



# EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE



The mission of the Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance is to improve the quality, capacity, and equity of services and supports for young children and their families through a statewide network of Early Childhood Councils and key stakeholders.

The Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA) is a membership association developed to support Early Childhood Councils by providing technical assistance and capacity building, implementing shared measurement for collective impact, advocating for policies affecting early childhood issues, leveraging statewide partnerships, and serving as the voice for Councils.

**ECCLA's goal is to ensure that Councils have sufficient resources, staff, and capacity to implement their strategic plans so the needs of the young children in the communities they serve can be met.** We are prioritizing our efforts to support the integrity and sustainability of this statewide network.

Colorado is one of many states working to ensure that

**young children**  
experience an



**equitable, high quality**

continuum of  
**services  
and supports.**



**ECCLA supports**

Colorado's **34** **Early  
Childhood  
Councils**

as they coordinate locally to align services and resources for families.

**Together, we are building and supporting Colorado's early childhood system.**

## EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS ARE VITAL TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Councils have a unique role in their local communities to:



**Serve as an early childhood hub** for partners, providers, caregivers, policymakers, and business leaders to coordinate, collaborate, and align resources.



**"Connect the dots"** to create a seamless early childhood system that improves access to high quality services and supports for young children and their families.



**Help families navigate and connect** to the services and supports that meet their needs.

Councils focus on increasing the quality of early learning programs and environments; expanding family resources and skills; ensuring access to social, physical, and mental health services for young children; and delivering resources to increase the effectiveness of early childhood professionals.

This collective effort is critical because when families thrive and children have a strong start, our communities across Colorado are strengthened.



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## PRIORITIZING THE INTEGRITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF COUNCILS

### ECCLA'S STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORT

To achieve our goal, we deploy key strategies to support the statewide network of Councils. Through these strategies, ECCLA supports Councils to implement their core functions and strengthen local early childhood systems for all Colorado's young children and their families.



**Technical Assistance and Capacity Building:** Implement a robust plan that supports the immediate and long-term needs of Councils and provide opportunities for shared learning and mentorship.



**Communications and Evaluation:** Measure, analyze, and communicate the Councils' collective impact across the state to create greater awareness of and appreciation for their local work.



**Funding, Partnerships, and Policy:** Develop tools and resources for Councils to more deeply collaborate among their communities, while measuring and communicating the need for investments in the local early childhood system.



**Leadership and Accountability:** Highlight and deepen the collective strengths and leadership across the statewide network of Councils to ensure all Colorado's children reach their developmental potential and are ready to succeed in school and life.

## TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, COUNCILS FOCUS ON FIVE CORE FUNCTIONS

- 1. Partnerships and Engagement:** Convening community partners to share information and resources, identify issues, and problem solve, while advancing robust public engagement to elevate early childhood issues.
- 2. Capacity Building and Sustainability:** Providing continuous community-wide assessment, strategic planning, data collection, and monitoring to build and sustain local capacity for improvement of early childhood systems.
- 3. Advocacy and Policy Development:** Advocating and educating the community, policymakers, and families on policies that promote the healthy development of young children.
- 4. Professional Development and Leadership:** Advancing the knowledge and skills of early childhood providers, educators, and families to support the healthy development of young children.
- 5. Grant and Fiscal Management:** Stewarding funds to improve local early childhood services and supports, and dispersing them to qualified providers and partners for effective service delivery implementation.

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