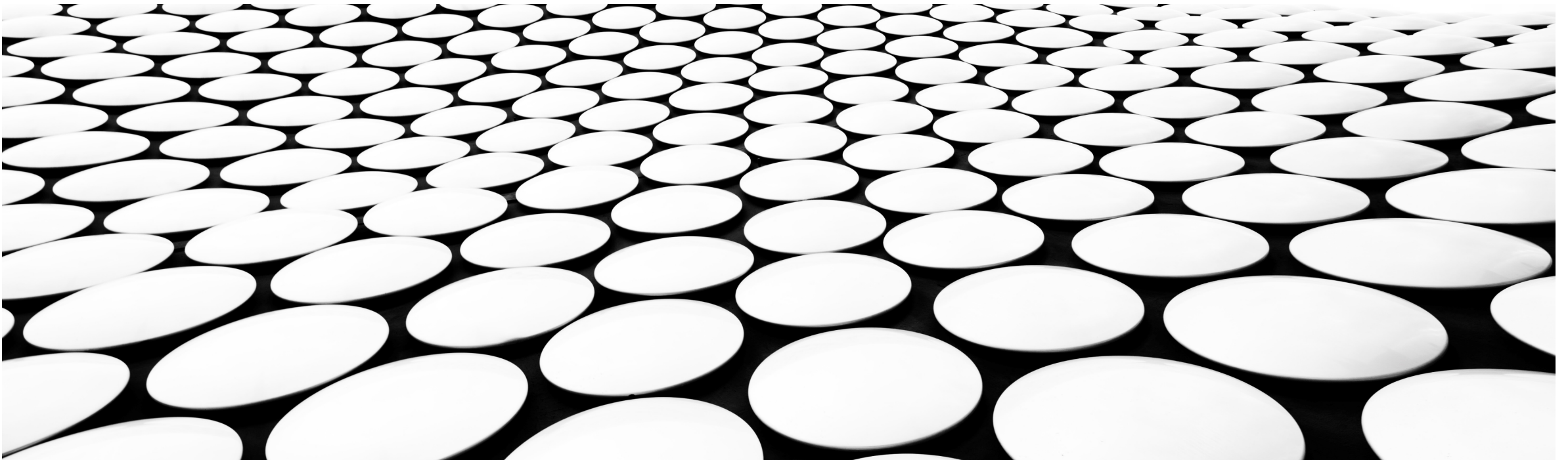

FRIEND FAMILY AND NEIGHBOR CARE WORKFORCE

LORENA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COLORADO STATEWIDE PARENT COALITION



COLORADO STATEWIDE PARENT COALITION

Our mission is to provide advocacy and training for parents and childcare providers to be meaningfully engaged in the success of their children's education, close the opportunity gap, and ensure successful future educational outcomes.



PASO – CREATING HIGH QUALITY INFORMAL CARE

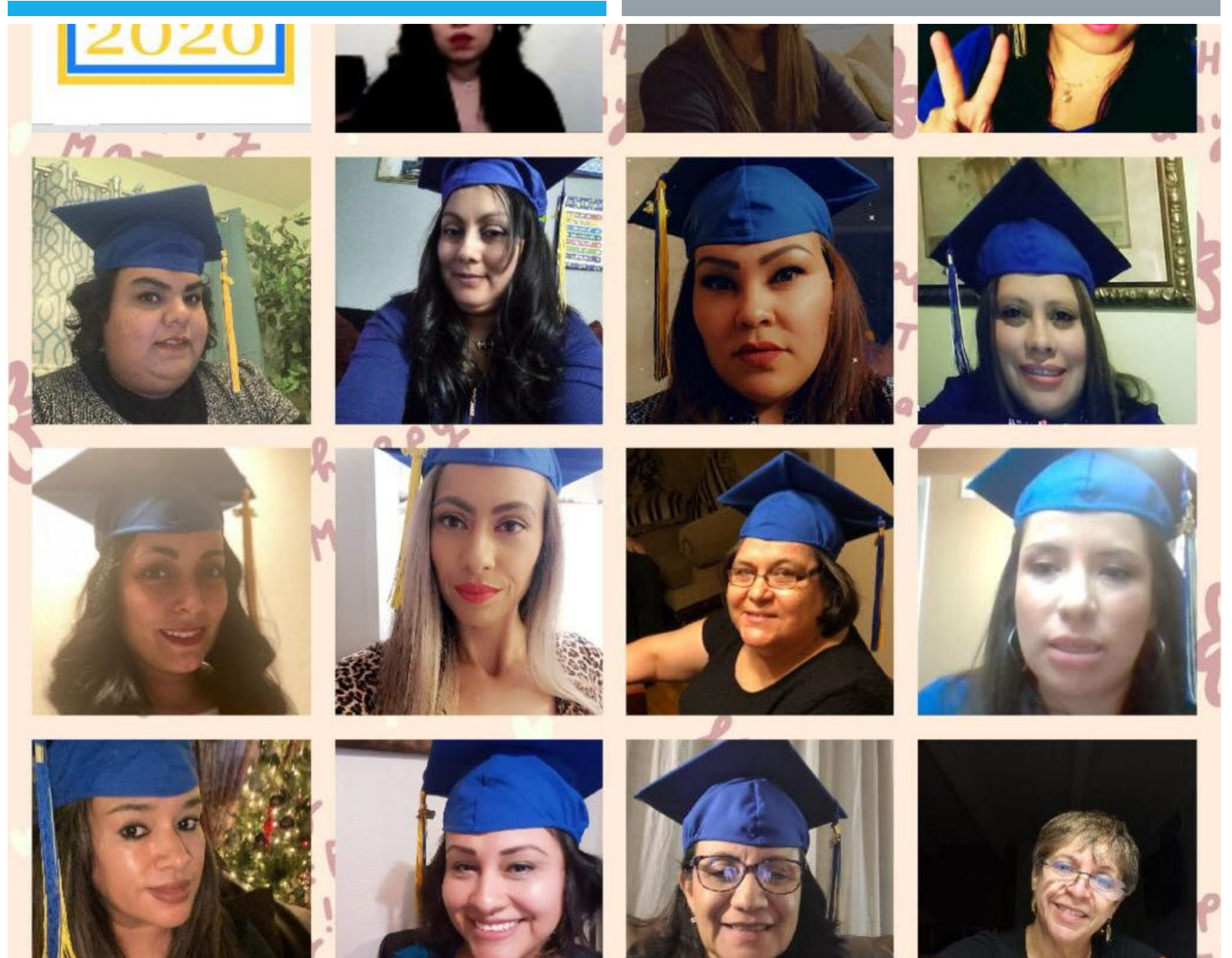
PASO – Providers Advancing Student Outcomes

- 17 years identifying and training Spanish Speaking FFN providers
- Now train Spanish Speaking, English speaking providers of color, and MENA refugee FFN providers
- 120 hours of intensive training on the fundamentals of early care and education
- Evidence-research based curriculum – with proven results in increased school readiness scores
- We have trained over 1,600 providers across Colorado



RECAP

- 60% of children 5 and under in the care of FFN providers at some point when receiving early care and education
- FFN providers are informal childcare providers who are not licensed and are connected to the family either as family, friends, or neighbors
- FFN providers exist in every city, county, town, neighborhood



WHY GO WITH FFN?

- FFN care is attractive to families for the following reasons:
 - Cost
 - Culture and language accessibility
 - Trusted providers
 - Licensed care is not available
 - Hours of care meet the needs of non-traditional white-collar workers
- Continuity of care



FFN PROVIDERS – WHY NOT JUST GET LICENSED?

- Many begin caring for children because a child needs care close to them
- Some care for children because they love it and don't realize that there is a formal way of caring for children in their own homes
- Some care for children informally because
 - Their home cannot be licensed, they rent, live in an apartment, etc. cannot afford the required updates to their homes
 - The cost to become licensed is too much
 - Cannot find a livable wage in center-based care, or cannot be employed with a center
 - Because they just want to help raise their grandkids or siblings, or nieces/nephews



ENORMOUS POTENTIAL FOR FFN PROVIDERS AND THE FAMILIES THEY SERVE

- FFN providers span the gamut of ethnicity, language, physical ability, educational background, national origin, color, religion.
- By and large, these providers are in this work because they love children, and want to support the family
- They provide food, toys, books, experiences
- They WANT to be the best provider they can be. They are open to and some actively seek out training
- Some FFN providers do want to become licensed and now with SB 77 and SB 199, they can be even if they cannot prove lawful presence.
- HB 1222 streamlined home-based care requirements across the state to make it easier for providers who want to be licensed

RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROVIDERS

What Exists

- Culturally competent community-based trainings – PASO, Cultivando, Valley Settlement
- Public and private support to become credentialed and licensed
- PDIS trainings – limited for non-English speakers

What Should Also Exist

- Financial support for families and providers (CACFP)
- Easier, more streamlined process to become approved license-exempt for CCAP, or change CCAP rules
- Expanded, culturally relevant and linguistically accessible, proven trainings (PASO)
- Respect for FFN providers – not all providers need to or should become licensed.
- Reciprocity for providers who were trained/educated/credentialed in their home countries

QUESTIONS?

Lorena Garcia

Executive Director

Colorado Statewide Parent
Coalition

Lorena@coparentcoalition.org

