

Department of Early Childhood Quarterly Update

August 28, 2023

Universal Preschool Information Technology Systems

1. Which elements of the project are currently underway? Which elements have been completed since the department last updated the JTC? Is the project on schedule with initial Plans?

- Provider portal - completed December 2022
- Family Application - completed January 2023
- Performance reporting data reporting and display integration and dashboard - completed January 2023
- Family and Provider matching algorithm (DAA first round) - completed February 2023
- Integrations with the UPK system and licensing - completed May 2023
- Matching rounds continued and are now weekly
- As school begins across the state, more than 43,000 families have applied for Universal Preschool Colorado, nearly 40,000 have been matched, and more than 35,000 have accepted their match or enrolled to access free, quality preschool at nearly 2,000 participating providers around the state.

2. How much money has been obligated and spent at this point? Please break down amounts and spent separately.

The Department has obligated \$3,152,169 and spent \$3,115,546 from the UPK IT Capital budget.

3. What is anticipated to be completed by the next quarterly update?

- Year two contract complete with planned enhancements
- Year two enrollment structure and timeline

4. When does the department/institution anticipate that the project will be complete?

- Minimum Viable Product (MVP) is complete, enhancements are in discovery phase for year two alongside level of effort for consideration

5. Are there any important concerns or updates you wish to share with the committee?

- Media reported challenges are not MVP system issues rather responsive opportunities for program to improve on and work to align solutions with families and providers

6. *For multi-phase projects, has there been any insight gained through this phase of the project that will cause changes in the next requested phase of the project?*

- Absolutely! We work daily with our CDEC team, OIT, vendors, families and providers to respond nimbly where we can and assure enhancements aimed to support the user experience.

Early Childhood Information Technology Systems Comprehensive Analysis

BACKGROUND - What are the intended outcomes of Comprehensive Analysis?

Early Childhood Data Trusts (ECDT) or Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems (ECIDS) support states by collecting, integrating, aligning, and reporting information from multiple early childhood programs. An ECDT helps connect data from different sources in a way that allows for meaningful reporting to support children, families, early childhood professionals, and other stakeholders. It is a shared data exchange in which a shared vision, “governance,” protocols, security, and data sharing alignment are key foundational elements. It serves a variety of research, equity, and access questions to help CDEC and its stakeholders execute on data-driven decision-making in order to best meet the needs of Colorado children.

The first **Unified Application** refers to a one-stop shop that **families/caregivers** can use to learn about, apply for, and access a range of services. It will serve as a single location where families/caregivers can enter their information one time and with their consent, provide insight into other programs they may qualify for. As families/caregivers navigate through the application, additional options or services could be suggested to them. The goal is to allow for all relevant data and documentation to be shared across programs included in Unified Application. All activities supporting the Unified Application should be conducted from a Human-Centered Design perspective, keeping the experience of families/caregivers at the forefront of the design and enhancement of a technology solution to allow for better insights into what services are available to them.

The second **Unified Application** refers to a one-stop shop that **early childhood professionals and child care programs** can use to learn about, apply for, and access a range of services. It will serve as a single location where early childhood professionals and child care programs can enter their information one time and learn more about and manage licensing, quality/accreditation, educational opportunities, and grants. As early childhood professionals and child care programs navigate through the application, additional options or services could be suggested to them. The goal is to

allow for all relevant data and documentation to be shared across programs included in the Unified Application. All activities supporting the Unified Application should be conducted from a Human-Centered Design perspective, keeping the experience of Early Childhood early childhood professionals and child care programs at the forefront of the design and enhancement of a technology solution to allow for better insights for providers into what services are available to them.

1. Which elements of the project are currently underway? Which elements have been completed since the department last updated the JTC? Is the project on schedule with initial Plans?

EFFORTS:

- OIT Procurement team engaged to determine direction of solicitation for each element of the project/s.
- Enterprise Architect for Infrastructure, Security and Data has been hired and is engaged
- Initial roadmap for building the Early Childhood Data Trust (ECDT) is drafted and is in use to develop the statement of work (SOW) for a vendor to build the ECDT
- Seeking a Consulting regarding building the “Ownership Committee” for the ECDT
- Have SOW submitted to OIT for overarching project management, strategic alignment efforts across the projects and Human Centered Design engagement and oversight.
- Working on SOW for Unified Application efforts
- Working with CDHS, HCPF and CDPHE to see if the Identity Cross Match Engine (IDXR) effort can be extended to CDEC for the outcomes of Comp Analysis
- Have looked at PEAK as a potential landing spot for the Unified Applications

SCHEDULE:

CDEC is seeking to ensure that we not only expend the funds, but that we put the efforts in motion with purpose and intent. While this is a short timeline to expend the funds, we understand that we have a responsibility to be mindful of how we lay the foundation for these efforts to ensure they are useful, efficient, and meet the intent of the legislation. We are seeking to ensure the ECDT allows for cross agency collaboration and outcomes based policy making for the future of all EC services. And the application efforts are intended to be user friendly and insightful to our customers, families and providers, allowing for sharing of documentation and data across platforms. We know we are going to have to garner broad support for these efforts in order to ensure the future of them, so are seeking to prove the value of each effort.

2. How much money has been obligated and spent at this point? Please break down amounts and spent separately.

- Enterprise Architecture Resultant - Engagement to define and align Comprehensive Analysis across the agency
- The \$14.65 million have been fully obligated. The Department has spent \$204,247 to OIT for:
 - Project Management

- Enterprise Architecture
- A full spend plan and roadmap is being developed and will be ready by Sept 7.

3. What is anticipated to be completed by the next quarterly update?

- It is our intent to have the vendor on board to help strategize around alignment across the differing efforts, set up all project management documentation and governance, and have the human centered design engagement well under way.
 - This will include a review of the eligibility requirements of all CDEC applications
- Have a vendor on board to build the ECDT with the build underway
- Have defined use cases to begin the integration of and use of the ECDT
- Have Intent to Negotiate solicitations released for the Unified Applications

4. When does the department/institution anticipate that the project will be complete?

- The base build of the ECDT should be complete by Summer 2024. Note that this system, by the nature of what it is intended to do, will have ongoing build efforts needed and will require ongoing sustainability dollars for the infrastructure and the people to manage it. As use cases are brought forward, new integrations and analysis will be needed.
- The full plan for the Unified Applications and the build are yet unknown. Note that these systems will be an interactive build whereby differing services will be added to them for years to come. This will require ongoing build funds and funding to sustain the systems and people to support them.

5. Are there any important concerns or updates you wish to share with the committee?

- While there is concern about the short window we have to utilize this funding, CDEC will be working intentionally to define and prove out that building these solutions will be to the betterment of the state from a policy, use of funding for programs, and for end user ease of use.

6. For multi-phase projects, has there been any insight gained through this phase of the project that will cause changes in the next requested phase of the project?

- This phase will define the needs from an end user perspective for the Unified Applications, which will likely shift the way that things have been built in the past
- This phase will provide insight into what the options are for building the Unified Applications in a way that is useful and affordable
- During this early phase we will know more about the current IDX solution that is being built by CDHS, HCPF and CDPHE and if it can be used for Comprehensive Analysis purposes.