**EL PASO COUNTY MONTHLY DATA TRENDS (January 2022 – December 2022)**

**ALL EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS**

Over the course of the last year, El Paso County has largely maintained our number of Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs, but we have also seen an increase in the total licensed capacity of programs. At the start of January 2022, we had 423 programs, and now we have 422 programs. As I will show in later graphs, we have seen a slight increase in ECE centers. Due to this, the total licensed capacity of ECE programs has increased by 2.3%. All numbers related to total licensed capacity should be considered with caution, as staffing will have a large impact on the true capacity of ECE programs, and some FCCHs may not want to be at full capacity. In terms of quality, the largest changes percentage-wise have been in the number of Level 5 programs (66.7% increase from January 2022 to December 2022) and Level 2 programs (29.9% increase for the same timeframe).

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS**

In January 2022, we started with 223 ECE centers, and we have largely seen a steady increase to 226 in December 2022. Centers can serve more children than FCCHs, so this has driven our overall increase in ECE program capacity. There has been a 2.5% increase in center capacity over the last year. The number of centers at each quality level has fluctuated some. There has been an 11.1% increase in Level 3 centers and minor changes in the number of centers at other quality levels. El Paso County congratulates and celebrates Tri Lakes Community Preschool for being the first center to achieve a Level 5 rating in our county! In terms of raw numbers, we have ten Level 3 centers, 51 Level 4 centers, and one Level 5 center. This indicates that when centers go through the quality rating process, they are largely achieving a high level of quality.

**FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES**

Since January 2022, we have seen minor fluctuation in the number of FCCHs in El Paso County. Currently, FCCH capacity accounts for 8.8% of our total licensed capacity in El Paso County. Over the last year, there was a 42.9% increase in the number of Level 3 programs and a 37.5% decrease in the number of Level 4 programs. There are four FCCH program that have achieved a top quality rating.

**COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCCAP) PROGRAMS**

The number of CCCAP programs in our county has increased since January 2022. We currently have 125 CCCAP programs, an increase of 5.9% since the start of the year. We have also seen a 20.0% increase in Level 4 programs that accept CCCAP. 92.9% of our Level 3 programs and 85.7% of our Level 4 programs accept CCCAP. Encouraging programs to accept CCCAP may be a useful strategy for motivating programs to improve their quality rating. Since January, the number of centers accepting CCCAP has increased by 16.7%, and the number of FCCH providers accepting CCCAP has decreased by 10.9%.

**INFANT AND TODDLER CAPACITY**

There has been some fluctuation in the estimated infant and toddler capacity of programs in El Paso County, but both are exhibiting an increase. We were maintaining an estimate of roughly 1200 infant slots across our county and roughly 2300 toddler slots, but we now have roughly 1300 infant slots and roughly 2400 toddler slots. These estimates are based on ECCLA’s proposed method of capturing FCCH capacity for infants and toddlers and adding that number to the capacity centers report for the Colorado Information Marketplace Licensed Child Care Facilities dashboard. We have seen a 9.6% increase in estimated infant capacity and a 2.8% increase in estimated toddler capacity. However, capacity for both is expected to decrease over the coming months as programs prepare to offer Universal Preschool.