

**DENVER'S EARLY
CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

Annual Report 2013-2014

OUR TEAM

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Lead Quality Improvement Navigator

Flor Marquez

Quality Improvement Navigator

Allison Smith

Quality Improvement Navigator

Cami Harris

Outreach Coordinator



OUR VISION

Every young child in Denver enters school ready to succeed.

OUR MISSION

We serve as Denver's early childhood hub, leveraging resources, opportunities and connections to create a quality system that impacts the lives of children and their families.

OUR GOAL

To see that each and every young child across Denver has access to quality child care, early learning and health services to help them enter school ready to succeed. We do this by helping caregivers, teachers, pediatricians and others provide the highest quality services possible, and by connecting different aspects of the early childhood system to make sure policies and practices meet children's growth and developmental needs.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Hope Center

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Clayton Early Learning

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Denver's Early Childhood Council,

2013-14 was yet another year of growth and learning for the council. This year we began to move from “startup” mode into a more solid and sustainable organization. This is, in no small part, due to several changes we have made to our operations and infrastructure. Early in the year we launched our new data system using SugarCRM, an open-source, cloud-based platform. The implementation of our new data system has given us the opportunity to collect and utilize our programmatic data more effectively. Moving forward, this will allow us to aggregate and analyze data in ways that enable us to tell an impactful story and demonstrate measurable outcomes for early childhood in Denver.

Our Quality Improvement, Coaching and Help Desk functions are now all fully managed through the data platform. Late in 2014, we launched our external web portal **ecConnect** to link early learning providers to even more information, training and resources that help them achieve and maintain quality. As we've moved from the testing phase to the fully functional stage we are working out the last remaining kinks. While this has, at times, been a challenging experience, we have been approached by several other early childhood councils around the state who are interested in our data platform and the potential to track data in a more systematic and coordinated way. This will be particularly important in the coming months; it is anticipated that Early Childhood Councils will be important partners and intermediaries as new statewide early childhood systems are implemented through the Early Learning Challenge Fund grant. Our investment in the new data system will allow us to be well positioned to assess our community's needs, provide programmatic support and impact how funds are being implemented locally.

In addition to these resources, the council was funded in partnership with the Denver Department of Human Services to provide a new quality improvement program specifically targeting infants and toddlers. The funding is the result of successful passage of HB 13-1291 which created the *Colorado Infant and Toddler Quality and Availability (ITQA) Grant Program*. The ITQA Program supports quality ratings and quality improvement resources for early childhood programs and informal caregivers who provide care for infants and toddlers receiving support through the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). The program strives to increase both the quality and availability of care for Infants and Toddlers enrolled in CCCAP here in Denver.

We feel that we have made significant strides in growing our external communications and visibility as an organization. We held our 2nd annual Denver Early Learning Institute (DELI), profiled on page 5, with expanded programming and attendance. Council staff also participated in the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference (RMECC) as presenters in several sessions and as an exhibitor for the first time. Finally, we were excited to begin work with a communications consultant on our strategic communications plan that will be fully launched with new branding and messaging in 2014-15!

Thank you as always for your support of our work.



Emily Bustos, Executive Director



IMPACTING THE QUALITY OF SERVICES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN: QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Our Quality Improvement Initiatives include the School Readiness Quality Improvement Program (SRQIP), Denver Preschool Program (DPP), Infant Toddler Quality and Availability Program (ITQA), and Social Emotional Early Development Initiative (SEED). These programs enhance quality in early childhood education in order to improve the school readiness of Denver children from birth to five years old. Through these programs, early care and education providers receive targeted coaching, training, qualified classroom learning materials and technology resources to improve their practice and quality of the learning environments.

In 2013-14 we provided **3,000** coaching hours

\$163,000 in college coursework & professional development
financial assistance,

and **\$330,000** in qualified learning materials and technology support

to **650** classrooms in **240** childcare provider sites in Denver.

Early learning programs participating in our quality improvement initiatives are required to be quality rated by an independent third-party. The majority of programs recognize consistent and significant gains in quality year-over-year as a result of the additional quality improvement supports and resources we provide.

“I know our families here at Baby Haven will never really understand all the hard work you do for us but please know that it makes such a huge difference in the lives of all of our Baby Haven families and we sincerely appreciate it!

Our teachers & kiddos love having the new materials and the kids have already put every single item to good use with lots of play. Thank you so much for all that you do.”

- Julie Rea, CU Denver Baby Haven



PROFESSIONALIZING THE WORK FORCE: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

Professional Development and Denver Childcare Resource & Referral programs expand access to high quality training programs that provide professional development on industry best practice and evidence-based curriculum to help early childhood professionals increase their knowledge and apply it in the classroom. Our professional development offerings are often paired with on-site coaching that enhances the application and effectiveness of the delivered content. DECC braids funding to offer additional community slots to all Denver early childhood education professionals working with children 0-5, including family home care providers, teachers and directors at early learning centers, and other early childhood stakeholders.

In 2013-14 we provided **336** hours of Expanding Quality for Infants & Toddlers training and **160** hours of related coaching for **170** providers.

65 individuals graduated with their Pyramid Plus Approach Certificates!

We provided **516.5** hours of stand-alone and series training

and **247.5** more hours of training paired with coaching.

In total, we had **1002** registrations for **64** professional development trainings taking place

in **187** sessions.



Through our Resource & Referral program, we provided answers to over

100

early childhood related questions via our Help Desk.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS BUILDING

Our Systems Building efforts are all about extending our work beyond early learning to connect with the rich and complex worlds of early childhood health, mental health and home visitation. We do this across sectors, with activities ranging from public engagement, systemic financing and public policy to developing a comprehensive data system. We also convene work groups led by professionals with expertise to teach us about the inner-workings of their systems and connect us with the programs and people who are making a difference in their fields. In return, we're able to bridge relationships among systems serving young children and cultivate leadership, collaboration and referral opportunities for programs who have not connected in the past.

Home Visitation Network

Denver is home to over twelve thriving home visiting programs, yet our Council has historically not been connected with many of them, and they have not been formally connected with each other. As a result of the Affordable Care Act, funding for research-based programs through the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visitation (MIECHV) has expanded the Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers (PAT), and Home Instruction for Parents of Preschools (HIPPPY). The Council received a small MIECHV grant to convene these programs, along with other community-based home visiting programs, to connect them to each other and do an environmental scan of their work.

Early Childhood Health Action Team

Funded by the Colorado Trust, this group's members include early intervention, Child Find, Denver Health & Public Health, home visitation and Head Start. They have been focused on developmental screening and referral, as data shows that only a handful of ECE programs refer young children with potential delays into community services.

SEED Leadership Team

The Council is in the second year of a 3-year grant from the Colorado Health Foundation to bring the Pyramid Plus Approach to Denver's ECE programs and professionals. With this grant, we facilitate the Social Emotional Early Development (SEED) Leadership Team, which is made up of clinical and community experts on early childhood mental health and focused on the system of supports and gaps that exist for children with behavioral challenges.

DELI (Denver Early Learning Institute) 2013 Financing the Early Childhood System

Our 2nd annual educational conference covered blending and braiding funding, tapping into resource funding for non-profits, grant writing, tools & tips for small business sustainability planning and the new DECC online portal introduction.

100% of survey respondents
who attended DELI
said they would recommend the
event to a colleague.



CREATING AND MAINTAINING A THRIVING ORGANIZATION: THE FINANCIAL PICTURE

Governance

Transparency, accountability, and good governance are important to us. Our original 1023 501(c)(3) tax exemption application, most recent Form 990s and audited financial statements are available online.

View our complete profile at <http://givingfirst.org/denverearlychildhoodcouncil>.

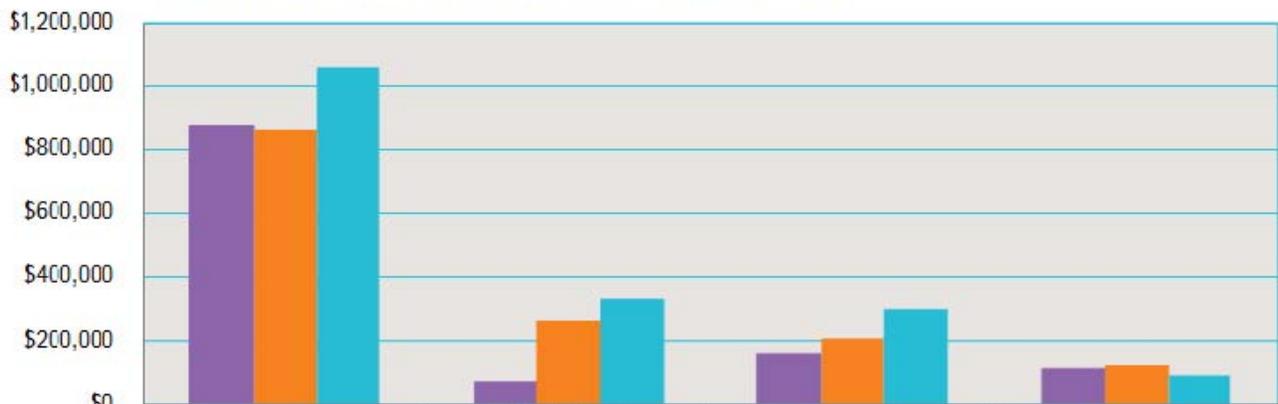
Revenues & Expenses FY11-12, FY12-13, & FY13-14 Comparison

95% of the Council's budget is spent directly on our Quality Improvement, Systems Building & Professional Development programs!



	FY11-12	FY12-13	FY13-14
Net Temporarily Restricted Revenues	-3826	811864	-273478
Unrestricted Revenues	\$1,226,577	\$1,491,560	\$1,861,921
Expenses	\$1,226,651	\$1,471,257	\$1,795,231
Total Revenue	\$1,222,751	\$2,303,424	\$1,588,443

Functional Expense Year over Year Comparison



	Quality Improvement	Professional Development	Systems Building	M&G
FY 11-12	\$874,680	\$72,550	\$157,860	\$113,920
FY 12-13	\$865,664	\$262,785	\$207,139	\$124,475
FY 13-14	\$1,059,934	\$335,391	\$302,154	\$93,028

CREATING AND MAINTAINING A THRIVING ORGANIZATION: NOW, AND LOOKING FORWARD

Communications

We have made strides in raising our profile by working with Third Sector Communications Strategies to develop and implement a strategic communications plan. We now have a new look and a new website underway and will continue to build a community presence through various campaigns, projects and social media.

Race to the Top

Early Learning Challenge

The race continues! We are in year three of a 4-year \$29.9 million federal grant administered through the state of Colorado to improve school readiness for all children. The Council is actively helping child care programs prepare for the new Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System and will continue to provide support into the new year.

Data Platform

In 2014 we launched ecConnect, an online, one-stop-shop for child care programs to register for trainings and events, access Quality Improvement funds and find other resources. This platform, based in Sugar CRM, is helping to streamline online application and order processes for program participants, in addition to serving as model for the state to integrate early childhood program data. We are proud of this accomplishment and look forward to its continued development.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS:



The Colorado Health Foundation



THE COLORADO TRUST

Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation

Supporting the positive development of young children in Colorado.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS IN 2013-14:

Anna Jo Haynes · Carol Edwards · Cheryl Caldwell · David Cordova · Devvy Altman · Diana Gadison
Gerie Grimes · Jose Esquibel · June Allen Morein · Lydia Prado · Lynn Andrews · Malinda Jones
Mitch McKee · Molly Vaughn · Pamela Harris · Sarah Brenkert · Adey Dimalanta · Christopher Lane
Emily Bustos · Karen Enboden · Lania Carrillo · Ryan Rivera · Sharon Keiser · Wendy Hawthorne

Consider making a donation at www.givingfirst.org/denverearlychildhoodcouncil

For more information on Denver's Early Childhood Council, visit www.denverearlychildhood.org.

