



TWO GENERATION STRATEGIES

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

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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





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 <u>achieve work</u> and to show that <u>work "pays"</u>.





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.





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





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)





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 highquality 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





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





Office of Early Childhood

Division of Early Care and Learning Division of Community and Family Support Race to the
Top/Early
Learning
Challenge Grant



Colorado Early Childhood Framework

GOALS

Children have high quality early learning supports and environments and comprehensive health care.

Families have meaningful community and parenting supports. Early childhood professionals have the knowledge, skills, and supports to work effectively with and on behalf of families and children.

all children are valued. healthy, and thriving

outcomes

ACCESS OUTCOMES

QUALITY

EQUITY OUTCOMES



EARLY LEARNING

- Increased availability of formal education and professional development opportunities for early childhood professionals related to early learning standards.
- Increased access to high quality early learning, birth through third grade.
- Increased number of children meeting developmental milestones to promote school readiness.
- Increased number of programs that are accredited and/or quality rated.
- Increased number of schools that have leadership and educational environments that support young children's success.
- Increased availability of community resources and support networks for early childhood practitioners, professionals, and programs.
- Increased number of children with special needs who receive consistent early learning services and supports.
- Decreased gaps in school readiness and academic achievement between populations of children

FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION

- Increased availability and family use of high quality parenting/child development information, services, and supports.
- Increased parent engagement and leadership at program, community, and policy levels.
- Increased number of children who live in safe, stable, and supportive families.
- Improved family and community knowledge and skills to support children's health and development.
- Increased family ability to identify and select high quality early childhood services and supports.
- Increased availability and use of family literacy services and supports.
- Increased availability of resources and supports, including financial and legal, to promote family self-sufficiency.
- Increased coordination of services and supports for families and children who are at-risk or have special needs.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND MENTAL HEALTH

- Increased availability and use of high quality sodal, emotional, and mental health training and support
- mental health training and support.
 Increased number of supportive and nurturing environments that promote children's healthy social and emotional development.
- Increased number of environments, including early learning settings, providing early identification and mental health consultation.
- Improved knowledge and practice of nurturing behaviors among families and early childhood professionals.
- Increased number of mental health services for children with persistent, serious challenging behaviors.
- Decreased number of out-ofhome placements of children.

HEALTH

- Increased access to preventive oral and medical health care.
- Increased number of children covered by consistent health insurance.
- Increased number of children who receive a Medical Home approach.
- Increased number of children who are fully immunized.
- Increased knowledge of the Importance of health and wellness (including nutrition, physical activity, medical, oral, and mental health).
- Increased percentage of primary care physicians and dentists who accept Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus.
- Increased percentage of women glving birth with timely, appropriate prenatal care.
- Decreased number of underinsured children.

STRATEGIES FOR ACTION

- Develop and support use of early learning standards by families, programs, and professionals.
- Evaluate and recognize high quality programs with a comprehensive rating and reimbursement system.
- Develop, promote, and support high quality professional development and formal education for adults who work with young children.
- Monitor children's learning and development through screening and on-going assessments.
- Improve financial sustainability and governing efficiency of early learning programs and infrastructure.
- Strengthen coordinated efforts of public and private stakeholders to meet the needs of children and
- Strengthen and support family leadership through effective training models.
- Provide tools and information to families to strengthen their own engagement and involvement in their children's lives.
- Provide information to families to facilitate connection to services and supports.
- Promote caregivers' knowledge of the social, emotional, and mental health of young children.
- Provide early childhood professionals with effective practices that promote children's socialemotional development and mental health.
- Strengthen and support community-based mental health services that identify and serve young children
- Enroll more children in health insurance programs.
- Promote and support use of standards for a Medical Home approach (including medical, oral, and mental health, as well as developmental, vision, and hearing screening and services).
- Strengthen coordinated efforts of public and private stakeholders to support health and wellness.



Build and Support Partnerships

Fund and Invest

Change Policy

Build Public Engagement

Share Accountability

Generate Education and Leadership Opportunities

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

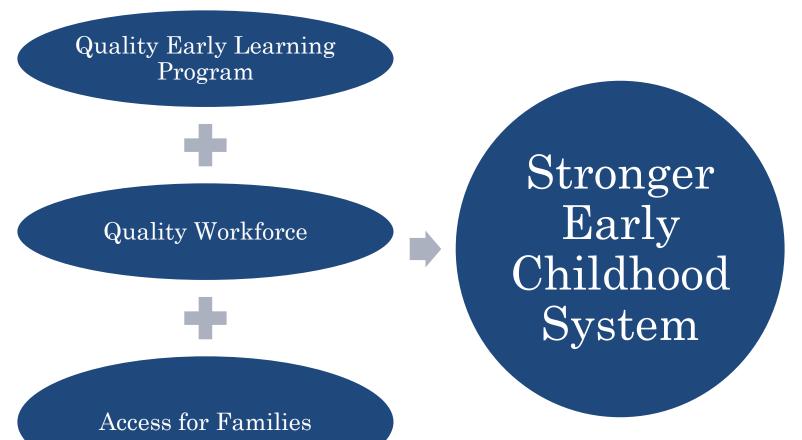
Results Matter
Expansion for
children 0-4 years \$3.5M

Statewide Kindergarten Readiness - \$4.3M

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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) OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

- 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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