



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

July 26, 2022

***Empowering Caregivers to Support the Social-Emotional
Development and Mental Health of Infants & Children***

Everyone has mental health, even babies!

Social emotional development begins at birth and is learned over time with support from adults.

Fostering strong mental health in infants and young children requires a caregiver who is there, aware, and cares.



Loving relationships
are the foundation of
healthy development.

When caregivers feel supported and confident, they are better able to:

- Develop relationships with children
- Teach social emotional skills
- Create a foundation for positive mental health
- Ensure school readiness



Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program

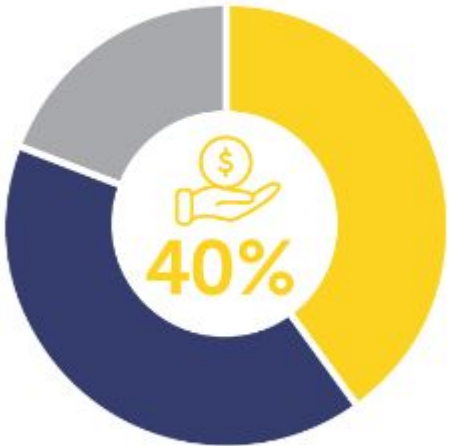
Free and voluntary support program that pairs a masters-level consultant with adults caring for children ages birth to 6-years who desire extra support to foster the **social-emotional development** and **mental well-being** of children in their care

- No cost, voluntary program supported by state and federal funds
- Prevention and promotion
- Partner with early childhood providers/caregivers to support the well-being of all children in their care
- Relationship-based, reflective practice
- Targets learning environments and programs, with tailored supports available for specific children
- Accessible to all adults caring for children birth (including prenatal) to 6-years, regardless of setting



ECMH Consultants

The state paid for less than half of the ECMH workforce in 2020-21. Stimulus funds (19%) and other dollars (41%) paid for the rest.



- State Funds
- Stimulus Funds
- Other Funds

Who are they?

Mental health providers with **deep expertise** in early childhood, social-emotional development and mental health.

How many?

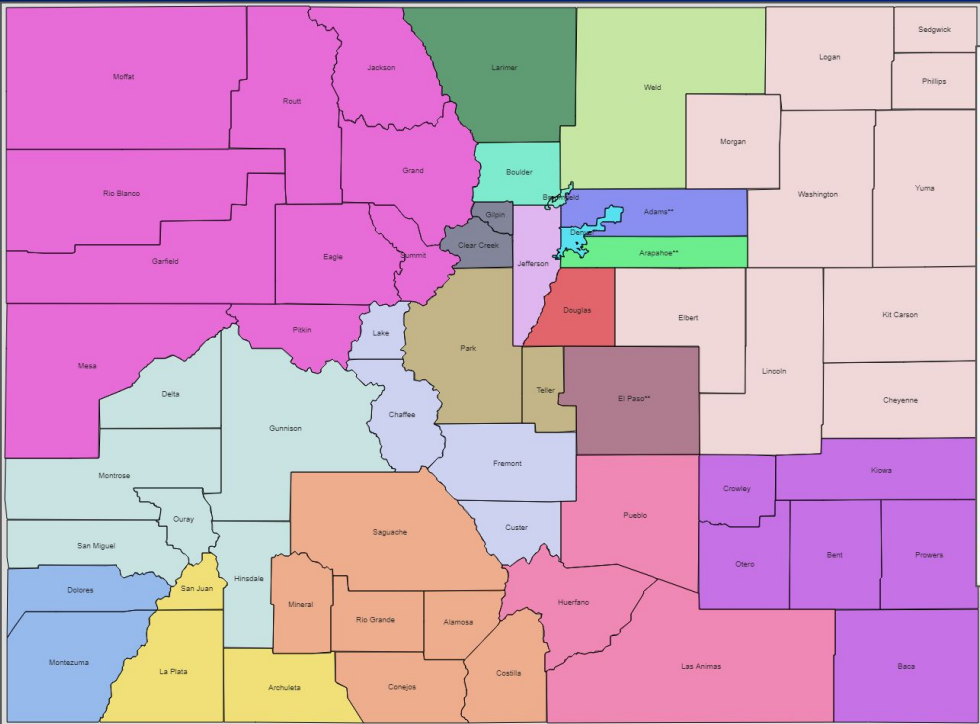
There are roughly **70 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)** consultants serving across the state of Colorado, **52 FTE** of which are state-funded.

Where do they serve?

The public-private partnership ensures coverage of ECMH consultation across all **64 counties**.



State Contracted ECMH Consultation Sites



Agency

- Arapahoe Mental Health Center, Inc., dba* AllHealth Network
- Arapahoe Mental Health Center, Inc., dba* AllHealth Network & Aurora Mental Health Center & Ins
- Aurora Mental Health Center & Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County (ECPAC)
- Centennial Mental Health
- Colorado West Regional Mental Health Inc., dba* Mind Springs Health
- Denver Health and Hospital Authority (DHHA) & Mental Health Center of Denver, dba* WellPower
- Early Childhood Council of La Plata
- Early Childhood Council of Larimer County
- Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley
- ECMH Services Not State-Funded
- Health Solutions
- Jefferson Center for Mental Health
- Joint Initiatives for Youth and Families & The Resource Exchange (TRE)
- Mental Health Center of Boulder County, dba* Mental Health Partners
- North Range Behavioral Health
- Pinon Project, dba* Montelores Early Childhood Council
- Southeast Mental Health
- Southwest Colorado Mental Health Center, Inc., dba* Axis Health System
- The Resource Exchange (TRE)
- West Central Mental Health Center, dba* Sol Vista

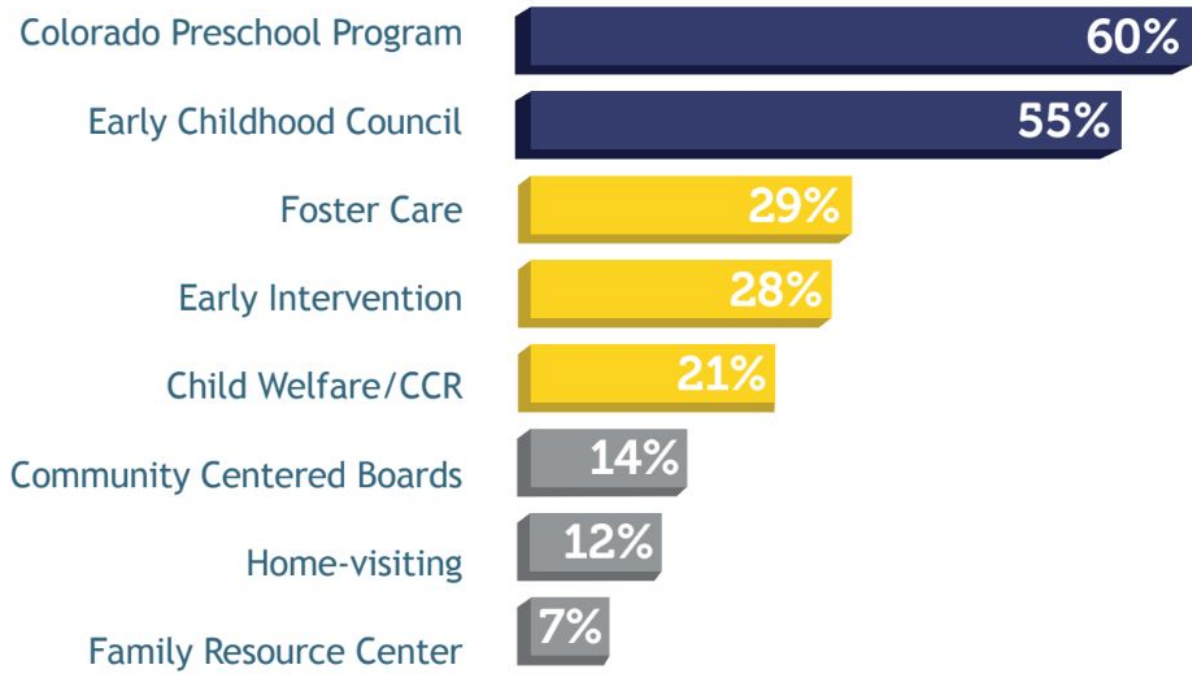
Note. Institute for Racial Equity & Excellence (IREE) serves Arapahoe county (cut off above)

Note. Map indicates counties served by CDEC. Private, philanthropic, or otherwise funded efforts occurring throughout the State are not reflected on this map.



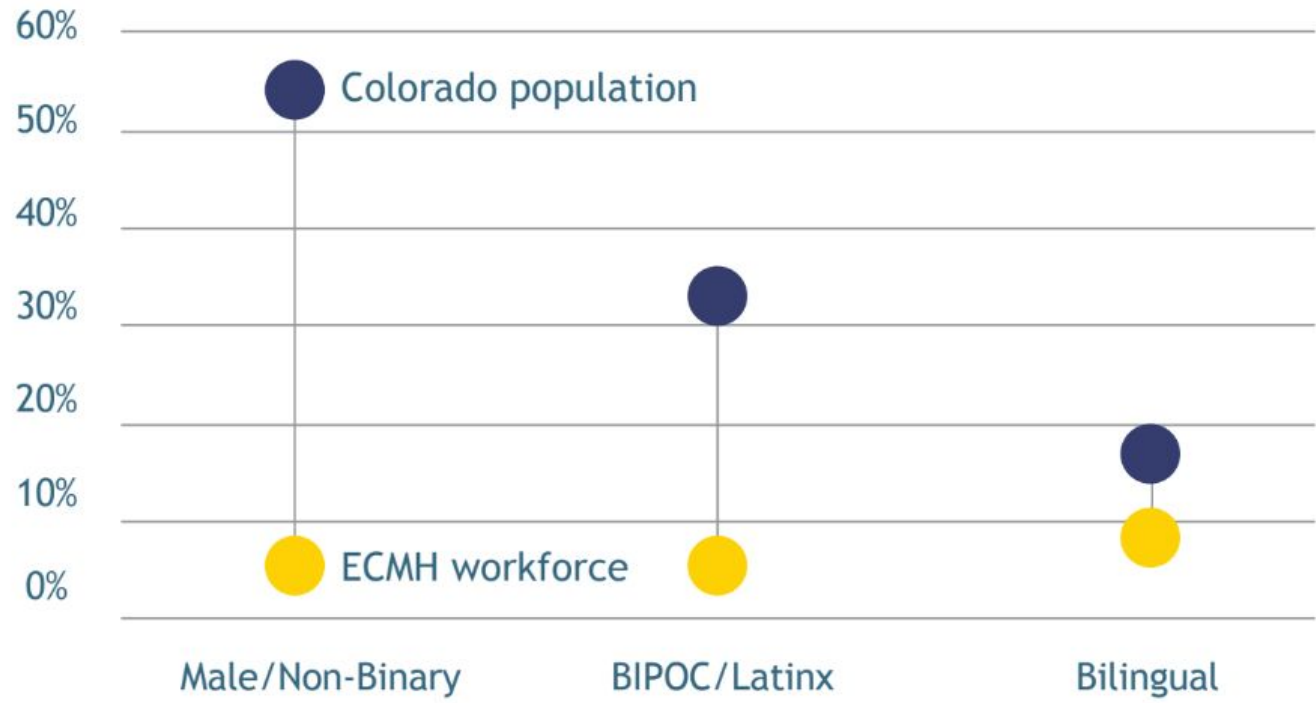
ECMH Partner Programs Served

Over half of ECMH consultants partner with the Colorado Preschool Program and Early Childhood Councils.



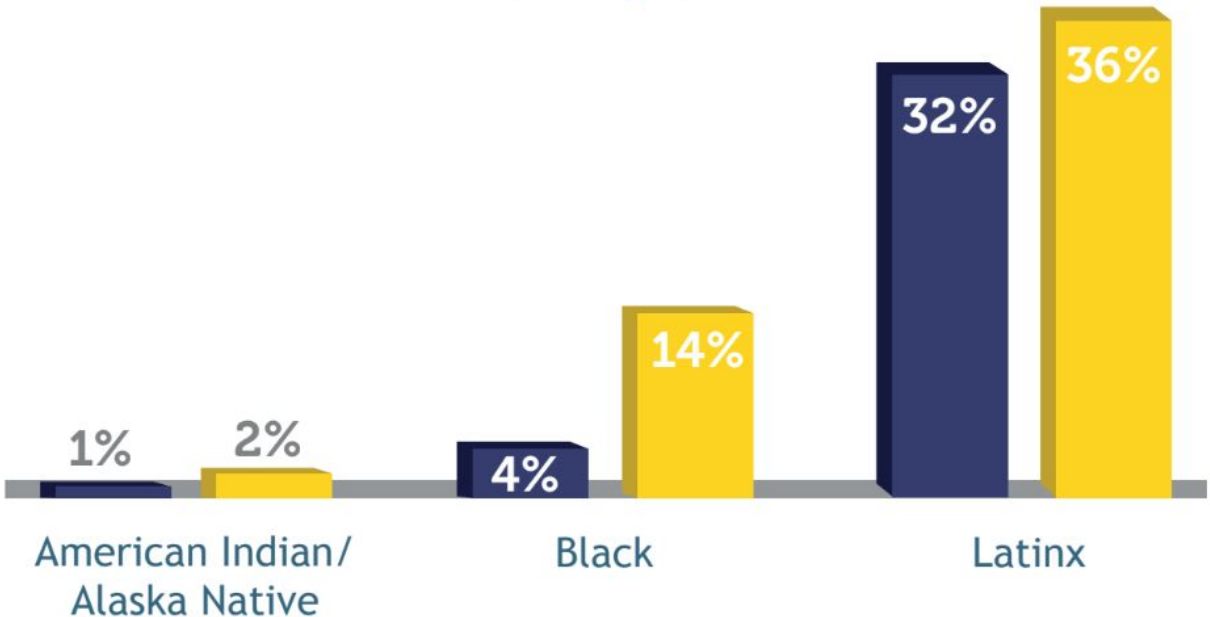
ECMH Workforce Demographics

The Colorado population has more diversity than the ECMH workforce.



ECMH Child Demographics

The proportion of children of color receiving ECMH services was higher than their representation in the population of children under 18 years.



■ Population of children under 18 years ■ Receiving ECMH services



At-a-Glance: FY21-22 Program Data (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)

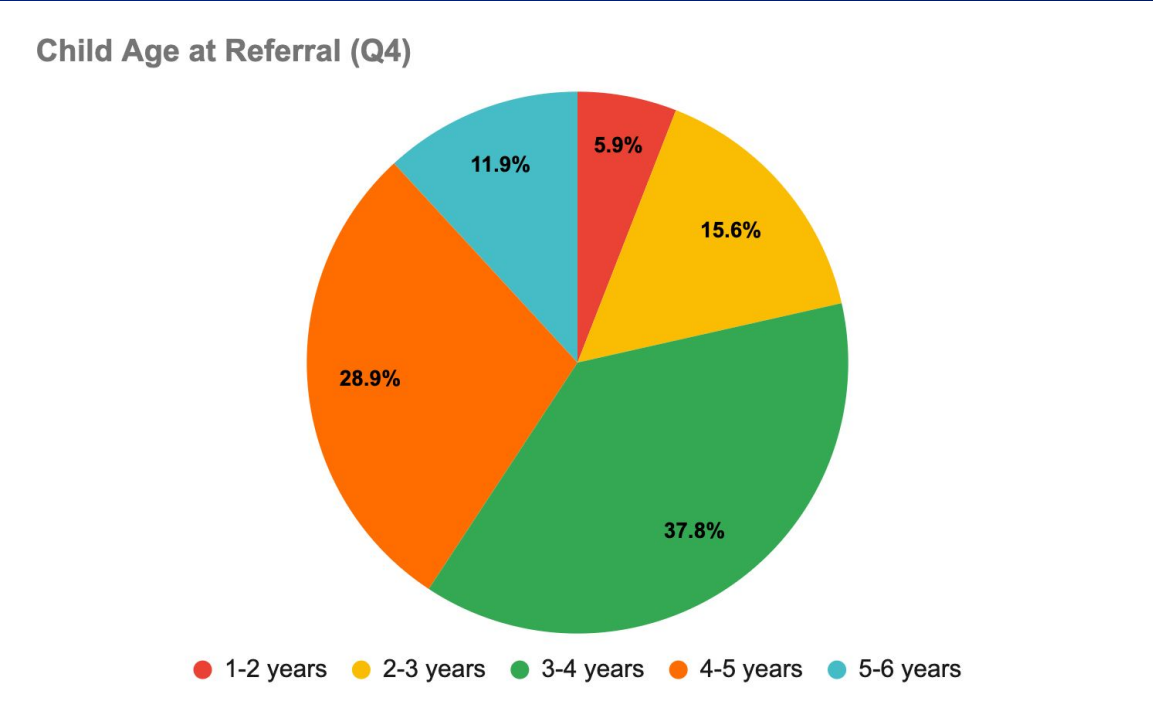
ECMH Cases Served FY21-22 (n =2,633)			
Open Cases by Case Type	Child- focused	Classroom- focused	Program- focused
	1371	683	579



At-a-Glance: FY21-22 Program Data (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)

Incoming ECMH Referrals (n =1,112)

Q1	222
Q2	417
Q3	355
Q4	118



During Q4, 76% of child cases served were not at risk of suspension/expulsion upon referral.



ECMH Consultation Program Reach Considerations

Barriers to Participation

- **Voluntary**, no cost program
- Partner with early childhood providers/caregivers. **It is not about “fixing kids.”**
 - Time/Commitment costs
- Services are unknown or misunderstood
 - Stigma, **concerns about early diagnosis or labeling**
 - Reactive or **compliance-driven engagement** (e.g., permission to remove a child)

Efforts to increase high-quality, equitable statewide access

- Outreach & awareness including new communication materials
- Innovation: Online Referral, ECMH Support Line and Statewide Service Delivery



ECMH Consultation Resources

Learn More:

[ECMH Consultation Flyer](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

Watch the [CO Shines Video](#)

[MentalHealthStartsEarly.com](#)

Request Services:

Submit an [ECMH Online Referral](#)

Call the ECMH Support Line (833)-ECMH411

Reach out to your [local consultant](#)





THANK YOU!

Questions

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