Colorado Universal Preschool
Program Year 2024-25 Annual Report



Colorado Department of Early Childhood

January 2026

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Executive Summary

Colorado Universal Preschool offers voluntary, high-quality preschool to every child in the year before kindergarten. Through its mixed delivery system, the program enables families to choose a preschool setting that best meets their needs, whether that be a licensed community-based, school-based, or home-based program. The program offers at least 15 hours per week of state-funded preschool to all children in their year before kindergarten for a 10-month program year. In program year (PY) 2024-25—the second year of the program—Colorado Universal Preschool provided the transformational power of preschool to tens of thousands of families across the state.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Advancing Toward Preschool for All

Universal Preschool served 43,398 four-year-olds, or 68.2% of the state's estimated eligible population. This means that Colorado remains among the top in the nation for four-year-old preschool access for the second year in a row. Over its two years of operation, Universal Preschool has served a total of 86,877 four-year-olds.

More Learning Time for Children Facing Economic Barriers

9,789, or 22%, of children received full-day state-funded preschool—an 11.5% increase from PY 2023-24. This year, children living in households earning less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines were eligible for full-day awards, providing more educational opportunity and financial support to Colorado's most cost-burdened families.

A Growing Provider Network

2,108 providers from all settings — school-based, community-based, and home-based — participated in Universal Preschool in PY 2024-25 — a 9.5% increase from PY 2023-24. More providers from all settings participated this year, meaning families have greater choice when selecting a provider that meets their needs.

Expanding Access for Dual Language Learners

The number of dual language learners enrolled in the program increased by nearly 50% in PY 2024-25, indicating growing accessibility and support for families who speak languages other than English. CDEC provided greater targeted language support this year, including on-the-spot translation from application to enrollment.

Strengthening the Early Learning Sector

Universal Preschool distributed $276.8 million in provider payments for four-year-old services to the early learning sector. By participating in Universal Preschool, providers from all settings had access to a reliable pool of public funding, incentivizing continued capacity growth in the early care and education sector.

Supporting Quality Environments

Universal Preschool's quality standards cover teacher quality, instructional practices, healthy child development, and family and community engagement. Some of the standards took effect in PY 2024-25, while additional requirements will be phased in over multiple years. To support providers in meeting quality standards, the Universal Preschool Resource Bank launched in 2025.

Letter from Governor Polis



In the tumultuous period of 2020, Colorado, as a state, knew we had to do more to support our early learning and care sector. By passing Proposition EE, Colorado voters called for the creation of a universal preschool funding stream. I was proud to enact the will of these voters by signing HB22-1295, the bill that created the Colorado Universal Preschool program.

Now, well into our third year of preschool, I'm so proud of what we have accomplished by providing tens of thousands of children with crucial early education experiences, as well as families across the state with critical financial relief. This transformative step reaffirms our state's commitment to giving every child a strong start, empowering families, and fostering vibrant communities.

The Universal Preschool Program is more than an education milestone—it is a catalyst for change, breaking down barriers to early learning and creating opportunities that will echo for generations. Families now have greater access to affordable, high-quality preschool options, a broader range of choices to meet their needs, and meaningful support for work-life balance and economic stability.

Providers across Colorado are empowered to deliver exceptional early learning experiences, while families see the ripple effects of this investment in their daily lives. These impacts strengthen our workforce, stabilize communities, and ensure a brighter, more inclusive future for all Coloradans.

While we celebrate this progress, there is more work ahead. Together, we will expand equitable access, address workforce challenges, and continue to elevate Colorado as a leader in early childhood education.

Thank you to the parents, educators, providers, policymakers, and leaders who have championed this effort. Your dedication inspires us to dream bigger, achieve more, and create a future where every child and family can thrive.

With gratitude,

Governor Jared Polis

Letter from the Executive Director

At the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC), our mission is to ensure that every child, from birth through early childhood, has the support they need to thrive and that families and providers have access to an equitable, accessible, and sustainable system. Colorado Universal Preschool is a cornerstone of that mission, grounded in the belief that high-quality early learning is one of the most powerful investments we can make in Colorado's future.

In program year 2024-25, Colorado Universal Preschool continued to deliver on this commitment, serving more than 43,000 four-year-olds—68% of the state's eligible children. Sustaining this level of participation for a second consecutive year positions Colorado as a national leader in preschool access and reflects the strength of the program's design and implementation.

This year, Universal Preschool expanded access for families facing the greatest financial pressures by implementing a new "child experiencing poverty" qualifying factor. This change enabled nearly 10,000 children from households below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines to receive 30 hours of state-funded preschool, increasing learning time while providing meaningful financial relief to families most in need.

The program also strengthened Colorado's early childhood workforce and provider community. More than 2,100 providers across school-based, community-based, and home-based settings participated in Universal Preschool in 2024-25, reflecting growth across all delivery types.

These outcomes are the result of strong and enduring partnerships. I extend my sincere thanks to participating families, the providers and educators who deliver high-quality early learning, the advocates who shape this work, and the Governor and General Assembly whose leadership made this program possible.



This report provides a comprehensive look at Colorado Universal Preschool in 2024-25, highlighting progress made and opportunities ahead as we continue building a high-quality preschool system that supports children, families, and providers statewide.

With gratitude,

Lisa K. Roy, Ed.D.

Dr. Lisa Roy
Executive Director

About Colorado Universal Preschool

Colorado Universal Preschool is a state-funded, mixed-delivery preschool program administered by the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC). Colorado Universal Preschool was created through the dedication and commitment of the Governor, Legislators, advocates, providers, and families to building a high-quality, accessible early childhood system.

Recognizing that high-quality preschool can transform the lives of children, families, and communities, Colorado voters passed Proposition EE, a nicotine and tobacco tax, in 2020 to create a dedicated revenue stream for universal preschool services. In 2022, lawmakers passed HB22-1295 to establish Colorado Universal Preschool.

Colorado Universal Preschool welcomed its second cohort of children in program year (PY) 2024-25. Throughout the year, the program funded 43,398 children in the year before kindergarten to receive preschool services through 2,108 participating providers.

This report provides a comprehensive look at Colorado Universal Preschool in program year 2024–25, including data on children served, family awards, qualifying factors, provider participation, and program investments. This report only includes data regarding services for children in the year before kindergarten. For information on three-year-old services, please see the PY 2024-25 Colorado Universal Preschool Three-Year-Old Report.



Program Terms

Family Award

Colorado Universal Preschool funds up to 15 hours (half-day) per week of free, high-quality preschool to all children in their year before kindergarten for a 10-month program year. Depending on available funding, families may qualify for 30 hours (full-day) if their child lives in a low-income household and meets at least one "qualifying factor." Additionally, families can choose to receive a 10-hour award if it better meets their needs or if a 15- or 30-hour program is not locally available.

Program Types

Providers offer a range of program types, which include part-time of up to 10-15 hours per week, AM or PM; half-day of up to 15-30 hours per week, AM or PM; full-day of up to 30-40 hours per week; or extended day of 41+ hours per week. Families can enroll in any program type that meets their needs, regardless of their family's award. For example, a family with a 15-hour award could enroll in a 30-hour program, opting to pay for the additional hours in an alternative manner.

Mixed-Delivery

Through a mixed-delivery model, families are empowered to choose the 'just-right' provider, whether it be a licensed community-based program, a school-based program, or a licensed home-based provider. Providers also offer a variety of early childhood education models that cater to different family preferences and needs, including varying instructional approaches, specialized support services, language offerings, and more.

Local Coordinating Organizations

Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs) are state partners responsible for coordinating Colorado Universal Preschool at the local level. Within their geographic catchment area, LCOs provide services such as supporting families in navigating enrollment, communicating with and supporting providers, and collaborating with CDEC in implementing high-quality preschool services.

Qualifying for 30 Hour Awards

While statute directs Universal Preschool to provide at least 10 hours of free preschool to all children in their year before kindergarten, the program has increased baseline hours to 15 hours per week to better reflect the program delivery needs of families and providers.[1] Statute also directs the program, subject to available appropriations, to provide additional hours of state-funded preschool to a child who is **"low-income"** or meets at least one **"qualifying factor"** — meaning a family circumstance or a child characteristic that may indicate potential barriers to greater learning outcomes.[2]

With the available appropriations in PY 2024-25, Universal Preschool offered additional hours—a total of 30 per week—to children who were low-income *and* had at least one qualifying factor. This approach provided extra learning time to children facing compounding challenges.

Defining Low-Income

In program year 2024-25, Universal Preschool defined "low-income" as households with a gross monthly income that did not exceed 270% of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG). Universal Preschool also introduced an "experiencing poverty" qualifying factor, meaning they live in a household with an income less than 100% of the federal poverty guidelines. The introduction of this qualifying factor allowed Universal Preschool to provide 30 hours of state-funded preschool to the state's most economically under-resourced families, as children who met this criteria were considered both "low-income" and having an additional qualifying factor.

Figure 1: Monthly Poverty and Low-Income Qualification Thresholds

Family Size	"Experiencing Poverty" Monthly Income Threshold	"Low-Income" Qualifying Factor Monthly Income Threshold
1	$1,225.00	$3,388.50
2	$1,703.33	$4,599.00
3	$2,151.67	$5,809.50
4	$2,600	$7,020.00
5	$3,048.33	$8,230.50
6	$3,496.67	$9,441.00
7	$3,945.00	$10,651.50
8	$4,393.33	$11,862.00
Each Additional Person	+ $448.33	+ $1,210.50

Qualifying Factors

Colorado Universal Preschool has identified certain factors that could impact a child's future cognitive, academic, or social development, or their physical or behavioral health. Children who meet the definition of low-income and who have one of these qualifying factors are eligible to receive 30 hours per week of state-funded preschool.

Building on national research and the success of prior programs, Universal Preschool identified the following qualifying factors for PY 2024-25:

- Child is identified as **homeless and/or unhoused**, with department rule ensuring this encompasses a broad range of scenarios.
- Child is a **dual language learner**, meaning they are learning two or more languages at the same time, or are learning a second language while continuing to develop their first language.
- Child is eligible for **special education with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).**[3]
- Child is currently in the custody of a state-supervised and county-administered **foster care home or in non-certified kinship care.**
- Child is **experiencing poverty**, meaning they live in a household with an income less than 100% of the federal poverty guidelines. The introduction of this qualifying factor allowed Universal Preschool to provide 30 hours of state-funded preschool to the state's most economically under-resourced families, as children who met this criteria were considered both "low-income" and having an additional qualifying factor.



Children Served in Program Year 2024-25

Colorado Universal Preschool served 43,398 children in PY 2024-25. Preschool is shown to play a key role in supporting child development, and its impacts are both immediate and long-term.[4] By offering at least 15 hours of free preschool to all children in the year before kindergarten, Universal Preschool aims to provide all children in Colorado with a strong start in school and in life.

Advancing Toward Preschool for All

In PY 2023-24, Colorado skyrocketed to third in the nation for four-year-old preschool access, up from 27th the previous year.[5] **Colorado Universal Preschool sustained this progress in PY 2024-25 by serving roughly the same share of estimated eligible four-year-olds—about 68% statewide.** This demonstrates that Universal Preschool has built a solid foundation for supporting families throughout the state, year after year.

Figure 2: Four-Year-Olds Served Compared to Estimated Eligible Population



Two Years of Universal Preschool

Universal Preschool launched in PY 2023-24. Since then, the program has enabled **86,877 four-year-olds** to experience the transformational effects of a preschool education. Across these two years, Universal Preschool has invested more than $516 million into the school- and life-readiness of Colorado's youngest residents.

Efforts to Grow Enrollment

To deliver on the commitment to provide every child a strong start, Universal Preschool set a goal to increase the percentage of eligible four-year-olds enrolled in Universal Preschool to 70% in PY 2025-26. Already, we're surpassing that goal by serving 70.1% of the estimated eligible population as of November 2025.



Awards to Families

Figure 3 shows the number of children who received 10-, 15-, and 30-hour awards. **Compared to PY 2023-24, the number of children receiving 30-hour awards increased by 11.5 percentage points.** This is largely due to the new "experiencing poverty" qualifying factor, as 3,079 children received full-day services solely because their household income was less than 100% of the FPG. **The increase in 30-hour awards is evidence that Universal Preschool is expanding access to early education and its academic, social-emotional, and long-term health benefits to Colorado's most cost-burdened families.**

Figure 3: Children Served by Award to Family*

Award Type	Number of Children Served
10-Hour Award	9,474 (21.8%)
15-Hour Award	24,135 (55.6%)
30-Hour Award	9,789 (22.6%)
Total	**43,398**

* Families can change their program enrollment hours throughout the program year, which may impact the award they receive. In this data, children are included in their highest award category at any point in the year. For example, if a child was awarded 15 hours from August through December, but then received a 30-hour award from December through May, the child would be counted in the 30-hour award category.

The Family Award Process

When a family applies to Colorado Universal Preschool, the program assesses their eligibility for a 15- or 30-hour "award." All children in the year before kindergarten are eligible to receive 15 hours of funding. Based on a family's income and whether their child meets at least one qualifying factor, families may be eligible for 30-hour awards. Additionally, families can choose a 10-hour award if it better meets their needs or if locally available programs only offer 10 hours of care. If a family needs more care than their award funds, they also have the option of paying their provider directly for additional hours.

Statewide Reach

Families in all 64 Colorado counties—rural, frontier, and urban—benefited from Universal Preschool. In approximately 73% of counties (47), the voluntary program served more than 60% of the estimated eligible four-year-old population.

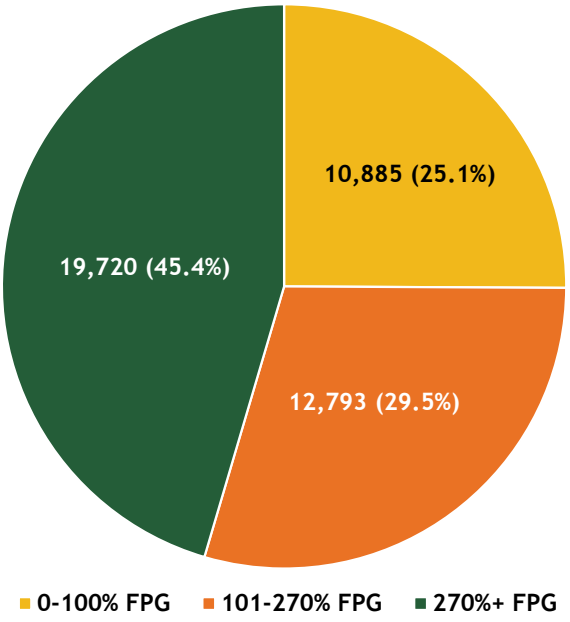
Income and Qualifying Factors

In PY 2024-25, Universal Preschool reached tens of thousands of children who could most benefit from the academic, cognitive, and social-emotional skills developed through a high-quality preschool experience.

Boosting Outcomes for Children Facing Economic Barriers

More than half of the children enrolled in Universal Preschool were considered low-income, meaning they lived in households with incomes below 270% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) at some point during the program year. **Of these children, 29.5% lived in households at 101%-270% FPG, while 25.1% lived in households below 100% FPG**—an income level the program classifies as "experiencing poverty" for the purpose of 30-hour award eligibility.

Figure 4: Children Served by Income Band*



*Families' income may change throughout the program year. This data reflects the lowest income band that families reported during the program year.



Unlocking Opportunity Through Early Education

Preschool has particular benefits for children experiencing economic insecurity. There is strong evidence indicating that preschool improves educational outcomes and enhances economic opportunities later in life.[6] In the short term, preschool can also promote economic stability by enabling parents, especially mothers, to rejoin the workforce or keep their existing jobs.[7]

Reaching Children with Qualifying Factors

Colorado Universal Preschool served 15,449 unique children with an additional qualifying factor—unrelated to income levels—during the 2024-25 program year. The program serves many families with compounding qualifying factors: 2,085 children had two additional qualifying factors, and 73 children had three or more additional qualifying factors (see Appendix D).

The most common qualifying factor was dual language learner status, which was met by more than 10,700 learners. **This represents a nearly 50% increase from PY 2023-24, indicating the program's growing accessibility and support for families who speak languages other than English.** More than 8,200 of these dual language learners also met the definition of low-income , meaning they were eligible to receive full-day services (see Appendix E).

Having an IEP was the second most common qualifying factor, with 5,876 children meeting this criterion. 4,028 of these children also met the definition of low-income. All children with disabilities are eligible to receive program hours in accordance with their IEP.

Figure 5: Number of Children Served with Each Qualifying Factor

Qualifying Factor	Number of Children	Percent of All Four-Year-Olds Served
Dual Language Learner	10,702	24.7%
Child with IEP	5,876	13.5%
In Foster/Kinship Care	712	1.6%
Experiencing Homelessness	393	0.9%

*Counts are unique for each category of qualifying factor; counts are not unique across qualifying factors. Children with multiple qualifying factors are counted in each category.

Language Support for Every Family

CDEC focused on providing language support to families throughout the application process. In addition to providing the application in multiple languages, the program's help desk also offers live language translation services, allowing families to receive on-the-spot support from application to enrollment.



Demographics and Languages of Children Served

Ethnicity

33.2% of children served were Hispanic or Latino; 61.4% were of other ethnic origin. 5.3% of families declined to provide this information.

Figure 6: Ethnicity of Children Served

Ethnicity	Total Number of Children
Hispanic or Latino Origin	14,409 (33.2%)
Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino Origin	26,668 (61.4%)
Ethnicity is Unspecified or Not Reported	2,321 (5.3%)

Race

69.9% of children served in the 2024-25 program year identified as white. 19.6% of children served reported a non-white racial identity, with 7.6% of these children identifying as bi- or multi-racial, 6% being Black or African American, and 3.8% being Asian. 10.5% of families declined to provide this information.

Figure 7: Race of Children Served

Race	Total Number of Children
American Indian or Alaska Native	574 (1.3%)
Asian	1,660 (3.8%)
Black or African American	2,586 (6.0%)
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	141 (0.3%)
White	30,328 (69.9%)
Biracial/Multi-racial	3,288 (7.6%)
Other Race	266 (0.6%)
Race is Unspecified or Not Reported	4,555 (10.5%)
Total	43,398 (100%)

Primary Language

The majority of children served, 73.9%, spoke English as their primary language. The second most spoken language was Spanish, with 15.5% of children speaking it as their primary language. 7.8% spoke a language in the home that was not listed as an option on the application.

Figure 8: Primary Language of Children Served

Primary Language	Total Number of Children
English	32,076 (73.9%)
Spanish	6,712 (15.5%)
Other	3,374 (7.8%)
Arabic	215 (0.5%)
Chinese	191 (0.4%)
Amharic	161 (0.4%)
Russian	159 (0.4%)
Vietnamese	153 (10.4%)
French	128 (0.3%)
Korean	62 (0.1%)
Bilingual/Multilingual	57 (0.1%)
German	45 (0.1%)
Tagalog	40 (0.1%)
Somali	25 (0.1%)
Total	43,398 (100%)

Mixed-Delivery System

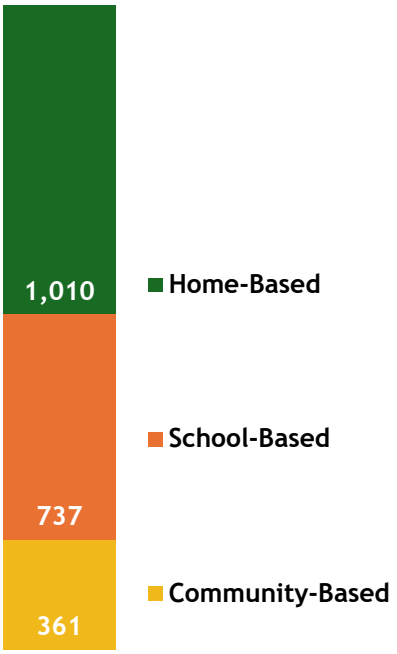
Colorado Universal Preschool supports both families and providers through a mixed-delivery system. One size does not fit all when it comes to child care settings, and the mixed-delivery model empowers families to choose a provider that meets their unique needs, whether that be aligning with parents' work schedules, enrolling where a sibling attends, or having teachers who speak a child's primary language. In turn, mixed-delivery ensures equitable access to funding for all preschool provider types, including school-based, community-based, and licensed home providers.

A Growing Provider Network

2,108 providers from all settings—school-based, community-based, and home-based—participated in Universal Preschool in PY 2024-25—a 9.5% increase from PY 2023-24. More providers from all settings participated this year, meaning families have greater choice when selecting a provider that meets their needs. The majority of participating providers were community-based (47.9%), school-based providers made up 35% of the total available providers, and home-based providers made up 17.1% of participating providers (see Appendix F).[8]

In addition to a larger network of providers for families to choose from, Universal Preschool also offered a reliable network of providers. **96.7% of the providers who participated in the program in PY 2023-24 chose to continue in PY 2024-25. This means consistency and stability for families who value continuing care with a trusted provider.**

Figure 9: Participating Providers



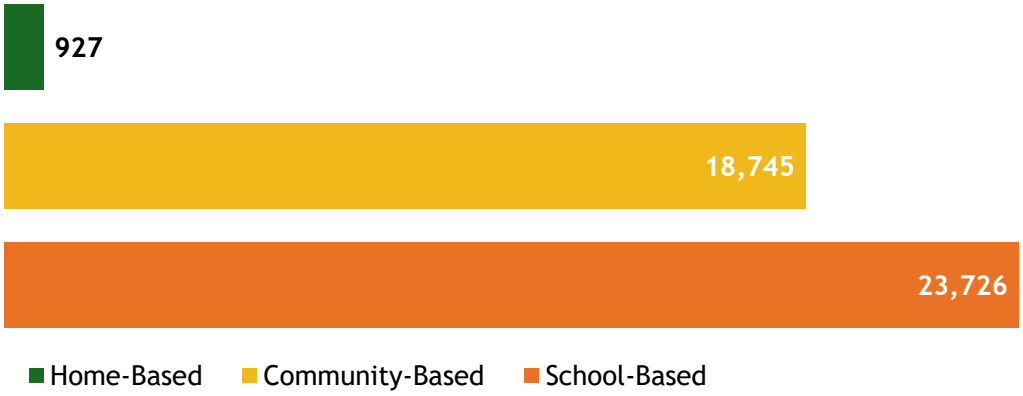
Built for Family Choice

When Colorado Universal Preschool was established, partners and families clearly communicated the importance of expanding family choice. In 2022, Early Milestones surveyed 2,200 families with children under the age of 6 and found that 59% of families did not have a child care arrangement that matched their preferences. Universal Preschool set out to address this challenge by expanding the network of accessible and affordable preschool options available to families across diverse geographic, racial, linguistic, and socioeconomic demographics.

In 2024-25, school-based providers served the largest number of children (54.7%). This may be because school districts have better geographic proximity than community- or home-based providers in some counties. Additionally, families may gravitate toward school-based providers for a number of reasons: it may enable continuity of care as the child moves into kindergarten; families might value the convenience of having a preschooler and an older sibling in the same building; or it may align with a child's IEP.

Meanwhile, community-based programs served 43.2% of enrolled children, and home-based programs served 2.1% of children (see Appendix H). Families might value the early learning experience offered at a licensed child care center or family child care home because, amongst other reasons, it offers a specific curriculum, a smaller care environment, longer or nontraditional hours, or a particular language.

Figure 10: Children Served by Provider Setting*



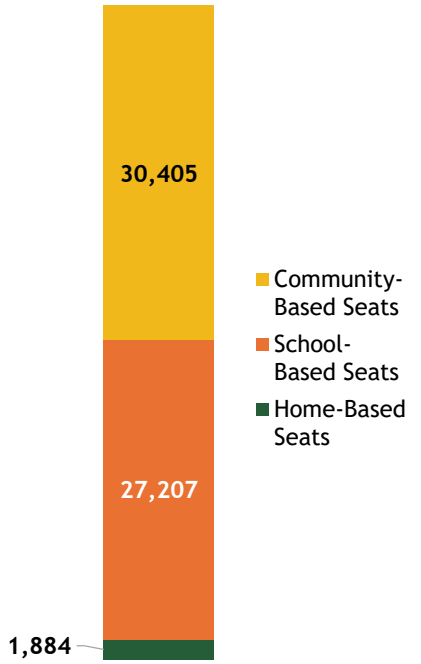
*Families had the ability to change their preschool provider at any point throughout the program year. Data on children served by provider setting were reported using the last setting type in which a child was served during the program year.

Expanding Capacity and Sustainability in an Early Education Crisis

A well-funded mixed-delivery system is the most cost-effective and sustainable solution for delivering a quality early care and education system to all families. By providing equitable access to state funding, the mixed-delivery model promotes financial stability for providers and expands access to high-quality care for families.

With the promise of Universal Preschool funding, providers across the state offered approximately 59,496 Universal Preschool seats. **This means the program's mixed-delivery system had the capacity to serve approximately 93.5% of the estimated four-year-old population in the state.**[9] It is important to note that while this many seats were available to eligible students, providers were only paid based on actually enrolled and served children.

Figure 11: Seat Capacity of Mixed-Delivery System



Community-based providers offered the greatest share of seats (51.1%). School-based providers offered 45.7% of the available seats to families. Finally, home-based providers offered 3.2% of seats (see Appendix H).[10]

More than ever before, families have access to affordable preschool options from a variety of settings. Still, the challenges of sustaining a child care business mean that counties vary in the local distribution and availability of providers across different settings. Of Colorado's 64 counties, 29 have providers from all three settings, 21 have providers representing two setting-types, and 14 have just one provider-setting option (see Appendix F). Counties with gaps in mixed-delivery choice are primarily rural and frontier counties.

Provider Rates and Funding

Provider Rates

Colorado Universal Preschool offers competitive provider rates intended to maintain a strong provider base that can meet family demand.

The program's per-child rates are specific to both the number of hours a provider is funded to deliver and the LCO catchment area within which a provider falls. This means that each LCO area has specific rates for 10-, 15-, and 30-hour services.

Providers can offer different types of programs:

- Part-time of up to 10-15 hours per week, AM or PM;
- Half-day of up to 15-30 hours per week, AM or PM;
- Full-day of up to 30-40 hours per week;
- or Extended-day of 41+ hours per week.

Eligible families can enroll their child in any program type that meets their needs, but providers are paid the rate of the child's family award. For example, a family with a 15-hour award may enroll their child in a full-day program; however, Universal Preschool would pay the provider the 15-hour rate specific to their LCO area. Other funding sources, such as the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP), Head Start, or private pay tuition, can be used to cover additional hours not included in the family's Universal Preschool award.

Figure 12: Average Monthly Per-Child Rates

Average 10-Hour Rate	Average 15-Hour Rate	Average 30-Hour Rate
$491.64	$619.89	$1,100.66

Strengthening the Early Learning Sector through Competitive Rates

By participating in Colorado Universal Preschool, providers from all settings have access to competitive per-child rates and reliable public funding. Through this, Universal Preschool incentivizes continued capacity growth in the early care and education sector.

Universal Preschool calculated the PY 2024-25 rates with a formula that factors in the unique characteristics that drive costs across different preschool settings. The formula includes a base rate cost for providing high-quality preschool services, with specific parameters that adjust for personnel costs. Additionally, the formula makes adjustments to account for variances in costs by region, local costs of living, a community's poverty level, inflation, geographic factors, and child characteristics, such as being low-income or a dual language learner. The full list of provider rates by LCO catchment area is available in Appendix H.

Program Expenditures

Colorado Universal Preschool is funded through two state funding streams: a nicotine sales tax, which voters approved via Proposition EE in 2020, and State General Fund. For FY 2024-25, the Legislature appropriated a total of $344 million for the Universal Preschool program, combining $197.7 million in Preschool Cash Funds with $146.3 million in General Funds.

In PY 2024-24, $276.8 million was distributed to providers to serve children in the year before kindergarten. Payments disaggregated by Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs) are included in Appendix I.

Figure 13: Expenditures by Award Type

Award Type	Number of Awards	Expenditures
10-Hour	9,474	$44,008,601
15-Hour	24,135	$140,245,326
30-Hour	9,789	$92,506,199
Total	43,398	$276,814,126

*Children Served shows the total number of unique children by the highest award they received. For example, a child who received a 10-hour award and a 15-hour award throughout the program year would only be counted in the 15-hour total in this table. Totals of children served per award hour cannot be used to calculate expenditures, as students may have changed award type throughout the year.

Protecting Resources for Children with Disabilities

Of the total program expenditures, Universal Preschool allocated $35.3 million to students with disabilities in the year before kindergarten. When creating the program in state law, the Colorado General Assembly ensured education for children with IEPs would continue to be funded at levels consistent with before the creation of Colorado Universal Preschool. To do so, the same amount of State General Fund that was previously allocated to the Colorado Department of Education's School Finance Fund, which supported preschool students with disabilities in the previous state-funded preschool program, is now transferred to CDEC's Preschool Program Cash Fund.

As a result, Colorado Universal Preschool budgeted $38.2 million in FY 2024-25 as a minimum to fund the education of preschoolers with IEPs. Of this, $35.3 million was directed to four-year-olds with disabilities. The remaining $2.9 million, along with an additional $20.2 million in program funding, was directed to three-year-olds with disabilities. **In total, $58.4 million was used to fund the education of students with disabilities, both three- and four-year-olds, in PY 2024-25.** Students with IEPs may also have qualified for additional supplemental hours due to being eligible through other qualifying factors.[11]



Supporting Quality Environments

Colorado Universal Preschool's quality standards were developed with input from nearly 700 families, providers, school districts, Early Childhood Councils, workforce members, and more. The standards—which include teacher quality, instructional practices, healthy child development, and family and community engagement—build on decades of investment in early child care and education.

Some of the standards, including having a minimum of 360 planned contact hours and compliance with the State's suspension and expulsion laws, took effect in the 2024-25 program year. The remaining requirements are being phased in over multiple years.

To support providers as they meet the program's quality standards, the Universal Preschool Resource Bank launched in 2025. The Resource Bank contains tools, templates, training materials, and more to help Universal Preschool programs and education align their practices with rules. The Resource Bank will roll out in phases, growing with the phased implementation of the rules.

Child Learning Goals

Colorado Universal Preschool will release Child Learning Goals in July 2026, which will provide a shared vision of what children should know and be able to do by the end of preschool. These goals will support the alignment of assessments, curricula, and teacher preparation geared toward children's success. The Department, in partnership with the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab at the University of Denver, facilitated an evidence-based process to develop these Goals. CDE's Colorado Academic Standards and the Early Learning Development Guidelines served as foundational blueprints, ensuring that the Goals prioritize best practices for whole-child development and play-based learning, while also aligning with K-12 expectations.



Independent Evaluation

As Universal Preschool continues to grow and mature, so does the effort to evaluate it. Currently, Universal Preschool is undergoing a multi-year independent evaluation to examine how the program is being implemented and its early outcomes. The evaluation, conducted by Child Trends, is carefully following the state's Steps to Building Evidence, and its goal is to find ways to improve the program to ensure it delivers the best outcomes for children. This evaluation will continue through 2027, at which point it will determine whether the program has reached a steady state and is ready for a deeper examination of its impact on children's learning and development.

In January 2026, Child Trends submitted its first Universal Preschool Process Evaluation Report. This report shares early findings about Universal Preschool's foundation, launch, and participation during the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 program years. Child Trends will continue the UPK Process Evaluation through FY 2026-27, collecting new data from families, providers, and LCOs, as well as updated administrative information, to keep improving the program.





Conclusion

In PY 2045-25, Colorado Universal Preschool continued to be a national leader in providing access to affordable, high-quality preschool. Thanks to Universal Preschool, more than 43,000 four-year-olds took steps toward school readiness, educational achievement, social mobility, and lifelong well-being. We also continued to invest in the child care sector by delivering competitive per-child rates to participating providers.

With the support of a vast network of early childhood partners across the state, Universal Preschool will continue to grow and serve children, families, and providers for many years to come. CDEC relied on these partners to continually push the program to uphold the vision that the people of Colorado and the Legislature created for a high-quality preschool experience for all.

As we look ahead, Colorado Universal Preschool will continue to support providers in meeting Quality Standards and to learn from the findings of the ongoing Independent Evaluation. We're also focusing on growing family uptake by ensuring prospective families find the process easy to navigate, from application to enrollment with their preferred provider. Already, we're serving 70.1% of the estimated eligible population as of November 2025, surpassing our goal of 70%. And we're striving to retain at least 95% of participating providers from PY 2024-25 into PY 2025-26, with an emphasis on supporting capacity in counties with fewer Universal Preschool options and increasing the number of high-quality providers across the state.

As the early childhood landscape continues to evolve, and as challenges continue to arise, let's work together to ensure that Colorado provides a bright future for its children and families.

Endnotes

1 See section 26.5-4-204(2), C.R.S.

2 See section 26.5-4-204(4)(a)(II), C.R.S.

3 Colorado Universal Preschool will fund preschool services for all three- and four-year-old children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in accordance with their IEP.

4 Comparative benefit-cost analysis of the Abecedarian program and its policy implications. Barnett and Masse, 2006; Updating the economic impacts of the High/Scope Perry Preschool program. Nores, Barnett, Belfield, and Schweinhart, 2005; Long-term effects of an early childhood intervention on educational achievement and juvenile arrest. Reynolds, Temple, Robertson and Mann, 2002.

5 Friedman-Krauss, A. H., Barnett, W. S., Hodges, K. S., Garver, K. A., Duer, J., Weisenfeld, G., & Siegel, J. (2025). The State of Preschool 2024: State Preschool Yearbook. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.

6 Katherine Magnuson, & Greg J. Duncan. (2016). Can Early Childhood Interventions Decrease Inequality of Economic Opportunity? RSF: The Russellexpanding Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences, 2(2), 123–141. https://doi.org/10.7758/rsf.2016.2.2.05

7 Glynn, S. J., Farrell, J., & Wu, N. (2013). The importance of preschool and child care for working mothers (Center for American Progress). Center for American Progress.

8 A participating provider is defined as a preschool provider that had a published profile in the Universal Preschool registration system at the end of the program year. 2,033 received payments for serving children during the program year.

9 This is a point-in-time seat count as of April 29, 2025, leading up to the last month of PY 2024-25. Providers can open and close seats throughout the program year, meaning that the number of seats likely fluctuated throughout the program year. Additionally, this seat count includes the 'general education' seats offered by provider setting and does not include seats utilized by students with IEPs, as these students are enrolled through a 'direct placement' process connected to the IEP and special education system. The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) law requires and protects the provision of services to students with IEPs, and CDEC funds all preschoolers with an IEP in accordance with the student's IEP, which ensures that students with IEPs benefit from both 'general education' and special education services.

10 These percentages represent a point-in-time seat calculation as of April 29, 2025. Providers can open and close seats throughout the program year, meaning that the proportion of seats likely fluctuated throughout the program year.

11 For more detailed information on funding for students with disabilities, please see the FY 2024-25 Colorado Universal Preschool Enrollment and Expenditures Report.

Data Terminology and Methodology

CDEC and Colorado Universal Preschool are dedicated to data practices that ensure quality, accuracy, and transparency, while simultaneously safeguarding the privacy of children in the program.

Reliable Data Sources

Children Served: CDEC utilized the final reconciled program payment file for PY 2024-25 to report on the children served by Colorado Universal Preschool. Payment files are the most accurate source of data for reporting children served because providers were required to update related enrollment data regularly, and these files were subject to several stringent data quality checks.

Child Characteristics: CDEC utilized child application data, as of July 2025, to report on child characteristics, including income, race and ethnicity, and language.

Qualifying Factors: CDEC used program payment files to report on whether a child met a qualifying factor by experiencing homelessness, having an IEP, being a dual language learner, or being in foster care.

Participating Providers: CDEC utilized a combination of data collected through the child care licensing system and the Universal Preschool Program provider registration, as of July 2025, to report on participating providers for PY 2024-25.

Population Estimates: All population estimates were derived from the Colorado State Demography Office's 2024 estimates.

Universal Preschool Seats: Due to the fluctuating nature of seats offered by providers throughout the program year, CDEC utilized seat data entered by providers as of April 29, 2025, to determine the number of 'general education' seats offered by provider setting and by county. This dataset did not include seats for students with IEPs, as these students are enrolled through a 'direct placement' process connected to the IEP and special education system.

Reporting Terminology and Definitions

Colorado Universal Preschool data is nuanced, and information about providers and children can change throughout the program year. To promote specificity, clarity, and accessibility, this report utilizes specific definitions of key terms. These terms are outlined below:

Award or Award to Family: The highest number of preschool hours per week a participating child was funded to attend throughout the program year. A family may receive a 10-, 15-, or 30-Hour award based on qualifying factors, program availability, and family choice.

Child and Provider County: This report includes child and provider data disaggregated by county.

Counties associated with children served were children's county of residence, as recorded in their profile at the end of the program year.

Counties associated with participating providers are the counties where the providers were located.

CDEC cannot assume that children residing in a given county were served by a provider

within that county.

Income Band: Income bands for PY 2024-25 were collected to determine whether a child qualified for 30-hour awards. The three income bands were:

- "Experiencing Poverty": Less than 100% FPG
- "Low-Income": Between 100% and 270% FPG
- Above 270% FPG

In this report, data on children's income bands are the lowest value associated with that child throughout the program year.

Participating Child or Child Served: A unique child associated with a Universal Preschool payment to a provider.

Participating Provider: A provider published in the Universal Preschool registration system at the end of the program year. A provider did not need to have a confirmed enrollment in their program to be considered "participating."

Provider Setting: In line with the mixed-delivery model, providers are categorized as being school-based, community-based, or home-based. Data on children served by provider setting were reported using the last setting type in which a child was served during the program year.

Home-based: Licensed child care facility based in someone's primary residence. This is determined by the provider's service category in CDEC's licensing database.

School District-based: Licensed child care provider overseen by a school district, including charter schools. This is a field in the Universal Preschool registration system that is determined by data structure.

Community-based: Licensed child care provider that is not home-based and is not overseen by a school district; this category includes independent providers and faith-based providers.

Qualifying Factor: A child who was experiencing homelessness, had an IEP, was a dual language learner, or was in foster care at any point throughout the program year.

Data Methods

Certain metrics within the report required data cleaning or suppression.

Child Race/Ethnicity: Race and ethnicity were captured through two multi-select questions in the PY 2024-25 application.

- **Race:**
  - If a single race value was provided, the data retained that race value.
  - If more than one race value was provided, the data was re-coded as **"Bi-Racial/Multi-Racial."**
  - If one or more race values and "Prefer not to answer" were selected, the data was re-coded as **"Unspecified/Not Reported."**
  - If no race value was selected, the data was re-coded as **"Unspecified/Not Reported."**
  - All other responses were re-coded as **"Other."**
- **Ethnicity:** Within the single, multi-select race/ethnicity question, families could select from options of "Hispanic or Latino", "Not Hispanic or Latino," and "Prefer Not to Answer." Results were then cleaned into four

categories: “Hispanic or Latino”, “Not Hispanic or Latino”, “Unspecified”, and “Unspecified.”

- If a single Ethnicity value was provided, the data retained that ethnicity value.
- If one or more ethnicity values and “Prefer not to answer” were selected, the data were re-coded as **“I prefer not to answer.”**
- If both “Hispanic or Latino” and “Not Hispanic or Latino” were selected, the data were re-coded as **“Unspecified.”**
- If neither “Hispanic or Latino” nor “Not Hispanic or Latino” was selected, the data were re-coded as **“Unspecified.”**

Child Language: This field reflects the child’s primary language spoken at home. Applicants were only asked to provide information about their primary language if they reported their child had limited language proficiency. Applicants who indicated that the participating child had “limited English proficiency” were prompted to indicate their primary language from a picklist of options. All other applicants who did not complete this or who otherwise indicated English as their primary language were categorized as English-speaking. If an option on the picklist was not selected, the primary language was categorized as “Other.”

Child County: If county values were entered incorrectly, left blank, or reflected an address outside of Colorado, we recorded this as either the correct county or “Out of State/ No County Provided.” Military families and families experiencing homelessness may also be counted in this category.

Data Suppression

To protect data privacy, any group < 6 at the level of any geographic location was suppressed.

Data Limitations

30 Hour Awards: The data provided cannot be used to assess how many children who may have been eligible for 30-hour awards actually received them. The reported data reflect whether a child was considered low-income or had a qualifying factor at any point in the program year. To be eligible for a 30-hour award, a child must have been low-income and had a qualifying factor simultaneously, and this data does not report on the combination of income and qualifying factors at the same point.

Population Estimates: State Demographer’s Office data is updated annually for all relevant years. Pulling annual population estimates from their website may not yield the same comparison dataset.

Point in Time Data: All figures reported here reflect characteristics of the Universal Preschool Program, participating children’s demographic data, and participating providers at a specific point in time. For example, participating provider data is reported based on provider registration and licensing data as of June 2025; this data will not capture information on providers who were participating earlier in the year but withdrew or closed prior to June 2025.

County Data: Families were not required to update their contact information, including address, in the Universal Preschool registration system, so county-related counts may be considered estimates based on application data.

Appendices

Appendix A

Children Served in the Year Before Kindergarten, Compared to Total Eligible Population

Children in the Year Before Kindergarten Served	Estimated Eligible Four-Year-Old Population	Percent of Eligible Population Served	Estimated Number of Eligible Children Not Participating
43,398	63,662	68.2%	20,264

* Population estimates from Colorado State Demography Office

Appendix B

Children in the Year Before Kindergarten Served by County†, Compared to Total Eligible Population

Child's Home County	Estimated Eligible Four-Year-Old Population	Children Served	Percent of Estimated Population Served‡
Adams County	6,882	4,678	68.0%
Alamosa County	196	79	40.3%
Arapahoe County	7,561	5,366	71.0%
Archuleta County	117	75	64.1%
Baca County	40	37	92.5%
Boulder County	2,507	2,054	81.9%
Broomfield County	764	532	69.6%
Chaffee County	157	149	94.9%
Cheyenne County	18	16	88.9%
Clear Creek County	77	36	46.8%
Conejos County	92	54	58.7%
Costilla County	32	18	56.3&
Crowley County	25	17	68.0%
Custer County	53	21	39.6%
Delta County	299	203	67.9%

† Counts are based on the county in which the child resides, not necessarily the county in which they are receiving care.

‡ ‡ Population estimates from the Colorado State Demographer's Office

º Military families and families who lived out of state at the time they applied for Colorado Universal Preschool would have provided out-of-state addresses. Participating providers were tasked with verifying in-state residency as part of the enrollment verification process; however, families and providers were not required to update their contact information in the system. Additionally, Colorado Universal Preschool served approximately 393 homeless families, who may be counted in these categories depending on the information provided in their applications.

Child's Home County	Estimated Eligible Four-Year-Old Population	Children Served	Percent of Estimated Population Served‡
Denver County	7,353	5,013	68.2%
Dolores County	18	11	61.1%
Douglas County	4,384	3,242	74.0%
Eagle County	524	407	77.7%
El Paso County	8,840	4,988	56.4%
Elbert County	332	214	64.5%
Fremont County	454	217	47.8%
Garfield County	760	562	73.9%
Gilpin County	57	34	59.6%
Grand County	138	99	71.7%
Gunnison County	151	115	76.2%
Hinsdale County	6	*	*
Huerfano County	54	30	55.6%
Jackson County	9	8	88.9%
Jefferson County	5,741	3,827	66.7%
Kiowa County	14	14	100%
Kit Carson County	91	75	82.4%
La Plata County	473	363	76.7%
Lake County	74	42	56.8%
Larimer County	3,361	2,219	66.0%
Las Animas County	113	61	54.0%
Lincoln County	56	51	91.1%
Logan County	224	177	79.0%
Mesa County	1,613	1,052	65.2%
Mineral County	10	6	60.0%
Moffat County	143	90	62.9%
Montezuma County	268	164	61.2%
Montrose County	433	304	70.2%
Morgan County	438	353	80.6%
Otero County	216	127	58.8%
Ouray County	31	33	106.5%
Park County	171	94	55.0%
Phillips County	52	48	92.3%
Pitkin County	143	87	60.8%

† Counts are based on the county in which the child resides, not necessarily the county in which they are receiving care.

‡ ‡ Population estimates from the Colorado State Demographer's Office

° Military families and families who lived out of state at the time they applied for Colorado Universal Preschool would have provided out-of-state addresses. Participating providers were tasked with verifying in-state residency as part of the enrollment verification process; however, families and providers were not required to update their contact information in the system. Additionally, Colorado Universal Preschool served approximately 393 homeless families, who may be counted in these categories depending on the information provided in their applications.

Child's Home County	Estimated Eligible Four-Year-Old Population	Children Served	Percent of Estimated Population Served‡
Prowers County	163	135	82.8%
Pueblo County	1,729	1,076	62.2%
Rio Blanco County	61	58	96.7%
Rio Grande County	119	59	49.6%
Routt County	204	171	83.8%
Saguache County	48	37	77.1%
San Juan County	2	*	*
San Miguel County	55	53	96.4%
Sedgwick County	20	13	65.0%
Summit County	260	177	68.1%
Teller County	208	94	45.2%
Washington County	49	40	81.6%
Weld County	5,012	3,198	63.8%
Yuma County	122	107	87.7%
No County Listed°	0	662	N/A
Out of State°	0	8	N/A
Total	**63,662**	**43,398**	**68.2%**

† Counts are based on the county in which the child resides, not necessarily the county in which they are receiving care.
‡ ‡ Population estimates from the Colorado State Demographer's Office
° Military families and families who lived out of state at the time they applied for Colorado Universal Preschool would have provided out-of-state addresses. Participating providers were tasked with verifying in-state residency as part of the enrollment verification process; however, families and providers were not required to update their contact information in the system. Additionally, Colorado Universal Preschool served approximately 393 homeless families, who may be counted in these categories depending on the information provided in their applications.

Appendix C

Children Served by Income Band

Income band	# of 4yo served	Percent of Four-Year-Olds Served
0-100% FPL	10,885	25.1%
101-270% FPL	12,793	29.5%
270+% FPL	19,720	45.4%
Total	43,398	100%

*Families' income may change throughout the program year. This data reflects the lowest income band that families reported during the program year.

Appendix D

Children Served by Qualifying Factors and Income Band

Income Band	0 Additional Qualifying Factors	1 Additional Qualifying Factor	2 Additional Qualifying Factors	3+ Additional Qualifying Factors	Total
0-100% FPL	4,962	4,840	1,027	56	10,885
101-270% FPL	7,361	4,674	741	17	12,793
270%+ FPL	15,626	3,777	317	0	19,720
Total	**27,949**	**13,291**	**2,085**	**73**	**43,398**
Percent of Total Children Served	**64.4%**	**30.6%**	**4.8%**	**0.2%**	**100.0%**

*For this table, "additional" qualifying factors — apart from income band — include: experiencing homelessness; having an IEP; being a dual language learner; or being in foster care. Children were counted if a qualifying factor was present at any point in the program year.

Appendix E

Number of "Low-Income"* Children Served with Each Qualifying Factor**

Qualifying Factor	Number of Children
Dual Language Learner	8,257
Child with IEP	4,028
In Foster/Kinship Care	624
Experiencing Homelessness	363

* Low-income is defined as either 0-100% FPG or 101-270% FPG.

** Counts are not unique across qualifying factors. Children with multiple qualifying factors are counted in each category.

Appendix F

Participating Providers by County and Provider Setting

County of Provider	Community Based	Home Based	School Based	Total	Community Based	Home Based	School Based
Adams	68	30	70	168	40.5%	17.9%	41.7%
Alamosa	2	3	1	6	33.3%	50.0%	16.7%
Arapahoe	110	37	86	233	47.2%	15.9%	36.9%
Archuleta	3	0	0	3	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Baca	0	0	5	5	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Bent	0	0	2	2	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Boulder	88	7	39	134	65.7%	5.2%	29.1%
Broomfield	17	3	5	25	68.0%	12.0%	20.0%
Chaffee	5	3	3	11	45.5%	27.3%	27.3%
Cheyenne	0	1	2	3	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%
Clear Creek	1	0	3	4	25.0%	0.0%	75.0%
Conejos	1	0	2	3	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%
Costilla	1	0	2	3	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%
Crowley	1	0	0	1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Custer	0	1	1	2	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Delta	2	3	6	11	18.2%	27.3%	54.5%
Denver	125	13	87	225	55.6%	5.8%	38.7%
Dolores	1	0	1	2	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%
Douglas	81	25	43	149	54.4%	16.8%	28.9%
Eagle	20	3	8	31	64.5%	9.7%	25.8%
El Paso	91	48	74	213	42.7%	22.5%	34.7%
Elbert	0	0	6	6	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Fremont	5	0	5	10	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%
Garfield	12	9	13	34	35.3%	26.5%	38.2%
Gilpin	0	0	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Grand	5	0	4	9	55.6%	0.0%	44.4%
Gunnison	6	0	1	7	85.7%	0.0%	14.3%
Hinsdale	0	0	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Huerfano	1	0	2	3	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%
Jackson	0	0	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Jefferson	118	20	59	197	59.9%	10.2%	29.9%
Kiowa	0	0	2	2	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Kit Carson	0	0	5	5	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
La Plata	11	3	8	22	50.0%	13.6%	36.4%
Lake	1	1	1	3	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%

County of Provider	Community Based	Home Based	School Based	Total	Community Based	Home Based	School Based
Larimer	73	41	38	152	48.0%	27.0%	25.0%
Las Animas	1	0	3	4	25.0%	0.0%	75.0%
Lincoln	1	0	2	3	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%
Logan	3	0	4	7	42.9%	0.0%	57.1%
Mesa	25	19	25	69	36.2%	27.5%	36.2%
Mineral	1	0	0	1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Moffat	1	1	1	3	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%
Montezuma	7	0	3	10	70.0%	0.0%	30.0%
Montrose	5	9	4	18	27.8%	50.0%	22.2%
Morgan	2	7	5	14	14.3%	50.0%	35.7%
Otero	8	1	1	10	80.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Ouray	0	0	2	2	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Park	1	1	3	5	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%
Phillips	1	3	1	5	20.0%	60.0%	20.0%
Pitkin	7	0	1	8	87.5%	0.0%	12.5%
Prowers	2	0	4	6	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%
Pueblo	19	15	26	60	31.7%	25.0%	43.3%
Rio Blanco	1	0	2	3	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%
Rio Grande	1	3	2	6	16.7%	50.0%	33.3%
Routt	6	3	7	16	37.5%	18.8%	43.8%
Saguache	0	1	3	4	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%
San Juan	1	0	0	1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
San Miguel	5	0	2	7	71.4%	0.0%	28.6%
Sedgwick	0	0	2	2	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Summit	10	8	5	23	43.5%	34.8%	21.7%
Teller	4	3	2	9	44.4%	33.3%	22.2%
Washington	2	0	4	6	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%
Weld	45	36	32	113	39.8%	31.9%	28.3%
Yuma	2	0	4	6	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%
Total	**1010**	**361**	**737**	**2108**	**47.9%**	**17.1%**	**35.0%**

Appendix G

Number of Children Served by Provider Setting

Number Served in Community-based Settings	Number Served in Home-based Settings	Number Served in School District-based Settings	Total
18,745 (43.2%)	**927 (2.1%)**	**23,726 (54.7%)**	**43,398**

Appendix H

Number of Seats by Provider Setting by County

County of Provider	Community Based Seats	Home Based Seats	School Based Seats	Total Seats	Percent of Seats that are Community Based	Percent of Seats that are Home Based	Percent of Seats that are School Based
Adams County	2,064	161	2,813	5,038	41.0%	3.2%	55.8%
Alamosa Coun-ty	164	16	18	198	82.8%	8.1%	9.1%
Arapahoe County	3,799	161	4,275	8,235	46.1%	2.0%	51.9%
Archuleta County	89	0	0	89	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Baca County	0	0	61	61	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Bent County	0	0	82	82	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Boulder County	2,062	27	1,009	3,098	66.6%	0.9%	32.6%
Broomfield County	531	11	145	687	77.3%	1.6%	21.1%
Chaffee C ounty	79	20	113	212	37.3%	9.4%	53.3%
Cheyenne County	0	4	33	37	0.0%	10.8%	89.2%
Clear Creek County	4	0	60	64	6.3%	0.0%	93.8%
Conejos County	34	0	48	82	41.5%	0.0%	58.5%
Costilla County	5	0	59	64	7.8%	0.0%	92.2%

* This table shows the 'general education' seats offered by provider setting and by county as of April 29, 2025, leading up to the last program month of the 24-25 program year. This table does not include seats utilized by students with IEPs, as these students are enrolled through a 'direct placement' process connected to the IEP and special education system. The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) law requires and protects the provision of services to students with IEPs, and CDEC funds all preschoolers with an IEP in accordance with the student's IEP, which ensures that students with IEPs benefit from both 'general education' and special education services.

County of Provider	Community Based Seats	Home Based Seats	School Based Seats	Total Seats	Percent of Seats that are Community Based	Percent of Seats that are Home Based	Percent of Seats that are School Based
Crowley County	18	0	0	18	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Custer County	0	3	24	27	0.0%	11.1%	88.9%
Delta County	46	10	250	306	15.0%	3.3%	81.7%
Denver County	3,121	129	5,828	9,078	34.4%	1.4%	64.2%
Dolores County	3	0	12	15	20.0%	0.0%	80.0%
Douglas County	3,389	111	662	4,162	81.4%	2.7%	15.9%
Eagle County	366	11	240	617	59.3%	1.8%	38.9%
El Paso County	2,411	302	2,278	4,991	48.3%	6.1%	45.6%
Elbert County	0	0	175	175	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Fremont County	179	0	167	346	51.7%	0.0%	48.3%
Garfield County	188	46	599	833	22.6%	5.5%	71.9%
Gilpin County	0	0	45	45	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Grand County	40	0	59	99	40.4%	0.0%	59.6%
Gunnison County	105	0	43	148	70.9%	0.0%	29.1%
Hinsdale County	0	0	13	13	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Huerfano County	10	0	50	60	16.7%	0.0%	83.3%
Jackson County	0	0	10	10	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

* This table shows the 'general education' seats offered by provider setting and by county as of April 29, 2025, leading up to the last program month of the 24-25 program year. This table does not include seats utilized by students with IEPs, as these students are enrolled through a 'direct placement' process connected to the IEP and special education system. The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) law requires and protects the provision of services to students with IEPs, and CDEC funds all preschoolers with an IEP in accordance with the student's IEP, which ensures that students with IEPs benefit from both 'general education' and special education services.

County of Provider	Community Based Seats	Home Based Seats	School Based Seats	Total Seats	Percent of Seats that are Community Based	Percent of Seats that are Home Based	Percent of Seats that are School Based
Jefferson County	3,410	91	1,757	5,258	64.9%	1.7%	33.4%
Kiowa County	0	0	27	27	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Kit Carson County	0	0	91	91	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
La Plata County	212	20	178	410	51.7%	4.9%	43.4%
Lake County	9	1	34	44	20.5%	2.3%	77.3%
Larimer County	2,271	158	1,018	3,447	65.9%	4.6%	29.5%
Las Animas County	60	0	31	91	65.9%	0.0%	34.1%
Lincoln County	55	0	17	72	76.4%	0.0%	23.6%
Logan County	80	0	182	262	30.5%	0.0%	69.5%
Mesa County	917	160	551	1,628	56.3%	9.8%	33.8%
Mineral County	16	0	0	16	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Moffat County	18	4	122	144	12.5%	2.8%	84.7%
Montezuma County	132	0	135	267	49.4%	0.0%	50.6%
Montrose County	101	51	214	366	27.6%	13.9%	58.5%
Morgan County	124	25	381	530	23.4%	4.7%	71.9%
Otero County	210	2	15	227	92.5%	0.9%	6.6%
Ouray County	0	0	40	40	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Park County	8	8	89	105	7.6%	7.6%	84.8%

* This table shows the 'general education' seats offered by provider setting and by county as of April 29, 2025, leading up to the last program month of the 24-25 program year. This table does not include seats utilized by students with IEPs, as these students are enrolled through a 'direct placement' process connected to the IEP and special education system. The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) law requires and protects the provision of services to students with IEPs, and CDEC funds all preschoolers with an IEP in accordance with the student's IEP, which ensures that students with IEPs benefit from both 'general education' and special education services.

County of Provider	Community Based Seats	Home Based Seats	School Based Seats	Total Seats	Percent of Seats that are Community Based	Percent of Seats that are Home Based	Percent of Seats that are School Based
Phillips County	40	18	24	82	48.8%	22.0%	29.3%
Pitkin County	87	0	12	99	87.9%	0.0%	12.1%
Prowers County	75	0	133	208	36.1%	0.0%	63.9%
Pueblo County	552	60	687	1,299	42.5%	4.6%	52.9%
Rio Blanco County	5	0	90	95	5.3%	0.0%	94.7%
Rio Grande County	40	15	90	145	27.6%	10.3%	62.1%
Routt County	74	9	132	215	34.4%	4.2%	61.4%
Saguache County	0	24	50	74	0.0%	32.4%	67.6%
San Juan County	12	0	0	12	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
San Miguel County	40	0	32	72	55.6%	0.0%	44.4%
Sedgwick County	0	0	21	21	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Summit County	178	36	118	332	53.6%	10.8%	35.5%
Teller County	104	16	115	235	44.3%	6.8%	48.9%
Washington County	24	0	47	71	33.8%	0.0%	66.2%
Weld County	2,821	174	1,485	4,480	63.0%	3.9%	33.1%
Yuma County	23	0	118	141	16.3%	0.0%	83.7%
Total	**30,405**	**1,884**	**27,207**	**59,496**	**51.1%**	**3.2%**	**45.7%**

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Appendix I

Monthly Provider Rates by Local Coordinating Organization

Local Coordinating Organization	10-Hour Rate	15-Hour Rate	30-Hour Rate
Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council	$484.04	$610.31	$1,083.83
Bright Futures	$497.48	$627.26	$1,113.93
Broomfield Early Childhood Council	$477.37	$601.90	$1,068.90
Chaffee County Early Childhood Council	$487.63	$614.84	$1,091.88
Cheyenne, Kiowa & Lincoln Counties Early Childhood Council	$490.25	$618.14	$1,097.74
Children First Department of Pueblo Community College/ Pueblo Early C hildhood Council	$511.12	$644.46	$1,144.47
Connections4Kids	$510.85	$644.12	$1,143.86
Custer County School District & Custer County Kids Council	$483.44	$609.56	$1,082.49
Denver Preschool Program	$495.55	$624.83	$1,109.61
Douglas County Early Childhood Council	$473.91	$597.54	$1,061.15
Eagle County School District & Early Child-hood Partners	$493.45	$622.17	$1,104.89
Early Childhood Council for Yuma, Washington, and Kit Carson	$489.25	$616.88	$1,095.49
Early Childhood Council of Boulder County	$493.06	$621.68	$1,104.02
Early Childhood Council of Larimer County	$483.30	$609.37	$1,082.16
Early Childhood Council of Logan, Phillips, and Sedgwick	$491.30	$619.46	$1,100.08
Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley	$509.23	$642.07	$1,140.23
Early Childhood Options & Summit County Government	$500.13	$630.60	$1,119.86
Morgan County Partnership for Children and Families	$489.72	$617.48	$1,096.56
ECHO & Family Center Early Childhood Council	$494.83	$623.92	$1,108.00
Elbert County Early Childhood Council	$482.16	$607.94	$1,079.61
First Impressions of Routt County	$496.81	$626.41	$1,112.42
Grand Beginnings	$498.83	$628.96	$1,116.95
Gunnison-Hinsdale Early Childhood Council	$489.30	$616.94	$1,095.60
Huerfano-Las Animas Counties Early Childhood Council	$510.43	$643.58	$1,142.91

Local Coordinating Organization	10-Hour Rate	15-Hour Rate	30-Hour Rate
Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families	$480.65	$606.04	$1,076.24
Mesa County Partnership for Children and Families & Mesa County Dept of Human Services	$481.09	$606.59	$1,077.22
Rocky Mountain ECC & Mountain Valley Development Services	$497.59	$627.39	$1,114.16
La Plata ECC	$498.07	$628.00	$1,115.25
Teller Park Early Childhood Council	$489.30	$616.95	$1,095.61
Triad Bright Futures	$480.70	$606.10	$1,076.35
United Way of Weld County	$481.61	$607.24	$1,078.38
Adams County Connections	$489.92	$617.73	$1,091.14
Average Rate	**$491.64**	**$619.89**	**$1,100.66**

Appendix J

Provider Payments by Local Coordinating Organization and Enrollment Type

Local Coordinating Organization	10-Hour Payments	15-Hour Payments	30-Hour Payments	Total
Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council	$8,639,363	$14,922,170	$14,739,653	$38,301,186
Bright Futures	$85,069	$2,522,277	$1,751,650	$4,358,996
Broomfield Early Childhood Council	$179,784	$2,058,542	$273,071	$2,511,396
Chaffee County Early Childhood Council	$16,813	$661,706	$365,027	$1,043,545
Cheyenne, Kiowa & Lincoln Counties Early Childhood Council	$48,535	$287,079	$236,494	$572,108
Children First Department of Pueblo Community College/ Pueblo Early Childhood Council	$1,975,012	$4,974,933	$2,356,045	$9,305,990
Connections4Kids & Moffat County School District	$177,531	$429,306	$442,385	$1,049,223
Custer County School District & Custer County Kids Council	$15,470	$111,549	$32,475	$159,494
Denver Preschool Program	$165,979	$13,117,740	$27,225,573	$40,509,293

Local Coordinating Organization	10-Hour Payments	15-Hour Payments	30-Hour Payments	Total
Douglas County Early Childhood Council	$1,006,630	$16,308,471	$1,142,813	$18,457,914
ECHO & Family Center Early Childhood Council	$137,563	$832,094	$379,640	$1,349,297
Eagle County School District & Early Childhood Partners	$27,140	$1,373,706	$1,475,913	$2,876,759
Early Childhood Council for Yuma, Washington, and Kit Carson	$249,432	$877,123	$243,048	$1,369,604
Early Childhood Council of Boulder County	$4,052,937	$9,138,069	$3,446,169	$16,637,176
Early Childhood Council of Larimer County	$3,106,626	$8,260,708	$1,928,421	$13,295,756
Early Childhood Council of Logan, Phillips, and Sedgwick	$293,755	$942,917	$144,440	$1,381,112
Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley	$104,392	$856,812	$1,089,295	$2,050,499
Early Childhood Options & Summit County Government	N/A	$790,772	$703,425	$1,494,197
Early Learning Ventures	$596,479	$846,098	$801,928	$2,244,504
Elbert County Early Childhood Council	$1,446	$824,719	$124,155	$950,321
First Impressions of Routt County	$1,987	$842,121	$418,261	$1,262,369
Grand Beginnings	$998	$644,072	$131,216	$776,286
Gunnison-Hinsdale Early Childhood Council	$7,829	$562,511	$281,431	$851,771
Huerfano-Las Animas Counties Early Childhood Council	$14,802	$402,985	$238,672	$656,459
Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families	$7,278,579	$14,321,593	$7,393,281	$28,993,453
Mesa County Partnership for Children and Families & Mesa County Dept of Human Services	$2,645,201	$2,253,594	$1,470,602	$6,369,397
Rocky Mountain ECC & Mountain Valley Development Services	$236,986	$2,781,913	$2,520,018	$5,538,917
Southwest Universal Preschool	$341,145	$2,406,649	$1,494,751	$4,242,545

Local Coordinating Organization	10-Hour Payments	15-Hour Payments	30-Hour Payments	Total
Teller Park Early Childhood Council	$55,759	$612,153	$433,303	$1,101,215
Triad Bright Futures	$1,005,044	$18,574,407	$6,488,768	$26,068,218
United Way of Weld County	$4,519,155	$7,289,563	$2,400,956	$14,209,674
Westminster Public Schools on Behalf of a County Collaborative	$7,021,158	$9,416,971	$10,387,323	$26,825,453
Total	**$44,008,601**	**$140,245,326**	**$92,560,199**	**$276,814,126**



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood

CDEC is committed to providing timely responses to reports of inaccessible information or technology, or requests for a reasonable accommodation or modification. Such a report or request can be made to CDEC_ADA@state.co.us or by calling (720) 947-5020.