



ALLIANCE FOR KIDS MARCH 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.

REPORTING TIMEFRAME: MARCH 1-31, 2024

UPK and Council Subcommittee updates are on **Pages 4-5**.

Below are the two 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)

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

- A virtual Early Childhood Trauma Training was offered to all six embedded sites.
- An in-person staff training at an embedded site was cancelled due to weather.



Childhood centers supported with embedded ECMH Consultation



Three child-focused cases this month, eight children at risk of suspension or expulsion

8

Classrooms

96

Children impacted

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

- **Two playgroups** were held in March. Between 4-5 FFNs attended May playgroups.
- A **new FFN Specialist** was hired and will begin in April.

60



Average number of children attending JI Playgroups in March (combined total for both playgroups) along with an average of 42 adults

TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE TRAINING + COACHING

- See Professional Development section



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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.

CHILD CARE RESOURCE + REFERRAL (CCR+R)

No update for March.

PROGRAM OUTREACH

- March 2, 2024 – Library 21C **Kindergarten Resource Fair**
- March 20, 2024 – **Speak Up For Kids Day**



Providers engaged with Navigator to increase from Level 1 to Level 2



Programs receiving CSQI grant support



Quality Improvement coaching hours



Programs in queue for Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Rating

COLORADO SHINES QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS



TSQI

Targeted (TSQI) grant is for programs serving infants and toddlers, having an active CCCAP fiscal agreement, a MOU with JI, and a Colorado Shines rating of Level 2-5.



ESQI

Expanded (ESQI) grant is for programs without a CCCAP fiscal agreement, serving a high-needs population and a Level 1-5 rating.

EMERGING + EXPANDING (E+E) CHILD CARE GRANT APPLICATIONS

- Twenty-nine (29) programs applied**
- Two providers in final stages, preparing for payout.
- Two applicants progressed to under review.



Programs approved to receive E+E grant support



\$2,232,071

ADDITIONAL GRANT UPDATES

- (CCCAP) **Quality Expansion for Existing Providers Grant**: awarded \$18,000
- Family Child Care Home Start-Up Grant**: awarded \$5382.90
- Two providers have been preliminarily approved and moving to next steps



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QUALITY INITIATIVES PROJECT INTEGRATED WITH PD

COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCCAP)

- **Two new CCCAP providers** through contractor engagement
- **Increase of 32 CCCAP slots** in El Paso County (7 infant, 7 toddler, 9 preschool, and 12 school-age)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Workforce Development Training:

- EQIT Session C (28 participants and 18 hours)
- Two Early Childhood Trauma Training for Families and Caregivers (6 participants and 1.5 hours)
- Challenging Behavior at Primrose on March 11th (17 participants and 1.5 hours)
- Trauma Training 2 in Kiowa County on March 27th (13 participants and 1.5 hours)



Participants in 4
Trauma Responsive
trainings offered

TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE TRAINING & COACHING

- Virtual **Family Trauma Training** for ECMH sites with four participants (March 5th)
- Virtual **Community Family Trauma Training** with two participants (March 8th)
- **Challenging Behavior Training** (Primrose) with 17 participants
- **Trauma 2** training in Kiowa County with 13 participants

Additional Highlights

- 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.
- **Three teachers applied for a credential level** on Early Childhood credential 3.0. One of them received a Level 2 and is waiting on response for a Level 3. The other 2 teachers we are waiting for a response.
- **Barriers removed UCCS:** The text messaging group has been extremely helpful to the students, and they have supported each other on assignments. The Career Navigator provided different hotels for a student to stay at when she visited for graduation.
- **Barriers removed:** Applying for FASFA, registering for classes at Pikes Peak State College (PPSC) and PPSC enrollment, navigating PPSC portal, uploading documents to PDIS, searching for transcripts, setting up advisor meeting, applying for a credential level 3.0 on the PDIS, going over and correcting hours and letters of employment, and revising documents for PDIS. Spanish speaking new professional had support in Spanish and was guided on where to start for opening her in-home child care.



Participants in 4 trainings
offered, including EQIT



Individuals receiving
career navigation support



Career navigation hours



Scholarships
provided



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ALLIANCE FOR KIDS COMMITTEE UPDATES

FAMILY SUPPORT + EDUCATION

The **Family Support + Education Committee** met with 11 stakeholders in attendance. The guest speaker was Monica Boyd, who shared about the wealth of resources and programs through **Army Community Services**. The committee reviewed the gaps in services to families in our community and looked at how this committee might fill some of those gaps. The committee discussed **gaps in kindergarten transition support** and how to best support kindergarten readiness. The group discussed strategies to get parents to attend the committee and a **recap of the two family focus groups** was shared.

The next meeting will take place on April 18th from 1:00-2:30 pm.

LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT

The **Learning + Development Committee** co-chairs met to plan the April meeting.

HEALTH + WELL-BEING

The **Health + Well-Being Committee** did not meet in March.

Pyramid Community Leadership Team: This sub-committee did not meet in March.



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UNIVERSAL PRE-K (UPK) UPDATES



SCAN or CLICK HERE
for LCO-UPK INFO HUB



179 PROVIDERS



5,219 SEATS
YEAR TWO



4,266 ENROLLED
4-YEAR-OLDS



1,155 ENROLLED
3-YEAR-OLDS



419 ON WAIT LIST
4-YEAR-OLDS

Provider Types

- School District-Based: **69** (all 15 El Paso County school districts participating)
- Family Child Care Homes: **30**
- Center-Based: **80**
- Programs accepting CCCAP: **66**

Matched with a Provider/Enrolled

- 4-year-olds matched: **4,300** (84%) (4,266 enrolled, 34 accepted)
- 4-year-olds unmatched: **810** (16%)
- 4-year-olds on waitlists: **419** (8.2%)
- 3-year-olds enrolled: **1,155**

UPK Seats + Applications

- Registered UPK Seats: **5,219**
- UPK Seats available: **919** (includes available IEP seats)
- Family applications: **12,301**
- **1,336** have been withdrawn
 - 3,242 are “in progress” but have not been submitted. It appears many families that are “in progress” for the 2023-2024 school year thought that this was the 2024-2025 application.

UPK Team Assistance

- Family calls/emails for March: **926**
- Provider calls/emails for March: **392**

Areas of El Paso County with low availability to meet need are School Districts 2, 38, and 20.

TAKEAWAYS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The UPK team had a **total of 1,318 contacts in the month of March** (70% families).
- Hundreds more in-progress applications came in this month for 2023-2024, most of which were intended to be for 2024-2025. Navigators assisted many families with new applications.
- There are a total of 3,312 active applications – 2,641 have been submitted and 671 are in progress.
- Continuity of Care families will receive their matches on April 3rd and will have until April 11th to accept or decline their matches.