



**Department of Early Childhood
Line Item Descriptions**

FY 2023-24 Budget Request

NOVEMBER 1, 2022

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(1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Executive Director's Office is responsible for the management and administration of the Department. It contains Personal Services; Health, Life and Dental; Short-term Disability; Amortization Equalization Disbursement; Supplemental Amortization; Equalization Disbursement; Salary Survey; Shift Differential; Workers' Compensation; Operating Expenses; Legal Services; Administrative Law Judge Services; Payment to Risk Management and Property Funds; Vehicle Lease Payments; Capital Outlay; Capitol Complex Leased Space; and Operational Support Contract with the Department of Human Services.

(A) General Administration

Personal Services

This line item and the associated appropriation of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and personal services funding support the Executive Office staff and management functions, including management direction, policy formulation, and core internal functions for Executive Director's Office, Communications & Legislative Affairs, Community Partnerships, and Office of Performance & Strategic Outcomes.

Health, Life and Dental

This line item funds the Department's health, life, and dental insurance benefits, and is part of the benefits component paid jointly by the State and State employees. The line item appropriation addresses the Department's contribution. The calculated annual appropriation is based upon recommendations contained in the annual Total Compensation Report and associated guidance from the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) and is calculated based upon employee benefit enrollment selections.

Short-term Disability

This line item, a component of benefits, provides partial payment of an employee's salary in the event that an individual becomes disabled and cannot perform his or her work duties. This benefit is calculated on an annual basis in accordance with OSPB Common Policy instructions.

S.B. 04-257 Amortization Equalization Disbursement

This line item funds the increased employer contribution to the Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) Trust Fund to amortize the unfunded liability in the Trust Fund beginning January 2006. The request for this line item is computed in accordance with OSPB Common Policy instructions, and is calculated using the sum of base salaries, Salary Survey, and Merit Pay adjustments. During the 2005 legislative session, the General Assembly created a single Amortization Equalization Disbursement line item in all departments to fund these expenses. The Amortization Equalization Disbursement is calculated using the same methodology as the PERA contribution calculation and includes all employees eligible for State retirement benefits.

S.B. 06-235 Supplemental Amortization Equalization Disbursement

The Supplemental Amortization Equalization Disbursement increases the employee's contribution to the PERA Trust Fund to amortize the unfunded liability beginning January 2008. The request for this line item is computed in accordance with OSPB Common Policy instructions, and is calculated using the sum of base salaries, Salary Survey, and Merit Pay adjustments. During the 2006 legislative session, the General Assembly passed SB 06-235, which created this line item in all departments to fund these expenses. The Supplemental Amortization Equalization Disbursement is calculated using the same methodology as the PERA contribution calculation and includes all employees eligible for State retirement benefits.

Salary Survey

The Salary Survey appropriation reflects the amounts appropriated to the Department to cover the cost of salary increases based on the Total Compensation survey performed annually by the Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA). The annual request for this line item is calculated based upon the annual Total Compensation recommendations from the State Personnel Director, along with guidance provided via the OSPB Common Policy instructions.

Shift Differential

The Shift Differential line provides funding for enhancing the salary for certain staff who cover necessary department functions.

Workers' Compensation

This line item is an operating Common Policy allocation that provides funding to state agencies for payments made

to the Department of Personnel & Administration to support the State's self-insured Workers' Compensation program for State employees.

Operating Expenses

The line item supports the annual operating expenses of the Executive Office, its staff, and required functions. Allowable operating expenditures are defined in the Long Bill headnotes, and actual expenditures are identified by object code in the Schedule 14.

Legal Services

This Common Policy line item funds the Department's expenditures for legal services provided by the Department of Law. Funding is appropriated to each department so each department may purchase necessary legal services from the Department of Law. With the exception of Legal Services appropriations in new legislation, the Department of Law uses a cost allocation billing methodology for Legal Services and calculates the departmental allocations for State agency customers based upon historical expended legal service hours and historical litigation costs.

Administrative Law Judge Services

This Common Policy line item includes funding for services typically provided by administrative law judges and paralegals from the Office of Administrative Courts. Departmental appropriations are based upon historical utilization of these services, by applying the prior year's billable hours to the estimated billable cost for the request year. Adjustments are made based on mid-year reviews by the Department of Personnel and Administration.

Payment to Risk Management and Property Funds

This Common Policy line item is an allocation appropriated to each department based on a shared statewide risk formula for property and liability insurance coverage, also known as the Liability Program and Property Program. In addition, this line item supports common resources for the Colorado State Employee Assistance Program which was transitioned from the Worker's Compensation allocations to the Liability allocations beginning in FY 2013-14.

Vehicle Lease Payments

Vehicle Lease Payments provides funding for annual payments to the Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA) for the cost of administration, loan repayment, and lease-purchase payments for new and replacement motor vehicles, pursuant to 24-30-1117, C.R.S. (2022). The vehicle lease payment line item provides for the fixed portion of the vehicle leases from fleet management. The appropriation is adjusted annually through a statewide vehicle supplemental change request.

Capital Outlay

Payments for the purchase or replacement of equipment, furnishings, or minor renovations for the department.

Capitol Complex Leased Space

This Common Policy based line item represents allocations and subsequent billings to departments occupying space in the Capitol Complex and is appropriated based on usable square footage utilized by each State department. Currently, for the Department, this includes 14,704 square feet at 710 South Ash Street, Glendale, CO 80246. The appropriation is adjusted annually through a statewide capital complex leased space supplemental budget request.

Operational Support Contract with the Department of Human Services

This line item funds payments for interagency agreement with CDHS to provide administrative support during agency start-up and transition.

(B) Information Technology Systems

Information Technology Contracts and Equipment

This line item pays for the operating expenses associated with the Department's information technology.

Payments to OIT

This line item funds the Department's allocation for services provided by OIT, including centralized computer services, provision and administration of the Colorado State Network, information technology security, Service Desk, Deskside Services, Customer Engagement, Project Management, infrastructure, new OIT initiatives, OIT's internal office expenses.

CORE Operations

This line item funds the Department's share for services related to the implementation and ongoing support of the Colorado Operations Resource Engine (CORE), the statewide accounting system used by the Office of the State Controller to record all State revenues and expenditures.

Child Care Automated Tracking System

This line item funds software licenses, contracted operations, maintenance and enhancements, and ongoing support for the Child Care Automated Tracking System (CHATS). CHATS is the technology system used by the Department and all 64 counties for the implementation of the Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP).

(2) PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

(A) General Administration

Personal Services

This line item funds staff and related services for the Partnerships and Collaborations unit, staff and related services in the department in connection with the work unit, and possible contracts for requisite personal services.

Operating Expenses

In addition to funding telephones, computers, office furniture, and employee supplies, printing, this line item also supports a number of annual costs such as in- and out-of-state travel, records storage, postage, costs, and subscriptions to publications.

Capital Outlay

Payments for the purchase or replacement of equipment, furnishings, or minor renovations for the department.

Local Coordinating Organizations

This line item provides funding for Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs), which design community plans to increase outreach, assistance, and entry into the various programs and services offered by the department. LCOs also coordinate services across different levels of government, between different entities, and on local workforce development priorities.

Early Childhood Councils

This line item provides funding for the Early Childhood Council system, which covers all 64 Colorado counties and is charged with building the foundations of a locally based early childhood system so that more high quality services are available to more children and families. Funding in this line item is from federal Child Care Development Fund grant funding that is distributed to Early Childhood Councils through a grant process on a three-year cycle by the Department. Funding is also used by the Department for costs related to technical assistance and support to the Councils.

Child Care Resource and Referrals

This line item provides funding for the Child Care Resource and Referrals program, which supports a system of local/regional child care resource and referral organizations and which are coordinated to ensure efficient and effective delivery of child care information and resources to families and programs. This line is funded with federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant monies, and supports contracts with Early Childhood Councils and other agencies for the implementation of the program.

For FY 2022-23, this line includes stimulus funding from CCDF that has allowed the Department to expand services at the local level in order to capture real-time child care availability, displayed on the Colorado Shines Search, as well as providing resource support to child care providers.

Family Resource Centers

This line item provides funding for the Family Resource Center Program (FRCP), which is dedicated to creating stronger Colorado families by providing support to vulnerable families through statewide family resource centers. FRCP uses training, technical assistance, and grants to establish and maintain family resource centers across Colorado. FRCs are supported by a mix of local, state, and federal funding; foundations; faith-based organizations; individual donations; special events; earned income; and program fees. This line item is funded with General Fund, and supports costs related to managing the program, contracts with program sites, and other contractual costs necessary for the implementation and evaluation of the program.

Indirect Cost Assessment

Indirect Cost Assessment provides funding for departmental overhead costs by the programs in this Long Bill group. The assessment represents the expected collection of statewide and departmental indirect costs from a cash-funded, reappropriated funds, or federal-funded program.

(3) EARLY LEARNING ACCESS AND QUALITY

(A) General Administration

Personal Services

This line item also provides funds to administer the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). Departmental administrative activities include providing technical support and training for all 64 counties, compliance tracking and monitoring of the usage of CCCAP funds and other related administrative and supervisory support. Costs include contracts to conduct the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Rate Setting Study, which is used to help establish reimbursement rates for child care providers within Colorado's Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) that provide equal access to children and families. In Colorado, the State

provides rates for each county and each child care market. Per S.B. 21-217, the State will complete the rate setting study once every three years.

Operating Expenses

In addition to funding telephones, computers, office furniture, and employee supplies, this line item also supports a number of annual costs such as in- and out-of-state travel, records storage, postage costs, software licenses and subscriptions to publications.

Capital Outlay

Payments for the purchase or replacement of equipment, furnishings, or minor renovations for the department.

Child Care Assistance Program

The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) provides financial assistance to low-income families who are working, searching for employment, pursuing training or higher education, or are enrolled in the Colorado Works Program and need child care services to support their efforts toward self-sufficiency. The Department supervises CCCAP services administered by county departments of human or social services.

The State allocates CCCAP monies to counties annually based on an allocation formula. Funding for the program consists of General Fund, local funds, and federal funding from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), and a small amount of Title XX funds. CCCAP monies are used for both county administration of the program and to reimburse child care providers for child care services provided for CCCAP children. Overall, CCCAP expenditures are tied to the number of families receiving care, the amount of care provided, and the provider reimbursement rates.

For FY 2022-23, the funding includes federal stimulus funds from the CCDF grant that are allocated to counties to support the costs of previously implemented stimulus strategies that increased provider payment rates, provided payment for additional absences, and changed the copay structure in order to reduce costs for families.

Intrastate Child Care Assistance Program Redistribution

This line item was created in FY 2018-19, and is funded through federal funds from the Child Care and Development Fund grant. The line item is dedicated to child care activities allowable under the Child Care and Development Fund grant to allow the State to address the specific challenges related to equal access to high-quality early child care and education, including child care deserts, workforce development, and provider retention as well as to ensure adherence to regulations and improve effective delivery of Colorado's Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP), including enhancements to the CCCAP IT system, the Child Care Automated Tracking System (CHATS).

Child Care Assistance Program Stimulus - Eligibility Expansion and Infant and Toddler Care Reimbursement

This line consists of federal stimulus funds from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant to supplement funding for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). The funds are allocated to counties based on an allocation formula, and are intended to support the increased program costs associated with reimbursing infant and toddler care based on enrollment and expanding income eligibility thresholds for CCCAP. The funds may be spent only on direct services for children participating in CCCAP.

Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant

This line item supports increasing the number of qualified early childhood educators in the State and retaining the early childhood educator workforce. The Recruitment and Retention Grant provides current and potential early childhood professionals with financial assistance to draw from a menu of options, adaptable to local needs, to support their access to education and training in order to help them earn credits, credentials, and degrees, and meet child care licensing requirements to serve as qualified workers or obtain a higher level of qualification. The program will help address the early childhood workforce need in Colorado by providing educators a variety of pathways to the profession.

Professional Development and Training

This line item provides funding for the Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System (PDIS), which is the statewide workforce registry and learning management system supporting professional development for Colorado's early childhood workforce. Effective December 2021, all staff in licensed programs are required to be registered in the PDIS. Additionally, required annual

training is offered to all child care professionals for free through the learning management system in English and Spanish, ensuring access to required health and safety training as well as ongoing professional development for all professionals in the state. The funds support the costs of resources for the ongoing oversight and development of ongoing training, and professional development opportunities for early childhood educators, and operating and maintenance costs for the PDIS technology system.

For FY 2022-23, this line includes federal stimulus funds from the Child Care And Development Fund (CCDF) grant to support apprenticeship, peer mentoring, and the costs of other professional development support for early childhood educators.

Early Childhood Quality and Availability

This line item funds grants and contracts to improve the quality and availability of child care throughout Colorado.

The federal government currently requires that 9 percent of expenditures for Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) be used to improve the quality of child care. The 9 percent calculation is based on total CCDF expenditures, including state expenditures required to match a portion of the federal CCDF grant and expenditures of county transfers of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds to CCDF. Funding for quality activities supports Colorado's Early Childhood Councils (ECCs) and the Colorado Shines Quality Improvement (CSQI) Program, which consists of funding from the School-Readiness Quality Improvement Program, the Infant and Toddler Quality and Availability (ITQA) program, and other CCDF funds intended to improve the quality in CCCAP and other licensed child care providers.

The federal government currently requires 3 percent of the total CCDF expenditures to be targeted for infant/toddler care to provide specialized training, technical assistance, improve the quality, or expand the supply of child care programs serving infants and toddlers. This funding includes, but is not limited to, the ITQA program and the Expanding Quality for Infants and Toddlers (EQIT) program.

The funds support the Department's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), Colorado Shines, which was launched in 2014. Colorado Shines is embedded in the state child care licensing regulatory system, requiring the assignment of a quality rating level for all licensed child care programs enrolling children prior to kindergarten to inform parents about the quality of early learning programs and drive improvements to the quality of those programs. The funds support the costs of the ongoing oversight and development of the Colorado Shines framework, including coaching, rating administration, inter-rater reliability for assessor staff, ongoing training, and operating and maintenance costs for the Colorado Shines Technology System.

In FY 2022-23, the line includes federal stimulus funds from the Child Care And Development Fund (CCDF) grant to support a variety of efforts to improve the quality and availability of child care throughout Colorado, including: Family Child Care Home (FCCH) Navigators to support providers in becoming licensed, as well as supporting newly licensed providers by providing resources and ensuring their access to services;

Local Capacity Building Grants

The Transition Plan for the Department of Early Childhood recommended an evaluation of local capacity and building community readiness for launching universal preschool. This activity supports local partners to survey local capacity and develop regional strategies to build capacity within their unique communities, particularly in rural and frontier communities. This will ensure Colorado is ready to give access to all families who wish to participate in the universal preschool program.

S.B. 22-213 Emerging and Expanding Grant Program

Grants to expand access and availability of licensed child care throughout Colorado by providing funds to providers support expenses related to the expansion of current licensed child care capacity or the opening of a new licensed child care program.

S.B. 22-213 Early Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention

Grants to increase the number of qualified early childhood educators throughout the state and to retain existing licensed early childhood educators.

S.B. 22-213 Family, Friend, and Neighbor Training and Support

Funding to support community-based organizations and nonprofit organizations with expertise working with FFN providers to provide FFN providers with information, training, materials, knowledge, support, best practices, and technical assistance.

S.B. 22-213 Child Care Sustainability Grant Program

Grants to address the pressures that reduced enrollment and increased costs have put on child care providers and their sustainability by addressing licensed child care capacity and quality level.

S.B. 22-213 Employer Based Child Care Facility Grant Program

Grant to provide eligible entities with funds to construct, remodel, renovate, or retrofit a child care center on site or near the site to provide licensed child care services to the eligible entity's employees.

S.B. 21-236 Circle Grant Program

Grant to address systemic challenges for early care and learning providers that have worsened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and to promote innovation to improve outcomes for children and families.

Indirect Cost Assessment

Indirect Cost Assessment provides funding for departmental overhead costs by the programs in this Long Bill group. The assessment represents the expected collection of statewide and departmental indirect costs from a cash-funded, reappropriated funds, or federal-funded program.

(4) COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SUPPORT

(A) General Administration

Personal Services

This line item provides funding for staff and related services for the Community and Family Support division, staff and related services in the department in connection with the work of the division, and possible contracts for requisite personal services.

Operating Expenses

In addition to funding telephones, computers, office furniture, and employee supplies, this line item also supports a number of annual costs such as in- and out-of-state travel, records storage, postage, costs, and subscriptions to publications.

Early Intervention

The Early Intervention Services program is codified in state and federal statute, at Section 26.5-3-401 et seq., C.R.S. (2022) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (2004), 34 C.F.R. Section 303.101 (a)(1). Early Intervention services provide services and supports to children from birth through age two and their families who are determined eligible based on a developmental delay or disability. These services and supports enhance child development in the areas of adaptive skills, cognitive skills, communication, motor development including vision and hearing and social and emotional development. The Early Intervention program also includes early identification, screening, and assessment services, and procedural safeguards. The program is funded by a combination of General Fund, local funds, Medicaid, the Early Intervention Services Trust (EIST), and federal funding from Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Line item funding supports contracts with community agencies to provide service coordination and direct services to eligible children and families, and other costs necessary to implement the Early Intervention program, including public awareness, training, information technology, and the state staff responsible for oversight and implementation of the program.

The line item also funds Early Intervention evaluations line was created during the FY 2018-19 figure setting process with an appropriation of General Fund and federal funding from Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The funding assists the State with the administration and completion of Early Intervention Evaluations for children birth through age two. With the passage of S.B. 21-275, the full authority for conducting all Early Intervention evaluations was transferred from the Colorado Department of Education to the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) to align with CDHS' responsibility as the state lead agency for purposes of federal Part C funding and law. Next, full authority was transferred to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, which became the lead agency in July 2022. Line item funding supports costs associated with conducting evaluations and implementing the evaluation program, including public awareness, training, information technology, and the state staff responsible for oversight and implementation of the program.

Home Visiting

This line item includes funding for home visiting including the Nurse Home Visitor Program (NHVP), Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), and Healthy Steps.

The Nurse Home Visitor Program (NHVP) is funded by the Nurse Home Visitor Program (NHVP) Fund created in 26-6.4-107 (2) (b), C.R.S. (2021), some federal funding from the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant, and Medicaid reimbursements. The program receives an annual distribution of funding from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, which is deposited into the NHVP fund. 95% of the funding must go to contracts with community agencies to implement the direct services, and the remaining 5% supports the cost of oversight and implementation of the program.

This program is based on the proven national Nurse Family Partnership program (NFP), which has more than 40 years' worth of clinical trials demonstrating long-term outcomes such as reduced childhood injuries. Compared with a similar reference group of low-income women nationally, NFP participants had 18 percent fewer preterm births, 21 percent more mothers were breastfeeding, and 19 percent more infants were immunized at six months. The state program provides funding for home visiting nurse services to low-income (up to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level), first-time mothers during their pregnancies and through their children's second birthday. This is a voluntary program designed to provide trained visiting nurses to help educate mothers on the importance of nutrition, healthy decision making, and to assist and educate mothers in providing general infant care to improve outcomes for their children. Each year the program sees over 4,000 first-time mothers with services in all 64 Colorado counties through its 22 sites across the state.

Previously known as Healthy Steps for Young Children, Home Visiting for School Readiness was originally created during the FY 2017-18 Figure Setting process and funded through General Fund. Funding supports contracts with agencies to implement the national HealthySteps and Home Instruction for the Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPPY) models. HealthySteps is a voluntary, evidence-based two-generation program that is delivered through the pediatric care system to provide parent support and education, developmental screening, instruction in safe sleep practices, family protective and risk factor screening, and connections to needed services.

SB 22-213 Home Visiting Grant Program

Grants for evidence-based, two-generation, and home-based prevention programs which support the school readiness, social-emotional growth, and development of the served children.

Child Maltreatment Prevention

This line item includes funding for Safecare, Colorado Community Response Program (CCR), Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF), Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), and the Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund Board (COCAP).

SafeCare Colorado is a voluntary in-home prevention service for parents to assist them with the challenges of parenting and inter-family relationships. Services offered include child behavior management, planned activities training, home safety training, and child health care skills, all designed to stabilize families and prevent child maltreatment. Program resources include home visits, family coaches, and access to other services that may be of need to a family, including but not limited to food assistance, work assistance, and child care assistance. SafeCare is used in other communities across the country and has demonstrated strong success in eliminating child maltreatment. Funding is used to support sites across the State that provide services under the SafeCare Colorado model. The program commenced in FY 2013-14 with the establishment of 6 sites, followed by 3 more. Currently there are 13 sites and one tribe that provide SafeCare services in 39 counties. Evaluation activities are administered by the Colorado State University School of Social Work.

The Colorado Community Response Program draws on public, private, and community supports to keep children safe by increasing a family's protective capacities to prevent child neglect among low-income families. The Colorado Community Response Program is a voluntary program serving families that have been reported to a county child protective agency for alleged child abuse or neglect

but are screened out without an offer of services. The family receives needed referrals, financial literacy coaching, and access to flex funding in order to increase economic self-reliance. The program is organizationally located and managed by the Office of Early Childhood. Similar to SafeCare Colorado, funding for the Colorado Community Response Program established sites across Colorado that were selected through a competitive application process. As of FY 2019-20, CCR services are being delivered at 24 sites in 34 counties. A randomized control trial study of the promising practice is being completed by the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab at the University of Denver.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families was originally authorized in 1993 under Subpart 2 of Title IV-B of the federal Social Security Act, and was established in name by the 1997 federal Adoption and Safe Families Act. The program is codified at Section 26-5-101 et. seq., C.R.S. (2021). The line supports costs associated with state staff responsible for administering the program, and managing the associated contracts and budgets.

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program provides funding and technical assistance to selected counties in Colorado to create, enhance, and coordinate four service areas including family support programs to increase family well-being, family preservation services for families with children at risk of maltreatment or those with disabilities, reunification services for families with children in out-of-home placement, and adoption promotion and support services.

PSSF is funded by a formula grant and requires a 25 percent non-federal match to draw down the federal funds. The General Fund appropriation provides the match for the portion of the funds that are used to support state-level staff and data collection activities, and the cash funds represent the in-kind and non-federal funds that the local counties provide as a match for the funds they receive.

Funds derived from the Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund created in 19-3.5-106(1), C.R.S. (2021) are allocated with advisement from the Governor-appointed seventeen-member Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund Board to local organizations to prevent the abuse and neglect of Colorado's children. Line item funding also supports the costs of state staff responsible for oversight and administration of the trust fund.

Cash funds from divorce docket fees will be expended toward primary child abuse prevention strategies with two priorities identified in the statute: child sexual abuse prevention and the prevention of drug-exposed newborns. H.B. 18-1064 added a requirement to utilize additional state funds for a training program to prevent child sexual abuse. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, General Fund for this purpose was removed starting in FY 2020-21 though the mandate to provide the training remains in statute.

H.B. 21-1248 added a new sub-account to the Trust Fund starting FY 2021-22 that will receive and pool federal Title IV-E claiming reimbursement for state investment in prevention services named on the Family First Prevention Services Act Clearinghouse. The Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund Board will establish priorities to build capacity for more prevention services across the state that will guide the Department in releasing solicitations to local organizations implementing programs on the same Clearinghouse.

Federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant funds, from the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Part II, support the creation and implementation of county child maltreatment prevention plans, implementation of some of those local strategies, and to investments in capacity building across the family strengthening system. Many of these grants go directly to Family Resource Centers that are implementing programs and strategies to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect from occurring in the first place. This funding also supports the cost of state staff responsible for oversight and administration of the federal grant program.

Early Childhood Mental Health Services

The purpose of the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) program is to increase the availability of mental health consultation services to young children, birth through age five, and provide coaching and training to families and early care and learning environments that will help adults support children's social-emotional development and to identify early in a child's life any concerns that could lead to greater challenges in the future. Benefits of the ECMHC program include fewer incidents of challenging behaviors, reduced stress for parents, increased resiliency for children, stronger relationships between children and parents, and improved school readiness meaning that children are ready for school, families are ready to support their children's learning, and early care and learning programs are ready for children.

In FY 2015-16, a supplemental budget request was submitted to use CCDF to implement new federal program requirements. Specifically, the funding addresses the requirement to provide enhanced resources to address the social and emotional needs of young children in Colorado that will reduce suspensions and expulsions. The Legislature approved the request, and the State was able to expand the number of FTE community-based ECMH Consultants. The line supports costs associated with state staff responsible for administering the program, and managing the associated contracts and budgets.

Social-Emotional Learning Programs Grants

This line item provides funding for the Incredible Years program, which is an evidence-based, two-generation program that fosters social and emotional well-being in young children and works to prevent behavior issues that could lead to suspension or expulsion from preschool. The program consists of three components: classroom management support for teachers, a curriculum delivered in Pre-K and kindergarten classrooms, and a parenting program. The program is funded through Marijuana Tax Cash Funds. Funding also supports the cost of state staff responsible for oversight and administration of the federal grant program.

Child Care Services and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Pilot Program

The Child Care Services and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Pilot Program was created by HB19-1193 to provide grants to enhance the existing child care resource and referral programs to provide increased child care navigation capacity in one rural pilot program site and one urban pilot program site to serve pregnant and parenting women seeking or participating in substance use disorder treatment, provide a grant to enhance the capacity of the existing child care resource and referral program's centralized call center to serve pregnant and parenting women seeking or participating in substance use disorder treatments, and provide implementation grants to pilot a regional mobile child care model and serves children under five years of age in at least three facilities that provide substance use disorder treatment to parents. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, funding for this pilot program was eliminated for FY 2020-21 but was restored for the final year of the pilot (FY 2021-22).

HB 22-1369 Children's Mental Health Programs

House Bill 22-1369 requires the Department to contract with a Colorado-based nonprofit entity to provide children's mental health programs to perform readiness assessments, provide training, and monitor program implementation to provide ongoing quality assessments and improvement recommendations; provide the CDEC with site-specific and statewide process and outcome evaluations of children's mental health programs; and annually prepare and submit to the CDEC an evaluation of the outcomes of all of the children's mental health programs implemented.

HB 22-1369 Children's Mental Health Program

Funds for evidence-based, two-generation, and home-based prevention and early intervention program to significantly improve child emotional and behavioral health as well as to decrease child abuse and neglect.

Indirect Cost Assessment

Indirect Cost Assessment provides funding for departmental overhead costs by the programs in this Long Bill group. The assessment represents the expected collection of statewide and departmental indirect costs from a cash-funded, reappropriated funds, or federal-funded program.

(5) LICENSING AND ADMINISTRATION

(A) General Administration

Personal Services

This line item funds staff and related services for the Licensing and Administration division, staff and related services in the department in connection with the work of the division, and contracts for requisite personal services, including licensing contracts. This work unit is responsible for inspecting, licensing, and monitoring child care facilities throughout the State. The licensing program is responsible for enforcement of applicable federal and State rules and regulations for child care facilities. The Division provides technical assistance to child care providers and establishes educational and experience requirements for child care providers in all facilities. The licensing program is federally required to conduct annual licensing inspections for all facilities.

This unit also includes the Coordinator and Supervisor for the Child Care Licensing Appeal Panel, which reviews provider requests for waivers to licensing regulations. Applicants or licensed providers may appeal regulations that they believe cause them undue hardship or have been too stringently applied. The Child Care Licensing Appeal Panel of the Division hears an average of 600 appeals a year. To facilitate parents' involvement in monitoring and making decisions about licensed facilities, the Division makes licensing histories of child care facilities available to the public.

The line item appropriation includes revenue earned from licensing fees deposited into the Child Care Licensing Cash Fund. The Department, through rules promulgated by the Executive Director and pursuant to Section 26.5-5-311, C.R.S. (2022), establishes licensing fees not to exceed the direct and indirect costs incurred.

Operating Expenses

In addition to funding telephones, computers, office furniture, and employee supplies, this line item also supports a number of annual costs such as in- and out-of-state travel, records storage, postage, costs, training, and subscriptions to publications.

Background Investigation Unit

This work unit provides a comprehensive criminal and child abuse and neglect background check program for the Colorado Department of Early Childhood to reduce the risks to vulnerable persons. This unit screens applicants who are applying for employment within child care facilities licensed by CDEC, foster care, adoptions, kinship care, volunteers, interns, camps, community mental health, residential child care facilities, and individuals to provide better protection for children in the State of Colorado. This unit provides information for interpretation of background check statutes, functions as a statewide authority in background screening program development, operation, and updates.

This line item includes both licensing fees deposited into the Child Care Licensing Cash Fund as described above and revenue from background check fees deposited into the Records and Reports Fund pursuant to 19-1-307, C.R.S (2022).

Indirect Cost Assessment

Indirect Cost Assessment provides funding for departmental overhead costs by the programs in this Long Bill group. The assessment represents the expected collection of statewide and departmental indirect costs from a cash-funded, reappropriated funds, or federal-funded program.