



Joint Initiatives
FOR YOUTH + FAMILIES

ALLIANCE FOR KIDS

QUARTERLY

REPORT

QUARTER 1

July 1 – Sept. 30, 2024



STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-26

THRIVING FAMILIES

GOAL 1

Strengthen families by providing parents with essential support.



FAMILY RESOURCE NAVIGATION

Jl **Family Resource Navigators** supported an average of **1,100 families per month** in navigating child care and navigating the UPK application system. In addition, about **8 families per month** were provided additional resources through Jl's Community Resource Directory.



8 FAMILIES PER MONTH WERE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THROUGH JI'S COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY.



AVERAGE 1,100 FAMILIES PER MONTH SUPPORTED NAVIGATING CHILD CARE AND UPK



EXPANDING INFANT + TODDLER CARE

In an effort to increase access to infant/toddler care in our community, Jl is supporting providers through the Emerging and Expanding Grant, there is **one Emerging + Expanding Grant application under review and three applications approved for El Paso County this quarter.** We have a total of **175,000 approved** to be distributed and have been awaiting the state's transition to Sales Force to move forward.



Q1 | E+E GRANT FUNDS APPROVED

\$175,000

Needs

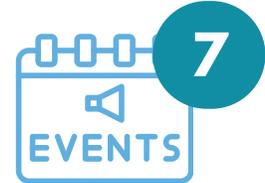
We continue to see a need for affordable child care options for families. In addition, Colorado Child Care Assistance Program waitlists are long, and funding is limited.

THRIVING FAMILIES



OUTREACH TO FAMILIES

The JI team has participated in **seven family-targeted outreach events**, distributing an average of 165 flyers that emphasized the **significance of early childhood, healthy families, equity, trauma-informed care, and overall child well-being**. Additionally, JI is creating updated **flyers related to developmental screenings, early intervention, and Child Find**.



7 FAMILY-TARGETED OUTREACH EVENTS



TRAINING FOR FAMILIES + TEACHERS

Families were invited to participate in **The Growing Brain Training**. Six families participated and received certificates for completion of the training. A total of **118 teachers were trained in trauma-informed care**, impacting approximately **878 children under the age of 5**.



118

118 TEACHERS TRAINED IN TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE, IMPACTING APPROXIMATELY 878 CHILDREN UNDER 5



6

6 FAMILIES ATTENDED THE GROWING BRAIN TRAINING



ECMH CONSULTATION SERVICES

- A total of **302 hours of direct Early Childhood Mental Health services** were provided to the four embedded sites this quarter, impacting up to **53 children**. An additional center was supported that is not embedded.
- EMCH Consultants received **15 community cases this quarter** and have been able to close four cases.



302

302 HOURS OF ECMH SERVICES IMPACTING UP TO 53 CHILDREN

15

15 COMMUNITY CASES, WITH FOUR CASES CLOSED

THRIVING FAMILIES



SUPPORTS FOR PARENTS + CAREGIVERS

- **JJ Playgroups**, based on the Simple Gift Schoolhouse Children's Series, continue to be successful with all positive feedback both verbally and via feedback forms. Two additional FCCHs have attended, adding to the numbers of children.
- In total, **six playgroups were held**, with an average monthly attendance of **117 children** and **80 adults**. Additionally, an average of **11 Family, Friend + Neighbor (FFN) caregivers** attended each session.
- **Eleven FFNs are engaged in the Home Visiting program** this quarter, nearly meeting our goal of 12. **Nine home visits** were conducted with FFNs to support language and literacy development.



AVERAGE MONTHLY CHILD PLAYGROUP ATTENDANCE



AVERAGE MONTHLY ADULT PLAYGROUP ATTENDANCE



11 FFNS ENGAGED IN THE HOME VISITING PROGRAM; 9 VISITS

THRIVING CHILDREN

FAMILY FRIENDLY CITY SUMMIT

JJ continues to work with the Early Childhood Business Council to determine how business can positively impact the child care landscape. Following the **Family Friendly City Summit**, a **comprehensive report** was developed and shared with the community. **Efforts are now underway to refine the goals identified by the community and begin crafting an action plan.**



READ SUMMIT REPORT HERE OR VISIT JJ WEBSITE

GOAL 3

Increase access to a coordinated mixed-delivery model of affordable quality early childhood education.

THRIVING CHILDREN



EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALITY INITIATIVES

- Colorado Shines Quality Improvement (CSQI) initiative, we **engaged 25 providers with our Outreach Specialist to assist them in advancing from Level 1 to Level 2**, in addition an average of 70 per month, received grant navigation and support.
- **92 hours of GAE coaching and 10.5 hours of ECQI coaching for non-GAE participants.** Currently, **38 programs are queued for rating**, and we maintain **50 active Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)**, alongside three coaching cohort sessions conducted.
- The number of early childhood education programs in El Paso County over the past quarter is steady and the percentage of high-quality early childhood programs in our community is at **19% of our programs obtaining high-quality ratings.** This is an area that will continue to be a targeted focus of Council and JI staff.
- The Emerging + Expanding Grant continues to prioritize programs who can complete their spending soon. **This quarter JI approved \$175,000 to be distributed to E+E Awardees.**
- JI, through a subcontractor, has facilitated **business consultation to enhance provider practices, offering tailored support to 35 providers.** This assistance included guidance on program tuition management, strategies for blending and braiding funding, and insights into how the Universal Preschool Program (UPK) could benefit their business operations.

Needs

Funding to support high quality coaching is limited and non-CCCAP program funding has been depleted. Family Child Care Homes are finding it more difficult to find grants that support minor improvements.



25 PROVIDERS ADVANCE FROM LEVEL 1 TO LEVEL 2

25



AVERAGE OF 70 PROVIDERS PER MONTH RECEIVE GRANT NAVIGATION AND SUPPORT

70



102.5

COACHING HOURS



10 ADDITIONAL INFANT/TODDLER SLOTS



35

35 PROVIDERS ENGAGED IN BUSINESS CONSULTATION



MORE HIGHLIGHTS

- 6 PRE-LICENSING ATTENDEES**
- 4 NEWLY LICENSED PROGRAMS**
- 1 NEW PROGRAMS WITH CCCAP FISCAL AGREEMENTS**
- 96 LEVEL 2 PROGRAMS**
- 79 LEVEL 3-5 PROGRAMS**
- 18 PROGRAMS WITH MOUS MAINTAINING LEVEL 3-4 RATING**

THRIVING COMMUNITY



UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL (UPK)

- A total of **204 programs, offering 6,264 seats**, are participating in the Universal Preschool Program this quarter. A total of 76 school-district programs are within the 15 districts in our catchment area. Forty-three (43) are Family Child Care Programs and 85 are centered-based programs.
- A total of **4,480 4 years olds (92.4% of applicants) were matched** with a provider at the end of this quarter.
- Family Resource Navigators **attended eight outreach events this quarter** in efforts to increase access to UPK families.
- UPK Project Manager has **requested guidance from the state regarding the assessment and evaluation surveys** for local families.

GOAL 4

Facilitate the implementation of Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) and promote UPK and early childhood education to the business community.



204 PROVIDERS

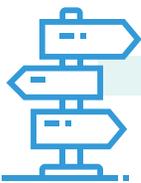


6,264 UPK SEATS



4,480 MATCHED

THRIVING WORKFORCE



CAREER NAVIGATION

Career navigation services were provided to **169 professionals, totaling 397 hours** of support. A total of 16 professionals new to the field, highlighting our ongoing efforts to expand the workforce.

GOAL 5

Support recruitment, qualification, and retention of professionals within the Early Childhood Education field.



397

397 CAREER NAVIGATION HOURS PROVIDED TO 169 PROFESSIONALS

THRIVING WORKFORCE



ADVANCING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS PROGRAM

- **Advancing Early Childhood Educators Program** has offered career navigation to **28 professionals in Track 1** (professionals with little to no experience in Early Childhood Education) and **11 professionals in Track 2** (professionals working on becoming teachers).
- **Four students from the Advancing Early Child Educator Program Summer Track 1** finished the program successfully



OUTREACH TO HIGH SCHOOLS

Jl's **Partner Recruiter** visited **10 high school classrooms**, reaching **175 students** across multiple districts (D-11, D-8, and 100J), providing information to students about careers in Early Childhood Education.



PARTNER RECRUITER VISITED 10 HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOMS, REACHING 175 STUDENTS



VIEW AND SHARE THESE VIDEOS FROM JI'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL @JOINTINITIATIVES



29

29 INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED THROUGH ADVANCING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR PROGRAM



Needs

Pikes Peak State College has informed us the funding for the Career Advance program, which provides free Early Childhood Education courses to students, will run out in Spring 2025. There is also a need for more resources for professionals who are Spanish-speaking and have limited English proficiency.