A COLORADO/NATIONAL CATALYST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

• Serving 700 low income children and families in high quality comprehensive early learning settings

• Training more than 2500 teachers annually reaching about 10,000 additional children

• Researching and evaluating promising practices in early childhood care and education

• Promoting effective and efficient early childhood policies and funding mechanisms
A BIT MORE ABOUT CLAYTON EARLY LEARNING AND OUR EDUCARE DENVER SCHOOL
An Essential Component of a Comprehensive System

• Stable, quality child care supports parents moving toward self-sufficiency

• Stable, quality child care supports children in healthy growth and development and readiness for academic success

• In the context of a state system of early care and learning, child care is often the “glue” that helps create and maintain access to other early education programs such as Head Start and PreK
The CCAP Collaborative

- Launched in summer 2013 by Colorado Children’s Campaign, Clayton Early Learning and EPIC

- Key stakeholders identified and invited, but invitation was also broadly distributed – “come one, come all”

- Focus was not initially on legislation, rather on the intended outcomes of the program and a fresh look at current implementation

- Mid-stream, a few key state Legislators expressed keen interest in the information and recommendations coming from the Collaborative
HB 14-1317

• As the CCAP Collaborative continued to meet and vet new ideas for more effective policy, a bill began to be drafted to carry legislation needed to enact many of the identified policy changes.

• The Collaborative wrapped up its work in late fall 2013, but was convened again in the spring to inform the members about the bill(s) moving through the state house.
HB 14-1317 Provisions

- Significantly lower co-pay for families below poverty
- Tiered co-pay based on quality
- Easing of the “cliff effect”
- Statewide floor for initial eligibility (set at no lower than 165%)
- Statewide higher exit eligibility (at least at 185%)
- Easing of eligibility documentation requirements
- 12 month eligibility and longer job search periods
- Statewide eligibility for training/post secondary
- Decoupling care schedule from parent’s work schedule
- Alignment of care authorization with Head Start program year
- County specific payment rate setting
- Tiered provider reimbursement based on quality
- Encouragement for counties to contract for slots
Joint Implementation Task Force

- Jointly established in summer 2014 by CDHS and the Governor appointed Early Childhood Leadership Commission to advise CDHS Office of Early Childhood on program rules and data system changes needed to implement HB 14-1317

- Appointed members represent county elected officials, CDHS/OEC, ECLC, county departments of human services, providers and advocates, some from CCAP Collaborative

- Periodic task groups assigned to develop more detailed recommendations and bring back to the group

- Work will be complete by end of December 2015
Questions?