



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood

Early Childhood School Readiness Legislative Commission (ECSRLC)

July 7, 2022

Introduction & Background

Lisa Roy, CDEC Executive Director

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- Over 30 years of experience working in early childhood
- Returning to Colorado from the University of Nebraska Buffett Early Childhood Institute
- Prior experience at the local level in Colorado, including as Executive Director of Early Childhood Education for Denver Public Schools
- Roles in family support programs, philanthropy, and child care services
- Committed to equity, inclusion of diverse perspectives, and supporting a whole-child, whole-family approach to early childhood

MISSION - VISION - VALUES

Our Vision

All Colorado children, families, and early childhood professionals are valued, healthy and thriving.

Our Mission

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood ensures the delivery of a comprehensive, community-informed, data-driven, high-quality and equitable early childhood system that supports the care, education and well-being of all Colorado's young children, their families and early childhood professionals in all settings

Our Values

- Equity Across the Early Childhood System
- Mixed-Delivery Care in Formal and Informal Settings
- Strength in Diversity of Colorado Communities
- Affordability, Cultural Responsiveness, Parent Choice
- Whole-Child, Whole-Family



Updates on CDEC Projects and Initiatives

- The Colorado Universal Preschool Program
 - Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) Selection
 - Single Application for Early Childhood Services
 - Universal Preschool Rate-Setting Formula
- Rule Advisory Council (RAC) Selection
- State Agency Partnerships and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)
- CDEC Organizational Structure
- Stakeholder Engagement for 2023 Legislative Session
- Federal and State Stimulus Activity Implementation

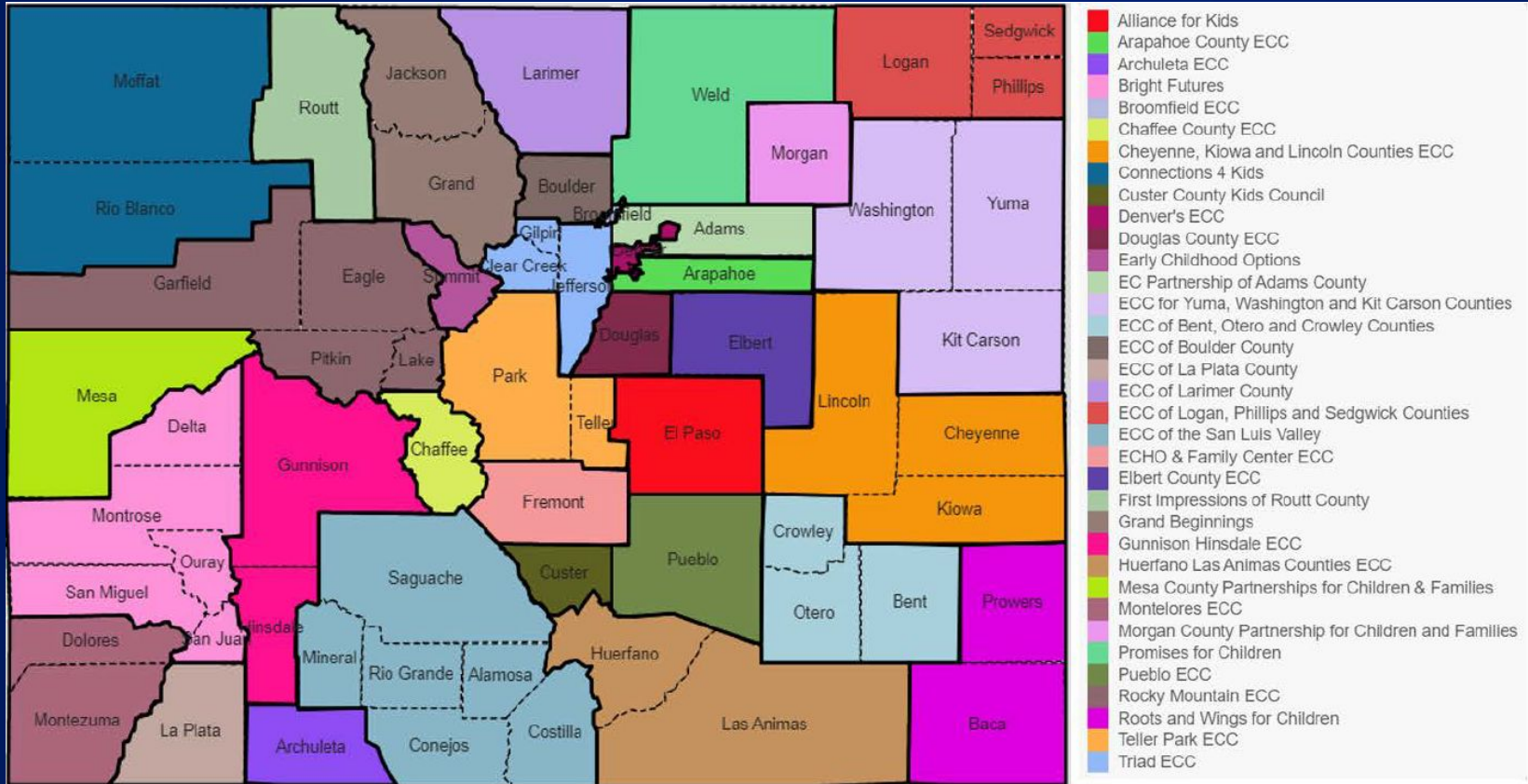


Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) Selection

- LCOs will coordinate the early childhood system in their community, including the mixed delivery system of Universal Preschool.
- LCO Advisory Committee - Includes representatives from school districts, counties, Early Childhood Counties, and child care providers.
- The Department of Early Childhood opened applications for Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs) on May 11, 2022.
- Applications for LCOs closed on June 24, 2022. LCO selections are expected to be announced by July 15, 2022.



Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) Selection (cont.)



Single Application for Early Childhood Services

- Request for Proposal (RFP) to create the single application closed on June 15, 2022. Vendor responses are being reviewed and vendor selection is planned to be complete by the end of July.
- The review of vendor responses involves representatives from the UPK application advisory group.
- The UPK advisory group is a diverse group of parents, providers, school districts, early childhood councils, family child care representatives, and ECLC.
- Year 1 will focus on a simple application for universal preschool and will evolve into a single application for families to access all early childhood services.



Universal Preschool Rate Setting Formula

- Documented Quote (DQ) to create per-child universal preschool rate formulas opened on July 5, 2022. The solicitation closes on July 18, 2022 and the vendor selection is planned to be complete by July 31.
- The universal preschool rate setting vendor will develop per-child rate funding formula models in accordance with HB22-1295.
- Per-child rates are expected to be set by October 1 to help LCOs recruit universal preschool providers into the program.



Rule Advisory Council (RAC) Selection

- 15-member Rules Advisory Council (RAC) will advise the CDEC Executive Director on developing rules to guide the Department's functions, programs, funding, and services.
- The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) is leading the search for the first group of advisors to serve on the inaugural RAC.
- RAC applications closed on Monday, May 30. RAC nominations are expected to be announced this month.
- There will also be a county-focused advisory subcommittee with 12 county human services representatives, with members recommended by CHSDA.
- More information can be found on the ECLC website:
earlychildhoodcolorado.org/rac



State Agency Partnerships and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)

- CDEC is underway with establishing MOUs with CDHS and other state agencies to ensure alignment and collaboration.
- Example: For Promoting Safe and Stable Families, CDEC has gotten approval from the federal government to move forward with transitioning the program from CDHS to CDEC and has drafted a detailed MOU between child welfare and CDEC.
- Governor's Office Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) for early childhood are cross-agency and foster collaboration toward common goals.
- Weekly Cabinet meetings with Executive Directors across all state agencies.



CDEC Organizational Structure

Executive Director

The Office of Administrative Solutions

People Operations

Marketing & Communications

Finance, Budget & Procurement

Policy & Legislative

Partnerships & Collaboration

The Office of Business, Innovation, Technology, and Security Management

Enterprise Application Technology

Technology Operations

Data Management, Privacy & Governance

The Office of Program Delivery

Early Learning, Access & Quality

Early Childhood Workforce

Universal Preschool

Community & Family Support

Early Learning Licensing & Administration



Stakeholder Engagement for 2023 Legislative Session

- The Department is prioritizing hearing diverse voices and perspectives early-on in the 2023 Legislative and FY 2023-24 Budget planning process.
- Over the past month, the Department met with 30 stakeholders with diverse perspectives and expertise:
 - Licensed child care centers and family child care homes;
 - Family, Friend, and Neighbor or “FFN” providers;
 - Family Resource Centers and Early Childhood Councils;
 - Home Visiting and Family Support Programs;
 - Early Intervention;
 - Health and Mental Health Services;
 - Advocates, Non-Profits, Philanthropy, and Research;
 - Businesses and the Private Sector; and,
 - Counties, Partner State Agencies, and the Attorney General’s Office.
- The Department has synthesized key themes across the stakeholders.



Stimulus Funding Overview

- Colorado has received around \$700 million in state and federal stimulus funding in recent years, which represents a significant investment in Colorado's early childhood system.
- CDEC has identified three areas of priority for our stimulus funding:
 - Access
 - Workforce
 - Family Strengthening
- Growing Forward: Colorado's Investment in Early Childhood
 - www.coecstimulus.com



Highlighted Stimulus Activity Implementation

- Stimulus programs were enacted through HB20B-1002, SB21-236, and SB22-213
 - Child Care Stabilization Grants
 - New Provider Success Grants and Licensing Incentive Bonus
 - CIRCLE Innovation Grants
 - Employer-based Child Care
 - Emerging and Expanding Grants
 - ECE Educator Funding Opportunities



THANK YOU!

Questions

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