

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Annual Report 2018



PRESENTED TO:

Governor Jared Polis, Senate Education Committee, Senate Health and Human Services Committee, House Education Committee, House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee, and House Health, Insurance and Environment Committee

Letter from the ECLC Co-Chairs

Dear Governor Polis, Lt. Governor Primavera, Cabinet Members and Colorado General Assembly,

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) is excited to welcome you and share with you our seventh Annual Report. With cross-sector and diverse members appointed by you and your Cabinet, we serve as Colorado's federally-authorized state advisory council on early childhood and look forward to partnering with you to ensure that all of Colorado's children are valued, healthy and thriving.

The ECLC is acknowledged as the trusted and proactive early childhood champion for high quality, outcome-focused learning and development, health and well-being, and family support and education. Our efforts support pregnant women, young children birth through age eight and their families by promoting services and monitoring progress toward early childhood outcomes.

Recognized for its critical work in aligning and coordinating early childhood services, in 2017 the Commission was reauthorized by the General Assembly in statute through 2023 to continue to align services and support outcomes for children and families.

We strive to identify opportunities for, and barriers to, the coordination of public and private early childhood policies and programs. A pillar of our work includes facilitating collaboration across five state departments – Colorado Department of Human Services, Health Care Policy and Financing, Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Colorado Department of Higher Education – who all play a role in supporting Colorado's children and families.

In 2018, the ECLC identified three Areas of Opportunity that are paramount to continuing progress toward early childhood outcomes:

- Improve Access to High Quality Early Care and Education for All Families
- Elevate the Early Childhood Workforce to Ensure Coordinated Career Pathways and Appropriate Compensation
- Support Improved Family Health and Economic Security through a Two-Generation Approach

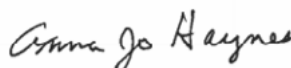
This report reflects the ECLC's work and accomplishments over 2018, as well as our priorities and commitments to all of Colorado's young children and their families as we look to the future. We will continue to develop partnerships with public and private early childhood organizations in collaboration with families, providers, stakeholders and advocates across the state.

We look forward to standing with you to continue to make progress across early childhood systems to ensure that all children are valued, healthy and thriving.


Sincerely,



Former Lt. Governor Donna Lynne
ECLC Co-Chair



Anna Jo Haynes
ECLC Co-Chair



Elsa Holguín
ECLC Co-Chair



About the Early Childhood Leadership Commission

The ECLC was originally established by Executive Order in 2010, created in statute by the Colorado Legislature, and was re-authorized until 2023 through HB17-1106. The Commission is comprised of twenty individuals representing a full spectrum of early childhood champions, advocates and leaders. It includes parents, early childhood professionals, Head Start, school districts, researchers, local municipalities, foundations, nonprofits, businesses and five state departments: Education, Health Care Policy and Financing, Higher Education, Human Services, and Public Health and Environment. As Colorado's state advisory council for early childhood, the role of the Commission is to be a statewide leader, subject matter expert and advocate for best and promising practices throughout the state.

THE ECLC IS STATUTORILY CHARGED TO:

- Assist and monitor efforts to enhance alignment across programs and agencies that support young children and their families, which includes collaboration among five state departments;
- Advise and make recommendations to the Governor's Office, the General Assembly and state departments; and
- Develop strategies and monitor efforts to increase the access, quality and equity of services and supports on behalf of pregnant women and children birth through age eight.



2018 ECLC Accomplishments:

- Worked with more than **100 partners** including businesses, nonprofits, advocacy organizations, early childhood councils, government agencies and philanthropic partners to align and strengthen Colorado's early childhood systems on behalf of **pregnant women, children birth to eight and their families**
- Developed three **Areas of Opportunity** to share with the incoming Governor's administration and new state leadership on the most pressing areas for advancement in early childhood in Colorado
- Launched the **Early Childhood Colorado Framework** website, an interactive platform that will be used by early childhood professionals to share and align their work, providing Colorado with a tool to better understand how the state is making progress toward the outcomes in the *Framework*
- Continued to implement the **Early Childhood Workforce 2020 Plan**, Colorado's early childhood professional development plan, through coordination with the Early Childhood Professional Development Advisory Working Group and the numerous workforce initiatives around the state
- Worked alongside the **Colorado Workforce Development Council** to include early childhood education as a part of their industry of focus for the year, which will ultimately provide Coloradans with a clearer understanding of the qualifications and pathways available as an early childhood educator
- Worked with the **Early Childhood & School Readiness Legislative Commission** on best and promising practices related to early childhood policy as outlined in HB 13-1007
- Advised the Office of Early Childhood, CDHS on future opportunities for quality investments, implementation and evaluation of **Colorado Shines**, Colorado's Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Served as the **state advisory council** by advising on federal grant applications related to pregnant women and children birth through age eight and submitting letters of support required to apply for those grants
- Reviewed and made recommendations to the Office of Early Childhood, CDHS on the **Child Care and Development Block Grant State Plan** as well as the application for the **Preschool Development Grant**

Our Strategies

In collaboration with our partners, we use the following **STRATEGIES FOR ACTION** to help guide all of our work across early childhood systems in Colorado:



Connect and Empower Families



Make Data Informed Decisions



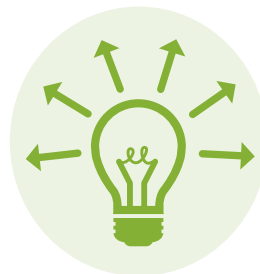
Encourage Public Private Partnerships



Build Capacity and Sustainable Business Practices



Pursue Quality and Consumer Affordability



Promote and Share Knowledge



Develop and Retain the Workforce



Looking Forward: Early Childhood Areas of Opportunity

Colorado's early childhood community has a long history of working together to ensure children and families grow and thrive. Our state has made tremendous progress across the three domains of the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework*: Health & Well-Being, Family Support & Education and Learning & Development. Families, professionals, advocates and policy makers have worked together to build coordinated systems that support local areas to be responsive to the needs of their communities. The collaboration between state and local entities across private and public domains is a testament to Colorado's long and unwavering commitment to supporting children and families.

However, there is much more work to be done to ensure all children and families have the supports they need to reach our shared vision: **all children are valued, healthy and thriving.**

After engaging with stakeholders to understand the history and progress of early childhood in Colorado as well as the wide array of policy strategies and opportunities that exist to ensure the state continues to move forward, the Commission has identified three [Areas of Opportunity](#) that are critical the advancement of work in early childhood across the state:

- **Improve Access to High Quality Early Care and Education for All Families**
- **Elevate the Early Childhood Workforce to Ensure Coordinated Career Pathways and Appropriate Compensation**
- **Support Improved Family Health and Economic Security through a Two-Generation Approach**

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission is committed to working with the incoming Governor, the Colorado General Assembly, state agencies and stakeholders to address the early childhood challenges Colorado faces to ensure that all children are valued, healthy and thriving.



Highlights from the ECLC Subcommittees

▶ PROGRAM QUALITY AND ALIGNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee identifies opportunities for, and barriers to, the alignment of standards, rules, policies and procedures to ensure that children and families have access to the services and supports they need. This alignment across programs that serve pregnant women, children birth through age eight and their families continues to guide the Commission’s work to ensure efficient and effective service delivery across the three domains of the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework* - Learning & Development, Health & Well-Being, and Family Support & Education.

In 2018, the Subcommittee reviewed the status of alignment of services and supports in Colorado, identifying major successes, alignment work in progress and opportunities for continued coordination.

The Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee oversees several Working Groups:

- The **Framework Working Group** launched the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework* website, an interactive platform (www.EarlyChildhoodFramework.org) that allows organizations to share programs and best practices and align their work under the domains and outcomes of the *Framework*. The *Framework* Working Group has developed marketing materials including flyers, Facebook graphics and Newsletter content to help early childhood organizations join the *Framework* website and share with others in their communities. The ECLC will share this valuable tool with county commissioners, policy makers, funders, and new state leaders to coordinate and align state and local efforts contributing to our shared vision that all Colorado children are valued, healthy and thriving. The Commission encourages all early childhood organizations who are working to advance the outcomes of the *Framework* to make sure your information is included in this valuable and exciting new platform.

Examples of the marketing materials that encourage early childhood organizations to share their work:

The image displays four marketing materials for the Early Childhood Colorado Framework website. The top two are flyers with a blue and orange color scheme. The left flyer features the text: "Early Childhood Colorado Framework: A SHARED VISION" and "Colorado Leads the Way in Early Childhood— Let's Keep It Going! Visit EarlyChildhoodFramework.org to learn more & share your work." The right flyer features the text: "Early Childhood Colorado Framework: A SHARED VISION" and "Colorado's Early Childhood Framework website is a resource for county commissioners, policy makers, funders, state leaders and YOU to advance your local early childhood system." The bottom left flyer features the text: "Early Childhood Colorado Framework: A SHARED VISION" and "EarlyChildhoodFramework.org". The bottom right flyer is a sign-up guide with a green and blue color scheme. It features the text: "Share how your work ensures children are valued, healthy and thriving. Not only will you be helping to advance local and state early childhood systems, but you'll be entered into a drawing for \$100. Don't be left out—make sure your organization is on the website!" and "For more information, or for assistance completing the profile, please contact info@earlychildhoodframework.org". It also includes a "FIRST SIGN UP" section with steps: "Go to EarlyChildhoodFramework.org", "1. Select SHARE then select REGISTER", "2. Fill in information", "3. Receive an email to activate account", and "Watch for verification email within one week". It also includes a "THEN ADD PROGRAMS" section with steps: "1. Select SHARE and LOGIN to account", "2. Select CREATE PROGRAM and complete information on a program", "3. Save changes", and "4. Select CREATE PROGRAM to add another program".

- The **Young Child Wellness Council** focuses on ensuring all children entering school have the social, emotional, cognitive and physical skills they need to succeed by implementing LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health) strategies throughout the state. One highlight from the Council this year was a focus on family engagement and leadership strategies that helped to spotlight the importance of including family voices, both at the state and national level.
- The **Early Childhood Professional Development (ECPD) Advisory Working Group** worked with stakeholders across the early childhood spectrum to continue to implement Colorado's Early Childhood Workforce 2020 Plan. This plan, which was endorsed by the Commission in June, 2017, focuses on retention, recruitment and compensation for early childhood professionals and outlines specific strategies and objectives to elevate this workforce so young children have consistent, effective, caring educators. The ECPD Advisory will continue to advance the goals outlined in the plan and connect and align the numerous exciting early childhood workforce efforts happening throughout the state.

Toward the end of 2018, the Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee members reviewed and provided input on the application for the Preschool Development Grant. Colorado will have a tremendous opportunity to assess the needs that still exist across our systems and develop a statewide strategic plan to better connect and align services to ensure the best outcomes for children and families.



Future Priorities

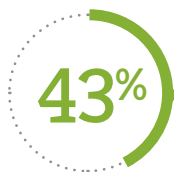
In 2019, the Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee will:

- Provide guidance and support the implementation of the Preschool Development Grant;
- Continue to align and coordinate early childhood workforce efforts and work with stakeholders to implement the EC Workforce 2020 Plan;
- Promote and enhance the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework* website resource to share program information and highlight progress that Colorado is making on the *Framework* outcomes for children and families; and
- Support and encourage programs to utilize a Two-Generation approach when providing services to children and families.

The Early Childhood Workforce is a Priority for Colorado's Economy



Nationally, approximately 46% of child care teachers qualify for public assistance, including food stamps, Medicaid, and child care assistance.



With a growing economy, Colorado estimates the increase in the need for preschool teachers to be approximately 43% in the next eight years.

The education industry is the fourth largest employer in Colorado.



\$640
MILLION

In 2014, Colorado's early care and education sector generated nearly \$640 million in revenue.



Statewide Education Sector Partnership Launch

Supporting and elevating the early childhood workforce was an ECLC priority in 2018 that brought exciting new partnerships, innovative strategies and cross-sector solutions.

In May 2018, the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) selected the Education Workforce (early childhood, K-12 and postsecondary education) as its one industry of focus for the year. The first of its kind in the country, the Statewide Education Sector Partnership was launched in October and brought leaders from across the field together to identify a set of state-level actions needed to strengthen the education industry.



Launch champions of the sector partnership included Katy Anthes (Commissioner of Education, CDE), Mary Anne Snyder (OEC Director, CDHS), and Dan Baer (Executive Director, CDHE).

The education sector is the 4th largest source of employment for local and regional communities and serves as the foundation for all of Colorado's economy and future workforce. The Sector Partnership will work to align education entities to tackle workforce issues and develop career pathways at the state level as well as support regional sector partnerships to address local challenges.

Strategic leaders identified five areas for collective action, including Skill Building & Pathways, Mapping the System, Public Relations, Policy & Legislation and Compensation.

Looking ahead to 2019, teams of strategic leaders will convene to develop action plans for each of the areas listed above. The Early Childhood Professional Development (ECPD) Advisory, a working group of the ECLC, will continue to support the work of the CWDC and ensure alignment with other early childhood workforce efforts in the state.

The Commission looks forward to continuing this exciting and collaborative work across the industry to support our educators.

Learn More: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cwdc/education-sp>

COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Communications Subcommittee continued the work of the Early Childhood Communication Collaborative (ECCC), which reviewed the amount and variety of parent and caregiver communication and engagement efforts in Colorado and provided recommendations for the field to better support and connect with parents and caregivers. From this research, eleven recommendations were developed across three areas – noise reduction, quality and engagement - to support providers in more effectively communicating with parents and caregivers.

In order to align with, and advance, these findings and recommendations, the Communications Subcommittee started its work with the premise that parents and caregivers are a young child's first and most important teachers. Ensuring parents and caregivers are aware of their important roles and have the tools they need to support a child's development are critical for Colorado's future. The Subcommittee developed the following action steps with the goal to advance communication efforts in Colorado:

- **Promote best practices to and with providers, organizations, and programs for communicating about early childhood with parents/caregivers**

- **Recognize and support effective communication efforts with parents and caregivers**

- **Monitor current metrics and outcomes related to communication and identify gaps in effective communication and messaging resources**

Subcommittee members reviewed and shared resources and best practices from around the nation for how to best engage with parents and caregivers, compiling these best practices in a communications framework matrix to help the members create a structure of messengers and messages and identify communication goals. They organized these best practices around the three areas of recommendations from the ECCC report (noise reduction, quality and engagement) and created a resource document entitled *Communication Guidelines for Engaging with Parents and Caregivers*. Subcommittee members will work to finalize this tool and share it with providers, organizations and programs in 2019 to promote best practices in communicating effectively with this important audience.



Future Priorities

In 2019, the Communications Subcommittee will:

- Finalize and distribute the best practices resource document *Communication Guidelines for Engaging with Parents and Caregivers*;
- Create an online platform for sharing tools, resources and strategies to improve the coordination of communication efforts within Colorado; and
- Encourage all who connect with new parents to incorporate parent and caregiver engagement strategies and messages into their programs and outreach.

▶ DATA SUBCOMMITTEE

The ECLC is statutorily required to monitor and develop strategies around the sharing and use of common data for planning and accountability among early childhood programs. The Commission and its Data Subcommittee strongly support the consistent and responsible use of relevant, reliable and secure data to better understand populations across the state, identify opportunities to create efficiencies within programs and across departments, and encourage sufficient public and private investments in the early childhood system.

To guide this work, the Commission adopted the following data vision statement to incorporate effective and responsible use of data as an essential component in all early childhood conversations and decisions:

Reliable, relevant and secure data guides and informs early childhood decision-makers at all levels who are working to ensure all children are valued, healthy and thriving in Colorado.

The Data Subcommittee encourages use of appropriately collected data analyzed in aggregate with proper confidentiality safeguards. When made available, data informs strategic planning and evaluation by early childhood partners working in a variety of capacities and settings.

Throughout 2018, the Data Subcommittee partnered with organizations to make relevant, reliable data and research available to a broader audience by reviewing Colorado reports and including them on the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework* Website Data and Reports section. This important resource allows those interested in understanding and utilizing early childhood data to find reliable research and datasets in one convenient location, easily sortable by topic and domain.

Following the selection of three Areas of Opportunity that the Commission shared with the new Governor's administration and state leaders, the Data Subcommittee began to identify ways to measure and track progress to ensure Colorado is advancing, and if not, work with partners to identify new strategies across each of the three areas. The ECLC will continue to support appropriate use of data to evaluate the success of Colorado's efforts to promote quality programs that ultimately lead to better outcomes for children.



Future Priorities

In 2019, the Data Subcommittee plans to address the following:

- Work with the ECLC to identify and adopt indicators across the three Areas of Opportunity to monitor progress and develop strategies to advance each area;
- Continue to review and disperse trusted, publicly available early childhood data resources and reports on the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework* website;
- Advocate for the importance of kindergarten readiness assessments as a way to support children's school success; and
- Support opportunities with state agencies and partner organizations to educate and encourage stakeholders on understanding, interpreting and appropriately using data when making decisions across all levels of early childhood practice.

The ECLC Partners with State Agencies to Support Young Children and Their Families

Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

CDE values its partnership with the Early Childhood Leadership Commission and its member agencies and organizations. CDE has a strong commitment to coherence of programs that support children and families across the preschool through third grade (P – 3) continuum.

In 2017, CDE brought together all of its early childhood programs into a single P – 3 Office to provide more coordinated support to children and families. In 2018, CDE affirmed its commitment to aligned support for early childhood educators by moving the Early Childhood Professional Development Team to the Educator Talent Division. The Early Childhood Professional Development Team will remain connected to the P – 3 Office, working together to build strong foundations that lead to school success.

Highlights for the year include:

- Celebration of 30 years of the Colorado Preschool Program which has served 378,658 children and has

shown to support long-lasting positive outcomes.

- Administration of over \$111 million in CPP dollars to fund preschool programs for at-risk children in 175 of Colorado's 178 school districts to serve 26,650 children. Recent longitudinal analysis shows that CPP graduates are more likely to graduate from high school on time and less likely to have a significant reading deficiency in kindergarten compared to children who did not participate in CPP.
- Creation of a P – 3 department work plan in partnership with Colorado's early childhood community.
- Issuing 5,038 Early Childhood Professional Credentials, 276 Coaching Credentials and 136 Trainer Credentials.
- Communication with thousands of users through the Professional Development Information System Help Desk to enable early childhood educators to access supports and resources.
- Supporting the New Early Childhood Professional Development Advisory as it begins work on the EC Workforce 2020 Plan.

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

CDHS continued to support children and families through a variety of programs and services. Two important highlights from the year include:

• **2GO - Two Generation Opportunities**

When programs and policies are designed with the whole family's future in mind, and families have the resources and social networks available to be successful, opportunity becomes a family tradition. Knowing this, CDHS sought innovative proposals to address systemic challenges that impede families' abilities to reach their full potential. The 2GO, or Two-Generation Opportunities, Pilot Program awarded 10 grants of \$100,000 each in November 2018 to regional and community collaborators who proposed innovative ways to create a path to the middle class for whole families. Grants will be used to build community readiness and to collaborate with other community leaders. This pilot will create new partnerships to better serve families and ensure outcomes for the whole family. Following an initial planning stage, awardees will pilot their ideas for demonstrating feasibility and effectiveness. CDHS anticipates that up to four years of additional funding may be available for successful projects.

• **EarlyChildhoodMentalHealthCO.org**

In March 2018, Colorado Project LAUNCH and LAUNCH Together announced the new professional resource EarlyChildhoodMentalHealthCO.org. The webpage raises awareness about the importance of social-emotional development for young children and provides tools for professionals to support children and families. Materials were specially developed in Colorado and are based on messages from the Early Childhood Colorado Partnership Shared Message Bank, the Colorado Early Learning and Development Guidelines and ZERO TO THREE. The website is a one-stop-resource for early childhood professionals to download, customize and share posters, social media content, fact sheets, parent materials, and training videos. The webpage was developed as part of Colorado's Project LAUNCH initiative, a \$4 million, 5 year grant awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Project LAUNCH initiative promotes the wellness of young children from birth to age eight by addressing the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of their development.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

CDPHE continues to work towards keeping all children safe and healthy using evidence-based prevention strategies. Some highlights include:

- Colorado Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) launched a new online referral form to make referring families to WIC easier! Programs, organizations or individuals can complete the short form to then be contacted by WIC.
- CDPHE has designed a public-facing tool that allows parents and caregivers to view immunization data for schools and child care. Schools are required to report this data annually by Board of Health Rules 6 CCR 1009-2.
- Child Fatality Prevention System released seven child fatality prevention recommendations to prevent future deaths among infants, children and youth ages 0-17 in Colorado.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Essentials for Childhood Initiative awarded CDPHE a new competitive round of funding to prevent child abuse and neglect using community and societal-level strategies.
- CDPHE completed the Basic Screening Survey on the oral health of kindergarteners and third graders. Results show that early preventive interventions, like Cavity Free at Three, have significantly decreased the number of kindergarteners experiencing cavities over the last ten years (a 14 percentage point drop).

Seven Child Fatality Prevention Recommendations



Behavioral Health Promotion

Support policies to improve caregiver behavioral health, such as:

- Screening and referral during the perinatal period
- Health insurance coverage
- Behavioral health integration into primary care



Youth Suicide Promotion

Support training for mental health and substance use disorder providers on evidence-based treatment approaches for suicidal youth.



Primary Seat Belt Law

Strengthen the current secondary seat belt law to a primary seat belt law, requiring all motor vehicle drivers and passengers to wear a seat belt and allowing for primary enforcement for non-restraint use by anyone in the vehicle.



Paid Leave for Families

Support policies that ensure paid leave for families.



Evidence-Based Home Visitation

Support policies that expand access to community-based home visiting programs for all families with new infants.



Quality, Affordable Child Care

Support policies that ensure access to quality, affordable child care, especially for infants and young children.



Education on Firearms Deaths

Raise awareness and provide education to child welfare providers and community agencies on safe firearm storage to prevent child deaths involving firearms.

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF)

HCPF administers Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program), Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) and other programs for Coloradans who qualify.

- Health First Colorado covers approximately 1.3 million Coloradans; children comprise approximately 40 percent of Health First Colorado members. The majority of Health First Colorado members are enrolled in the Accountable Care Collaborative, which seeks to improve member health and experience, while increasing care support and efficiencies.
- CHP+, which includes children and pregnant women, covered just over 80,000 Colorado kids and pregnant women in state fiscal year 2017-18.
- Approximately 45 percent of all babies born in Colorado in calendar year 2017 were born to Health First Colorado and CHP+ moms.
- The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing's mission is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources.

Benefits of a Comprehensive Early Childhood Approach

Children are impacted by the world around them from the moment they are born; therefore, it is vital that early childhood professionals focus on supporting and aligning services across all realms in a child's life. With the child and family at the center of this work, the Commission has a unique role to support, guide and advocate for practices and policies across all levels, or "spheres of influence."

State agencies supporting early childhood have aligned policies and practice to work across departments for the betterment of children and families in Colorado. Two projects that exhibit this remarkable coordination include:

- Over the past year, the Early Childhood Leadership Commission convened several Early Childhood Workforce State Agency Forums in which seven state agencies met to discuss the early care and education industry in the state. **This work resulted in new partnerships, innovative strategies and cross-agency solutions to support and elevate the early childhood workforce.**

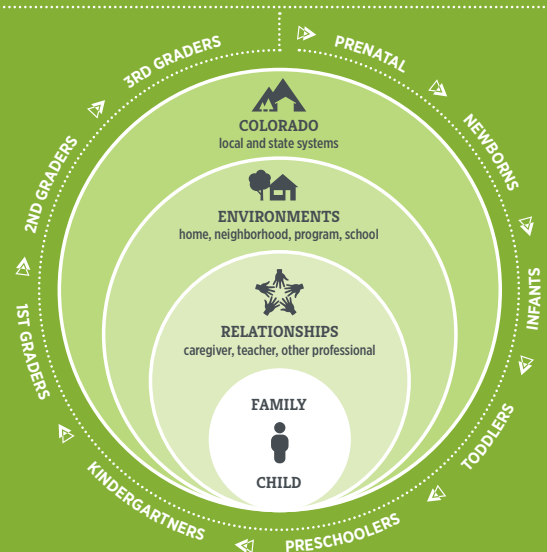
- The Working Together Project is a Two-Generation collaboration that provides wraparound services to families with young children enrolled in home visiting programs in San Luis Valley to support parents returning to school or work. Working Together continues to support families by improving parental education, employment, self-sufficiency, parenting skills, life skills, and relationships. **Since the program launched, almost 100 participants are working towards, or have completed, career certificates, high school equivalency degrees, associate degrees, and employment.** Additionally, Working Together continues to foster and strengthen community partnerships in the San Luis Valley. Partners were recently surveyed regarding their experiences in Working Together. In each of the survey areas, partners identified high levels of communication, collaboration, organization, and awareness of each other's work and services. 2018 was an incredible year for Working Together, and we are honored to work alongside families dedicated to achieving success!

Looking Forward

Colorado continues to make tremendous strides in improving the quality, access and equity in early childhood supports and services across the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework*. With the exciting transition to new state leadership, the Commission is committed to working with Governor Polis, the Colorado General Assembly, state agencies and stakeholders to address the early childhood challenges Colorado faces to ensure that all children are valued, healthy and thriving.

We are grateful to all of the 100+ organizations that work with the ECLC in Colorado for your dedication, your innovation, and your contributions to this important work. Let's keep it going in 2019!

All Children are Valued, Healthy and Thriving



2018 Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Co-Chairs

Barbara Grogan, Retired Founder and CEO – Western Industrial Contractors (former Co-Chair)

Anna Jo Haynes, President Emeritus – Mile High Early Learning Centers

Elsa Holguín, Senior Program Officer – Rose Community Foundation

Donna Lynne, Lieutenant Governor – State of Colorado

2017-18 Commissioners

Letty Bass, Executive Director – Chambers Family Fund

Charlotte Brantley, President/CEO – Clayton Early Learning

Douglas H. Clements, Executive Director – Marsico Institute for Early Learning and Literacy

Melissa Colzman, Associate Commissioner of Student Learning – Colorado Department of Education

Heather Craiglow, Head Start Collaboration Director – Colorado Department of Human Services

Gerri Gomez Howard, Principal – Gomez Howard Group

Jeff Kuhr, Executive Director – Mesa County Health Department

Tom Massey, Deputy Executive Director – Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

Jeanne McQueeney, Commissioner – Eagle County

Jerene Petersen, Deputy Executive Director for Community Partnerships – Colorado Department of Human Services

Lydia Prado, Director of Community Partnerships - Barton Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise

Anna Robinson, Parent Representative

Cindy Schulz, Executive Director – Cydney and Tom Marsico Family Foundation

Susan Steele, Executive Director – Buell Foundation

Erin Ulric, Deputy Director of the Prevention Services Division – Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

George Welsh, Superintendent – Cañon City Schools

Mary Anne Snyder, Director – Office of Early Childhood, Colorado Department of Human Services, Ex-Officio Member

New Commissioners in 2018

Jai Scott, Parent Representative

Staff

Kristina Heyl, Director

Amanda Pelletier, Program Assistant II

The ECLC Extends our Sincere Appreciation to our Co-Chairs...

ECLC Co-Chairs

Barbara Grogan (former Co-Chair)
Anna Jo Haynes


Elsa Holguín
Lt. Governor Donna Lynne

Subcommittee and Working Group Co-Chairs

Letty Bass
Charlotte Brantley
Ann Bruce
Katherine Casillas
Melissa Colzman
Heather Craiglow

Barbara Grogan
Pamela Harris
Anna Jo Haynes
Elsa Holguín
Rebecca Kantor
Princess Mack

Tom Massey
Phuonglan Nguyen
Jennifer O'Brien
Susan Steele



...And to those who work to ensure all children in Colorado are valued, healthy and thriving.

ECLC Annual Report Acronym Guide

ACC: Accountable Care Collaborative

CCCAP: Colorado Child Care Assistance Program

CDE: Colorado Department of Education

CDHE: Colorado Department of Higher Education

CDHS: Colorado Department of Human Services

CDPHE: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

CHP+: Child Health Plan *Plus*

ECLC: Early Childhood Leadership Commission

ECPD Advisory: Early Childhood Professional Development Advisory Working Group

HCPF: Health Care Policy and Financing

LAUNCH: Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health

MIECHV: Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

OEC: Office of Early Childhood

PDIS: Professional Development Information System

PQA: Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee

QRIS: Quality Rating and Improvement System

Thank you to Clayton Early Learning and the Office of Early Childhood, CDHS for donating the photography used in this report!

Sources

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, 2016 Colorado Talent Pipeline Report; Retrieved from <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cwdc/colorado-talent-pipeline-report>.

Colorado Workforce Development Council, 2018. Statewide Education Sector Partnership <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cwdc/education-sp> Colorado's Competencies for Early Childhood Educators and Administrators, Version 6.29.16

Early Childhood Leadership Commission. 2016. Early Childhood Communication Efforts in Colorado. <http://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/early-childhood-communication-collaborative/>.

First Five Years Fund. 2016. More State and Federal Investments in Early Childhood Education is a Top Priority for Colorado Voters [Fact Sheet]. ffyf.org/2016-colorado-poll/.

Franko, M., Brodsky, A., Wacker, A., & Estrada, M. (2017). Bearing the cost of early care and education in Colorado: An economic analysis. Denver: Butler Institute for Families, Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver.

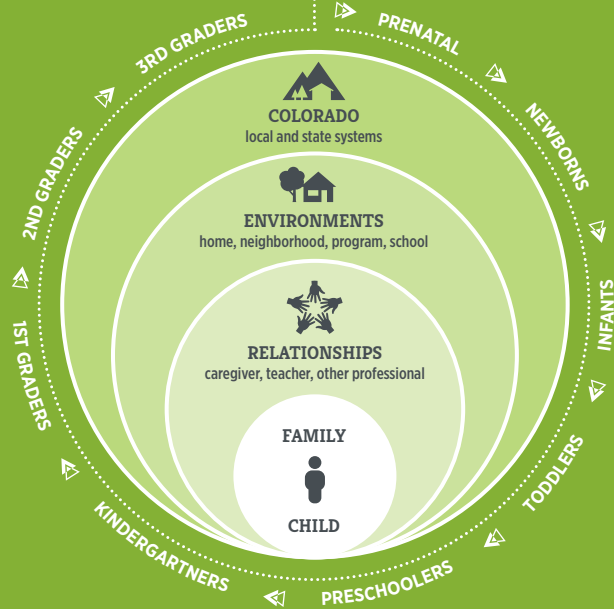
Institute of Medicine and National Research Council. 2015. Transforming the Workforce for Children Birth Through Age 8: A Unifying Foundation. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi: 10.17226/19401.

Schaack, D. & Le, V. (2017). Colorado Early Childhood Workforce Survey 2017 Final Report. Denver, Colorado: University of Colorado Denver.

Whitebook, M., McLean, C., and Austin, L.J.E. (2016). *Early childhood workforce index - 2016*. Berkeley, CA: Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, University of California, Berkeley. Retrieved from <http://csce.berkeley.edu/files/2016/Early-Childhood-Workforce-Index-2016.pdf>.

Early Childhood Colorado Framework

all children are valued, healthy and thriving



Results



CHILD

Young children reach their developmental potential and are ready to succeed in school and in life



ENVIRONMENTS

Environments that impact children are safe, stable and supportive



RELATIONSHIPS

Adults are knowledgeable, responsive and interact effectively with and on behalf of children



COLORADO

Localities and the state attain economic and social benefits by prioritizing children and families

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

For questions relating to the ECLC, please visit www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org