



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE



OUR STATEWIDE IMPACT

94% of all Colorado voters agree that the early years are **extremely important.***

*Save the Children Action Network, 2018

Since 2015, ECCLA has supported Councils to effectively serve their local communities with

25 statewide convenings to facilitate shared learning and collaboration,
55 calls and webinars to disseminate key trends, innovations, and information,
125 trainings and technical assistance with subject matter experts.

ECCLA represents Councils at **25 coalitions, convenings, and advisory committees**

to provide a statewide perspective for the needs of all Colorado's young children and their families.

ECCLA serves as an informal intermediary helping Councils **align, navigate, and implement** complex systems essential for state partners.



Councils serve **63 of 64** Colorado counties which reaches **99%** of young children.



Over **900** local partners help Councils leverage resources to expand services and supports for families including **local government, early care and education, mental health and health care, and parents and caregivers.**



No other entity in Colorado is closer to **early childhood development.**



Councils reach child care providers in every corner of our state.

Councils contribute to statewide initiatives that increase the **quality, accessibility, capacity, and affordability** of early childhood programs and services **across Colorado.**



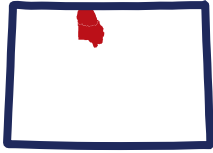


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IMPACT STORIES: EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS

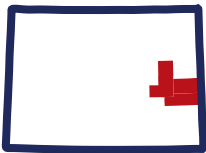
DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING TRANSFORMS GRAND AND JACKSON COUNTIES



Grand Beginnings, the Grand and Jackson Early Childhood Council, came together with local partners to ensure that all young children had the opportunity to experience optimal development. Developmental screenings identify strengths and delays in a child's development to address them early. The earlier a delay is identified, the better the outcome for the child. Local leaders noticed that developmental screenings and referrals did not meet national standards.

With community input, they implemented universal developmental screenings for all young children with a standard screening tool, consistent referrals to appropriate services, coordination to reduce duplicate or inaccurate referrals, and common language to increase understanding and awareness. **Through the Meeting Milestones Initiative, 98% of all children in Grand and Jackson counties receive appropriate developmental screenings.** In addition, there has been a significant community shift surrounding the importance of developmental screening and child development.

BUILDING SCHOOL READINESS IN RURAL CHEYENNE, KIOWA, AND LINCOLN COUNTIES



Together with their partners, Cheyenne, Kiowa, and Lincoln Early Childhood Council launched the Fun Tote Program to encourage school readiness in young children. School readiness skills are learned through positive early experiences with parents and caregivers and help children enter kindergarten ready to learn. These skills include language development, physical and motor skills, and social and emotional development. Many local families live in rural, remote communities and may not have access to school readiness supports such as high quality child care or preschool programs. Local partners with the Fun Tote Program regularly engage with families in a variety of ways including child care, libraries, and home visiting programs. **Parents and caregivers often report that the Fun Tote Program has helped their child improve or master specific developmental skills.** Together, these partners are collectively working to build school readiness skills among young children by increasing access to quality early learning experiences.

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY BALLOT MEASURE EXPANDS CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY FOR FAMILIES



Bright Futures, the Early Childhood Council for San Miguel, Delta, Montrose, and Ouray counties, identified a local child care crisis. In San Miguel county, the 3rd fastest growing in child population, the data showed a 45% shortage of child care spaces. In Telluride, the county's most populated town, there were no licensed infant and toddler child care options. Many local child care providers cited extreme turnover and burn out due to low pay and the high stress of working long shifts. This issue contributed to the absence of certified early childhood teachers and significantly hindered additional child care spaces. **Bright Futures sought to change child care in San Miguel county by building a coalition of partners to advocate for a ballot initiative to raise funds for the local early childhood system.** The ballot measure successfully passed by 63% and will raise \$600,000 annually. An early childhood advisory panel will ensure these new funds build and sustain a strong early childhood workforce and increase the availability of quality child care in the community.

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