

Senate Bill 19

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members.

My name is SherryLynn Boyles, and I am wearing two hats today.

1. I am the Chair of the Governmental Affairs Council of the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has prioritized childcare as an economic need in our community as we have only 18,400 seats for 47,000 children under age 5, which is impacting the local workforce and economy.
2. I am also CEO of Joint Initiatives, which serves as both the LCO for the universal preschool program in El Paso County, and we host the Early Childhood Council.

This bill has been very much needed from the point of view that the statutory language for LCOs and for early childhood councils can create confusion about who is doing what.

What I want to make sure I communicate today is that in the field, these two funding streams have resulted in very different programs, all of which are critical to building our childcare capacity.

LCO Role

I find that people generally understand our role as LCO overseeing the universal pre-k program, but you may not know that we have only 3 FTEs serving the county with the most children under 5.

Last year our team:

- Supported 8,240 communications from our 230 participating providers
- Responded to 12,976 communications with families, and another 1,524 Zendesk tickets
- Totaling almost 23,000 requests for help fielded by 3 FTEs
- This year, 5,100 children are enrolled in the CUPP program, a 91% match rate for 4-year-olds

ECC Role

JI has a Foundations Department that implements the programs that were created under our early childhood council's regional strategic plan. These include:







- EMBED, which started as a pilot to interrupt the preschool to prison pipeline, is now being scaled. In the pilot, we engage six childcare centers that serve at-risk families. In the year before the pilot, these centers expelled 12 children. In the year during the pilot, they expelled one.
- Our workforce program recruited and provided 65 OEDIT scholarships for ECE teacher accreditation, and JI staff provided career navigation to 256 professionals pursuing early childhood careers. This workforce program recently received an award from OEDIT.
- We have a team that supports people opening new centers, which has been as high as 30 in a year.
- And we have a team that supports quality improvement, with 42 local programs moving up the ratings scale.

As you are considering creating efficiencies, please know that at the local level, we do not have duplication between the LCO and Council statutory constructs. I am happy to answer any questions.



EPC FACT SHEET

Joint Initiatives is the Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) for the Colorado Universal Preschool Program (CUPP) in El Paso County (EPC).

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
 Children enrolled in CUPP in El Paso County (total of 4-year-olds enrolled at any point)	4,896	4,930
 Family contacts (calls + emails)	15,000+	14,500
 CUPP providers enrolled in El Paso County	179	230
 Providers recruited by Joint Initiatives	90	38
 Total contacts (family + provider calls/emails) (20% require more than 15 minutes)	30,000+	22,740
 Data reports provided to CDEC/stakeholders	35	30

ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The LCOs are largely responsible for standing up the Colorado Universal Preschool Program in their respective communities in less than one year, and after providing the initiative start-up funding.

Joint Initiatives recently launched a **Family Friendly Initiative** with more than 100 organizations developing childcare solutions for our community.

LCOs

EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS

In El Paso County, 3 FTEs last year:

- 8,240 communications with 230 providers
- 12,976 communications with families
- 1,524 Zendesk tickets
- Total of 23,000 requests for help
- Direct family recruitment

This year, 5,100 children are enrolled in the CUPP program, a 91% match rate for 4-year-olds.

In El Paso County, last year the council prioritized:

- **Quality:** JI team helped 42 programs move up the ratings scale.
- **Behavioral health:** EMBED interrupts the preschool to prison pipeline, reducing expulsions and suspensions.
- **New centers:** teams helps ~30 new centers open/year
- **Workforce:** 65 OEDIT scholarships awarded for people pursuing ECE certification, and 256 supported through career navigation.

CHILD CARE ACCESS + EPC MILITARY BASES

Total Children Ages 0-5: 46,863

Total EC Capacity: 17,542 seats

Total Gap: 16,935 seats

