

# Summary Annual Report

2024 -2025 | CULTIVATING BOLD CREATIVITY



ECPAC  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
PARTNERSHIP  
OF ADAMS COUNTY



**Vision:** All young 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 can reach their full potential. **Ultimate Goal:** All children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to learn and succeed..

This is a summary of our larger annual report. We greatly thank our **95** partners from **71** organizations and Early Care and Education (ECE) programs, **24** family partners, **24** staff, and **13** Board members for their contributions to the successes this year and supporting solutions towards the challenges. The full **2024-2025 Annual Report** includes additional details.

## Challenges

While there are many amazing things that are happening in Adams County to support young children, families, and early childhood professionals, there are also **challenges that need to be addressed:**

◆ Adams County has the capacity to serve **9%** of infants and **19.4%** of toddlers in licensed early care and education programs and waitlists are **6-18** months long for infant and toddler care - leaving families to make hard choices about how their children will be cared for if they are returning to work. Close to 70% of young children have all parents in the workforce and families are spending **16-27%** of their income on childcare vs. the recommended 7%.

◆ Early Care and Education (ECE) professionals' wages are in the bottom **5%** of all occupations yet they have experience and educational requirements to meet quality standards that go above what those in retail and restaurant industry require. Only **4.2%** of ECE professionals are paid what is the recommended level based on education, experience and living wage standards.

◆ Colorado is one of the most expensive states (**#5** in the nation) for the affordability of childcare with one of the lowest public investments.

◆ Adams County has one of the **highest** rates of young children per capita in CO without a high rate of public and private investment.

◆ **More** children and youth live in poverty in Adams County than the state average.

◆ Adams County saw an increase in infant mortality rates by **25.5%** compared to pre-COVID rates while Colorado remained steady.

◆ Adams County has the **highest** concentration of young children at risk for mental health concerns in Colorado with capacity to only serve **6%** of ECE programs with mental health consultation.

◆ Funding for supports through grants and otherwise is **decreasing**.



## WHAT IS THE ECPAC PARTNERSHIP DOING TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?

## Systems Change

To address systemic challenges as required by legislation as an early childhood council to increase access, affordability and quality of early childhood services and supports in the areas of early learning, health, mental health, and family support, **ECPAC has led efforts in:**

◆ Facilitated **6 strategic action teams and collaboratives** focused on: 1) Increasing capacity of infant and toddler early care and education; 2) Prevention of child abuse and neglect - especially during the perinatal period; 3) Recruit and retain the early care and education workforce; 4) Align efforts for general child abuse prevention to promote mental health well-being; 6) Increase the number of programs accepting the Child Care Assistance Program.

◆ Supporting **24 family leaders** to implement a mental health stigma reduction project, participate in Action Teams as noted to help lead change in their community, and learn about how policy impacts community to support future change efforts.

◆ **Raising awareness and the public will and engaging in advocacy** to address challenges in capacity and needed funding through participation in local and state initiatives, presentations, and meetings with key stakeholders.



# Early Learning

To support high quality early care and education (ECE) and ECE professionals, ECPAC offered service and supports to early care and education providers including:

◆ 1,291.5 hours of individualized coaching towards quality improvement in the Colorado Shines program; 67.5 hours for Early Head Start programs; and 59.75 for the Expanding Quality in Infant and Toddler Care program for a total of **1,418.75** hours of coaching support provided.

◆ **107** professionals with Career Navigation to help them reach their career goals.

◆ **54** Family Child Care Homes with individualized support for their business and program.

◆ **28** of professional development opportunities with **96%** reporting that this support will help them stay in the profession to **231** (unduplicated) people from **107** programs.



◆ **4** additional programs received support to expand or start a program to serve **42** more children.

◆ **15** programs supported with pre-licensing with **5** programs receiving their license for a total of **36** more childcare openings.



# Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

To ensure that families and ECE professionals can support children's social emotional development and help prevent future mental health concerns, ECPAC supported:

◆ **13** programs **12** classrooms, and **34** child-focused cases to support socially emotionally rich environments and help adults better understand both typical behavior and behavior adults find challenging.

◆ **30** families supported through parenting classes about supporting social emotional development.

◆ **4** professional development trainings offered to ECE professionals.

# Family Support

To ensure families can access resources and supports as protective factors to prevent child maltreatment and to support family financial and emotional wellbeing, ECPAC supported:

◆ **232** families (**162** new and **70** existing) with resource navigation, providing more than **500** supportive referrals to community based services with 73.60% resulting in successful connections.

◆ **30** series of classes and groups to **178** (unduplicated) families; 11 were offered in collaboration with community partners and 8 were co-located. This year, we began offering financial literacy classes (with optional one-on-one coaching opportunities) and a Summer Reading Program for kids!

◆ ECPAC began promoting a new social norming campaign aimed at decreasing stigma related to help-seeking and increasing awareness of local perinatal resources and educational content.

◆ **15** trainings for community organizations serving families - **249** (unduplicated) attended from **61** organizations.



# Financials

◆ ECPAC received funds from **28** separate grants or contracts for expenditures of \$2,218,087.

◆ **82.15%** of funds are from federal, state, and local governments with high levels of regulations and restrictions.

◆ 6.71% of expenses support overhead and operational expenses with **93.29%** of funds going directly to support programming.

VIEW THE FULL REPORT:



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8859 Fox Drive, Suite 205 · Thornton, Colorado 80260  
303.428.2929 · info@ecpac.org · [www.ecpac.org](http://www.ecpac.org)