



Colorado Department
of Human Services
people who help people



OFFICE OF EARLY
CHILDHOOD

TWO GENERATION STRATEGIES

*THE POTENTIAL FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS
TO SUPPORT CHILDREN AND PARENTS TOGETHER*



National Conference of State Legislatures
Early Learning Fellows
May 16, 2014

A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH IN COLORADO



Three priorities shaping Colorado's two-generation approach:

- Families achieve self-sufficiency through work
- Wealth is achieved through financial literacy
- Children succeed through early learning



A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH IN COLORADO



- Create “dual” approach to employment for BOTH parents to improve child economic well-being
- Increase pathways to realize college education and learn financial savings habits through matched college funds
- Expand access to high-quality child care for low income families



A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH



All Families Achieve through Work

- Research confirms that children do best when both parents are involved in their lives
- Social welfare policy has not kept pace with growth of joint custody and shared parenting arrangements
- Goal is to demonstrate that children will do better if both parents are supported to achieve work and to show that work “pays”.



A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH



All Families Achieve through Work

- Colorado Parent Employment Program
 - A pilot program through child support to assist non-custodial parents to gain employment
- Re-hire Colorado
 - Transitional jobs program, in partnership with CDLE, OEDIT, and CDHE, to help non-custodial parents re-enter the workforce.
- Colorado “Re-Works”
 - Refocus of our TAN-F employment program to focus on work, pay and retention outcomes, with less process.



A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH



Wealth is Achieved Through Financial Literacy

- Children with the means to attend college are more likely to do so than those without the means
- Help parents to create a pathway to an education for their child that is otherwise not visible to them
- Develop lifelong financial habits around saving

A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH



Wealth is Achieved Through Financial Literacy

- Conducted a feasibility study to develop a scalable and sustainable child savings accounts and/or college funds for all identified low income children in Colorado
 - Public/Private/Philanthropic Partnership in development



A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH



Strengthening Families And Child Care Professionals

- Five Protective Factors
 - Parental Resilience
 - Social Connections
 - Parenting and Child Development
 - Concrete Supports
 - Social/Emotional Development (Bonding and Attachment)

A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH



Children Achieve through Early Learning

- Children who attend high-quality child care are more prepared for kindergarten and achieve better life-long outcomes
- Low income families do not have the same access to high-quality programs as middle-class or wealthy families
- State policy views “child care” as a work support strategy
- Shift culture to recognize child care as both a work support for parents AND educational strategy for kids



A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH



Children Achieve through Early Learning

- Establish the Office of Early Childhood
- Rebuild the Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Establish a statewide professional development strategy
- Improve access to high-quality child care options for low-income families



ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Gov. Hickenlooper created the Office of Early Childhood in June, 2012

- Consolidated and streamlined 20+ early childhood programs
- Help parents help their children be ready for kindergarten
- Increase access to quality early learning services for all children
- Increase access to high quality child care for low income families



ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

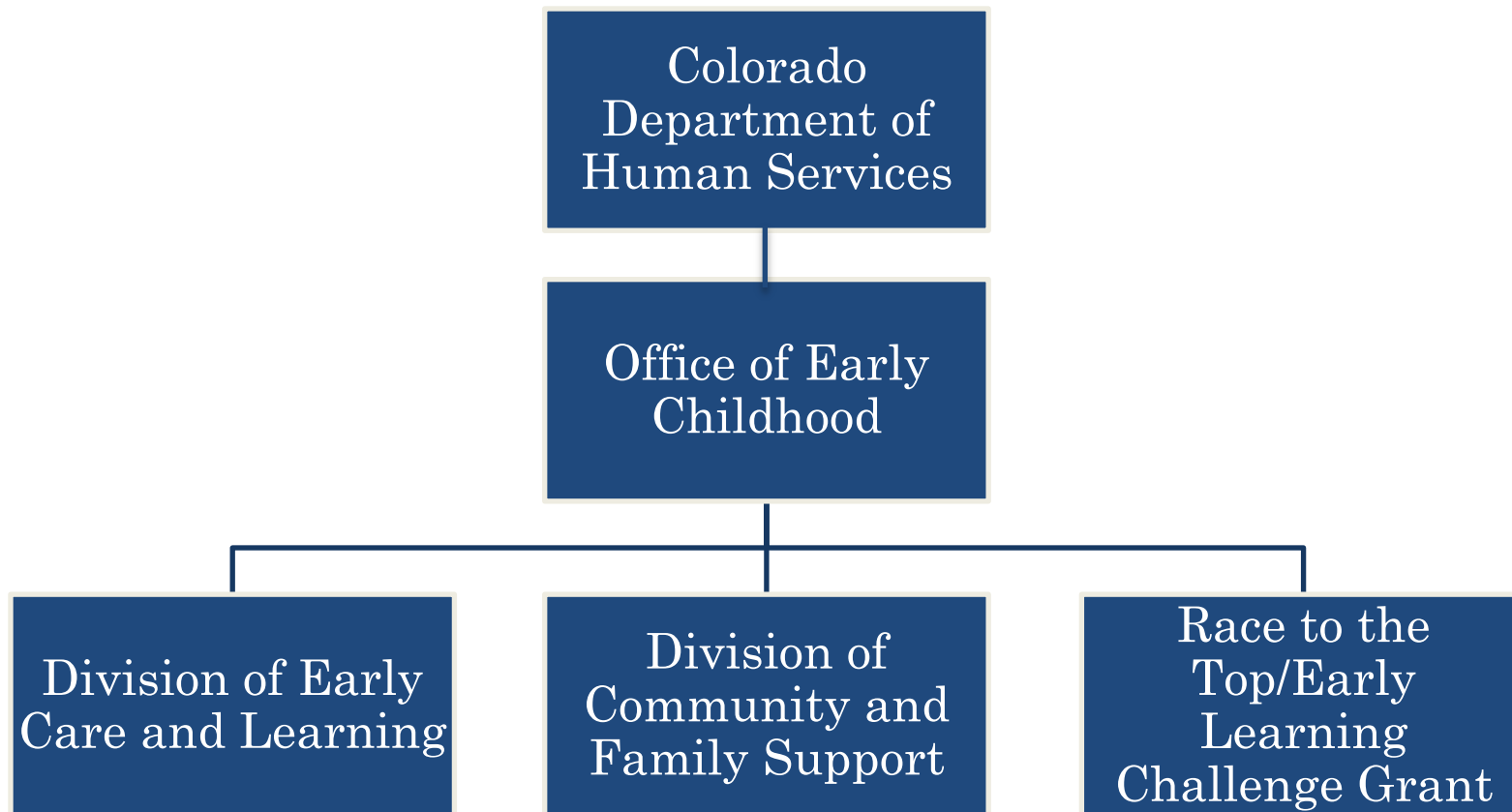


The Office of Early Childhood provides two-generation resources for children, families and early care professionals to best prepare Coloradans for future success, through access to collaborative, coordinated, quality early childhood programs and supports

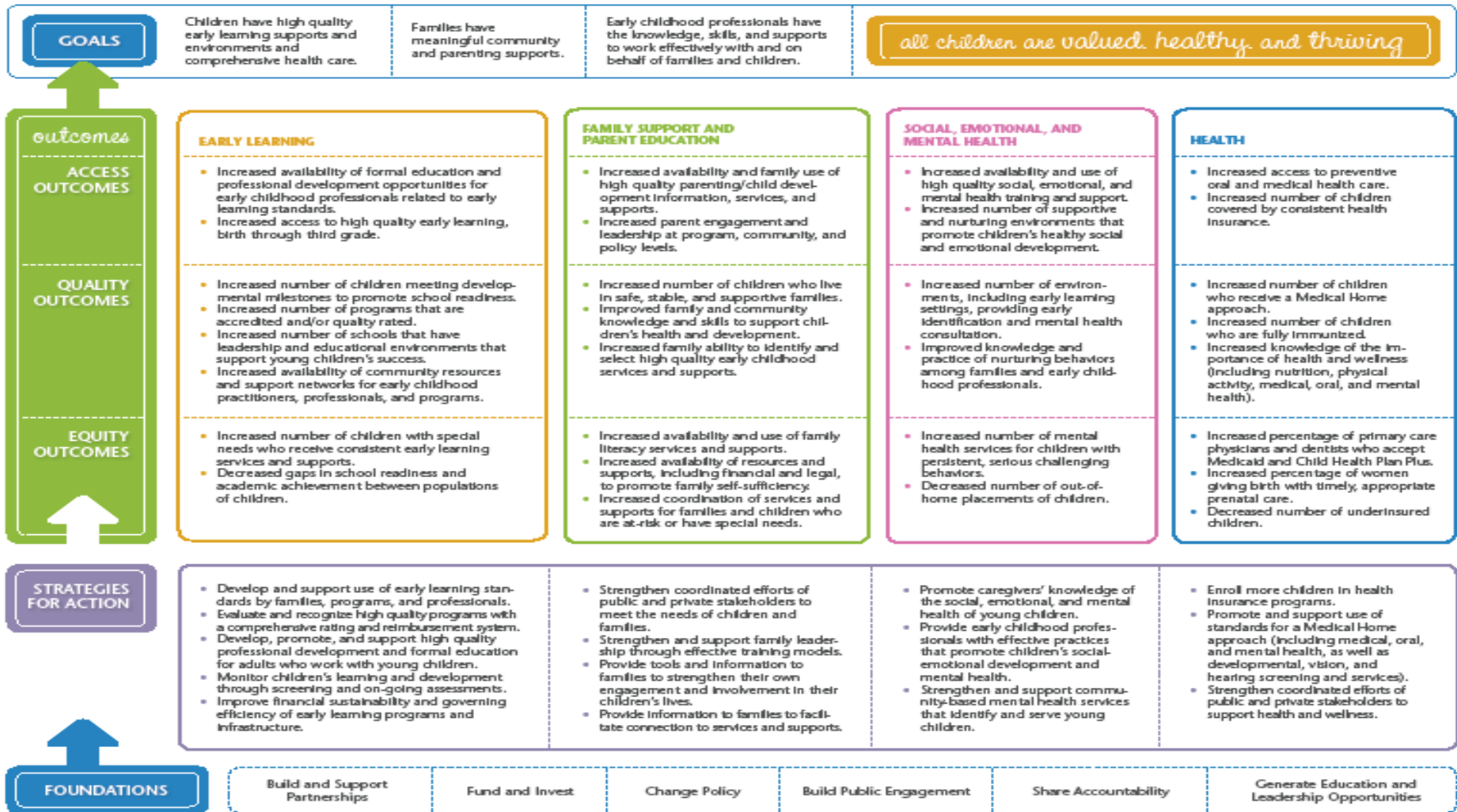
- Established in 2012
- Annual budget of \$157 million
- 100 FTE and Contract Staff
- Aligned more than 20 programs from 4 state agencies



ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Colorado Early Childhood Framework



RACE TO THE TOP – EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE GRANT



Governance and overall grant management and :
Coordinated emphasis on increasing access to high
quality programs for children with high needs - \$7.4M

Tiered Quality Rating Improvement System
(TQRIS): Improving program quality with
focus on continuous improvement - \$23M

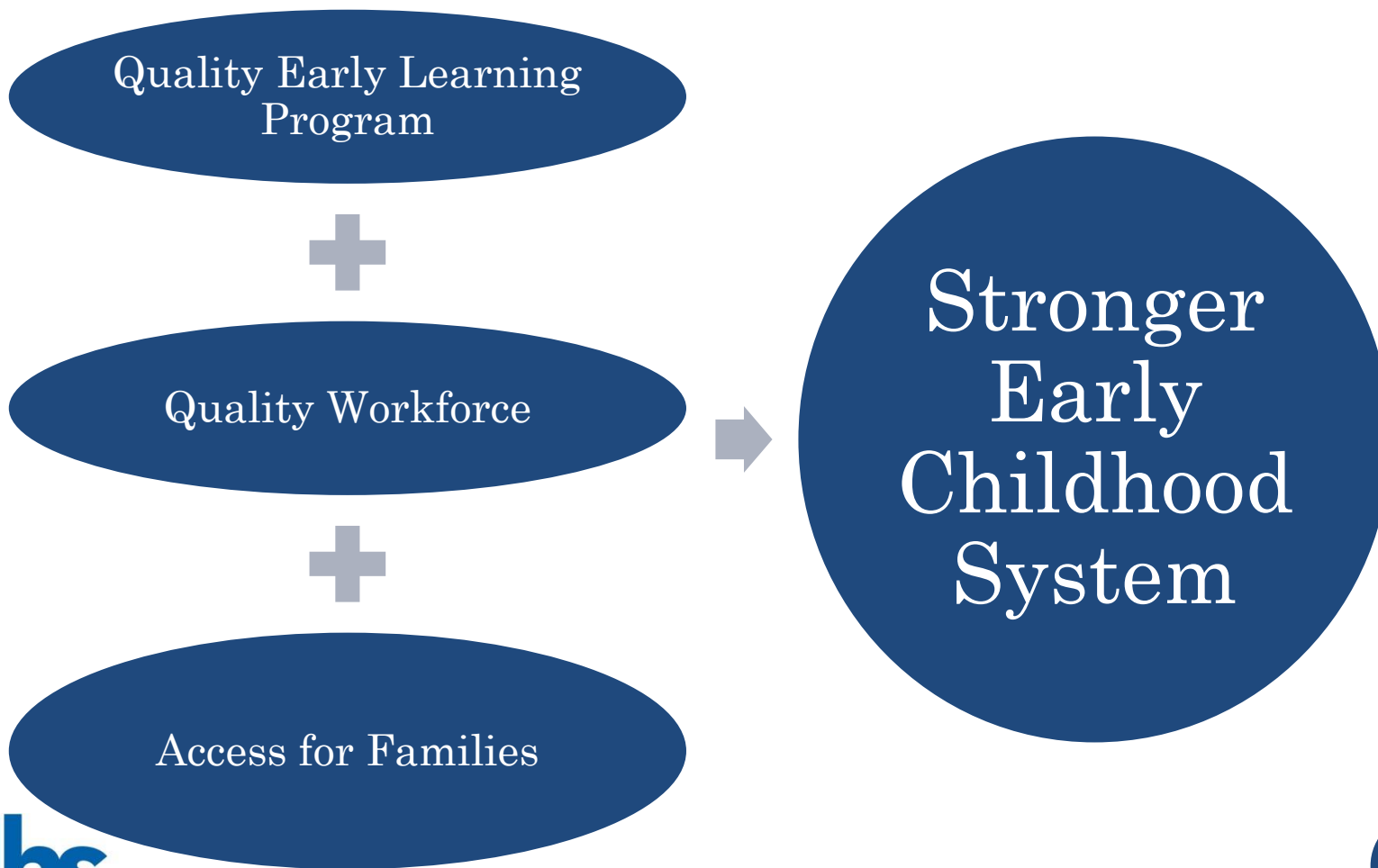
Early Learning &
Development
Guidelines - \$516K

Highly Qualified
Workforce - \$6.3M

Results Matter
Expansion for
children 0-4 years -
\$3.5M

Statewide
Kindergarten
Readiness - \$4.3M

RACE TO THE TOP – EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE GRANT



RACE TO THE TOP – EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE GRANT



- Increase Quality
 - All licensed early learning programs will participate in the new TQRIS
- Strengthen the Workforce
 - 100% of Colorado community colleges and 50% of four-year institutions will incorporate the new Early Childhood Workforce Competency Framework into early childhood degrees
- Prepare All Children for Success
 - All children in public schools will receive targeted instruction by participating in the Kindergarten Readiness assessment
 - Prior to kindergarten, 3,500 additional high needs children will receive individual support through Results Matter



WHY QUALITY MATTERS



Children attending a high quality Early Childhood facility:

- Perform higher on 3rd grade and 8th grade assessments
- Are more likely to
 - Graduate high school
 - Attend and graduate college
 - Be employed as an adult
- Are less likely to
 - Repeat a grade in school
 - Have a teen pregnancy
 - Be arrested in high school or as an adult, or serve time in prison
 - To receive public assistance as an adult

TIERED QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (TQRIS)



Modernize Colorado's approach to rating providers by implementing best practices and requiring participation for all licensed providers

- Create a standardized method to assess and enhance the level of quality in early care for all licensed providers in Colorado
 - Better inform parents about the benefits of high quality early care
 - Drive market demand for higher quality
- Provides incentives and supports to providers that wish to raise the level of quality care available at their facility



TIERED QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (TQRIS)



Colorado will become the 5th state to embed the rating system in licensing

- North Carolina, Oklahoma, Wisconsin & New Mexico
- Studies show this is the most effective method to achieve market saturation of rated facilities
- North Carolina – Currently 80% of high needs children in 3 or 4 star facilities

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (PDIS)



- A Cloud-Based Information System
 - Database
 - Course Management System
- Best practices from a variety of sources
 - National Registry Alliance Best Practice Standards
 - Currently hiring an outside vendor to implement the system
 - Will link with background check system to streamline processes for professionals and providers



NEW FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships
- Preschool Development Expansion Grants



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