



Joint Initiatives
FOUNDATIONS

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



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CATALOG

FOR BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

DECEMBER 2025 - MARCH 2026

Emergency Preparedness for Child Care Programs Refresher



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS REFRESHER

The ChildCare Aware of America training is a refresher that aims to help child care programs and providers better prepare for emergencies. After completing this training, participants will be able to: discuss the importance of emergency preparedness for childcare, describe the typical actions required for different types of emergencies, identify ways to support children's needs, and list components of a written child care emergency plan. Participants can create or update the emergency plan with the training resources.



Audience: ALL



Cost: FREE



Date/Time:
December 10 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm



Domain Competency:
HSN



Location: Online



Trainer:
Foundations/Geanina Brown

Director's Professional Learning Community

DIRECTOR'S PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

This PLC provides a supportive, collaborative environment to help directors overcome internal capacity challenges and advance structured career pathways and equitable pay scale practices.



Audience: ALL



FREE



Date/Time:
January 27, 2026 | 12:30–2 pm



Domain Competency:
PDL, PPD



Location: Ascend Center
1600 N. Union Blvd.



Trainer:
Foundations/Geanina Brown



BUILD YOUR BOUNCE

Build Your Bounce provides simple strategies for building resilience, including reflection opportunities and tools for monitoring personal social and emotional health. Identifying our strengths, goals, and strategies to help with our Relationships, Internal Beliefs, Initiative, and Self-Control. These resources can help you develop resilience and cope with life's challenges effectively.



Audience: ALL



Cost: FREE



Date/Time:
January 21, 2026 | 6-7:30 pm



Domain Competency:
SEHD



Location: Ascend Center
1600 N. Union Blvd.



Trainer: Foundations
Jessica Alexander, MA, IMH E®



THE GROWING BRAIN

All babies are born with billions of neurons bumping around their brains... but very few of those neurons are connected. That's where YOU come in! The Growing Brain curriculum provides early childhood professionals with the knowledge, support, and evidence-based strategies they can use in everyday moments to support healthy brain development and build the connections babies need for success now and later in life.



Audience: ALL



Cost: FREE



Date/Time:
February 11, 2026 | 6-8:00 pm



Domain Competency:
CGDL, HSN,TP



Location: Ascend Center
1600 N. Union Blvd.



Trainer:
Foundations/Erica Evans



BUSINESS PRACTICES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

This training provides early childhood program leaders with practical strategies to strengthen business operations, fiscal management, and administrative systems. Participants will learn how to develop sustainable budgeting practices, streamline daily operations, and ensure compliance with key funding programs. The session includes guidance on taking advantage of CCCAP, Universal Preschool (UPK), and Childcare Aware funding—along with effective stacking approaches—to maximize program revenue and support high-quality early learning environments.



Audience: ALL



Cost: FREE



Date/Time:
March, 2026 | 6–8:00 pm



Domain Competency:
CGDL, HSN, TP



Location: Ascend Center
1600 N. Union Blvd.



Trainer:
Noreen Landis-Tyson, MBA



PRE-LICENSING | IN-PERSON SESSION

Becoming a Licensed Family Child Care Provider is an exciting career move which offers you the opportunity to provide appropriate care and guidance for other children in your community.



Audience: ALL



Cost: \$50



Date/Time:
February 21 + 28 | 8–4:00 pm



Domain Competency: Overview
of Child Care Rules & Regs, CGD,
HNS, DAP, G, FCR, CID, P, AS, SE



Location: Ascend Center
1600 N. Union Blvd.



Trainer:
Foundations/Shaina Bretag



Early Childhood Programs...

YOUR FOUNDATIONS TEAM IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

Supporting Strong Foundations for Early Childhood

HOW WE CAN HELP

Would you like to open your own early childhood program?
Would you like support as an administrator, director, or teacher at an early childhood program? JI is here to help!
We support **ALL early childhood programs** based on their needs and their starting point – almost always at no cost.



Supports to open a child care business, including pre-licensing training, business and programmatic coaching



Colorado Shines and PDIS applications, rating support, Quality Improvement (QI) spending, and QI coaching



**Business training and coaching
Trauma-informed coaching/training**



Obtaining a CCCAP agreement



Grant availability and applications



Professional development hours, training, catalog, and calendar



Help with provider profiles, seats, matching, and business consultation
Jointinitiatives.org/UPK



Do you have staff openings?
Fill out a **Workforce Form** to help us support your program needs.

bit.ly/ECEWorkforceNeedsForm

The Foundations team at *Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families* is your local early childhood liaison, dedicated to supporting ALL early childhood programs and professionals in building strong early childhood foundations for children and families.

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTERS



VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HERE](#) OR
SCAN CODE TO LEARN MORE



Shay Almonte

Foundations Program Director
719.630.0927, Ext. 719
salmonte@jointinitiatives.org





YOUR FOUNDATIONS TEAM IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

Foundations offers FREE supports! Foundations, the early childhood department of Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families, which includes Alliance for Kids, the Early Childhood Council of El Paso County, supports individuals pursuing a career in early childhood care and education. Whether your career path is to be a Preschool Aide, Early Childhood Teacher, open a Family Child Care Home, or become a child care Center Director, we can connect you with resources and help mentor you along the way.

Below is a more detailed look at the support we offer.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA) CREDENTIAL

- Support with the initial CDA application process
- Support with the CDA renewal process
- Resources for finding a CDA training program
- Help in finding local CDA PD Specialist for a site visit

PRE-LICENSING + LICENSING

- Where to start and what is important to consider when opening a family child care home
- Assistance with zoning and HOA needs
- Support with completing the Licensing application
- Technical assistance and on-site support for setting up your learning environment

COLORADO SHINES PDIS

- Registration Support
- Support to gain or increase your Early Childhood Professional Credential 3.0
- Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) qualification assistance
- Technical assistance for trainer credentials
- Technical assistance for Coaching Credentials
- Job-Embedded Coaching
- Observations for Demonstrated Competencies
- Scholarship navigation support



SCAN ME

For complete details on
Competencies, click **HERE**
or scan the code.



CONNECT WITH US!

Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families (JI) includes the programs of **Foundations**, **Pathways**, and **Voices**. All JI programs allow for a continuum of supports and services for our community. Alliance for Kids, the Early Childhood Council for El Paso County, is housed under JI's Foundations program and your Foundations team is here to support the early childhood community.

GEANINA BROWN, FOUNDATIONS WORKFORCE MANAGER

GBrown@jointinitiatives.org | 719.651.3484

Contact Geanina for questions about professional development scholarships, PDIS, CDA, early childhood qualifications, or other career pathway support.

ERICA EVANS, FOUNDATIONS INFANT + TODDLER SPECIALIST

EEvans@jointinitiatives.org | 719.233.0770

Contact Erica for questions about EQIT, infant/toddler professional development and coaching, as well as reflective supervision.

MEL LOPEZ, FOUNDATIONS CAREER NAVIGATOR

MLopez@jointinitiatives.org | 719.684.6195

Contact Mel for career navigation support to help you determine the best early childhood career pathway, PDIS support, assistance with college enrollment, answers to your CDA questions, portfolio support, and more!



Scan code to visit

BuildmyECEcareer.com

Schedule a career navigation appointment with Mel today!

¡Ofrecemos nuestros servicios en Español!

KELSEY BREINER, FOUNDATIONS WORKFORCE SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

KBreiner@jointinitiatives.org | 719.650.3736

Contact Kelsey for career navigation, high school career pathways support, and sharing staff openings at your early childhood program. **View flyer HERE.**



SCAN ME

For all **early childhood information**, scan code or click **HERE** to visit our Foundations page of the JI website.

CONNECT ON SOCIAL!

@jointinitiatives



Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families

NEW! ADVANCING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS PROGRAM

GET ON TRACK TODAY!

TRACK 1

Early Childhood Teacher Assistant

- **6 ECE credits** – 90 clock hours over a semester and 10 clock hours of PDIS courses
- **\$800** in funding is available to help remove barriers for the student
- **\$500** incentive upon completing credits and PDIS courses
- **\$750** incentive upon completion of PDIS Level 1 or increasing the credential level

TRACK 2

Early Childhood Teacher

- **12 ECE credits** — 180 clock hours over a semester and 10 clock hours of PDIS courses
- **\$800** in funding is available to help remove barriers for the student
- **\$500** incentive after completing credits and PDIS courses
- **\$1,500** incentive upon completion of PDIS Level 2 or increasing the credential level

Contact Us or Apply Now!



CONNECT

Click [HERE](#) or scan code to **CONNECT** with our Career Navigator.



APPLY

Click [HERE](#) or scan code to **APPLY** for this program.



MEL LOPEZ

Foundations Career Navigator

719.684.6195

mlopez@jointinitiatives.org

¡Ofrecemos nuestros servicios en Español!



**Pursuing a career
in Early Childhood
Education is **EXCITING**
and **REWARDING**.**

**Joint Initiatives for
Youth + Families (JI)**
is excited to partner with
Pikes Peak State College
to offer a new program that
includes **incentives and
personalized support**.

Participants will receive
**career navigation
and coaching**
to work in the field of
Early Childhood Education.

*All coursework is offered by
PPSC through in-person,
online, or hybrid settings.*



CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE +

FEATURES

ABOUT THE CDA+

The CDA+, created by Pikes Peak State College (PPSC), is a ten-session program (80 hours) that allows you to earn seven college credits.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families provides in-person training.
- Training is assignment- and participation-based, with no testing required for successful program completion.
- CDA credential will be submitted for PLA college credits.

PREREQUISITE:

Have a current Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™.

Your current CDA credential will be submitted for college credits, eliminating the need for continual CDA renewal.

NO-COST PROGRAM

\$800.00 to help remove barriers for the student

FEB. 18–APRIL 29

Wednesdays

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

February 18, 25

March 4, 11, 18

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

No classes March 23–27.

TRAINING LOCATION

Ascend Center | Outpost Room
1600 N. Union Blvd.
Colorado Springs



CONTACT TRAINER WITH QUESTIONS

GEANINA BROWN

Foundations Workforce Manager

GBrown@jointinitiatives.org

719.651.3484



INTERESTED?

If you have a current CDA and would like to apply for this opportunity, click **HERE** or scan code.

bit.ly/JI-PPSC-CDAPlusForm

FOUNDATIONS TRAINING + EVENT REFUND POLICY

Registration and payment for an event or training indicate your agreement to the policies below:

A FULL training/event refund will be provided for Foundations training under the following circumstances:

- The training participant provides a written refund request to Foundations no later than ten (10) business days prior to the first day of the training/event. Proof of registration must be provided with this request.

A refund of HALF of the cost of the training/event will be provided for Foundations training under the following circumstances:

- The training participant provides a written refund request to Foundations no later than five (5) business days prior to the first day of the training/event. Proof of registration must be provided with this request.

Please note the following regarding refunds for series training (have multiple meeting sessions):

- Due to the importance of the information covered on the first day of a course, participants who cannot attend will not be permitted to continue the course and are NOT eligible for a refund.
- To request a FULL refund for a series training, the training participant must provide a written refund request to Foundations no later than ten (10) business days prior to the first day of the training/event series. Additionally, proof of registration must be provided along with this request.
- Participants attending any portion of a series training are not eligible for refunds for subsequent sessions in the series.

Canceled Training/Events

- If a training/event is canceled or postponed by Foundations for any reason, including inclement weather, registrants will be given the options below, and the choice must be made within one week of the canceled training/event through email to Foundations.
- Cancellation of registration and full refund of the cost of the training/event.
- Application of registration payment to a future training/event within three months of the date of the canceled training/event.
- Transfer of payment to a future rescheduled training/event.

NO REFUND is provided if registrants do not show up for the scheduled training/event or cancel a registration less than five (5) business days in advance.

- All refund requests must be in writing by email only. Phone requests will not be accepted.
- **EMAIL:** Please email refund request to: GBrown@jointinitiatives.org

The refund will be refunded to the original credit/debit card used for the registration.

Please allow five (5) to ten (10) business days for the refund to be placed back in your account.

PARTICIPANT REMOTE LEARNING + PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

To support a positive, safe, and productive remote learning training environment for all in attendance, all participants are expected to follow **Participant Remote Learning + Professional Behavior Guidelines**. Participants who violate the Guidelines are not eligible for a refund and will be removed from the training and may be prohibited from attending future training. For a full description of the Guidelines, click [HERE](#).





WORKFORCE NEEDS FORM

**Share your early
childhood program
staff openings!**



SCAN ME

To support early childhood education (ECE) programs and the ECE workforce, **Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families** is offering a **NEW** platform for programs to **share their workforce needs related to open staff positions (e.g., teachers, assistants, directors)**.

Please take a moment to fill out the short form using the QR code or the link below. It can be completed any time you have openings, and the data gathered will be used to connect ECE programs with qualified professionals.



KELSEY BREINER

Foundations Workforce Systems Specialist



719.650.3736

kbreiner@jointinitiatives.org

CLICK LINK

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WHERE TO FIND EARLY CHILDHOOD CAREERS

Visit the **Joint Initiatives Career Page!**
In addition to searching broad hiring platforms, be sure to visit **JI's NEW ECE Job Board**, which highlights opportunities posted by local community organizations and early childhood education programs. Joint Initiatives also posts positions available within its organization, including JI's early childhood department of Foundations, which includes Alliance for Kids, El Paso County's Early Childhood Council.

[Jointinitiatives.org/ECEcareers](https://jointinitiatives.org/ECEcareers)



For all **early childhood careers**, scan code or click **HERE** to visit the **ECE Careers Job Board.**



SCAN ME

For all careers, including those that are youth-focused, please visit our main careers page at jointinitiatives.org/careers.



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