



ALLIANCE FOR KIDS AUGUST 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: JULY 1-31, 2024

Universal Pre-K updates are on **Pages 5**. Subcommittees did not meet in July.

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 (ECMH)

- **Programming at the six embedded ECMH sites ended June 30th**, and ECMH Practitioners assisted The Resource Exchange with community cases from their waitlist. A selection committee met this month to review 16 applications for four open embedded programming slots. Initial meetings with the finalists will take place the first week of August, with programming to begin in the 2nd week. Fifteen percent (15%) of ECMH practitioner's caseload will be community referrals.
- **Support was given to a homeless EC teacher at one of the sites.** She had lived in a shelter with her children for 3+ weeks and JI's Care Coordinators connected her with permanent housing and resources.
- The **El Paso County ECMH Collaborative** met once this month.



5

Five child-focused cases this month and five children at risk of suspension or expulsion

2

Classrooms

31

Children impacted

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

- Continued outreach at playgroups to encourage FFN participation in home visitation program. **Five FFNs engaged in one home visit this month** with one of them receiving 2 home visits.
- **Thirteen (13) FFNs attended at least one playgroup.**
- The number of playgroup attendees is holding strong with **an additional Family Child Care Home** this month.
- The **Early Literacy Program** offered by the Foundations FFN Specialist is being well received by FFNs. Providers and children enjoy participating in the early literacy activities.



117

Children attending JI Playgroups in July (combined total for both playgroups) along with 85 adults



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HEALTH + WELL-BEING PROJECT

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TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE TRAINING + COACHING

The Foundations Trauma Coach + Trainer accepted an internal position at JI, and the **Foundations Mental Health Practitioner will be facilitating workshops from August-November 2024**. This month she familiarized herself with the training content.

HEALTHY UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL COLLABORATIVE



The **Healthy Universal Preschool Collaborative** is underway. Outreach was conducted to form a Co-Design Team which will direct how this Universal Preschool Program (UPP) screening project will look in our community. Thirteen (13) stakeholders will meet in mid-August, and initial recruitment of Child Care Health Consultants and UPP sites is encouraging. JI's part-time FFN Specialist has accepted an Early Childhood Health Specialist position at JI to support this project in addition to her FFN work.

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)

- **Two family-targeted events** attended
- **Two provider-targeted events** attended
- Promotional flyers shared: **175**

PROGRAM OUTREACH

The QI Team focused on helping providers **troubleshoot issues with Colorado Shines Quality Improvement (CSQI) applications**.



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



ALLIANCE FOR KIDS MAY COUNCIL REPORT

REPORTING TIMEFRAME: MAY 1-31, 2024

QUALITY INITIATIVES PROJECT INTEGRATED WITH PD

COLORADO SHINES QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS



TSQI: 23 PENDING SIGNATURE

24 APPLICATIONS WAITLISTED • 7 IN PROCESS

23

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: 14 PENDING SIGNATURE

3 APPLICATIONS WAITLISTED • 6 IN PROCESS

14

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



Programs receiving CSQI grant support



Quality Improvement coaching hours



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



12 Level 2 Sites in Queue



29 Level 3-5 Sites in Queue

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

- A total of **29 applications** were submitted.
- Colorado Department of Early childhood has **approved seven applications**, totaling \$2,232,071.
- **Three programs** are in the process of payment.
- **Two programs** are under review by the CDEC.



Programs approved to receive E+E grant support



\$2,232,071

COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCCAP)



- **One** provider signed a fiscal agreement.
- **One** provider is in the process of obtaining a fiscal agreement.
- **Two** providers are looking into getting a fiscal agreement.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Expanding Quality for Existing Programs and **Family Child Care Home Start-up** grant will be offered again for FY2024-2025.

Story
OF SUCCESS

During Pre-Licensing, we had a couple who expressed their sincere gratitude for the training and the wealth of information that it provided. This couple had come close to giving up on their desire to open their own FCCH due to a lack of direction and support they felt in the early stages of their journey.



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QUALITY INITIATIVES PROJECT INTEGRATED WITH PD

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | TRAINING + SCHOLARSHIPS



Participants in 2 trainings:

- BrainWise
- Pre-Licensing



Scholarships provided:

- Advancing Early Childhood Educators: 6
- Colorado Career Advance
- EQIT: 4

PD | 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.
- Fourteen professionals were provided extra support with **enrolling in PPSC classes** and **filling out their FAFSA**.
- **Nine Spanish-only speakers were supported** to connect them with ECE resources and using the PDIS in Spanish.



Individuals receiving
career navigation support



129

Career navigation hours
(including 24 walk-in hours)

PD | PARTNER RECRUITER SUPPORTS

- **Connected with high school students and** supported them with **resume writing**
- Reviewed/submitted **six Early Childhood Career Engagement Award applications**.
- Learned the **PDIS** and supported the Career Navigator in helping those around the community set-up/update PDIS accounts.
- **Researched high school pathways and is currently preparing for the back-to-school** season, which brings opportunities to connect with high school students interested in the ECE field.

PD | ADVANCING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS PROGRAM

Jl partners with **Pikes Peak State College** to offer funding, incentives, career navigation, and coaching to work in the field of Early Childhood Education.



TRACK 1

Five professionals approved for Summer 2024



TRACK 2

One professional approved for Fall 2024



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UNIVERSAL PRE-K (UPK) UPDATES



SCAN or CLICK HERE
for LCO-UPK INFO HUB



COLORADO UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM (CUPP)

- **JI continues to participate in an active group of LCOs to advocate for LCO funding.** LCOs are partnering with the Colorado Department of Early Childhood to provide information to Governor Polis regarding the need for this funding, with the ultimate goal of a select group meeting with Gov. Polis directly.
- In Year One, the state's new preschool program was often referred to as Universal Pre-K (UPK). Moving forward, our information will reflect the **state's new program name: Colorado Universal Preschool Program (CUPP or UPP)**
- **Areas of El Paso County with low availability** to meet need: **D20, D49, D2** (D38 has smaller waitlists, and is not currently a high need area as it was last year, smaller waitlists. D49 is now based on waitlist numbers.)



200 PROVIDERS

- **73** school district-based (15 school districts total, all districts in El Paso County are participating)
- **39** Family child care teachers
- **88** Center-based programs
- **70** CCCAP programs



6,055 UPK SEATS
Registered Seats



4,444 FAMILY APPLICATIONS

484 are "in progress" but have not been submitted



3,876 MATCHED
4-year-olds

The final algorithm for UPK ran in July, and the system is now **moving to a direct enrollment process** in which providers with open slots can directly enroll families interested in their program.



2,179 AVAILABLE
Registered Seats | Includes IEP



1,624

1,624 CONTACTS DURING JULY

Sixty-five percent (**65%**) of contacts in **July were with families**, the majority of whom needed technical assistance with their applications for Year Two.

- Family calls/emails for July: **1,067**
- Provider calls/emails for July: **557**

UPK RATES RELEASED

The UPK Rates were released on July 31st. The payment rates for El Paso County are as follows:



- **Part-day: \$4806.51** (10 hours per week, 340 hours total)
- **Half-day: \$6060.38** (15 hours per week, 540 hours total)
- **30 hours per week: \$10,762.40**



UPK DATA IS FOR JULY 2024.