



Strategic Plan July 1, 2020-June 30, 2023

Vision: Our communities thrive.

Mission: We will improve the quality of life for young children, prenatal-age eight, and their families in the Triad counties by utilizing our communities' unique resources to shape policy, finance, and service delivery.

Goal 1: Families have access to high quality early learning programs

Strategy A: Encourage and support early learning programs in achieving higher levels in Colorado Shines.

Activities:

- Provide phone and on site outreach to increase engagement in Colorado Shines
- Maintain staffing of Provider QI Line to respond to general questions about Colorado Shines
- Provide supports and incentives for programs moving from Level 1 to Level 2
- Provide coaching to assist in preparing for levels 3-5
- Provide funding for materials and professional development
- Provide recognition for programs progressing through Colorado Shines Levels
- Conduct targeted outreach, incentives, and support in communities identified as child care deserts
- Partner with CCR&R and Child Care Licensing to promote Colorado Shines to early learning providers

Strategy B: Increase the quality and availability of slots available to families receiving subsidy from the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP).

Activities:

- Gather data on CCCAP slot supply and demand, as well as related quality levels
- Target quality improvement supports to programs serving high numbers of children whose families are receiving CCCAP subsidy
- Promote the availability of tiered reimbursement for early learning programs demonstrating higher levels of quality

- Provide parents participating in CCCAP with information about Colorado Shines and the importance of high quality child care
- Share information about CCCAP eligibility and reimbursement processes

Strategy C: Promote the provision of high quality, responsive care for infants and toddlers

Activities:

- Provide sessions of Expanding Quality in Infant and Toddler Care (EQIT)
- Provide training and support related to LENA Grow
- Provide on-site coaching to early learning programs serving infants and toddlers
- Via newsletters, email, and web site, provide early learning programs with information on topics specific to the care of infants and toddlers
- Support providers of infant and toddler care in achieving higher levels of Colorado Shines and related tiered CCCAP reimbursement.
- Partner with Community Centered Board to share resources and information about early intervention
- Continue to serve as Local Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention

Strategy D: Promote and support coordinated, comprehensive approaches to increasing school readiness.

Activities:

- Provide quality improvement supports such as coaching, materials, and funding for professional development to early learning programs
- Assist early learning programs in understanding and developing transition plans for children entering kindergarten
- Distribute copies of *The Journey Begins* and *The Journey to Kindergarten* (publication developed by Douglas County Early Childhood Council for the purposes of promoting easy ways families can assist in school readiness)
- Encourage early parent engagement in education by promoting and supporting membership in the Triad Early Childhood PTA
- Provide early learning facilities with resources and support to develop and implement family engagement/support plans aligned with the Strengthening Families framework and Family Partnerships component of the Colorado Shines Program Guide.
- Collaborate with partners to support implementation of the Jeffco Bright Futures Roadmap

Strategy E. Promote community-wide understanding of the importance of high quality child care.

Activities:

- Distribute information about the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (newsletter articles, web site, email, materials given to partners for distribution)
- Partner with CCR&R for community events providing opportunity to speak with families about choosing high quality child care
- Assure that Council members are educated about Colorado Shines and share within their organizations
- Share information about the Early Learning and Development Guidelines
- Continue work to promote early childhood as a social determinant of health

Goal 2: Community members working with or on behalf of young children have access to enhanced professional development opportunities.

Strategy A: Offer group and site based professional development opportunities to early learning professionals.

Activities:

- Promote use of PDIS
- Schedule on site and group face to face PDIS sessions
- Conduct a survey of early learning professionals to help identify professional development gaps related topics/formats available
- Schedule training sessions in response to survey analysis
- Conduct outreach to legally exempt providers to inform them of professional development opportunities
- Hold regular “Provider Patchwork” sessions to address specific topics and share information
- Promote training via web site, email, CCR&R, and licensing staff
- Promote and support apprenticeship

Strategy B: Coordinate and align professional development opportunities across domains.

Activities:

- Maintain a community event/training calendar to assist in publicizing professional development opportunities
- Host a cross domain conference that is inclusive of the identified needs

- Identify and promote existing professional development opportunities being offered by partners that might be made available to others

Goal 3: Caregivers of young children have practical knowledge about available resources and programs that support early learning and promote optimal health and well-being.

Strategy A. Support caregivers in providing environments that promote positive social-emotional development.

Activities:

- Continue partnership with Jefferson Center in implementation of Project LAUNCH and related activities
- Promote use and referrals to Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants
- Collaborate with community partners to offer training sessions on trauma informed care
- Promote services available through Jefferson Center

Strategy B: Promote healthy eating and active living for young children and their families

Activities:

- Continue to provide staffing and leadership for the Health in Early Childhood Collaborative
- Promote and assist in coordination and resource development for implementation of the work plan developed by the Health in Early Childhood Collaborative
- Support efforts to increase breastfeeding initiation and duration rates
- Promote collaboration between Environmental Health and Child Care Licensing
- Continue to collaborate with UC Denver's Culture of Wellness in Preschools

Strategy C: Educate families, community partners, and early learning professionals about supportive community resources.

Activities:

- Host and participate in community resource fairs
- Link Council website to partner organizations
- Feature various community resources on web site, in newsletters, and at meetings to educate about services, eligibility, and how to access services
- Promote the availability of home visitation

Goal 4: Strengthen and sustain the work of the Council through resource development opportunities, collaborative partnerships, and community engagement.

Strategy A. Increase funding and in-kind services to support the work of the Council.

Activities:

- Solidify and document value of cash and in-kind contributions from Council members
- Identify and document areas where other agencies have secured funding that supports one or more Council goals
- Enhance partnerships that align with/support Council goals
- Identify and respond to available funding opportunities
- Explore fee for service opportunities

Strategy B: Enhance the effectiveness and engagement of current and potential Council members.

Activities:

- Hold monthly meetings of the Executive Committee
- Hold quarterly meetings of the Council and interested stakeholders
- Provide special presentations aimed at increasing understanding of programs, initiatives, and policies impacting young children and their families
- Identify and recognize “champions” who contribute to Triad’s systems building efforts
- Recruit and orient new council members as needed to advance work and ensure balance of representation/power
- Hold an annual meeting/retreat to review progress toward goals and educate Council members regarding current activity/policies that impact systems building work
- Assure staff representation on boards and committees of partner organizations
- Maintain an active presence in the mountain communities