

To improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community.

Weld County's Early Childhood Council

Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Vision

Every child in Weld County is valued, healthy, and thriving.

Purpose

Weld County's Early Childhood Council is a diverse Weld County community partnership that increases the awareness of the importance of early childhood development and facilitates accessible pathways of services leading to lifelong well-being for all children prenatal to eight years of age.

Weld County's Early Childhood Council brings community partners together to share knowledge and resources, build expertise and work collaboratively to accomplish the following goals:

- I. Early Learning & Development – Support early care and education providers in consistently implementing quality practices to improve school readiness.**
 - a. Provide coaching and quality improvement opportunities to early childhood education programs and providers to increase the quality of care provided to all children.
 - i. Provide high quality early care and education professional development to early childhood professionals.
 - ii. Increase Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System Engagement to 60%. Engagement is defined as level 2 or higher (currently 88/227 or 39%).
 - iii. Increase the percentage of child care providers in Weld County accepting Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) subsidies. Currently 70/227 (31%) providers are serving CCCAP children.
 - iv. Increase the percentage of high quality (level 3-5) child care programs that accept CCCAP subsidies (currently 18/35 or 51%).
 - v. Increase the number and percentage of children receiving child care subsidies (CCCAP) being served in a high quality programs (levels 3-5). Currently 562/774 or 73% of CCCAP children are served by high quality programs.
 - vi. Manage and help implement two English and one Spanish Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care certificate trainings annually.
 - vii. Prepare unlicensed providers to obtain the Child Development Associate

- coordinating quarterly trainings as determined by committee members.
- iii. Be aware of, and share with the community, legislative issues affecting home visiting and early childhood issues.
- d. Maximize use of services by families experiencing complex stressors through interagency communication and cooperation.
 - i. Utilize Bright by Three and other home visitation programs as a point of entry for families to connect with additional services.
 - ii. Optimize educational support and intervention services for families.
 - iii. Remain knowledgeable of other agency/program resources and availability so as to reduce duplication of services and optimize mutual referral of appropriate clients. All data will be kept current on the home visitation matrix.
 - e. Provide backbone support for a diaper bank serving Weld County.
 - i. Build community partnerships, fundraising opportunities, location, staffing, and infrastructure.
 - ii. Provide support for family-serving agencies and programs to incentivize participation while at the same time alleviating family stress related to social determinates of health.

III. Health & Well-being – Work with community partners to increase awareness of nutrition, physical activity, and mental health services available in the county.

- a. Community/council members are engaged with and actively participate in the Thriving Weld Dashboard.
- b. Physical and mental health information and resources are shared with the community and with early childhood stakeholders via social media, the Roadmap4kids, the council newsletter, etc.

IV. Community Awareness & Advocacy – Link public engagement/awareness efforts about early childhood issues, priorities, and challenges, and share/implement with stakeholders.

- a. Support stakeholders, agencies, and professionals to increase cross-domain knowledge and referrals and to provide strength based and culturally sensitive services.
 - i. Annually provide a minimum of six in-person opportunities for agency representatives and other professionals to receive education and information, network, and joint problem-solve.
 - ii. Professional development offerings will be made available to community stakeholders and staff to increase systems building work and capacity.
- b. Serve as a clearinghouse for information about early childhood education by sharing up-to-date information through provider email lists, monthly newsletters, social media posts, and the website.
- c. As needed, host events such as Kids COUNT! presentations and early childhood documentaries to engage the community in understanding the importance of early childhood and advocacy.