



EXPANSION

Early Milestone's CIRCLE grant application process has been announced! These grants offer nearly \$23 million in ARPA funding for child care providers and other community, education, and governmental partners to develop innovative solutions to child care challenges that were worsened by the pandemic. The first round of applications are due April 15th, with a second round deadline of May 23rd. On behalf of Alliance for Kids (AFK), El Paso County's Early Childhood Council, **Jl plans to submit applications** in both rounds.

PARTNERSHIPS

Through visionary board leadership, JI has recently partnered with the **University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS)** to pursue a non-competitive State grant opportunity for early childhood career navigation, educational scholarship opportunities, and workforce expansion and stability. The **grant application has been submitted** and JI will participate in a subrecipient capacity.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Colorado's **NEW** cabinet-level **Department of Early Childhood** and universal preschool has been, and will continue to be, a huge change in the systems that surround our children and families. The next collective step in this journey is translating the *unanimously approved* **Transition** and **Universal Preschool (UPK)** recommendations into legislation. The Governor and Colorado's the Office of State Planning and Budget are well on their way on the administrative and budgetary side with several budget requests pending before the Joint Budget Committee that were built in response to these recommendations. UPK implementation will take effect July 1, 2023, with members of the Alliance for Kids (AFK) Council engaging in local UPK conversation, strategy and planning efforts. The **Legacy Institute** has agreed to serve as the region's neutral facilitator of this **critical dialogue which will commence on April 9th.**

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Emerging & Expanding (E&E) Grant Opportunity:** El Paso County has **\$1.2M** in applications under review with **6** sites already funded for a total amount of **\$227,322** and **13** additional sites in the application process.
- **Coaching** has been provided to **87** licensed early childhood programs and **41** Family, Friend + Neighbor (FFN) providers.
- With the return of **Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH)** practitioners to early childhood classrooms, JI will continue to engage with **6** sites, with an estimated impact to **600** young children in our community.
- Through a partnership with **Early Connections Learning Centers (ECLC)**, Foundations continues to enroll and expand early childhood Family Child Care Homes (FCCHs) across the Pikes Peak Region, with a total of **200** providers being offered navigation supports.

EARLY CONNECTIONS SELECTS NEW CEO

From Diane Price, CEO:
"The [ECLC] Board has completed the CEO search process (thanks Noreen for serving on the hiring committee) and they selected **Liz Denson, our current VP of Community Engagement.** Liz has been in her current position for six years. She will provide the leadership needed to go through our transition. She's smart, committed to our mission and an advocate for children and families. I know you'll enjoy working with her. We'll be working very closely over the next three months. I couldn't be happier!!"



CAPACITY BUILDING

With spring and summer quickly approaching, the **Voices** program is creating safe places to play with the purpose of engaging youth and families in soccer kickarounds; this is in partnership with the **Southeast Springs Soccer Initiative (SeSSI)**, **Pride Soccer Club**, **Colorado College** and **Concrete Couch**.

EXPANSION

Jl is pursuing grant funding for a **Father Advocate** position to support fathers involved in the early childhood, dependency/neglect and juvenile justice systems. This advocate would participate in the creation and implementation of district-wide Father Circle Support Groups and community outreach events.

PARTNERSHIPS

Jl recently partnered with two **University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS)** professors to facilitate an equity learning opportunity. The content was well-received by participants and led to increased learnings about implicit bias and stereotype threat.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The **AFK Council's Family Support + Education Subcommittee** has created a **Community Family Calendar** on the newly launched **Joint Initiatives website**. Parent training calendars and resources can be easily accessed and shared, and organizations have the ability to submit events and classes to be posted on the calendar.
- Jl's **Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP)** began the process of addressing internal equity/conflict resolution with the completion **9 staff connection groups (5 CORE Panel and 4 all staff)**.
- A total of **31** families have been supported through **Family Assistance** funding year to date.
- Jl **Racial Equity Learning Series, Part 5: Transformational + Restorative Justice** is scheduled for May 20, 2022, with registration and details to be announced.





CAPACITY BUILDING

Proposed legislation **HB 22-1056 “Emergency Temporary Care for Children”** has been drafted to establish local shelter beds options for pre- and post-adjudicated youth. This bill currently includes a fiscal note and proposes the utilization of current CYDC funding for this purpose. REACH’s Executive Committee will monitor the legislation and assist with creating the local plan with an anticipated implementation date of July 1, 2022. REACH’s Executive Subcommittee has agreed to track the legislation, discuss local impact/challenges, and draft a district-wide implementation plan for this purpose.

EXPANSION

Jl recently hired a **Partner Recruiter** who is tasked with expanding High-Fidelity Wraparound services across the Pikes Peak Region. This position will work to expand the number of available wraparound agencies, work collaboratively to certify wraparound facilitators, and expand the availability of wraparound slots across our community.

PARTNERSHIPS

It’s MOU season for HB1451 Collaborative Management Program (CMP)! The REACH Committee, its members, partners, and Pathways Staff are hard at work drafting the MOU language, goals and outcomes, and a budget for the upcoming 2022-23 fiscal year. Critical to these efforts is **HB22-1329**, an amendment to the Colorado Legislature’s Long Bill, that includes \$2 million additional dollars for the CMP allocation fund.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Jl’s **FY21-22 CYDC/MTR Data Report – 2nd Quarter**
 - To date, **MTR numbers have gradually increased** with **42** current open cases (**68** total cases for the fiscal year). This increase is a direct result of students returning to school and increased usage of illegal substances and mental health struggles in the youth population.
 - To date, **99** youth and families have utilized Pathways’ **Individualized Service and Support Team (ISST)** process to address placement stability, need complexity, and the overcoming of barriers to services.

