



ECPAC

EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIP
OF ADAMS COUNTY

Annual Report

2023 -2024

GROWTH AND RESILIENCY

The Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County is **cultivating an effective early childhood ecosystem** for children from **prenatal through the transition into kindergarten**, their families, and early childhood professionals in Adams County.

Vision

All children, their families, and early childhood professionals are valued, healthy, and thriving.

Mission

Building a community where all young children, their families and early childhood professionals are valued, healthy and thriving.



ECPAC's Ultimate Goal:

All Adams County children enter school healthy and ready to learn and succeed.

This report is focused on the final year of our [2020-2024 Strategic Plan](#)
We are excited to share our updated [2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#)

ECPAC's strategic plans are informed by our community partners, early care and education providers, and families with the intent that together we can implement strategies and impact needed change. As a result, we thank the organizations, individuals, and our staff who contributed in the past year towards our shared goals through service on the Governing Board, Strategic Action Teams, Collaboratives, and otherwise.

A Precious Child
Adams County Connections
Adams County Health Department
Adams County Human Services Department
Adams 12 Five Star Schools
Adams 14 School District
Almost Home
Anythink Libraries
The Arc of Adams County
The Arc of Aurora
Aurora Public Schools
Belle Creek Family Center
Bellevue Christian Preschool
Brighton Housing Authority
Brinshore Development
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Adams and Broomfield Counties
Child Care Innovations
City of Brighton
City of Commerce City
City of Thornton
Clinica Family Services

Colorado Access
Colorado Orthodontic Foundation
Colorado School of the Deaf and the Blind
Community Reach Center
Creative Learning Center
Early Learning Ventures
Family Child Care Home - Bree Adreen
Family Child Care Home - Lacy Fraire
Family Members (20)
Family Tree - SafeCare
Focus Points Resource Center
Food Bank of the Rockies
Front Range Clinic
Front Range Community College
Goddard Reunion
Good Shepherd Food Pantry
Growing Home
Hope House Colorado
Kids First Health Care
Kids in Need of Dentistry

Little Boots Early Learning Center
Maiker Housing Partners
Mapleton Public Schools
Maria Droste Counseling Center
Mile High United Way
New Legacy Charter School
North Metro Community Services
North Metro Denver Small Business Development Center
North Suburban Medical Center
Personal Assistance Services of Colorado
Savio House - Child First
SCL Health
Shiloh House
Step-by-Step Child Development Center
Urban Land Conservancy
WeeCycle
Westminster Fire
Westminster Public Schools

Partners



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Executive Director

STEPHANIE HENDERSON
Director of Child/Family Health & Well-being

CYNDI CARGILL
Director of Finance & Operations

AMANDA BENSON
Director of Early Learning

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Manager of Grants & Funding

AMY HARRISON
Manager of Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

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Administrative Assistant

KATIE ELSE
Accounts Payable & Bookkeeping Clerk

KAYLIE WEESE
Family Engagement & Leadership Coordinator

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Program Evaluator

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Early Head Start Specialists

AMANDA STEINMAN, JACKIE SLOAN, SARAH MAYES/GINA FREYTA
ECE Coaches

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Family Childcare Home Navigator/EE/Coach

CORRI HORTON
FCCH Navigator / PD Coordinator

MEGAN KEELING
ECE Outreach Specialist and Navigator

NICOLE GONZALES
ECE Career Navigator

ELISE BARFORD, KARLA WEDEL
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants

BRIANA HARO, MELISSA SANTIZO, SOFIA AGUIRRE, SUMMER KEVIL
Family Support Specialists

Staff

MITZI HICKS*
Growing Home

SADIE WYCH*
Adams County Health Department

JOHN HICKS*
Adams County Head Start

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Bellevue Christian School

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DREW O'CONNOR
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Family Partner

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Family Partner

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Family Partner

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Mapleton Public Schools

OBI EZEADI
Community Partner/Citizen

SOFIA GARCIA
Family Partner

VINCE TRUJILLO
Adams County Business Owner

* Indicates Executive Officer

Board of Directors



Systems and Core Business

Connecting community organizations and families to work together to address complex social issues through:

1 Engaging with **139** individuals from **54** organizations, as well as elected officials, and **20** community members.

ECPAC supported **6** Strategic Action Teams/ Collaboratives with **27** organizations, **7** ECE programs, and **18** family partners.

ECPAC supported **80** programs to be added to the Resource and Referral platform for a total of **103** programs from **45** organizations so that families can better find and connect with the resources they need.

ECPAC partnered with **29** organizations to host/ attend community events and provide resources.

2 Facilitating the Family Leadership Council (FLC) with **22** dedicated family leaders working on reducing mental health stigma and increased access to resources.

As reported by survey **96%** of members have increased their knowledge, **87.5%** have increased their skills, **91.5%** feel ownership over the decisions made, **78.5%** report a great sense of belonging; and **87.50%** report an increase in confidence.

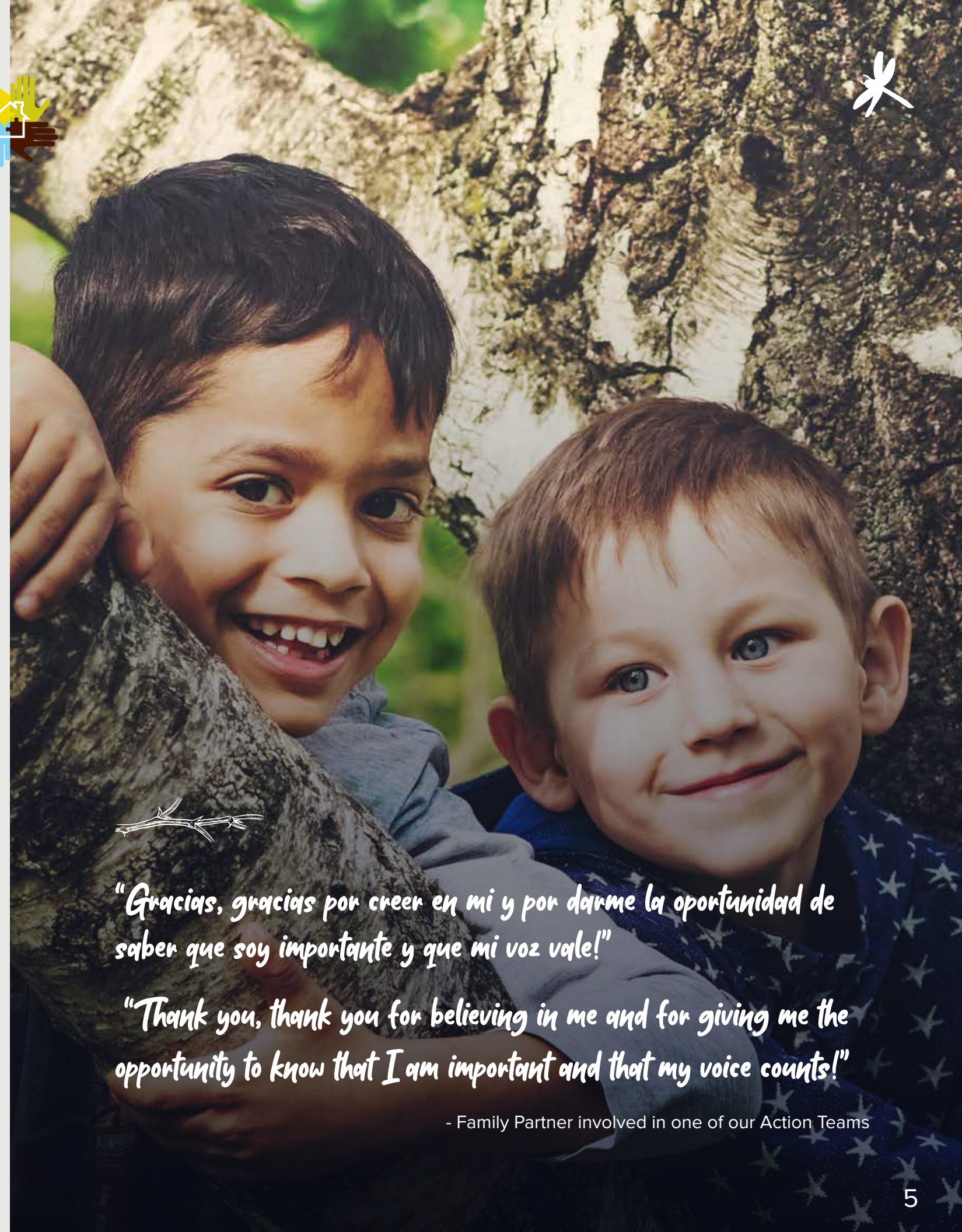
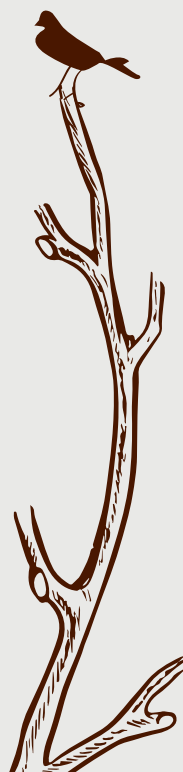
Members have received training this year to increase knowledge of mental health and public speaking.

The FLC were chosen to be Mental Health Ambassadors as part of the Metro-Denver Partnership for Health.

FLC members facilitated **4** community meetings at elementary schools to talk about mental health.

3 Supporting **12** pieces of legislation with **10** passing and advocated for federal investment for early care and education, child abuse prevention and the Strengthening Families Act, and the Child Tax Credit.

Hosting **40** trainings on **30** unique topics for **781** (duplicated) / **433** (unduplicated) professionals to improve the quality of services children and families receive.



"Gracias, gracias por creer en mi y por darme la oportunidad de saber que soy importante y que mi voz vale!"

"Thank you, thank you for believing in me and for giving me the opportunity to know that I am important and that my voice counts!"

- Family Partner involved in one of our Action Teams



"I have been a licensed home provider since 2011 and was just doing things on my own with no connections at all other than my licensing specialist. In 2016, I was looking into some networking and came across the ECPAC website...Now...8 years later and [I still have] my coach which I am so thankful. . She empowered me with her knowledge that I even went back to school and earned my bachelor's degree in ECE. Without her coaching, encouragement, and helping I would be a Level 1 probably and [have none of the] relationships that I have now, possibly maybe not even a provider. I will forever be thankful for the support that I have received."

- Family Child Care Home Provider



Early Learning

Connecting Early Care and Education Providers to comprehensive supports through:



1

Providing ECE coaching to **100** programs (Centers and Family Child Care Homes) for a total of **1458.50** hours toward quality improvement goals in Colorado Shines. Additionally, Adams County providers were supported with **134.5** hours for Early Head Start classrooms and **36.5** hours of EQIT coaching. This amounts to **1629.5** hours of individualized coaching this year.

6

Working with **81** Family Child Care Homes to provide individualized support primarily related to learning about Quality Improvement, business marketing tools, professional development opportunities, and financial resources. These providers included Family Friend and Neighbor (FFN) providers as well as licensed and pre-licensed programs.

8

Supporting **265** individuals with their career goals through our Career Navigation work. **233** of those individuals received support with scholarship information including individualized support with the state's Career Advance opportunity. This support included collaborating with community partners to offer general and individualized support with the completion and submission of FAFSA and CAFSA. Other highly utilized types of support included CDA, PDIS credential, Director qualifications, and ECT qualifications. 81% of those responding to the Career Navigation experience survey reported an increase in knowledge in how to move forward on career goals. **1935** children were cared for and educated by individuals who received CN support this year.

2

Providing **\$158,698** in funding to support learning materials and professional development.

7

Collaborating with **14** local and state community partners to host a FCCH Resource Fair that provided a wealth of meaningful resources and supports to **34** Adams County Family Childcare Home providers.

3

Completing **74** hearing and vision screenings for children in Early Head Start.

4

Supporting **20** Family Child Care Homes to complete the pre-licensing training.

5

Offering **14** professional development opportunities, **4** FAFSA/CAFSA trainings and **9** informational sessions for **286** (duplicated) / **111** (unduplicated) ECE professionals this year. Additionally **42** professionals completed the EQIT course.

9

Supporting **18** Adams County providers who were awarded Emerging & Expanding funds. These funds increased ECE capacity by 323 slots. More than **\$1.1 million** was awarded this year.



Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Connecting Professionals and Families to preventative mental health supports through:

1 Supporting **51** child-focused concerns and **23** classrooms and **40** programs (including centers and family home providers) working to improve overall capacity to support children's social emotional development.

2 Completing **39** screenings for children with **56** referrals to services such as early developmental services, mental health services, home visitation programs and to ECPAC's Family Support Specialists.

3 Providing **19** trainings for **247** ECE professionals from **10** programs and supported 29 providers and **18** families to receive the Conscious Discipline class.

4 Providing a social emotional class series for **11** families with the Family Support Team.

5 Establishing new community partnerships, such as Infant Safety, Adams County Fair, CU Anschutz School of Medicine: Harris Fellowship, Cal State LA, & Key Autism Services.



"I really want you to know how much I appreciate you! The ideas you have and the resources/materials you tell me about are just brilliant! Your positivity and your bubbly and vivacious energy and personality are so infectious; you make me want to be a better person all-around, and I wish I could be more like you! I just wanted you to know that you are one of my most favorite people in the world!"

- Child Focused case



"Son personas excelentes que ayudan a todo el necesitado. En cada evento, clase y reunión hay una organización maravillosa y una atención muy bonita a las personas que asisten a su centro de ayuda. Esta organización es maravillosa."

"They are excellent people who help those that are in need. Their classes, events and meetings that are offered are well organized and staff is attentive and kind to those that come for assistance. This is a wonderful organization!"

- Anonymous



Family Supports and Education

Connecting families to comprehensive supports and services and to each other through:

1 **368** families (**309** new and **59** existing) with resource navigation, which is an increase of **23.50%** compared to last year and a **53.97%** increase from 2021-22 fiscal year.

ECPAC Family Support Specialists facilitated **794** referrals to community-based services and approximately **76%** resulted in successful connections.

2 **23** series of classes and groups to **169** (unduplicated) families, a **70.7%** increase in attendance from last year and a **145%** increase from the 2021-22 fiscal year. Eleven (11) of these series were offered in collaboration with community partners; 6 were co-located.

ECPAC continued its weekly co-location with Almost Home, as well as twice monthly co-location with Adams County Human Services. For a third year, ECPAC hosted a bilingual counseling intern through Maria Droste Counseling Center and a tax preparation site in partnership with Mile High United Way.

4 ECPAC worked with partners on an enhanced focus on the perinatal period, including the provision of direct services and laying the groundwork for an upcoming social norming campaign aimed at increasing awareness of local resources and decreasing stigma related to help-seeking.



Financials



ADAMS COUNTY

Adams County ARPA	20.621%
Adams County Community Services Block Grant	0.351%
Adams County COVID Early Learning	3.243%
Adams County COVID Family Services	1.543%
Adams County Food Security	0.053%
Adams County FSPP	1.382%
Adams County Health Department CHP	0.024%

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

CDEC Child Care Resource and Referral	1.136%
CDEC Community Based Child Abuse Prevention	1.627%
CDEC Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	4.560%
CDEC Emerging and Expanding	26.034%
CDEC Emerging and Expanding Payroll	1.096%
CDEC Expanding Quality in Infant and Toddler Care	0.413%
CDEC Family Child Care Home Navigator	2.270%
CDEC GAE	9.769%
CDEC GAE Professional Development	0.065%
CDEC GAE Workforce Strategy	0.130%
CDEC LOC	0.185%
CDEC Quality Improvement	4.534%
CDEC System Building	5.030%

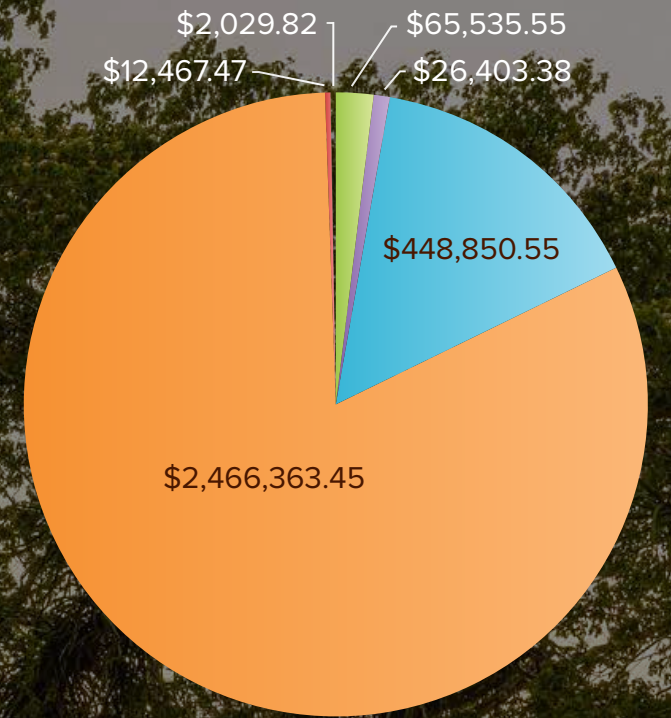
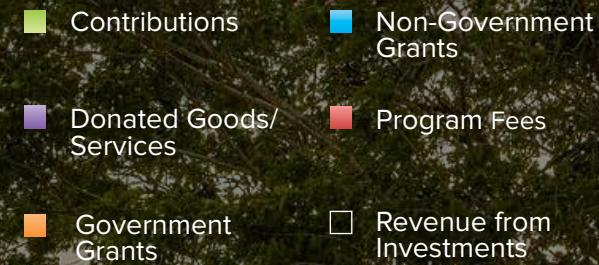
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

CDPHE Growing Home	1.993%
CDPHE PMMM	0.681%

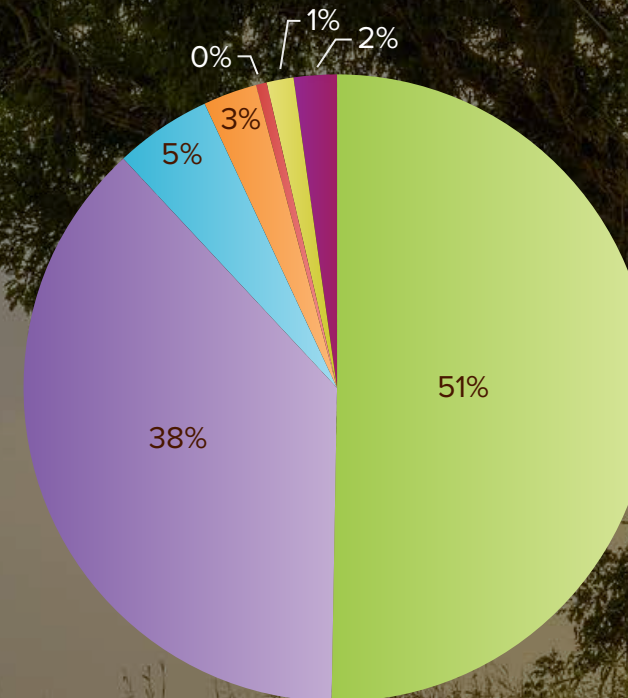
BRIGHTON LEGACY FOUNDATION	0.010%
CARING FOR COLORADO	2.014%
COLORADO ACCESS	1.433%
COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION	0.030%
COLORADO HEALTH INSTITUTE COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR	0.421%
COMMERCE CITY QUALITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION	0.138%
COMMUNITY FIRST CONSTELLATION	1.804%
DENVER FOUNDATION	0.207%
EARLY LEARNING VENTURES	2.602%
GCI INVESTMENTS - GARY PHILANTHROPY	0.065%
HEALTHY CHILDCARE COLORADO	0.123%
JSI - FLC	0.033%
MACKENZIE SCOTT FOUNDATION	0.015%
PAN POSTPARTUM SUPPORT	0.134%
PLATTE VALLEY HOSPITAL COMMUNITY EVENTS	0.052%
SNAP	0.057%
TEMPLE HOYNE BUELL	1.617%
TEMPLE HOYNE BUELL EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH	2.040%
THORNTON ARPA RECOVERY FUND	0.464%

Our Funders

Revenue



Expenses





Our Donors

ECPAC WOULD LIKE TO THANK THOSE WHO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT US THROUGH FUNDING OR OTHER DONATIONS.

Individuals

» Abby English Waldbaum
» Alice De Bruin
» Amanda Benson
» Angela Wilson
» Ann Tinnin
» Annette Ramirez
» Ashlee Goetz
» Beryl Durazno
» Bill Thompson
» Carrie Morris
» Chris & Nicole Russell
» Chris Boyd
» Claudia Casillas
» Cynthia Cargill
» Damian Rosenberg
» Dani Duncan
» Daniela Rossi
» Danielle Brito
» Don & Marge Brisson
» Drew Oconnor
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» Ellen Duran
» Emily Piper Allen
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» Fran and Bill Cimino
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» Gina Freyta
» Glenda Moore
» Hanni Ruehrdanz
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» Jean Cimino
» Jeff & Marion Steward

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» Jill Fuller
» John & Glenda Moore
» John Hicks
» Julia Brink
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» Kailee Heimbecher
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» Linda & Keith Simmons
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» Lisa Jansen Thompson
» Lori Goldstein
» Lynn Craig
» Marnie Kortobi
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» Mary Harrison
» Maureen Creswell
» Mckenna Hynes
» Melanie Ward
» Michael Marisco
» Michel Gephart
» Mitchell Arnold Anderson
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» Theresa Kegerreis
» Tom & Reese Jansen
» Toni Green
» Vicki Maestas
» Vince & Beverly Micucci
» William & Rebecca Cimino

Businesses & Community Partners

» Adams 12 Five Star ECE
» Adams 14 School District
» Adams County CCAP
» Adams County Health Dept
» American Online Giving Foundation
» Call Emmy
» City of Commerce City
» City of Federal Heights
» City of Northglenn
» City of Thornton

» City of Westminster
» Clinica
» COGIVES
» Colorado Access
» Colorado Health Foundation
» Colorado Insurance Store
» Community Reach
» Developmental Pathways
» DogEatDog
» Financial Consulting Group 360
» First Bank
» Front Range Community College
» Frontstream
» Gary Philanthropy (ECE Application Pilot Feb 2024)
» Inspire Graphics
» Intelligent Demand
» Kroger
» Locked In Logistics
» Maiker Housing
» Mapleton Public Schools
» Mears Group
» Mile High United Way of Denver
» North Metro Community Service
» NorthSuburban Medical
» Our Lady Mother of the Church
» Pasco
» Personal Assistance Services of CO
» Renaissance Charitable Foundation
» Jeff & Marion Steward
» Step By Step Michelle Dalbotten
» Tafoya Family Trust
» Westminster Public Schools

In-Kind Donations

ECPAC WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS OF TIME AND RESOURCES.

» Adams County
» Adams County District 14
» Alejandra Rodarte de la Paz
» Anat Weisenfreund
» Arc of Adams County
» Belle Creek Family Center
» Bridget Cessar
» Brighton Housing
» Builders for Babies
» Chiarra Hennigan

» Christine Brisson
» Colorado Dept of Education
» Faith Eidson
» FedEx on the ground
» Feed The Kids-Rockies
» Francine Cimino
» Geraldine F. Harvey
» Hanna Nichols
» Heather Matthews
» Hyland Hills Parks and Rec

» Jamie Lunsford
» Jason Schmidt
» Jean's Family
» Jennifer Preuss
» Julia Jensen
» Kate Reinemund
» Lauren Warth
» Lisa Thompson
» LockenInLogistics
» Orchard Church

» Rachel Dotson Stokes
» Stephanie Russo
» Step by Step Child Development Center
» Thornton Community Connection
» Vicki Henderson
» Volunteers of America Harvest Food Program
» William T. Dawson

Our Volunteers

» Bill Thompson
» Doug Wertzbaugher
» Trisha Buskey, Workforce Intern

Thank You!



ECPAC
EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIP
OF ADAMS COUNTY

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