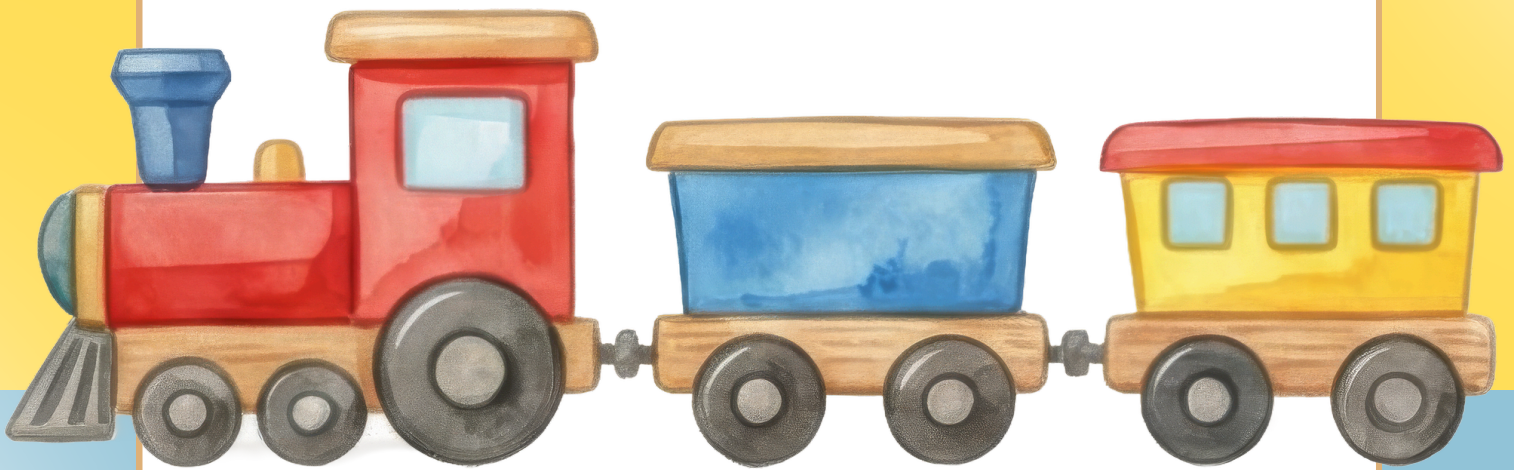




**Joint Initiatives**  
FOUNDATIONS

**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

APRIL - MAY 2026



## ONE STEP AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION TRAINING

The ONE Step training prepares Early Childhood Educators (ECE) to have health-focused conversations with parents and caregivers about:

- The impact of exposure to secondhand and thirdhand smoke and e-cigarette aerosol
- Taking proactive steps to protect children from exposure
- Tobacco cessation resources and support
- Basic asthma information and asthma management

Everyone who attends the training and submits a completed Activity Tracker will be eligible to receive a \$25.00 gift card.



SCAN or CLICK to REGISTER

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**Audience:** ALL



**FREE**



**Date/Time:**  
April 14 | 6:00–8:00 pm



**Domain Competency:**  
PDL, PPD



**Online Training**



**Facilitator:**  
Rafik Brooks  
Health Promotions Manager



## 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.



SCAN ME

SCAN or CLICK to REGISTER

[REGISTER HERE](#)



**Audience:** ALL



**Cost:** \$50



**Date/Time:**  
April 18 and 25 | 8–4:00 pm



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



**Location:** Virtual and in person  
Ascend Center  
1600 N. Union Blvd.



**Trainer:**  
Foundations/Shaina Bretag



Two Pre-Licensing scholarships available! [Apply HERE!](#)



### 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:**  
April 28, 2026 | 12:30-2 pm

**Domain Competency:**  
PDL, PPD

**Location:** Ascend Center  
1600 N. Union Blvd.

**Trainer:** Foundations  
Geanina Brown + Mel Lopez



### AIR QUALITY AROUND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS

Join us to learn what air quality is, how it is measured, and why it matters, especially for the health and development of young children. The session will also provide discussion, practical strategies, and interactive activities to provide additional insight into air quality and how to create healthier environments.



**Audience:** ALL

**FREE**

**Date/Time:**  
May 13, 2026 | 6-8:00 pm

**Domain Competency:**  
PDL, PPD

**Location:** Ascend Center  
1600 N. Union Blvd.

**Trainer:** Erin Kendall  
CO Department of Public Health + Environment

## SEE NEXT PAGES OR TAP TOPIC FOR THE RESOURCE YOU NEED!

The remaining pages of the PD Catalog have information to support your success. Keep reading or click on the topics to go directly to the page.

- **Event + Training Refund Policy**
- **Participant Remote Learning + Professional Behavior Guidelines**
- **Advancing Early Childhood Educators Program**
- **NEW CDA+ Cohort**
- **Supports for ALL Early Childhood Programs**
- **Workforce Needs Form • Share your program openings with us!**
- **Child Development Associate, Pre-Licensing, and Colorado Shines**
- **Connect with the Foundations Team!**
- **ECE Careers Job Board**

## MORE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



**VISIT THE PD CALENDAR PAGE OF THE JI WEBSITE** 

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

Jl's calendar page always provides a link to the most recent PD Update newsletter, an online version of this catalog, and ongoing training opportunities.



# 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](mailto: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](#).



# 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**

### AUG. 26–NOV. 4

**Wednesdays**

**8:30 am – 4:00 pm**

August 26

September 9, 16, 23, 30

October 7, 14, 21, 28

November 4

### 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](https://bit.ly/JI-PPSC-CDAPlusForm)



# 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**



**Career navigation and professional development hours, training, catalog, and calendar**



**Help with provider profiles, seats, matching, and business consultation**  
[Jointinitiatives.org/UPK](http://Jointinitiatives.org/UPK)



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

[bit.ly/ECEWorkforceNeedsForm](https://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](mailto:salmonte@jointinitiatives.org)



@jointinitiatives



# 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.



**MEL LOPEZ**

*Foundations Career Navigator*



**719.684.6195**

**mlopez@jointinitiatives.org**

*¡Ofrecemos nuestros servicios en Español!*

**CLICK  
HERE**



# 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!*



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



# 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](https://jointinitiatives.org/careers).*