020. Erin stated the goal of the collaborative was to provide care to essential workers and to support operational and financial stability of childcare. Jake shared here were about 5,200 children that were cared for which is about a 2.5% uptake in the program.

Matt and Rob discussed the program outputs for providers, children and families. There were 524 Emergency Child Care Providers, covering 45 counties. The total net payments to providers was \$10,603,974 (avg. \$20,236.59 per provider). 5,235 children received care; the median length of care was 8 weeks of 9 possible weeks. They noted that significantly more school age care was provided than is typical during this time frame. The program served 3,598 families in 50 counties. On average, about 1.5 children served per family. The self-reported median household income for families who utilized the program was \$80,500. Erin discussed next steps for evaluating the data and garnering feedback from families and providers to develop and build on lessons learned.

Review & Vote on the Subcommittee Charges

Kristian Heyl explained that the Subcommittee charges are up for review and the need for the Commission to officially approve each of them. She stated that these were first shared with the Commission back in February, and at that time there some additional questions about whether ECPD would become a subcommittee or not, which was voted to approve at the last meeting. Also there was some discussion about a policy or legislative focused subcommittee. More clarification is needed from CDHS leadership and Governor's office on how the ECLC acts in regards to endorsing agendas, supporting bills, and developing / encouraging regulations or policies before moving on the policy/ legislative Subcommittee. Kristina stated that the suggested updates to each charge is tracked in each one; these updates came from the co-chairs of the subcommittees and from the members to make sure it was in line with what they were hoping to achieve over the next year. Kristina reviewed the changes to the Subcommittee charges. After review she asked for questions or edits to each, with none she asked for a motion to approve all four Subcommittee charges. Heather Craiglow moved to approve the charges as distributed, Pamela Harris seconded the motion; the Subcommittee charges were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Kristina Heyl stated that the next steps will be to find new co-chairs for some of these groups. Unfortunately some of the leaders of these subcommittees are departing the Commission as their terms are up. Kristina asked all of the Commission members to engage in a committee, and if any Commissioner engaged would like to consider being a co-chair, please reach out. Kristina reminded the group that at the last meeting the Commission voted to allow for non-ECLC members to be co-chairs.

Co-Chairs' Final Thoughts and Adjourn

The co-chaired thanked the three departing members; Gerri Gomez Howard, Letty Bass and Elsa Holguín for their work and dedication on the Commission, improving the lives of children and families in Colorado and

continued passion for equity, access, and quality early childhood systems.

The co-chairs thanked all that joined the meeting for their continued support of the early childhood community during this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm. The next ECLC meeting will be held on August 27, 2020 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at Health Care Policy & Financing 303 East 17th Avenue, Denver, 11th Floor Conference Room or by webinar.

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

For information about future meeting dates, times and locations, visit www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org.

DRAFT



Home Visiting Investment Task Force

The Home Visiting Investment Task Force will develop a strategy to scale a continuum of home visiting services in Colorado and guide the release of the future funding solicitations from the Office of Early Childhood, including Federal MIECHV funding. The strategy will support planning for state budget requests, the solicitation of new federal funding opportunities, and alignment with philanthropic funding for home visiting.

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.

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

Goals of Home Visiting Investment Strategy Task Force

- The task force will review the MIECHV (Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting) home visiting needs assessment, created by CDPHE, and discuss gaps to identify priority populations and underserved geographic locations around the state.
- The task force will determine evidence-based home visiting programs that support priority populations in the underserved geographic locations.
- The task force will explore the continuum of home visiting in Colorado and determine how to fold in new home visiting programs to address gaps.
- The task force will explore funding best practices and investment strategies in other states.
- The task force will explore strategies to align and maximize current home visiting funding streams.
- The final deliverable will be a report to ECLC with recommendations from the task force on sustaining and expanding the Colorado Home Visiting Continuum as well as a long-term investment strategy to ensure that communities throughout the state will have access to the continuum of services through the alignment of multiple funding streams.

Membership Sectors:

- Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado Department of Education
- Parent Possible (state intermediary for HIPPY and PAT)
- Invest in Kids (state intermediary for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First)
- Kempe Center (state intermediary for SafeCare)
- ABCD (state intermediary for HealthySteps)
- Early Intervention
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Early Childhood Funders
- County human services departments
- County public health departments
- Pediatricians and Community Health Clinics
- Local community providers including family resource centers and early childhood councils
- Research and evaluation partners
- Families who participate in home visiting
- Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- Policy Makers
- Advocacy organizations

Meetings:

- Bi-monthly
- All meetings will be supported through an independent facilitator and have remote participation options

Home Visiting Investment Strategy Task Force Next Steps

- Recruit Co-Chairs
- Hire Facilitators
- Identify membership
- Host a kickoff meeting
- Routine progress updates to the Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee and the Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Duration:

The Subcommittee membership was designated in June 2020, for one year, until June 2021.

The Future of Preschool in Colorado Policy Development Process

Updated August 24, 2020

Contact: Bill Jaeger, bill@coloradokids.org & Melissa Mares, melissa@coloradokids.org

The design process for the future of preschool in Colorado will include several key elements:

- Engagement from researchers, advocates, philanthropy, non-profits, providers (both school-based and community-based), educators, and families
- Engagement from legislators who may carry forward necessary statutory changes in upcoming legislative sessions
- Engagement from state and local agency leaders responsible for program implementation
- Perspectives from the Governor's office on policy considerations
- Perspectives from throughout Colorado (Front Range, rural, suburban, Western Slope, Eastern Plains, etc.) on implementation
- Data research and policy research

The process articulated below will allow for both the efficiency of a small group of leaders advancing a solution as well as the impact of a meaningful process of community input. The goal will begin these conversations in summer of 2020 and advance policy recommendations as they are developed so there is adequate time to implement policy changes ahead of the fall 2023 implementation of the universal preschool program. Key features of the policy design process for the future of preschool include:

1. Preschool Policy Leadership Committee

- a. Purpose: Provide leadership around the process to re-imagine preschool in Colorado. Ensure alignment between the voter intent of the referred measure to expand preK and the policy being developed. Ensure all research, policy, and implementation questions are being adequately addressed. Make recommendations to policymakers on the creation of enacting legislation. This is an independent process and discussion from any effort to secure support for and eventual success of the referred ballot measure voters will consider in November of 2020.
- b. Timeline: Begin convening in summer of 2020 to identify research needs, community perspectives, and working group/input needed to make recommendations about the future of preschool in Colorado. The group will discuss meeting frequency and schedule at its preliminary meetings, but likely to convene every 4 to 6 weeks for 1.5 to 2 hours.
- c. Membership of the Preschool Policy Leadership Committee: A diverse group of 27 community members representing educators, schools, center and home-based early care and education providers, business, higher education, Early Childhood Councils, children with disabilities, and affected community members.

2. Preschool Policy Development Advisory Group

- a. Purpose: Represent the diverse perspectives of the early childhood and education communities in shaping the future of preschool. Provide input, feedback, and perspectives on the key design features of the program. Ensure the Preschool Policy Leadership Committee has the perspectives, feedback, and consideration of pros and cons of various policy choices it needs to make recommendations. Develops community-driven recommendations for policymakers.
- b. Membership: Open membership, but requested firm commitment of time and participation in the process. The group will meet every 4 to 6 weeks.
 - i. These Advisory Group meetings will be open statewide and via remote participation. There may be a need to also have a "toolkit" for soliciting feedback from community groups and members who have barriers to participation in workday meetings like this (see below). This might include, for example, meeting with family child care providers on the weekends or visiting PTA groups at their evening sessions or joining legislators for town halls to solicit feedback.

3. Community Input Opportunities

- a. Purpose: Represent the diverse perspectives of communities and community members throughout the state who may not be able to participate in the Advisory Group. Provide input, feedback, and perspectives

on the key design features of the program. Ensure the Preschool Policy Leadership Committee has the perspectives, feedback, and consideration of pros and cons of various policy choices it needs to make recommendations. Develops community-informed recommendations for policymakers.

The Future of Preschool

As Colorado legislators, Governor Polis, providers, advocates, and community members consider policy options to improve our current state preschool program and expand access in the years ahead, the community has the opportunity to provide guidance, recommendations, information, data, feedback, and more through these engagement platforms:

Preschool Policy Leadership Committee



Invite-Only

Engages in shared learning and makes recommendations on the components of preschool policy design with community feedback in mind.

Contact Bill Jaeger (bill@coloradokids.org) for more information

Preschool Policy Advisory Group



Open to all

Engages in shared learning and provides input, feedback and perspectives on the policy design process.

Contact Stephanie Perez-Carillo (stephanie@coloradokids.org) for more information

Community Input Sessions



Open to all

Focus groups, listening sessions and tools for local community conversations

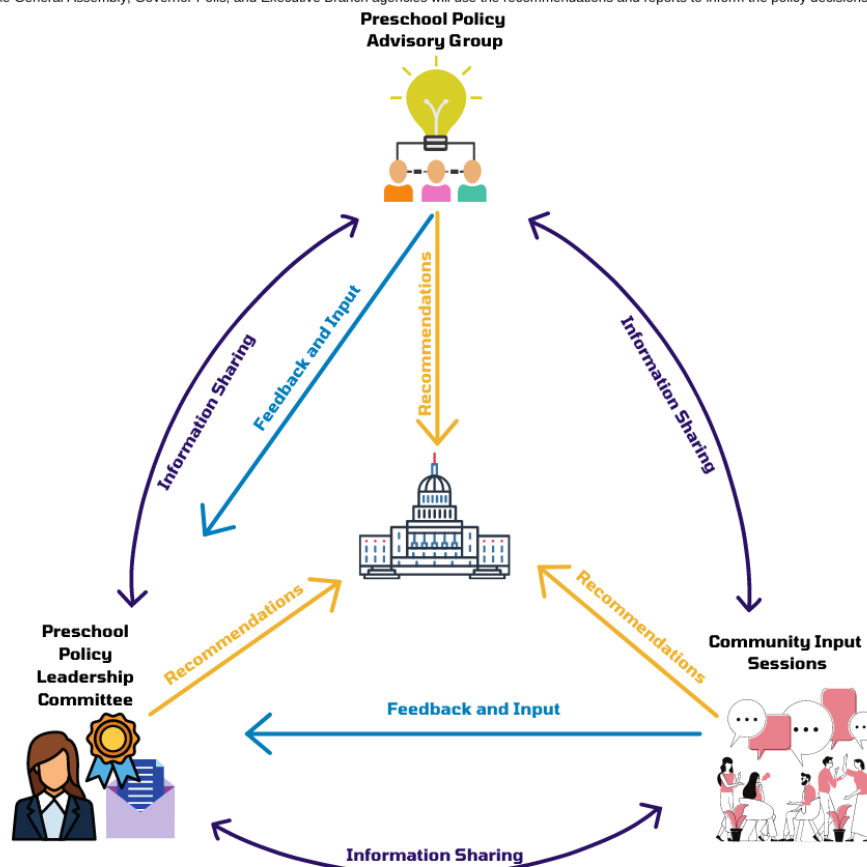
Contact Melissa Mares (melissa@coloradokids.org) for more information or if you would like to host a community input session

The Future of Preschool

The Preschool Policy Leadership Committee, Advisory Group and Community Input Sessions will **continuously share information** during the policy development process. The Preschool Policy Advisory Group and Community Input Sessions will offer direct **feedback and input** to the Preschool Policy Leadership Committee as recommendations are being considered.

When the process is complete, Colorado legislators, Governor Polis, and state agency leaders will receive a set of **recommendations** from the Preschool Policy Leadership Committee, the Preschool Policy Advisory Group, and based on Community Input Sessions.

The General Assembly, Governor Polis, and Executive Branch agencies will use the recommendations and reports to inform the policy decisions.



Mesa County Partnership for Children and Families

ECLC P-ECT waiver

12 Month Update

Mesa County is facing a severe shortage of early childhood education (ECE) teachers. The lack of available child care is impacting the ability of families to work and to effectively provide quality ECE for children. With the spread of the Coronavirus, it is even more important than ever that parents have safe, reliable care to support their return to work and child care providers have qualified and well trained staff to care for the children in service. In addressing this current workforce crisis, the Child Care 8,000 (CC8K) initiative has developed long term goals and strategies to close the ECT gaps. We requested Mesa County Child Care Centers and Preschools with a Colorado Shines Level of three or higher, in good standing with Child Care Licensing, be allowed to hire people into the ECT position who are not yet fully qualified, with a grace period of up to 12 months for the ECT to complete all qualifications.

With 13% (20 sites) of our centers rated a Level of three or higher, many of our centers are not eligible for the waiver. Of the 20, 13 eligible sites are school district preschool programs, which are unable to apply as the Directors are also the ECTs in dual roles. Of the other seven eligible sites we have had no new waivers utilized. The quality rating requirement and required paperwork were reported as barriers to utilization. The statewide Child Development Associate (CDA) waiver that followed this waiver deemed to be an easier option that we promoted.

Simultaneous to the P-ECT waiver, Mesa County had increased the opportunities for CDA credentials in the community, offering full scholarships, stipends, increased availability, and varied models. With the waiver traction slow, we focused on increasing the CDA, Director qualification scholarships, and Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care (EQIT). Partnering with our Mesa County Workforce Center and CDHS led to internship opportunities for CDA candidates and well as expanding college scholarships in the ECE field. CDA opportunities have largely expanded with the most recent partnership between The Office of Early Childhood, Mesa County Public Health, and Red Rocks Child Care Innovations to expand opportunities to 13 Western Slope counties, offering scholarships, stipends, and career coaching for 70 more candidates.