



ALLIANCE FOR KIDS MONTHLY COUNCIL REPORT

Foundations is the early childhood program of Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families, and includes Alliance for Kids, El Paso County's Early Childhood Council.

OCTOBER 2023 REPORT | REPORTING TIMEFRAME: JULY 1-AUGUST 31, 2023

Below are the three key projects which implement strategies to meet **Alliance for Kids' Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives in addition to the Scope of Work (SOW)** indicators for Colorado Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) work.

- 1 Health + Well-Being Project
- 2 Quality Initiatives Project Integrated with Professional Development (PD)
- 3 Family Support + Education Project

HEALTH + WELL-BEING PROJECT

Health + Well-Being aims to support and enhance healthy practices and social/emotional and behavioral support for community organizations and families.

UPDATES | EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION

- Two Foundations Mental Health Practitioners were hired in July and will be trained through JI and the state within the next two months. Programming will begin by early October. Three of the six early childhood sites that participated last year are expected to continue with programming and three additional sites were selected via a site selection committee.

FAMILY, FRIEND + NEIGHBOR (FFN) PROGRAMING: THE COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION

- **JI Playgroups extended through October.** These play-based groups introduce music, movement, literacy and school readiness activities to young children and their caregivers. This project is a partnership between Joint Initiatives and the Community Cultural Collective.
 - Two playgroups were held at the City Auditorium in July, with 41 adults and 69 children attending, doubling since its inception in October 2022. The two August playgroups had an average attendance of 40 adults and 59 children.
 - The second in a series of three "Playtime at the Park" events was held at Panorama Park with 30 adults and 49 children participating. A playgroup at John Venezia Park had 11 adults and 12 children participate. A partnership with Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center brought nutrition education and physical activity to 6 adults and 8 children to the Widefield Recreation Center.
 - The Colorado Health Foundation Family, Friend + Neighbors grant closed in mid- September. Discussions are taking place to determine how to sustain programming for FFNs in our community and funding is being sought.



50 FFN caregivers supported throughout project



59 Children attending JI Playgroup along with 40 adults (average per Wednesday playgroup)



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QUALITY INITIATIVES PROJECT INTEGRATED WITH PD

Quality Initiatives (QI) focus on coaching, outreach, supports, resources/assets, and professional development to enhance quality in early care and education (ECE) programs. Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) work focuses on outreach to update and support licensed ECE programs, increase capacity for licensed ECE programs, and provide resources and referrals for parents/families for ECE programs. Professional Development (PD) is integrated throughout QI and CCR&R.

QI UPDATES

CCR+R , Program Outreach, and QI Coaching

- JI's Foundations Outreach Specialist has been working one-on-one with providers, supporting them with their QI grant application, Colorado Shines Level 2 Application, and PDIS support.
- Both QI Coaches have been working to create and prepare coaching materials and are out in the field providing coaching to their sites.
- Trauma coaching took place at one early childhood center in July.
- The Foundations Program Director is developing a new process surrounding the new provider incentives.



Quality improvement coaching hours

Outreach Events:

- JI participated in three outreach events to promote JI programming (Playgroup, Universal Pre-K (UPK), Pikes Peak Early Childhood, and Career Navigation):
 - UPK/D2 Parent and Provider Resource Fair
 - RMPBS KIDS FEST
 - TESSA of Colorado Springs - Back to School BBQ
- JI family resources were promoted via a presentation at the Fountain Valley Communities that Cares monthly meeting.

Colorado Shines Quality Improvement (CSQI) Grant

- A total of 40 MOUs have been signed this fiscal year, with a goal of 75.
- Five merit awards, totaling \$16,500 were awarded to five licensed early childhood programs for increasing quality levels between May 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.



Programs receiving CSQI grant support

Emerging + Expanding (E+E) Child Care Grant Applications

- A total of 16 applications are in review for El Paso County.
- Colorado Department of Early childhood has approved five applications, totaling \$358,360 to date, that will be allocated over the next year.



Programs approved to receive E+E grant support

Pikes Peak Early Childhood (PPEC)

- With summer coming to a close, providers are more accessible to provide updates for the PikesPeakEarlyChildhood.org site. The PPEC landing page is being updated and a banner provides families easier access and maneuverability through the PPEC and UPK site.



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QUALITY INITIATIVES PROJECT INTEGRATED WITH PD

QI UPDATES | CONTINUED

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)

- JI's Foundations Coaches and Outreach Specialist have been working with early childhood providers to explain the benefits of CCCAP.

120

Active
CCCAP
Contracts

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

• Workforce Development Training:

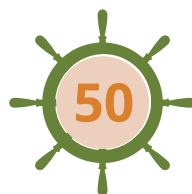
- Early Childhood Trauma Training (Part 1 and 2) and Expanding Quality for Infants & Toddlers
- In addition to Early Childhood Trauma Part 1 and 2 (open to all early childhood professionals), JI's Trauma Coach + Trainer provided trauma training for School District 11 (three 90-minute sessions for 92 teachers), and Mountain View Montessori (13 teachers and 1 director).
- JI's Trauma Coach/Trainer has added four community trainings for the upcoming fiscal year (Challenging behaviors, Trauma in Early Childhood for families, CLASS overview and Family Resources. In addition, a large training for D11 for Pre-K-12 grade teachers is on the books for August 1st.
- A two-day Pre-Licensing training was offered this month with 8 in attendance.

• ECE Career Navigator Supports

- JI's Career Navigator supports individuals in the areas of career pathways; Early Childhood Teacher qualification; Director qualification; Professional Development Information System (PDIS) ECE Credential and general technical support; Child Development Associate (CDA) assistance; scholarships; and UCCS Inclusive Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship Program career goals.
- JI's Career Navigator supported two people new to the ECE field.



Participants in 4
trainings offered,
including EQIT



Individuals
receiving career
navigation support



Career navigation
support hours

FAMILY SUPPORT + EDUCATION PROJECT

FamilySPEAK (FS) partners with community agencies and organizations to develop and implement a systems approach to parent/family education and supports.

FAMILY SUPPORT + EDUCATION UPDATES

No report at this time.



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ALLIANCE FOR KIDS COMMITTEE UPDATES

FAMILY SUPPORT + EDUCATION

The **Family Support+ Education Committee** met in August, with 12 community stakeholders in attendance. The group is trying to determine unmet needs looking at gaps in programming for families.

LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT

No report at this time.

HEALTH + WELL-BEING

The **Health and Well-Being Committee** decided by poll to meet every-other-month rather than quarterly, with the next meeting scheduled in early October.

Pyramid Community Leadership Team

This team met once in August with 13 stakeholders attending. The team is looking to create an action plan that aligns with Pyramid Community Leadership Teams across the state.