

The Core Functions of Early Childhood Councils

	Partnerships and Engagement	Capacity Building and Sustainability	Advocacy and Policy Development	Professional Development and Leadership	Grant and Fiscal Management
Defined as	<i>Convening community partners to share information and resources, identify issues, and problem solve; while advancing robust public engagement to elevate early childhood issues.</i>	<i>Providing continuous community-wide assessment, strategic planning, data collection, and monitoring to build and sustain local capacity for improvement of early childhood systems.</i>	<i>Advocating and educating the community, policymakers, and families on policies that promote the healthy development of young children.</i>	<i>Advancing the knowledge and skills of early childhood providers, educators, and families to support the healthy development of young children.</i>	<i>Stewarding funds to improve local early childhood services and supports, and dispersing them to qualified providers and partners for effective service delivery implementation.</i>
Examples	Local collaboration among partners to provide young children with developmental, hearing, vision, and oral health screenings; referrals; and follow up.	Expand access to nutritious food during summer months (unmet need), by bringing local partners and resources together.	Advocate for local ballot initiatives to increase resources to support young children and their families.	Support early childhood professionals to achieve associate and bachelor's degrees by providing college scholarships.	Serve as the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) administrator to ensure implementation reaches all eligible families.
	Facilitate convenings where local CCCAP providers can meet with other local providers to problem solve and address issues together.	Use data to analyze disparities among families and work with partners to increase access.	Identify policy gaps to increase equitable access to child care and assistance.	Provide training and assistance for implementation of social-emotional support for young children and their families.	Fundraise on behalf of tuition assistance programs to support low income families with access to quality early learning programs.
	Bring partners together to create a universal entry point for families to access a range of services.	Leverage resources to enable community partners to better assess child care needs and collaborate to increase availability for 0-3 yrs.	Host local legislative forums to support policies that promote the well-being of young children and their families.	Enable providers to become more sustainable through access to business support and coaching.	Disperse funds to local child care providers to implement quality improvement efforts in alignment with funder goals.
Framework	Strong partnerships, robust public engagement, shared accountability	Sufficient investments	Sound policy	Effective leadership, relevant educational opportunities	Sufficient investments, effective leadership, shared accountability
In summary, to fulfill their legislative intent, while also aligning with the Early Childhood Colorado Framework, Councils improve the quality of early learning environments to prepare young children to enter kindergarten; build the resources and skills of families; ensure that families have access to social, physical, and mental health services; and deliver resources to increase the effectiveness of early childhood professionals.					