



PREPARED BY:
Marzano Research

## **Table of Contents**

Introduction	3
Activity 1. Collect Input on the Colorado Early Childhood Landscape	
Activity 2. Stakeholder Engagement	4
Activity 3. Strategic Plan Working Group	10
Activity 4. Recommended Updates to the Strategic Plan	12
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant	23
Conclusion	25
Appendix	26
Colorado Shines Brighter Strategic Plan Strategy Evolution	26

This project was made possible by grant number 90TP0054. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.



## Introduction

In December 2018, Colorado was awarded an initial Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) of \$5.8 million to help the state analyze the current landscape of the early care and learning mixed-delivery system and develop a strategic plan to guide the implementation of changes that maximize high-quality early care and education options for low-income families, enhance the quality of care, streamline administrative infrastructure, and improve state-level early childhood care and education funding efficiencies. The <u>Colorado Shines Brighter (CSB) Strategic Plan</u> was finalized in December 2019.

In December 2019, Colorado was awarded a PDG B-5 Renewal of \$11,171,969 annually for three years (2020–2022). The <u>CSB Strategic Plan uses</u> renewal grant funds to implement some of the identified activities. As part of the renewal grant, Colorado committed to an annual review and update to the CSB Strategic Plan to incorporate new findings from ongoing needs assessment activities, recommendations from the program evaluation and continuous quality improvement, and ongoing stakeholder feedback with an emphasis on families and caregivers of children birth through five.

To annually facilitate the development of the recommended updates to the CSB Strategic Plan, the Colorado Department of Early Childhood contracted Marzano Research to conduct four primary activities: 1) collect input on the current early childhood landscape related to the Strategic Plan, 2) engage a diverse group of stakeholders to inform the recommendations, especially families and caregivers of children birth through five, 3) facilitate a working group, and 4) prepare a set of recommended updates to the Strategic Plan for the Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) to consider for endorsement. The following report further describes these four activities.



# Activity 1. Collect Input on the Colorado Early Childhood Landscape

To inform updates to the CSB Strategic Plan in 2022, Marzano Research gathered and reviewed state-level policy and funding decisions with implications for the early care and education (ECE) system in Colorado. These documents included stimulus funding documents, PDG B-5 evaluation data, and state legislation related to universal preschool (UPK) and the new Department of Early Childhood (CDEC).

The CSB Strategic Plan strategies were found to be well aligned with the following key documents that informed CO HB22-1295.

The Department of Early Childhood Transition Plan was finalized and approved by the ECLC in November 2021. The Transition Plan includes recommendations for transitioning early childhood services and programs from state agencies to the new DEC.

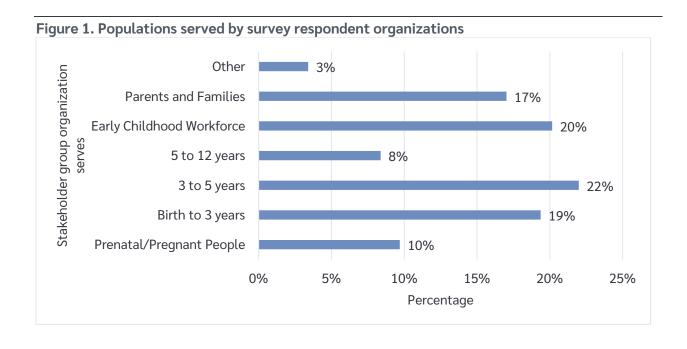
Colorado Universal Preschool Recommendations finalized in January of 2022 provide Colorado's Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) with guidance and direction to ensure a successful launch of the voluntary, universal preschool program.

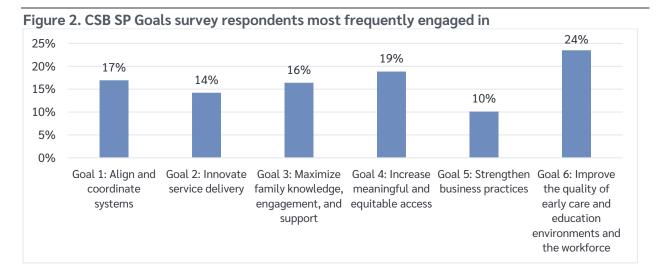
## **Activity 2. Stakeholder Engagement**

A diverse group of stakeholders was engaged in providing input to inform the recommended Strategic Plan updates. The Marzano Research facilitators attended two ECLC Program Quality and Alignment (PQAC) Subcommittee meetings to engage members in providing input on any recommended updates to the Strategic Plan strategies.

Marzano Research also conducted a survey to collect input from statewide stakeholders engaged in work related to moving the strategies forward. Stakeholders also provided input on needs moving forward. This input was also shared with the Strategic Plan Working Group to inform strategy updates. A total of 191 stakeholders responded to the survey. Respondent organizations serve populations across the B-5 system (Figure 1). Respondents most frequently indicated conducting activities under Goal 6, "Improve the quality of early care and education environments and the workforce" (Figure 2).







Figures 3 through 8 present the extent to which stakeholders indicated that their organizations engaged in work aligned with each strategy and how valuable it is to continue the work moving forward under each strategy. Strategies 6.2.6 (Compensation) and 6.2.7 (Recruitment and Retention) have the highest level of engagement. While stakeholders most frequently cited the following as essential to continue moving forward: 1.1.6 (Early Childhood Workforce Support), 3.1.6 (Early Learning & Development Guidelines), 5.1.1 (Pre-Licensing & Start-Up), and 6.2.1 (Professional Development Information System).

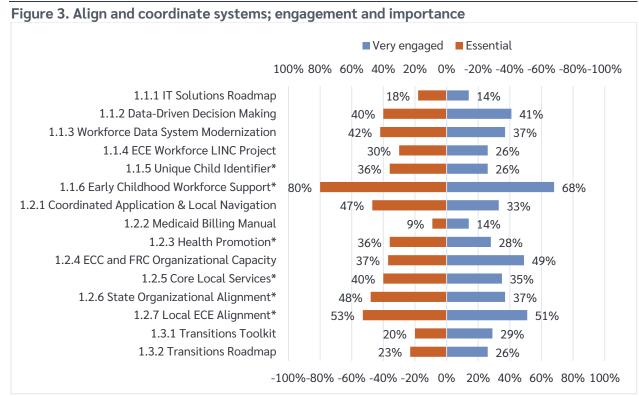
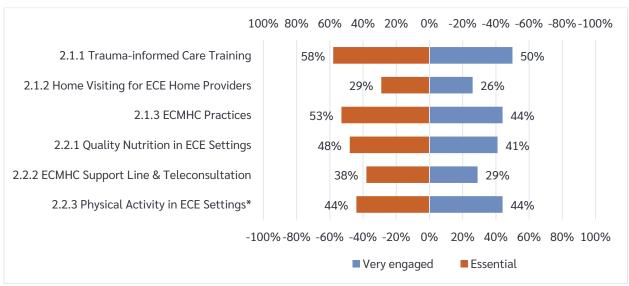
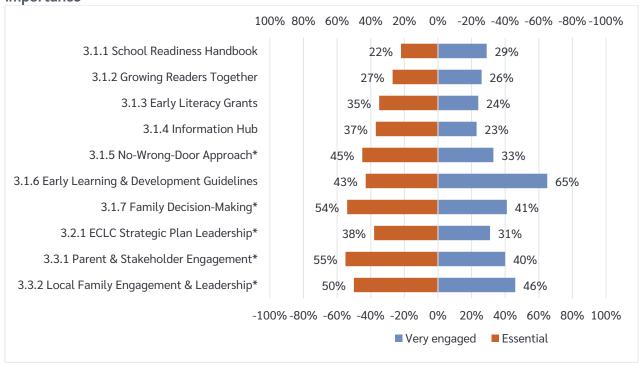


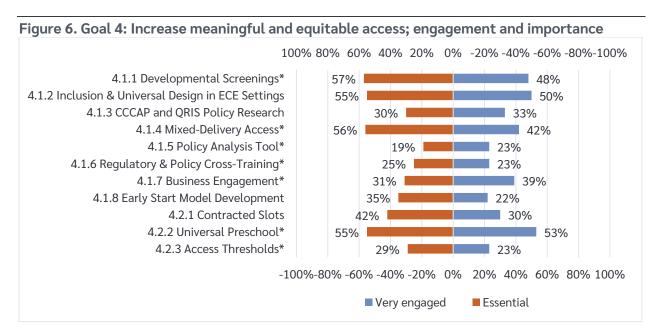
Figure 4 Goal 2: Innovate service delivery; engagement and importance

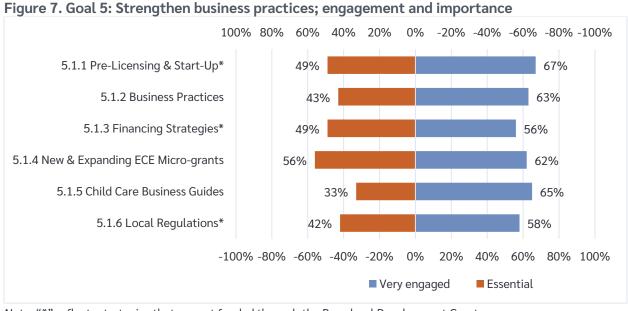


Note. "\*" reflects strategies that are not funded through the Preschool Development Grant.

Figure 5. Goal 3: Maximize family knowledge, engagement and support; engagement and importance







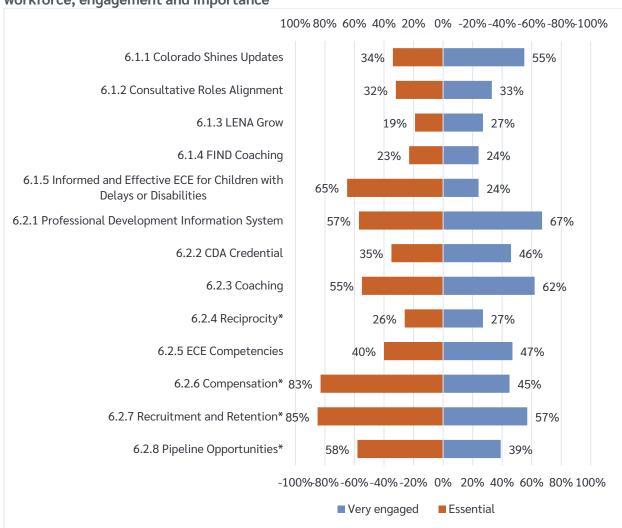


Figure 8. Goal 6: Improve the quality of early care and education environments and the workforce; engagement and importance

Stakeholders also identified areas that may be missing from the current CSB Strategic Plan strategies and could be an opportunity for the update. The opportunities shared by stakeholders reflect the following general themes.

- Opportunities to emphasize the use of accessible languages and formats for family support, communication, and engagement strategies
- Opportunities for strategies to be inclusive of other programs serving children and families (e.g., Early Intervention, Home Visiting, etc.) and early childhood professionals broadly
- Opportunities to identify CDEC's role with state agencies on appropriate strategies
- Opportunities to support UPK implementation with appropriate strategies
- Opportunities to focus on workforce support and preparation



## Activity 3. Strategic Plan Working Group

The Colorado Shines Brighter Strategic Plan Working Group, which sits under the PQAC, was approved by the ECLC on April 23, 2020. The purpose of the Working Group is to identify and monitor activities that support strategies in the Strategic Plan that are not funded through the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five and to recommend changes annually to update the Strategic Plan based on the current early childhood environment, new findings from ongoing needs assessment activities, recommendations from the program evaluation and continuous quality improvement, and ongoing stakeholder feedback with an emphasis on families and caregivers of children birth through five. Table 1 presents the membership of the Working Group.

Table 1. Colorado Shines Brighter Strategic Plan Working Group Members

Sector	Name	Organization
B-3/Infants and Toddlers	Melissa Mares	CO Children's Campaign
B-3/Infants and Toddlers	Kelly Esch	Executive Director Early Childhood Network
Businesses/Business Supports	Lindsey Vigoda	Small Business Majority
Colorado Department of Human Services	Ki'i Powell	CDHS Office of Economic Security
County	Peter Manetta	Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO)
County	Sam Markovitz	Early Childhood Coordinator & Early Childhood SubPAC NW Region Rep: Colorado Human Services Directors Association (CHSDA)
County	Elisabeth Lawrence	Summit County Commissioner
Early Childhood Councils	Clea Willow	Bright Futures (Delta, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, San Juan)
Early Intervention	Shannon Banks	Early Intervention, Rocky Mountain Human Services
English Language Learners/ Refugee or Immigrant Populations	Khatira Amn	The Spring Institute
Family Providers	Lorena Garcia	Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, Providers Advancing Student Outcomes (PASO)
Funders/Philanthropic Partners	Steffanie Clothier	Gary Community Ventures
Head Start	Gayle Perryman	Jefferson County Head Start Director
Head Start	Tracey Lucero	Head Start and Migrant Head Start Program
Home Visiting	Lindsay Sherman	Invest in Kids
Homeless and Migrant Supports	Jenny Lerner	Colorado Department of Education
Licensed Child Care	Dawn Alexander	Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado
Mental Health	Jordana Ash	Consultant



Sector	Name	Organization
Parents/Caregivers	Ealasha Vaughner	
Parents/Caregivers	Janelle Jenkins	
Physical Health and Wellness	Tracy Miller	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
Public preschool	Jody Ejnes	Eagle County School District
School Readiness	Megan Rogers	Colorado Department of Education, Elementary Literacy and School Readiness Office
School Readiness	Rebecca Browning- Floyd	Colorado Department of Education, Elementary Literacy and School Readiness Office
Screening/Referral and Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant	Eileen Auer Bennet	Assuring Better Child Health & Development
Special Education	Dawn Klco	Salida School District
State Advisory Committee - ECLC	Jake Williams	Healthier Colorado
State Government	Tamara (Tammi) Hiler	Governor's Office
Workforce	Vail Shoultz-McCole	Colorado Mesa Community College

The Working Group was convened for two meetings. Meeting 1 was to engage the working group members in evaluating the non-PDG B-5 strategies to identify possible updates. In small groups, the members reviewed input from the Colorado early childhood landscape along with their collective experience to assess progress toward meeting the goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan. As a follow-up to the meeting, additional feedback was solicited from members via a survey. The survey asked members to provide input on updates to the non-PDG B-5-funded strategies and any missing strategies under each of the six goals. Eighteen members responded to this follow-up survey. Thirty percent of the responses indicated some amendment was needed to update the strategies, while 61 percent recommended no change across strategies (Figure 9). Only 2 percent of respondents suggested that strategies were missing across the goals, and 3 percent suggested a strategy be dropped.



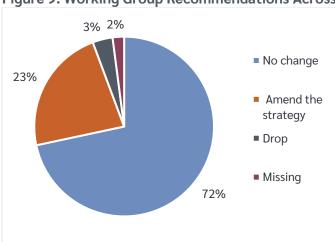


Figure 9. Working Group Recommendations Across Strategies (n = 18)

The Working Group met a second time to review the survey results and further process recommended updates to the non-PDG B-5-funded strategies. As a follow-up to the meeting, the members received a final set of draft recommended updates electronically for review. All members who responded to the final review email agreed that the recommended updates were responsive to the Working Group's input. Table 2 presents the final set of recommended updates in the next section.

## Activity 4. Recommended Updates to the Strategic Plan

The CSB Strategic Plan currently includes 61 strategies. Thirty-six strategies are funded under the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five renewal grant, as noted by the symbol can be implemented in partnership with the ECLC and other state and local organizations, noted by the symbol. For the complete set of current strategies, reference the 2022 Colorado Shines Brighter Strategic Plan. The CSB Strategic Plan strategies have evolved since 2019 in response to 1) input from the Colorado early childhood landscape, 2) ongoing needs assessment activities, 3) the current early childhood environment, and 4) a response to continuous quality improvement (Figure 10). The full CSB Strategic Plan strategies and how they have evolved since 2019 can be found in the appendix.



## Figure 10. CSB Strategic Plan Strategy updates over time

## Of the 56 2019 strategies

- 4 PDG funded strategies updated
- •16 non-PDG funded strategies updated
- 3 new strategies added

## Of the 59 2020 strategies

- •22 PDG funded strategies updated
- •10 non-PDG funded strategies updated
- •2 new strategies added

## Of the 61 2021 strategies

- •19 PDG funded strategies updated, 1 dropped
- •19 non-PDG funded strategies updated

19 PDG B-5-funded and 19 non-PDG B-5-funded strategies are recommended for the 2022 update. Twenty-three strategies remain unchanged in the Strategic Plan. Several general updates should be noted throughout the strategies. Local Coordinating Organizations were added where Early Childhood Councils and Family Resource Centers appear in strategies. References to the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) were updated to Universal Preschool (UPK). Table 2 presents recommended updates for 2022, along with a summary of why the strategy is recommended for the update.



**Table 2. 2021 Strategy Update Recommendations** 

## 2021 Strategy

**Proposed 2022 Update** 

1.1.1 IT Solutions Roadmap. Implement the Office of Early Childhood's Information Technology Solutions Roadmap through a multiphase plan that: supports collaboration and communication; standardizes design for accessibility and usability; and provides transparency and security for publicly available data.

1.1.1 IT Solutions Roadmap. Update and implement the Colorado Department of Early Childhood Information Technology Solutions Roadmap through a robust process that: supports collaboration and communication, standardizes design for accessibility and usability, and provides transparency and security for publicly available data.

Summary for the update: Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy.

## 1.1.2 Data-Driven Decision-Making.

Develop a strategic plan to inform implementation of an early childhood integrated data system to support state- and community-level information on the early childhood system and data-driven decisions.



Develop an early childhood integrated data system to support state- and community-level information on the early childhood system and data-driven decisions.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

## 1.1.3 Workforce Data System

**Modernization**. Embark on data system modernization planning to address Office of Early Childhood business needs including stakeholder input, identification of needed improvements, quality assurance analyses, and the development of specific requirements for enhancement.

## 1.1.3 Workforce Data System

**Modernization**. Continue data system modernization planning to address Department of Early Childhood business needs, including stakeholder input, identification of needed improvements, quality assurance analyses, and the development of specific requirements for enhancement.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

1.1.4 ECE Workforce LINC Project. Use connected data from the Colorado Department of Human Services, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment through the Linked Information Network of Colorado (LINC) to gain a comprehensive picture of the early care and education workforce. Develop a model to provide timely information on workforce demographics, turnover, wages, and educational

1.1.4 ECE Workforce LINC Project. Use connected data from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment through the Linked Information Network of Colorado (LINC) to gain a comprehensive picture of the early care and education workforce. Develop a model to provide timely information on workforce demographics, turnover, wages, and educational



2021 Strategy	Proposed 2022 Update
pathways and disseminate to relevant local and state stakeholders.	pathways and disseminate to relevant local and state stakeholders.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

1.1.6 Early Childhood Workforce Support. Improve efforts to recruit and retain a quality early childhood workforce, including home visitors, coaches, child health consultants, social workers, early intervention specialists, and early childhood mental health consultants. Ensure efforts are founded on diversity, equity and inclusivity and help to define professions within the sector.

1.1.6 Early Childhood Workforce Support. Improve efforts to recruit and retain a quality early childhood workforce, including home visitors, coaches, child health consultants, social workers, early intervention specialists, parental and child health workforce, and early childhood mental health consultants. Ensure efforts are founded on diversity, equity, and inclusivity and help to define professions within the sector.

**Summary for the update:** Update to include "parental and child health workforce" to align with CDEC strategic planning goals and Colorado Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant goals. This strategy is intended to go beyond CDEC alignment and reflects the need to strengthen healthcare as a system partner in the CSB Strategic Plan.

1.2.1 Coordinated Application & Local Navigation. Local Research existing national and local models of coordinated application, eligibility and enrollment and service navigation and identify recommendations for a Colorado model. Review early childhood program applications to improve accessibility and usability.

1.2.1 Local Coordination and Navigation. Maintain and update the Local Early Childhood Systems Coordination Toolkit to empower local entities to improve the coordination of their local B5 systems in the most appropriate, effective manner. Offer local entities and their partners collaborative planning mini-grants to resource the development of more coordinated systems. Review early childhood program applications to improve accessibility, usability, and integration with other programs.

Summary for the update: Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy.

1.2.3 Health Promotion. Promote integrated preventative maternal and child physical, behavioral, oral and environmental health services that are culturally responsive. Explore current models including Head Start and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's maternal and child health priorities such as increasing prosocial connection and social-emotional well-being.

1.2.3 Health Promotion. Coordinate preventative maternal and child physical, behavioral, oral, and environmental health services that are culturally responsive across settings, sectors, and locales. Explore current models, including Head Start and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's maternal and child health priorities, such as increasing prosocial connection and socialemotional well-being.



## **Proposed 2022 Update**

**Summary for the update:** Edit to better reflect the intention to coordinate preventative services among health providers and delivery across settings, sectors, and locations statewide, as this can be a challenge in rural areas.



## 1.2.4 ECC and FRC Organizational

Capacity. Partner with Early Childhood Councils (ECCs), Family Resource Centers (FRCs) and leadership organizations to identify, prioritize and implement recommendations to strengthen local collaboration and increase the capacity of ECCs and FRCs to provide services to children and families. Develop and pilot shared data measures for ECCs. Formulate recommendations to improve the 2022 ECC triennial evaluation and include a cost analysis in the 2025 evaluation.

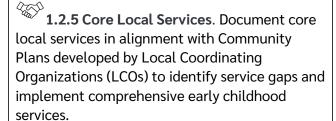


## 1.2.4 Local Organizational Capacity.

Partner with Early Childhood Councils (ECCs), Family Resource Centers (FRCs), Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs), and leadership organizations to identify, prioritize and implement recommendations to strengthen local collaboration and increase the capacity of local organizations to provide services to children and families. Continue implementation of ECC Shared Measures with councils and ECCLA.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy.

**1.2.5 Core Local Services**. Document the core early childhood, family and community support services in each county and implement a plan to address local service gaps.



Summary for the update: Update to align local services with LCO community plans.



## 1.2.6 State Organizational Alignment.

Expand ongoing coordination and collaboration across state agencies including CDHS, CDPHE, Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) and Department of Early Childhood (DEC) to improve child and family outcomes. Identify and address systems and administrative barriers within and across the agencies.



## 1.2.6 State Organizational Alignment.

Expand ongoing coordination and collaboration across state agencies, including CDHS, CDPHE, Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC), and the Colorado Governor's Office to improve child and family outcomes. Identify and address systems and administrative barriers within and across the agencies.

**Summary for the update:** Update DEC to CDEC and add the CO Governor's Office as a state partner in this strategy.



**Proposed 2022 Update** 

**1.2.7 Local ECE Alignment**. Support early care and education service providers in the implementation of systemic coordination to improve families' and children's transitions to kindergarten.

1.2.7 Local ECE Alignment. Support early childhood professionals in partnership with receiving organizations in implementing systematic coordination to improve families' and children's transitions across programs and settings.

**Summary for the update:** Broaden to include early childhood professionals and transitions across programs and settings that families and children experience.

**1.3.1 Transitions Toolkit**. Create a transition plan toolkit for early childhood professionals to communicate with families. Engage parents and caregivers to determine appropriate communication strategies.

**1.3.1 Transitions Toolkit.** Create resources to deepen awareness of transitions to kindergarten among early care and education professionals and families. Engage families and ECE Professionals to determine appropriate communication strategies.

Summary for the update: Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy.

2.1.1 Trauma-Informed Care Training.

Offer Roots™, Branches and Seedlings traumainformed training to Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation professionals, community support providers, early care and education providers and families. 2.1.1 Trauma-Informed Care Training.

Promote increased trauma-informed care knowledge and application across Colorado by offering a variety of curricula and trainings to mental health professionals, community support providers, early care and education providers and families.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

2.1.3 ECMHC Practices. Develop a
Colorado model of Early Childhood Mental
Health (ECMH) Consultation that responsively
meets the needs of children, families and
providers, while also being adopted by
practitioners, implemented to fidelity and
subject to evaluation. Align and coordinate the
larger ECMH field to facilitate statewide
implementation.

2.1.3 ECMHC Practices. Monitor and support implementation of the newly developed Colorado model of Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultation. Align and coordinate the larger ECMH field and key partners to facilitate statewide fidelity implementation of a model that responsively meets the needs of children, families, and providers.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

**2.2.1** Quality Nutrition in ECE Settings.

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Colorado Department of 2.2.1 Quality Nutrition in ECE Settings.

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood, Department of Public Health and Environment, Department of Education, and other state and



# Education will coordinate to reduce barriers and increase early care and education provider participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Proposed 2022 Update local partners will coordinate to reduce barriers and increase early care and education provider participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School Lunch Program, and School Breakfast Program.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

# 2.2.2 ECMHC Support Line &

**Teleconsultation**. Create a statewide Early Childhood Mental Health Support Line, strengthen teleconsultation practices and encourage use of teleconsultation to serve families and early childhood education providers in rural communities.

## 2.2.2 ECMHC Support Line &

Teleconsultation. Invest in awareness and promotion of innovative service delivery options, including the statewide Early Childhood Mental Health Support Line and teleconsultation to serve families and early childhood education providers in rural communities. Leverage continuous quality improvement, change management, and data-driven decision-making practices to refine services, offer responsive training, and increase statewide access to needed services.

Summary for the update: Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy.

3.1.5 No-Wrong-Door Approach. Support the continued implementation of no-wrong-door strategies to ensure families can access information quickly, make timely connections, and receive support regardless of their initial entry point into the early childhood system.

3.1.5 No-Wrong-Door Approach. Support the continued implementation of no-wrong-door strategies to ensure families can access information quickly in their preferred language and relevant to their priorities and values to make timely connections. Ensure families receive support regardless of their initial entry point into the early childhood system.

**Summary for the update:** Update to promote accessibility of information in families' preferred language and relative to their priorities and values.

3.1.7 Family Decision-Making. Engage families in shared decision-making with early care and education service providers through a process that incorporates information on key considerations for selecting programs and providers.

3.1.7 Family Decision-Making. Engage families in shared decision-making with early childhood, family support, and health care professionals through a process that incorporates families' values and priorities when considering a selection of programs and providers.

**Summary for the update:** This strategy intends to engage families in selecting child care. Broaden to include health care professionals in the process, as well as more explicitly call out family values and priorities in the decision-making process.



## **Proposed 2022 Update**

3.2.1 ECLC Strategic Plan Leadership. The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) will identify a leadership role for specific strategies and ensure voices from families and providers representing diverse races, ethnicities, languages spoken and geographic regions are included.

3.2.1 ECLC Strategic Plan Leadership. The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) will identify a leadership role for specific strategies and ensure that voices from families and providers representing diverse races, socioeconomic statuses, ethnicities, languages spoken, and geographic regions are included.

Summary for the update: Update to include socio-economic status as a representation factor.

## 3.3.1 Parent & Stakeholder Engagement.

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) will continue to engage with the CDHS Family Voice Council, OEC Family Voice Council, Head Start Collaboration Office, Colorado Head Start Association, Family Leadership Network and state and local family and caregiver networks to support ongoing family engagement and leadership. Develop and disseminate a statewide Family Engagement Framework.

## 3.3.1 Parent & Stakeholder Engagement.

The CDEC will continue to engage with the Early Childhood Family Voice Council, CDHS Family Voice Council, Head Start Collaboration Office, Colorado Head Start Association, Family Leadership Network, and state and local family and caregivers networks to support ongoing family engagement and leadership. Disseminate the state-wide Family Engagement Framework and develop companion documents to support the implementation of the Framework.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

## 3.3.2 Local Family Engagement &

**Leadership**. Build capacity and identify points of collaboration with early care and education service providers to empower and engage families in a variety of leadership and advocacy roles.

## 3.3.2 Local Family Engagement &

**Leadership.** Build capacity and identify points of collaboration to use the Family Engagement Framework with early childhood and family service providers to empower and engage families in various leadership and advocacy roles.

**Summary for the update:** Update to include the use of the Family Engagement Framework and broaden beyond early care and education.

4.1.1 Developmental Screenings. Increase the availability of developmental screenings and referral processes in appropriate settings where children are served. Explore ways to ensure continuity of services once referrals are made and accessibility for all children and families regardless of systematic barriers.

**4.1.1 Developmental Screenings.** Increase the availability of developmental screenings, referrals, and ongoing monitoring processes in appropriate settings where children are served. Explore ways to ensure continuity of services once referrals are made and accessibility for all children and families regardless of systematic barriers.

**Summary for the update:** Add "ongoing monitoring" to support a continuum of support from screening – referral – monitoring.



## **Proposed 2022 Update**

4.1.5 Policy Analysis Tool. Develop a tool to analyze how programs and policies affect the availability and funding of infant and toddler child care and the equitable access for priority populations such as dual-language learners, families living in poverty, families living in rural areas and families who have children with special needs. Explore processes to ensure relevant agencies and entities participate in a policy analysis review.

4.1.5 Policy Analysis. Evaluate how programs and policies impact the availability and funding of infant and toddler child care and equitable access for priority populations. Priority populations include but are not limited to duallanguage learners, families living in poverty, families living in rural areas, and families who have children with special needs. Implement processes to ensure relevant agencies and entities participate in a policy analysis review.

**Summary for the update:** Update that the policy tool is not the driver, but rather ongoing monitoring and evaluation to inform policy. Also, update "explore" to "implement processes" to ensure agencies are participating in monitoring and evaluating policies.

**4.1.6 Regulatory & Policy Cross-Training.**Develop strategies for CDPHE, CDHS, CDE, DEC, ECCs, school districts, local regulatory entities, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and

the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and professional associations to cross-train on ECE regulatory and policy changes to improve equitable access to services.

4.1.6 Regulatory and Policy Cross-

**Training**. Develop strategies for CDPHE, CDHS, CDE, CDEC, ECCs, Head Starts, school districts, local regulatory entities, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and professional associations to crosstrain on ECE regulatory and policy change analysis to improve equitable access to services.

**Summary for the update:** Update to include Head Start as a partner and change DEC to CDEC for accuracy. Add training on regulatory and policy change analysis as the Working Group cites this as a need.

**4.1.7 Business Engagement**. Engage and equip local and state business leaders and business -support organizations with the resources and knowledge they need to support the availability of, and equitable access to, early care and education programs through public-private partnerships.

4.1.7 Business Engagement. Engage and equip local and state business leaders and business -support organizations with the knowledge and resources they need to support the availability of, and equitable access to, mixed-delivery early care and education programs through public-private partnerships.

**Summary for the update:** Update to include mixed-delivery early care and education (ECE) to broaden.

**4.2.2 Universal Preschool**. Implement a mixed-delivery high-quality universal preschool program for all Colorado four-year-olds that is coordinated with existing early care and education programs.

**4.2.2 Universal Preschool**. Implement and evaluate Colorado's high-quality mixed-delivery Universal Preschool program with specific attention to equity and inclusiveness of the program and mitigate unintended consequences.



## **Proposed 2022 Update**

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy to implement and evaluate UPK.

5.1.1 Pre-Licensing & Start-Up. Partner with early care and education providers to address pre-licensing and start-up challenges, and connect them to resources to support sustainability and financially sound business practices, including how to achieve livable wages.

**5.1.1 Pre-Licensing & Start-Up**. Partner with early care and education providers to address pre-licensing and start-up challenges and connect them to resources accessible in multiple languages to support sustainability and financially sound business practices, including how to achieve livable wages.

Summary for the update: Update to include resources accessible in multiple languages.

5.1.4 New & Expanding ECE Microgrants.

Provide early care and education micro-grants to support start-up costs, targeting providers in child care deserts and those serving infants, toddlers or children with special health or developmental needs.

5.1.4 New & Expanding ECE Grants.

Provide early care and education grants to support start-up costs, targeting providers in child care deserts and those serving infants, toddlers, or children with special health or developmental needs. Evaluate grants to understand the capital, start-up, and expansion needs of ECE programs.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy to implement and evaluate UPK. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

**5.1.5 Child Care Business Guides.** Develop and disseminate business guides to early care and education providers to support connections to resources and the adoption of best practices including the blending and braiding of funding streams, budgeting, regulatory compliance and other operational functions of a small business.

5.1.5 Child Care Business Guides. Maintain, update, and promote business guides to new and existing early care and education providers to support connections to resources and the adoption of best practices, including the blending and braiding of funding streams, budgeting, regulatory compliance, and other operational functions of a small business. Partner with EPIC to develop an Employer-Based Child Care Business Guide.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

**5.1.6 Local Regulations**. Study the effect of local regulations on the availability of infant and toddler child care and family child care homes. Identify regulations that might cause barriers to increase the availability of infant and toddler care.

**5.1.6 State and Local Regulations**. Study the effect of state and local regulations on the availability of infant and toddler child care and family child care homes. Identify regulations that might cause barriers to increase the availability of infant and toddler care.

Summary for the update: Update to include state regulations.



## 2021 Strategy Proposed 2022 Update

6.1.1 Colorado Shines Updates.

Implement the new Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Framework and the Environmental Rating Scale 3. Complete a validation study of the Framework in 2023. 6.1.1 Colorado Shines Updates. Finalize the new Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Framework and the Environmental Rating Scale 3 by completing a validation study of the Framework in 2023.

Summary for the update: Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy.

6.1.5 Informed and Effective ECE for Children with Delays or Disabilities. Develop state-level infrastructure to pilot and sustain community implementation teams promoting the adoption of inclusive practices in early care and education programs.

**6.1.5** Informed and Effective ECE for Children of all Abilities. Build the capacity of state-level coaches to support inclusion practices in early childhood settings.

Summary for the update: Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy.

6.2.2 CDA Credential. Provide Child Development Associate (CDA) scholarships to early care and education professionals, targeting areas with known workforce shortages. Add CDA professional development specialists to support implementation.

6.2.2 CDA Credential. Provide Child Development Associate (CDA) scholarships to early care and education professionals, targeting areas with known workforce shortages. Look at innovative ways to support the CDA credential as a workforce pathway.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy.

6.2.3 Coaching. Pilot a state early care and education coaching model including Colorado Shines Quality Rating Improvement System and Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care. Utilize regional coaches to increase data collection and provide data-informed training and formal supports for coaches including reflective supervision. Update courses, transcreate coaching materials and utilize a telehealth approach to coaching.

6.2.3 Coaching. Expand the state program for early care and education coaching. This program includes CQI, EQ Relates, UPK, and other coaching models actively used across the state. The regional coaching team spearheaded the coaching initiative to provide formal supports for coaches, such as data-informed training and reflective supervision, and to collect data on the effectiveness of their support.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.



**Proposed 2022 Update** 

**6.2.6 Compensation**. Explore strategies to ensure worthy and livable compensation for early care and education professionals. Work to enhance compensation, including benefits, and create compensation parity across settings, sectors and age of children served.

**6.2.6 Compensation**. Prioritize and implement effective, sustainable strategies to ensure worthy and livable compensation for early care and education professionals. Ensure strategies enhance compensation, including benefits, and create compensation parity across public and private settings, sectors, and age of children served.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect a new phase in the strategy given work underway to study compensation for UPK workforce, EI providers, and other pilots underway to create parity in the system.

**6.2.7 Recruitment and Retention**. Update the Early Childhood Workforce 2020 plan to support the recruitment and retention of early care and education professionals who are from diverse backgrounds and speak the language and reflect the cultures of children in care.

6.2.7 Recruitment and Retention. Update the Early Childhood Workforce 2020 plan to support the recruitment and retention of early childhood professionals who are from diverse backgrounds and speak the language and reflect the cultures of children in care.

**Summary for the update:** Change "early care and education" to "early childhood" professionals to reflect that the update happening in 2023 will broaden the plan to EC professionals.

**6.2.8 Pipeline Opportunities**. Explore and expand access to early childhood apprenticeship and peer mentoring programs, including providing concurrent enrollment apprenticeship opportunities for high school students to gain work experience in early care and education settings.

6.2.8 Pipeline Opportunities. Expand access to apprenticeship and coaching opportunities for early childhood professionals, including providing concurrent enrollment for groups such as family friend and neighbor providers, retirees, and high schoolers through apprenticeships.

**Summary for the update:** Update to reflect work done statewide on apprenticeships, no longer in explore phase, but can be expanded. Also, broaden to a larger EC workforce.

## **Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant**

Colorado was awarded a five-year Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) grant in August 2021 by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). As part of the grant, states are required to complete a system gap and gap analysis to inform the development of a prenatal to three statewide strategic plan or updates to an existing strategic plan. The Colorado Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems: Health Integration Prenatal-to-three Project (CO-ECCS) is advancing the infrastructure, capacity, equity, and sustainability of Colorado's maternal and early childhood systems of care to achieve the vision that "All children are valued, healthy and thriving and have equal access to services, supports, and resources" in Colorado.



The CO-ECCS Working Group guides this work, which sits under the PQAC of the ECLC. The CO-ECCS Working Group identified strategies aligned to the ECCS project currently in the Strategic Plan. It developed five new strategies to address system gaps and embed the project goals into the CSB SP. Table 3 provides the 5 strategies to be added to the Strategic Plan. In addition to these 5 strategies, the CO-ECCS Working Group provided recommendations to further integrate physical health, mental health, oral health, nutrition, and the healthcare system throughout the CSB Strategic Plan.

Table 3. ECCS Strategies to be embedded under CSB Strategic Plan Objectives

CSB Objective	ECCS Strategy
1.1 - Make Data- Informed Decisions	1.1.7 Prenatal-to-Three Early Childhood Equity Action Plan.  Develop an Early Childhood Equity Action Plan that advances equity for prenatal to three that is a collaboration of the early childhood and maternal child health systems.
1.2 - Ensure Coordinated Services	1.2.8 Integrated Coordinated Intake and Referral Systems. Identify and assess barriers across local and state referral systems, create resources to support community cross-sector integration, and develop recommendations for future improvements to prenatal to three referral systems.
1.3 - Promote and Share Knowledge	1.3.3 Prenatal-to-Three Policy. Identify and prioritize policy and financing recommendations that support an integrated prenatal-to-three system and mobilize partners to advance those recommendations.
3.3 - Provide Inclusive Opportunities for Family Engagement and Leadership	3.3.3 Family Voice in Integrated Systems. Ensure structures are in place to receive and incorporate family voices across early childhood and maternal child health policy and initiative planning, implementation, and continuous quality improvement processes.
4.1 - Build Community Capacity	4.1.9 Sustainable Integrated Programming. Develop resources to increase connections between early childhood and maternal child health systems through cross-sector planning, braiding and blending funds, and sustainable implementation strategies.



## Conclusion

This report presents a set of recommended updates to the Colorado Shines Brighter Strategic Plan for the Early Childhood Leadership Commission to consider for endorsement. The recommendations result from findings from the Colorado early childhood landscape document review, ongoing needs assessment data, stakeholder feedback, and the need for continuous quality improvement. During the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five renewal grant period, the Colorado Shines Brighter Strategic Plan was reviewed and updated annually to incorporate new findings from ongoing needs assessment activities, recommendations from the program evaluation and continuous quality improvement, and ongoing stakeholder feedback with an emphasis on families and caregivers of children birth through five.

Should Colorado receive a PDG B-5 Planning Grant for 2023, a more significant CSB Strategic Plan update will be necessary. As part of that update, the following broader recommendations are provided for consideration.

- The CO-ECCS Working Group recommends including the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) as a partner in the Colorado Shines Brighter Strategic Plan.
- The CSB Strategic Plan Working Group recommends adding a separate Early Childhood Workforce Goal in alignment with the Early Childhood Workforce Plan update to be completed in 2023.
- The CSB Strategic Plan should also be aligned with the updated Early Childhood Colorado Framework to be completed in 2023.



## **Appendix**

Colorado Shines Brighter Strategic Plan Strategy Evolution

2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
1.1.1 IT Solutions	1.1.1 IT Solutions	1.1.1 IT Solutions	1.1.1 IT Solutions
Roadmap. Implement the Office	Roadmap. Implement the Office	Roadmap. Implement the Office	Roadmap. Update and
of Early Childhood's (OEC)	of Early Childhood's	of Early Childhood's	implement the Colorado
InformationTechnology (IT)	Information Technology	Information Technology	Department of Early Childhood
Solutions Roadmap through a	Solutions Roadmap through a	Solutions Roadmap through a	Information Technology
multi-phase plan that: supports	multi-phase plan that: supports	multi-phase plan that: supports	Solutions Roadmap through a
collaboration and	collaboration and	collaboration and	robust process that: supports
communication; standardizes	communication; standardizes	communication; standardizes	collaboration and
design for accessibility and	design for accessibility and	design for accessibility and	communication, standardizes
usability; and provides	usability; and provides	usability; and provides	design for accessibility and
transparency and security for	transparency and security for	transparency and security for	usability, and provides
publicly available data.	publicly available data.	publicly available data.	transparency and security for
			publicly available data.
Summary of the update over time	:		
• 2019-2020: No change			
• 2020-2021: No change			
• 2021-2022: Update to reflect	new phase or for accuracy.		
	E0=		1 1 2 Data Driver
1.1.2 Data-Driven	1.1.2 Data-Driven	1.1.2 Data-Driven	1.1.2 Data-Driven
<b>Decision Making</b> . Build a public-	<b>Decision Making</b> . Build a public-	<b>Decision Making</b> . Develop a	Decision-Making. Develop an
facing dashboard to support	facing dashboard to support	strategic plan to inform	early childhood integrated data
community-level information on	community-level information on	implementation of an early	system to support state- and
the state of the local early	the state of the local early	childhood integrated data	community-level information on
childhood system and data-	childhood system and data-	system to support state- and	the early childhood system and
driven decisions.	driven decisions.	community-level information on	data-driven decisions.
		the early childhood system and	
		data-driven decisions.	



- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated to reflect the need to first develop a plan to implement an ECIDS and more accurately describe what is occurring under the PDG.
- 2021 2022: Update to reflect new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

1.1.3 Workforce Data

System Modernization. Embark on data system modernization planning to address OEC business needs including stakeholder input, identification of needed improvements, quality assurance analyses, and the development of specific

1.1.3 Workforce Data

System Modernization. Embark on data system modernization planning to address Office of Early Childhood business needs including stakeholder input, identification of needed improvements, quality assurance analyses, and the development of specific requirements for enhancement.

1.1.3 Workforce Data
System Modernization. Embark
on data system modernization
planning to address Office of
Early Childhood business needs
including stakeholder input,
identification of needed
improvements, quality
assurance analyses, and the
development of specific
requirements for enhancement.

1.1.3 Workforce Data
System Modernization.
Continue data system

Continue data system modernization planning to address Department of Early Childhood business needs, including stakeholder input, identification of needed improvements, quality assurance analyses, and the development of specific requirements for enhancement.

Summary of the update over time:

requirements for enhancement.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

## 1.1.4 ECE Workforce LINC

**Project**. Use connected data from the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)

## 1.1.4 ECE Workforce LINC

Project. Use connected data from the Colorado Department of Human Services, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment through the

## 1.1.4 ECE Workforce LINC

Project. Use connected data from the Colorado Department of Human Services, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment through the

## 1.1.4 ECE Workforce LINC

Project. Use connected data from the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment through the



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
through the Linked Information	Linked Information Network of	Linked Information Network of	Linked Information Network of
Network of Colorado (LINC) to	Colorado (LINC) to gain a	Colorado (LINC) to gain a	Colorado (LINC) to gain a
gain a comprehensive picture of	comprehensive picture of the	comprehensive picture of the	comprehensive picture of the
the early care and education	early care and education	early care and education	early care and education
(ECE) workforce. Develop a	workforce. Develop a model to	workforce. Develop a model to	workforce. Develop a model to
model to provide timely	provide timely information on	provide timely information on	provide timely information on
information on workforce	workforce demographics,	workforce demographics,	workforce demographics,
demographics, turnover, wages,	turnover, wages, and	turnover, wages, and	turnover, wages, and
and educational pathways and	educational pathways and	educational pathways and	educational pathways and
disseminate to relevant local	disseminate to relevant local	disseminate to relevant local	disseminate to relevant local
and state stakeholders.	and state stakeholders.	and state stakeholders.	and state stakeholders.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: PDG will no longer fund implementation, however that is planned through the new DEC
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

## 1.1.5 Unique Child

Identifier. Explore barriers and strategies to implementing a unique child identifier (per Colorado House Bill 08-1364) to enable data informed decisions concerning child outcomes. Utilize the upcoming school readiness data pilot program with local school districts to explore existing or needed technologies and data sharing agreements and unique child identifier implementation challenges.



## 1.1.5 Unique Child

Identifier. Accelerate strategies to implement a unique child identifier (per Colorado House Bill 08-1364) to enable data-informed decisions concerning child outcomes. Coordinate across early childhood settings to explore existing or needed technologies and data-sharing agreements and unique child identifier implementation challenges.



## 1.1.5 Unique Child

Identifier. Accelerate strategies to implement a unique child identifier (per Colorado House Bill 08-1364) to enable data-informed decisions concerning child outcomes. Coordinate across early childhood settings to explore existing or needed technologies and data-sharing agreements and unique child identifier implementation challenges.



## 1.1.5 Unique Child

Identifier. Accelerate strategies to implement a unique child identifier (per Colorado House Bill 08-1364) to enable data-informed decisions concerning child outcomes. Coordinate across early childhood settings to explore existing or needed technologies and data-sharing agreements and unique child identifier implementation challenges.



- 2019-2020: Changes were made to directly address the comments to amend the strategy. The language to "explore barriers" was removed, as several comments noted that barriers are already known. To make the strategy more inclusive, "coordinate across early childhood settings" was added. The "school readiness data pilot program" was removed so as not to limit when and how the exploration of needed technologies and data-sharing agreements could be explored.
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: No change

1.1.6 Early Childhood
Workforce Support. Identify
current and new opportunities
to better support the broader
early childhood workforce
including home visitors,
coaches, child health
consultants, and mental health
consultants.

1.1.6 Early Childhood
Workforce Support. Identify current and new opportunities to better recruit, retain, and define ECE professions with a foundation of diversity, equity, and inclusivity in professional development to increase the quality of the broader early childhood workforce, including home visitors, coaches, child health consultants, social workers, early intervention specialists, and early childhood mental health consultants.

1.1.6 Early Childhood
Workforce Support. Improve
efforts to recruit and retain a
quality early childhood
workforce, including home
visitors, coaches, child health
consultants, social workers,
early intervention specialists,
and early childhood mental
health consultants. Ensure
efforts are founded on diversity,
equity and inclusivity and help
to define professions within the
sector.

1.1.6 Early Childhood
Workforce Support. Improve efforts to recruit and retain a quality early childhood workforce, including home visitors, coaches, child health consultants, social workers, early intervention specialists, parental and child health workforce, and early childhood mental health consultants.
Ensure efforts are founded on diversity, equity, and inclusivity and help to define professions within the sector.

Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: Additional specificity was added to the language to address input on the need to not just support but also recruit and retain. The word "support" is vague and it was replaced with additional language to explicitly emphasize professionalism and added diversity, equity, and inclusion for ECE professionals. Additional early childhood personnel were added to further expand the "broader workforce" that is called out.
- 2020-2021: No change



### 2022 Recommended Update 2019 Strategy 2020 Strategy 2021 Strategy 2021-2022: Update to include "parental and child health workforce" to align with CDEC strategic planning goals and Colorado Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant goals. This strategy is intended to go beyond CDEC alignment and reflects the need to strengthen healthcare as a system partner in the CSB Strategic Plan. 1.2.1 Coordinated 1.2.1 Coordinated 1.2.1 Coordinated 1.2.1 Local Coordination **Application & Local Application & Local Application & Local** and Navigation. Maintain and Navigation. Research existing Navigation. Research existing Navigation. Research existing update the Local Early

Navigation. Research existing national and local models of coordinated enrollment/application and service navigation and identify recommendations for local implementation.

Application & Local Navigation. Research existing national and local models of coordinated enrollment/ application and service navigation and identify recommendations for local implementation.

Application & Local
Navigation. Research existing
national and local models of
coordinated application,
eligibility, and enrollment and
service navigation and identify
recommendations for a
Colorado model. Review early
childhood program applications
to improve accessibility and
usability.

**Childhood Systems** Coordination Toolkit to empower local entities to improve the coordination of their local B5 systems in the most appropriate, effective manner. Offer local entities and their partners collaborative planning mini-grants to resource the development of more coordinated systems. Review early childhood program applications to improve accessibility, usability, and integration with other programs.

Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated to better reflect the work of the Coordinated Application, Eligibility, and Enrollment workgroup facilitated by OEC and the PDG B-5 TA Center and the CCCAP Application Rewrite workgroup.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect new phase or for accuracy.

1.2.2 Medicaid Billing
Manual. Develop a Medicaid

1.2.2 Medicaid Billing Manual. Develop and make

1.2.2 Medicaid Billing
Guides. Develop and make

1.2.2 Completed, no new phase



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
billing process manual for	updates to Medicaid billing	updates to Medicaid billing	
Healthy Steps, Early Childhood	process manuals for Child First,	process guides for Child First,	
Mental Health Consultation	Healthy Steps, Early	Healthy Steps, Early	
(ECMHC) and home visiting	Intervention Colorado, Early	Intervention Colorado, Early	
programs. Provide training and	Childhood Mental Health	Childhood Mental Health	
technical assistance to support	Consultation, Nurse-Family	Consultation, Nurse-Family	
utilization.	Partnership, SafeCare Colorado,	Partnership, SafeCare Colorado,	
	and other state-funded home	and other state-funded home	
	visiting programs. Provide	visiting programs. Provide	
	training and technical	training and technical	
	assistance to support	assistance to support	
	utilization.	utilization.	

- 2019-2020: The Advancing Medicaid in Early Childhood project led by HCPF is intended to expand access to Medicaid for children up to age three. Through the Working Group directing this project, the Child First and SafeCare Colorado programs were identified as additional programs to add to the strategy that qualify for Medicaid billing. The working group also identified updates to existing Medicaid billing manuals for Early Intervention Colorado and the Nurse-Family Partnership.
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated to reflect current work by a vendor that will end in 2021. Additionally, "Manual" was changed to "Guides" for accuracy.
- 2021-2022: This strategy was completed, and there is no new phase of the work.

## (A)

### 1.2.3 Health Promotion.

Promote integrated and preventative maternal and child physical, behavioral, oral, and environmental health services. Explore current models including Head Start and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) maternal and child

## (A)

## 1.2.3 Health Promotion.

Promote integrated preventative maternal and child physical, behavioral, oral, and environmental health services that are culturally responsive. Explore current models including Head Start and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's



## 1.2.3 Health Promotion.

Promote integrated preventative maternal and child physical, beh avioral, oral and environmental health services that are culturally responsive. Explore current models including Head Start and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's



## 1.2.3 Health Promotion.

Coordinate preventative maternal and child physical, behavioral, oral, and environmental health services that are culturally responsive across settings, sectors, and locales. Explore current models, including Head Start and the Colorado Department of Public



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
health priorities such as	(CDPHE) maternal and child	maternal and child health	Health and Environment's
increasing prosocial connection	health priorities such as	priorities such as increasing	maternal and child health
and social emotional well-being.	increasing prosocial connection	prosocial connection and social-	priorities, such as increasing
	and social-emotional well-	emotional well-being.	prosocial connection and social-
	being.		emotional well-being.

- 2019-2020: The change made was to further promote culturally responsive approaches to preventative maternal and child health based on comments. Other comments provided were related to implementation of actions under the strategy.
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: Edit to better reflect the intention to coordinate preventative services among health providers and delivery across settings, sectors, and locations statewide, as this can be a challenge in rural areas.



## 1.2.4 Local

## Organizational Capacity.

Review the 2019 Early Childhood Council (ECC) and Family Resource Center (FRC) organizational capacity study. Through stakeholder workgroups identify, prioritize, and implement recommendations to increase the capacity of ECCs and FRCs to enable the provision of ECE and wraparound services to more underserved children and families. Expand the ECC triennial evaluation to include a cost analysis of the resources needed to fully fund the local system.

# 1.2.4 ECC and FRC Organizational Capacity.

Review the 2019 Early Childhood Council (ECC) and Family Resource Center (FRC) organizational capacity study. Through stakeholder workgroups identify, prioritize, and implement recommendations to increase the capacity of ECCs and FRCs to enable the provision of early care and education and wraparound services to more underserved children and families. Expand the ECC triennial evaluation to include a cost analysis of the resources

# 1.2.4 ECC and FRC Organizational Capacity.

Partner with Early Childhood Councils (ECCs), Family Resource Centers (FRCs), and leadership organizations to identify, prioritize, and implement recommendations to strengthen local collaboration and increase the capacity of ECCs and FRCs to provide services to children and families. Develop and pilot shared data measures for ECCs. Formulate recommendations to improve the 2022 ECC triennial evaluation and include a cost analysis in the 2025 evaluation.

## 1.2.4 Local

## Organizational

Capacity. Partner with Early Childhood Councils (ECCs). Family Resource Centers (FRCs), **Local Coordinating** Organizations (LCOs), and leadership organizations to identify, prioritize and implement recommendations to strengthen local collaboration and increase the capacity of local organizations to provide services to children and families. Continue implementation of ECC Shared Measures with councils and ECCLA.



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
	needed to fully fund the local		
	system.		

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: The strategy was updated to reflect the ECC Triennial that is legislatively mandated and due October 1, 2022. A work team is currently identifying the strategies for measuring effectiveness for the 2025 Triennial reporting.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect new phase or for accuracy.



## 1.2.5 Core Local Services.

Determine the core early childhood and family and community support services to be made available in each county and create a plan to address local service gaps.



## 1.2.5 Core Local Services.

Determine the core early childhood and family and community support services to be made available in each county and create a plan to address local service gaps.



## 1.2.5 Core Local Services.

Document the core early childhood, family, and community support services in each county and implement a plan to address local service gaps.



## 1.2.5 Core Local Services.

Document core local services in alignment with Community Plans developed by Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs) to identify service gaps and implement comprehensive early childhood services.

## Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: The strategy was updated for accuracy. Specifically, "Determine" was changed to "Document." Additionally, "implement" a plan replaces "create" a plan to move the strategy further toward action.
- 2021-2022: Update to align local services with LCO community plans.



## 1.2.6 State Organizational

Alignment. Enhance ongoing coordination and collaboration across state agencies including CDHS, CDPHE, Colorado Department of Education (CDE), and Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF). Identify



## 1.2.6 State

## Organizational Alignment.

Expand ongoing coordination and collaboration across state agencies including CDHS, CDPHE, Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), and Colorado



## 1.2.6 State

## Organizational Alignment.

Expand ongoing coordination and collaboration across state agencies including CDHS, CDPHE, Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), Colorado



## 1.2.6 State Organizational

Alignment. Expand ongoing coordination and collaboration across state agencies, including CDHS, CDPHE, Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), Colorado Department of Health Care



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
opportunities to address	Department of Health Care	Department of Health Care	Policy and Financing (HCPF),
systems and administrative	Policy and Financing (HCPF) to	Policy and Financing (HCPF),	Colorado Department of Early
barriers.	improve child and family	and Department of Early	Childhood (CDEC), and the
	outcomes. Identify	Childhood (DEC) to improve	Colorado Governor's Office to
	opportunities to address	child and family outcomes.	improve child and family
	systems and administrative	Identify and address systems	outcomes. Identify and address
	barriers.	and administrative barriers	systems and administrative
		within and across the agencies.	barriers within and across the
			agencies.

- 2019-2020: "Enhance" was changed to "expand" in order to acknowledge the coordination and collaboration that is occurring already among agencies. Additionally, CDHE was added as another collaborative agency and a focus for coordination and collaboration to "improve child and family outcomes."
- 2020-2021: The strategy was updated to include the new Department of Early Childhood as a collaborator on this strategy and removed "opportunity" to move this strategy forward to action.
- 2021-2022: Update DEC to CDEC and add the CO Governor's Office as a state partner in this strategy.

2021 2022. Opdate DEC to CDEC and add the CO dovernor's office as a state partner in this strategy.			
1.2.7 Did not exist	1.2.7 Local ECE	1.2.7 Local ECE	1.2.7 Local ECE
	Alignment. Support school	Alignment. Support early care	Alignment. Support early
	district implementation of	and education service providers	childhood professionals in
	systemic coordination with	in the implementation of	partnership with receiving
	community based ECE programs	systemic coordination to	organizations in implementing
	to improve children's	improve families' and children's	systematic coordination to
	transitions to kindergarten (and	transitions to kindergarten.	improve families' and children's
	early elementary school		transitions across programs and
	grades).		settings.

## Summary of the update over time:

• 2019-2020: A strategy to explicitly support children's transition from preschool to kindergarten (and early elementary school grades) is needed under Goal 1, as Colorado prepares to implement universal preschool and because COVID has disrupted normal learning services for preschoolers. Effective coordination between preschool settings and school districts requires transition



## 2019 Strategy 2020 Strategy 2021 Strategy 2022 Recommended Update

agreements to include, at a minimum, coordination plans and policies on children's records, parent-teacher communication, and teacher professional development.

- 2020-2021: This strategy was broadened to include community partners, both public and private, using the terminology of "early care and education service providers." Additionally, content in parentheses was removed and "families" added.
- 2021-2022: Broaden to include EC professionals and transitions across programs and settings that families and children experience.

## 1.3.1 Transitions Toolkit

& Marketplace. Create a transition plan toolkit and online marketplace for early childhood professionals to communicate with families. Engage parents and caregivers to determine appropriate communication strategies for families.

## 1.3.1 Transitions Toolkit

& Marketplace. Create a transition plan toolkit and online marketplace for early childhood professionals to communicate with families. Engage parents and caregivers to determine appropriate communication strategies for families.

## 1.3.1 Transitions Toolkit.

Create a transition plan toolkit for early childhood professionals to communicate with families. Engage parents and caregivers to determine appropriate communication strategies.

## 1.3.1 Transitions Toolkit.

Create resources to deepen awareness of transitions to kindergarten among early care and education professionals and families. Engage families and ECE Professionals to determine appropriate communication strategies.

Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: Change Language for Accuracy Heather Craiglow: Remove Marketplace. We will create transition resources to reside on our revised website.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect new phase or for accuracy.

## 1.3.2 Transitions

Roadmap. The OEC and the CDE Preschool through Third Grade (P-3) Office will develop a birth through five (B-5) transitions roadmap and identify the needed local training and tools for implementation. The roadmap will encompass

## 1.3.2 Transitions

Roadmap. The Office of Early Childhood and the Preschool through Third Grade Office will develop a birth through five transitions roadmap and identify the needed local training and tools for implementation. The roadmap

## 1.3.2 Transitions

Roadmap. Develop and disseminate a kindergarten transitions roadmap and training and tools for implementation. The roadmap should encompass support for children, including those with special health or developmental

## 1.3.2 Transitions

Roadmap. Develop and disseminate a kindergarten transitions roadmap and training and tools for implementation. The roadmap should encompass support for children, including those with special health or developmental



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
support for children, including	will encompass support for	needs, their families, and early	needs, their families, and early
those with special health or	children, including those with	care and education and K-3	care and education and K-3
developmental needs, their	special health or developmental	professionals, as well as home	professionals, as well as home
families, and ECE and K-3	needs, their families, and early	visitors, early intervention, child	visitors, early intervention, child
professionals, as well as home	care and education and K-3	health, and early childhood	health, and early childhood
visitors, early intervention, child	professionals, as well as home	mental health professionals.	mental health professionals.
health, and ECMH professionals.	visitors, early intervention, child		
	health, and early childhood		
	mental health professionals.		

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: The strategy was updated to reflect a new phase of implementation to develop and disseminate the transitions roadmap.
- 2021-2022: No change

2.1.1 Trauma-informed

Care Training. Offer Roots™,
Branches and Seedlings traumainformed training to Early
Childhood Mental Health
Consultation (ECMHC)
professionals, community
support providers, ECE
providers, and families.

2.2.

Care Tr
Branches
informed
Childhoo
Consult
community
support providers, ECE
providers, and families.

2.1.1 Trauma-informed
Care Training. Offer Roots™,
Branches and Seedlings traumainformed training to Early
Childhood Mental Health
Consultation professionals,
community support providers,
early care and education
providers, and families.

2.1.1 Trauma-Informed
Care Training. Offer Roots™,
Branches and Seedlings traumainformed training to Early
Childhood Mental Health
Consultation professionals, co
mmunity support providers,
early care and education
providers and families.

2.1.1 Trauma-Informed
Care Training. Promote
increased trauma-informed care
knowledge and application
across Colorado by offering a
variety of curricula and trainings
to mental health professionals,
community support providers,
early care and education
providers and families.

Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
2.1.2 Home Visiting for	2.1.2 Home Visiting for	2.1.2 Home Visiting for	2.1.2 Home Visiting for
ECE Home Providers. Continue	ECE Home Providers. Continue	ECE Home Providers.	ECE Home Providers.
the Home Visiting for Child Care	the Home Visiting for Child Care	Disseminate the Home Visiting	Disseminate the Home Visiting
Homes Pilot Program through	Homes Pilot Program through	for Child Care Homes Pilot	for Child Care Homes Pilot
2020. Evaluate outcomes to	2020. Evaluate outcomes to	Program case study to share	Program case study to share
inform practice and future	inform practice and future	outcomes, inform practice, and	outcomes, inform practice, and
expansion.	expansion.	identify opportunities for	identify opportunities for
		expansion.	expansion.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: The strategy was updated to reflect a new phase of implementation. The project has transitioned to case study completion, followed by community dissemination.
- 2021-2022: No change

### 2.1.3 ECMHC Practices. Complete an ECMHC service delivery model evaluation to inform workforce standards, model-development and quality improvement.

2.1.3 ECMHC Practices. Complete an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation service delivery model evaluation to inform workforce standards, model development,

and quality improvement.

2.1.3 ECMHC Practices.

Develop a Colorado model of Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultation that responsively meets the needs of children, families, and providers, while also being adopted by practitioners, implemented to fidelity, and subject to evaluation. Align and coordinate the larger ECMH field to facilitate statewide implementation.

2.1.3 ECMHC Practices.

Monitor and support implementation of the newly developed Colorado model of Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultation. Align and coordinate the larger ECMH field and key partners to facilitate statewide fidelity implementation of a model that responsively meets the needs of children, families, and providers.

Summary of the update over time:

2019-2020: No change



### 2019 Strategy 2020 Strategy 2021 Strategy 2022 Recommended Update

- 2020-2021: The strategy was updated for accuracy. This strategy will be awarded in the updated QRIS framework. There is also new work to align and coordinate the larger ECMH field to facilitate a statewide model implemented to fidelity.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

2.2.1 Quality Nutrition in ECE Settings. Coordinate with CDHS, CDPHE and CDE to increase ECE provider participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the National School Lunch Program.

2.2.1 Quality Nutrition in ECE Settings. Coordinate with the Colorado Department of Human Services, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Colorado Department of Education to increase early care and education provider participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School Lunch Program, and the School Breakfast Program.

2.2.1 Quality Nutrition in ECE Settings. The Colorado Department of Human Services, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Colorado Department of Education will coordinate to reduce barriers and increase early care and education provider participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School Lunch Program, and the School Breakfast Program.

2.2.1 Quality Nutrition in ECE Settings. The Colorado Department of Early Childhood, Department of Public Health and Environment, Department of Education, and other state and local partners will coordinate to reduce barriers and increase early care and education provider participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, National School Lunch Program, and School Breakfast Program.

### Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: The "School Breakfast Program" was added to this strategy as a result of input from CDE partners that it should be included because of its alignment with the other programs. The addition of the program increases efficiency in service delivery and is a response to continuous quality improvement.
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated for accuracy, adding that these practices within ECE programs will be awarded in the updated QRIS framework.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

2.2.2 ECMHC Warmline & Telehealth. Create an ECMHC warm-line and explore telehealth options for both families and early childhood

2.2.2 ECMHC Warmline & Telehealth. Create an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation warm-line and explore telehealth options for

2.2.2 ECMHC Support Line & Teleconsultation. Create a statewide Early Childhood Mental Health Support Line, strengthen 2.2.2 ECMHC Support
Line & Teleconsultation. Invest
in awareness and promotion of
innovative service delivery
options, including the statewide



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
education providers in rural	both families and early	teleconsultation practices, and	Early Childhood Mental Health
communities.	childhood education providers	encourage use of	Support Line and
	in rural communities.	teleconsultation to serve	teleconsultation to serve
		families and early childhood	families and early childhood
		education providers in rural	education providers in rural
		communities.	communities. Leverage
			continuous quality
			improvement, change
			management, and data-driven
			decision-making practices to
			refine services, offer responsive
			training, and increase statewide
			access to needed services.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated for accuracy, to reflect use of telehealth since 2020. ECMHC Warmline is now called ECMHC Support Line.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect new phase or for accuracy.

2021 2022. Opadic to reflect new phase of for decardey.			
2.2.3 Did not exist	2.2.3 Physical Activity in	2.2.3 Physical Activity in	2.2.3 Physical Activity in
	ECE Settings. Increase physical	ECE Settings. Promote	ECE Settings. Promote
	activity in early care and	moderate to vigorous physical	moderate to vigorous physical
	education settings.	activity that is developmentally	activity that is developmentally
		appropriate and carried out in a	appropriate and carried out in a
		variety of modalities and	variety of modalities and
		settings.	settings.

### Summary of the update over time:

• 2019-2020: Objective 2.2 is to promote strong relationships, social and emotional development, appropriate nutrition, and physical activity. Currently, this objective lacks a strategy that addresses physical activity. Building in a strategy focused on physical activity will help support the objective overall.



### 2019 Strategy 2020 Strategy 2021 Strategy 2022 Recommended Update

- 2020-2021: This strategy changed "Increase" to "Promote." It also added "moderate to vigorous," "developmentally appropriate," and "variety of modalities and settings" to be specific about the types of physical activity and broaden to different places and ways the activity can occur.
- 2021-2022: No change

3.1.1 School Readiness
Handbook. Develop a school readiness handbook for families and informal child care providers to share best practices and resources to support children's learning and development. Implement a plan for dissemination and use including online and print distribution in multiple languages.

3.1.1 School Readiness
Handbook. Develop a school
readiness handbook for families
and informal child care
providers to share best practices
and resources to support
children's learning and
development. Implement a plan
for dissemination and use,
including online and print
distribution in multiple
languages.

3.1.1 School Readiness
Handbook. Disseminate The
PLAYbook to families and
informal child care providers to
inform best practices and
resources to support children's
learning and development.
Translate The PLAYBook into
multiple languages.

3.1.1 School Readiness
Handbook. Disseminate The
PLAYbook to families and
informal child care providers to
inform best practices and
resources to support children's
learning and development.
Translate The PLAYBook into
multiple languages.

Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated to reflect a new phase of implementation.
- 2021-2022: No change

3.1.2 Growing Readers
Together. Expand Growing
Readers Together to increase
quality in informal
care environments and support
early literacy for children not in
formal (licensed) ECE programs.

3.1.2 Growing Readers
Together. Expand Growing
Readers Together to increase
quality in informal care
environments and support early
literacy for children not in
formal (licensed) early care and
education programs.

3.1.2 Growing Readers
Together. Expand Growing
Readers Together to increase
quality in informal care
environments and support early
literacy for children not in for
mal (licensed) early care and
education programs.

3.1.2 Growing Readers
Together. Expand Growing
Readers Together to increase
quality in informal care
environments and support early
literacy for children not in for
mal (licensed) early care and
education programs.



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update	
• 2019-2020: No change				
• 2020-2021: No change				
• 2021-2022: No change				
3.1.3 Early Literacy Grants. Expand the	3.1.3 Early Literacy Grants. Expand the	3.1.3 Early Literacy Grants. Expand the	3.1.3 Early Literacy Grants. Review grantee	
Comprehensive Early Literacy	Comprehensive Early Literacy	Comprehensive Early Literacy	evaluation summaries and	
Grant Program to ensure the essential components of	Grant Program to ensure the essential components of	Grant Program to ensure the essential components of	summarize the impact of the Early Literacy Grant Preschool	
reading instruction are embedded into public preschool through third	reading instruction are embedded into public preschool through third grade instruction	reading instruction are embedded into public preschool through third grade instruction	Expansion.	
grade instruction including	including universal, targeted	including universal, targeted		
universal, targeted and	and intensive interventions.	and intensive i nterventions.		
intensive interventions. Increase	Increase focus on family	Increase focus on family		
focus on	knowledge and engagement.	knowledge and engagement.		
family knowledge and				
engagement.				
Summary of the update over time:				
• 2019-2020: No change				
• 2020-2021: No change				
2021-2022: Update to reflect	new phase or for accuracy.			
3.1.4 Information Hub.	3.1.4 Information Hub.	3.1.4 Information Hub.	3.1.4 Information Hub.	
Consolidate parent-facing	Consolidate parent-facing	Consolidate parent-facing	Consolidate parent-facing	
websites into a single online	websites into a single online	websites into a single online	websites into a single online	
resource that will connect	resource that will connect	resource that will connect	resource that will connect	
parents to information about	parents to information about	parents to information about	parents to information about	
ECE, developmental milestones,	early care and education,	early care and education,	early care and education,	
early screenings, and other	developmental milestones,	developmental milestones,	developmental milestones,	
programs and services to	early screenings, and other	early screenings and other	early screenings and other	



	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
programs and services to	programs and services to	programs and services to
support young children and	support young children and	support young children and
their families.	their families.	their families.
S	support young children and	support young children and support young children and

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: No change



### 3.1.5 No-Wrong-Door

Campaign. Support the continued implementation of the no-wrong-door strategy which ensures families can access information quickly, make timely connections, and receive support regardless of their initial entry point into the early childhood system.



### 3.1.5 No-Wrong-Door

Campaign. Support the continued implementation of the no-wrong-door strategy, which ensures families can access information quickly, make timely connections, and receive support regardless of their initial entry point into the early childhood system.



### 3.1.5 No-Wrong-Door

Approach. Support the continued implementation of no-wrong-door strategies to ensure families can access information quickly, make timely connections, and receive support regardless of their initial entry point into the early childhood system.



### 3.1.5 No-Wrong-Door

Approach. Support the continued implementation of no-wrong-door strategies to ensure families can access information quickly in their preferred language and relevant to their priorities and values to make timely connections. Ensure families receive support regardless of their initial entry point into the early childhood system.

### Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated to reflect stakeholder comments to change the word "campaign" and to add language related to carrying out or implementing the strategy.
- 2021-2022: Update to promote accessibility of information in families' preferred language and relative to their priorities and values.

3.1.6 Early Learning & **Development Guidelines.** 

Distribute the updated Colorado Early Learning & Development

### 3.1.6 Early Learning & **Development Guidelines.**

Distribute the updated Colorado Early Learning & Development

### 3.1.6 Early Learning & **Development Guidelines.**

Distribute the updated Colorado Early Learning & Development

### 3.1.6 Early Learning & **Development Guidelines.**

Distribute the updated Colorado Early Learning & Development Guidelines print and online



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
Guidelines print and online materials, including new videos on transitions and parents' experiences, to parents, caregivers, ECE	Guidelines print and online materials, including new videos on transitions and parents' experiences, to parents, caregivers, early care and	Guidelines print and online materials, including new videos on transitions and parents' experiences, to parents, caregivers, early care and	materials, including new videos on transitions and parents' experiences, to parents, caregivers, early care and education providers and early
providers, and early childhood professionals.	education providers, and early childhood professionals.	education providers and early childhood professionals.	childhood professionals.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: No change. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

# 3.1.7 Family Attitudes & Decision-Making. Explore family opinions and decision-making in the mixed-delivery system, including the influence of Colorado Shines ratings on provider selection and considerations of reputation, cost, and teacher qualifications.

3.1.7 Family Attitudes & Decision-Making. Increase shared decision-making with families in the mixed-delivery system, incorporating family opinions, Colorado Shines ratings, and considerations of reputation, cost, and teacher qualifications on provider selection.

3.1.7 Family Decision-Making. Engage families in shared decision-making with early care and education service providers through a process that incorporates information on key considerations for selecting programs and providers.

3.1.7 Family Decision-Making. Engage families in shared decision-making with early childhood, family support, and health care professionals through a process that incorporates families' values and priorities when considering a selection of programs and providers.

- 2019-2020: To reflect Working Group input, "explore" was changed to "increase" to be more action-oriented and reflect the desire to call out the importance of including families in shared decision-making more explicitly.
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated to broaden to "early care and education service providers" to be more inclusive of the types of services families access. The word "Increase" was changed to "Engage" families.
- 2021-2022: This strategy focuses on engaging families in selecting child care. Broaden to include health care professionals in the process as well as more explicitly call out family values and priorities in the decision-making process.



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update		
3.2.1 ECLC Strategic Plan	3.2.1 ECLC Strategic Plan	3.2.1 ECLC Strategic Plan	3.2.1 ECLC Strategic Plan		
<b>Leadership</b> . The Early	<b>Leadership</b> . The Early	<b>Leadership</b> . The Early	<b>Leadership</b> . The Early		
Childhood Leadership	Childhood Leadership	Childhood Leadership	Childhood Leadership		
Commission (ECLC) will consider	Commission (ECLC) will identify	Commission (ECLC) will identify	Commission (ECLC) will identify		
a leadership role for specific	a leadership role for specific	a leadership role for specific	a leadership role for specific		
strategies and incorporate input	strategies and ensure voices	strategies and ensure voices	strategies and ensure that		
from families and early	from families and providers	from families and providers	voices from families and		
childhood professionals.	representing diverse races,	representing diverse races,	providers representing diverse		
	ethnicities, languages spoken,	ethnicities, languages spoken	races, socio-economic statuses,		
	and geographic regions are	and geographic regions are	ethnicities, languages spoken,		
	included.	included.	and geographic regions are		
			included.		
Summary of the update over time:					

- 2019-2020: More explicit language regarding the role of the ECLC to "identify" leadership roles for strategies and ensure inclusion of families and providers of color and diverse geographic locales was included.
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: Update to include socio-economic status as a representation factor.

### 3.3.1 Parent & Stakeholder Engagement. CDHS will continue to engage with the CDHS Family Voice Council, Head Start Collaboration Office, Colorado Head Start Association, and state and local family and caregiver networks to support

ongoing family engagement and

leadership.

3.3.1 Parent & Stakeholder Engagement. The

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) will continue to engage with the CDHS Family Voice Council, Head Start Collaboration Office, Colorado Head Start Association, and state and local family and caregiver networks to support ongoing family engagement and leadership.

### 3.3.1 Parent &

Stakeholder Engagement. The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) will continue to engage with the CDHS Family Voice Council, OEC Family Voice Council. Head Start Collaboration Office, Colorado Head Start Association, Family Leadership Network, and state and local family and caregiver networks to support ongoing

### 3.3.1 Parent &

Stakeholder Engagement. The CDEC will continue to engage with the Early Childhood Family Voice Council, CDHS Family Voice Council, Head Start Collaboration Office, Colorado Head Start Association, Family Leadership Network, and state and local family and caregivers networks to support ongoing family engagement and leadership. Disseminate the



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
		family engagement and	state-wide Family Engagement
		leadership. Develop and	Framework and develop
		disseminate a statewide Family	companion documents to
		Engagement Framework.	support the implementation of
			the Framework.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated for accuracy, to include creation of the OEC Family Voice Council & Family Engagement Framework.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect new phase or for accuracy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

## 3.3.2 Early Childhood Council Capacity. Build capacity of local ECCs to engage family leaders, including consultation and engagement with local FRCs and Head Start programs to ensure families are empowered to become community leaders.

# 3.3.2 Local Family Engagement & Leadership. Build capacity and identify points of collaboration with community-based organizations and ECCs to engage family leaders, including consultation and engagement with local FRCs and Head Start programs, state-funded preschool, and school districts to ensure families are empowered to become community leaders.

### 3.3.2 Local Family Engagement & Leadership. Build capacity and identify points of collaboration with early care and learning service providers to empower and engage families in a variety of leadership and advocacy roles.

# 3.3.2 Local Family Engagement & Leadership. Build capacity and identify points of collaboration to use the Family Engagement Framework with early childhood and family service providers to empower and engage families in various leadership and advocacy roles.

- 2019-2020: The strategy was amended to acknowledge the important role of community-based organizations in the system. Additionally, state-funded preschool and school districts were added to the list of collaborators to support family engagement. Other comments related to this strategy were more focused on implementation of actions.
- 2020-2021: In response to stakeholder input to broaden the strategy, specific entities were removed and replaced with "early care and learning service providers." Additionally, the strategy was broadened from families being "community leaders" to engaging in a "variety of leadership and advocacy roles."



	2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
•	2021-2022: Update to include	e the use of the Family Engagement	t Framework and broaden beyond e	early care and education.

4.1.1 Developmental Screenings. Increase the availability of developmental screenings and referral processes in appropriate settings where children are served.

4.1.1 Developmental
Screenings. Increase the
availability of developmental
screenings and referral
processes in appropriate
settings where children are
served. Explore ways to ensure
continuity of services once
referrals are made and
accessibility for all children and
families regardless of
systematic barriers.

4.1.1 Developmental
Screenings. Increase the
availability of developmental
screenings and referral
processes in appropriate
settings where children are
served. Explore ways to ensure
continuity of services once
referrals are made and
accessibility for all children and
families regardless of
systematic barriers.

4.1.1 Developmental
Screenings. Increase the availability of developmental screenings, referrals, and ongoing monitoring processes in appropriate settings where children are served. Explore ways to ensure continuity of services once referrals are made and accessibility for all children and families regardless of systematic barriers.

### Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: To reflect the importance of continuity of services once a referral is made, additional language was added to support the system to not just increase screenings and referrals but to ensure services are available to support children and families once a referral is made. Additional suggested changes through the entire goal 4 strategies were to emphasize equity and access to children and families of color.
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: Add "ongoing monitoring" to support a continuum of support from screening referral monitoring.

4.1.2 Inclusive ECE
Environments. Increase the ability of ECE professionals and programs to care for and educate children with developmental delays or disabilities and to connect families to supportive services. Provide ECE micro-grants to

4.1.2 Inclusion & Universal Design in ECE Settings. Increase the ability of early care and education professionals and programs to care for and educate all children by providing coaching, training, and materials focused on universal design and inclusion.

4.1.2 Inclusion & Universal Design in ECE
Settings. Increase the ability of early care and education professionals and programs to care for and educate all children by providing coaching, training and materials focused on universal design and inclusion.

4.1.2 Inclusion &
Universal Design in ECE
Settings. Increase the ability of early care and education professionals and programs to care for and educate all children by providing coaching, training and materials focused on universal design and inclusion.



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
purchase adaptive materials or			
make facility changes to			
support greater inclusivity.			

- 2019-2020: The update to the strategy builds on existing support from the Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering at UC Denver to provide coaching, training, and materials to increase ECE professionals' abilities to care for all children. In lieu of one-time microgrants, these investments have demonstrated increased effectiveness and better opportunities for sustainability of the strategy.
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: No change

### 4.1.3 Local Impact Study.

Study local Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) and Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) policies for the impact on ECE providers and families, including how new reimbursement rate policies have impacted family participation and access to high-quality ECE programs, and implement indicated changes.

4.1.3 CCCAP and QRIS
Policy Research. Study local
Colorado Child Care Assistance
Program (CCCAP) and Colorado
Shines Quality Rating and
Improvement System (QRIS)
policies for their impact on early
care and education providers
and families, including how new
reimbursement rate policies
have impacted family
participation and access to
high-quality early care and
education programs, and
implement indicated changes.

4.1.3 CCCAP and QRIS
Policy Research. Study local
Colorado Child Care Assistance
Program (CCCAP) and Colorado
Shines Quality Rating and
Improvement System (QRIS)
policies for their impact on early
care and education providers
and families, including how new
reimbursement rate policies
have impacted family
participation and access to
high- quality early care and
education programs, and
implement indicated changes.

4.1.3 CCCAP and QRIS
Policy Research. Study local
Colorado Child Care Assistance
Program (CCCAP) and Colorado
Shines Quality Rating and
Improvement System (QRIS)
policies for their impact on early
care and education providers
and families, including how new
reimbursement rate policies
have impacted family
participation and access to
high- quality early care and
education programs, and
implement indicated changes.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: No change



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update		
4.1.4 Mixed-Delivery	4.1.4 Mixed-Delivery	4.1.4 Mixed-Delivery	4.1.4 Mixed-Delivery		
Access. Explore opportunities	Access. Explore opportunities	Access. Explore opportunities	Access. Explore opportunities		
to increase access to a system	to increase and ensure	to increase and ensure	to increase and ensure		
of mixed-delivery ECE programs	equitable access to a system of	equitable access to a system of	equitable access to a system of		
with an emphasis on serving	mixed-delivery ECE programs	mixed-delivery early care and	mixed-delivery early care and		
infants and toddlers.	with an emphasis on serving	education programs with an	education programs with an		
	infants and toddlers.	emphasis on serving infants and	emphasis on serving infants and		
		toddlers.	toddlers.		
Summary of the update over time:					
2019-2020: Stakeholder input did not reflect the need for specific changes to this strategy, other than adding language to emphasize equity and access to children and families of color. Other comments on this strategy were more related to action steps to					

- implement it.
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: No change

### 4.1.5 Policy Analysis Tool. Develop a tool to analyze how programs and policies affect the availability and funding of infant and toddler child care and the equitable access for priority populations such as dual language learners, families living in poverty, families living in rural areas, and families who have children with special needs. Explore processes to ensure relevant agencies and

entities participate in a policy

analysis review.

4.1.5 Policy Analysis Tool. Develop a tool to analyze how programs and policies affect the availability and funding of infant and toddler child care and the equitable access for priority populations such as dual-language learners, families living in poverty, families living in rural areas, and families who have children with special needs. Explore processes to ensure relevant agencies and entities participate in a policy analysis review.

4.1.5 Policy Analysis Tool. Develop a tool to analyze how programs and policies affect the availability and funding of infant and toddler child care and the equitable access for priority populations such as duallanguage learners, families living in poverty, families living in rural areas and families who have children with special needs. Explore processes to ensure relevant agencies and entities participate in a policy analysis review.

4.1.5 Policy Analysis. Evaluate how programs and policies impact the availability and funding of infant and toddler child care and equitable access for priority populations. Priority populations include but are not limited to duallanguage learners, families living in poverty, families living in rural areas, and families who have children with special needs. Implement processes to ensure relevant agencies and entities participate in a policy analysis review.



### 2022 Recommended Update 2019 Strategy 2020 Strategy 2021 Strategy

Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: Update that the policy tool is not the driver, but rather ongoing monitoring and evaluation to inform policy. Also, update "explore" to "implement" processes to ensure agencies are participating in monitoring and evaluating policies.

### 200 4.1.6 Regulatory & Policy Cross-Training. Explore the

potential for CDHS, ECCs, local regulatory entities, the Office of Economic Development, and professional associations to cross-train on ECE regulatory and policy changes.

200 4.1.6 Regulatory & Policy

Cross-Training. Explore the potential for CDHS, CDE, ECCs, school districts, local regulatory entities, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and professional associations to cross-train on ECE regulatory and policy changes to improve equitable access to services.

4.1.6 Regulatory & Policy Cross-Training. Develop strategies for CDPHE, CDHS,

CDE, DEC, ECCs, school districts, local regulatory entities, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and professional associations to cross-train on ECE regulatory and policy changes to improve equitable access to services.

200 4.1.6 Regulatory and Policy Cross-Training. Develop strategies for CDPHE, CDHS, CDE, CDEC, ECCs, Head Starts. school districts, local regulatory entities, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and professional associations to cross-train on ECE regulatory and policy change analysis to improve equitable access to services.

Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: Changes reflect comments on the impact of preschool regulations on school-based services and the need to engage school districts at the local level. Additional language to improve coordination and communication between CDE and CDHS on this topic was also added to reflect the comments citing the critical role the state agencies play to ensure this happens effectively. Other comments related to implementation of this strategy.
- 2020-2021: To reflect progress with the strategy and the need to move forward, "Explore" was changed to "Develop strategies." Additionally, the new Department of Early Childhood and CDHPE were added as collaborators on strategy.
- 2021-2022: Update to include Head Start as a partner and change DEC to CDEC for accuracy, add training on regulatory and policy change analysis as the Working Group cite this as a need.

### 4.1.7 Business

Engagement. Engage and equip local and state business leaders

### 4.1.7 Business

Engagement. Engage and equip local and state business leaders



### 4.1.7 Business

Engagement. Engage and equip local and state business leaders



### 4.1.7 Business

Engagement. Engage and equip local and state business leaders



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
and business support	and business support	and business-support	and business -support
organizations with the resources	organizations with the resources	organizations with the resources	organizations with the
and knowledge they need to	and knowledge they need to	and knowledge they need to	knowledge and resources they
support the availability of, and	support the availability of, and	support the availability of, and	need to support the availability
access to, ECE programs	equitable access to, ECE	equitable access to, early care	of, and equitable access to,
through public-private	programs through public-	and education programs	mixed-delivery early care and
partnerships.	private partnerships.	through public-private	education programs through
		partnerships.	public-private partnerships.

- 2019-2020: Stakeholder input did not reflect the need for specific changes to this strategy beyond adding more focus on equity. Comments on this strategy were more related to action steps to implement this strategy.
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: Update to include mixed-delivery early care and education (ECE) to broaden.

4.1.8 Did not exist			No longer a PDG strategy
	4.1.8 Early Start Model	4.1.8 Early Start Model	effective 12/2021
	<b>Development</b> . Develop a model	Implementation. Identify	
	of direct service, care	resources to implement a model	
	coordination, and parenting	of direct service, care	
	support to connect families of	coordination, and parenting	
	children up to age three who do	support to connect families of	
	not meet eligibility for IDEA	children up to age three who do	
	Part C Early Intervention to	not meet eligibility for IDEA	
	programs and services that can	Part C Early Intervention but	
	address children's	have identified delays or risk	
	developmental needs.	factors to programs and	
		services that can address	
		children's developmental needs.	

### Summary of the update over time:

• 2019-2020: In 2020, the state budget deficit resulted in a reduction in state funds for the Early Intervention Colorado (EI) program (IDEA Part C). To flatten caseload and reduce future intake, the definition for EI eligibility changed in state rule. Previously, children were eligible for service if they demonstrated a 25 percent or higher delay in one or more developmental domains. The new



definition requires a 33 percent or higher delay in one or more domains. To ensure children who would have previously been eligible for EI can access needed supports, the state proposed a new definition, "risk factor," meaning a 25 percent delay in two or more domains and, if sufficient appropriations are available, a 25 percent delay in one domain, or other factors determined by the department to have research that supports the potential for impact on development at a later age. Under new state rules, children eligible under the "risk factor" definition may receive services through "Early Intervention Early Start," a program separate from early intervention services provided in accordance with IDEA Part C.

- 2020-2021: Changes were made to reflect a new phase in strategy implementation from development of a model to identification of resources to support implementation of the model.
- 2021-2022: No longer a PDG strategy effective 12/2021



### 4.2.1 Contracted Slots.

Develop policies and processes to support county implementation of CCCAP Contract for Slots to support an increase in local access to high-quality ECE programs.



### 4.2.1 Contracted Slots.

Develop policies and processes to support county implementation of Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Contract for Slots to support an increase in local access to high-quality early care and education programs.



### 4.2.1 Contracted Slots.

Develop policies and processes to support county implementation of Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Contract for Slots to support an increase in local access to high-quality early care and education programs.



### 4.2.1 Contracted Slots.

Develop policies and processes to support county implementation of Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Contract for Slots to support an increase in local access to high-quality early care and education programs.

Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: No change



### 4.2.2 Universal Preschool.

Expand and enhance affordable pre-kindergarten options for all Colorado 4-year-olds.



### 4.2.2 Universal Preschool.

Implement a mixed-delivery high-quality universal preschool program for all Colorado four-year-olds that is coordinated with existing early childhood care and education programs.



### 4.2.2 Universal Preschool.

Implement a mixed-delivery high-quality universal preschool program for all Colorado four-year-olds that is coordinated with existing early care and education programs.



### 4.2.2 Universal Preschool.

Implement and evaluate Colorado's high-quality mixeddelivery Universal Preschool program with specific attention to equity and inclusiveness of



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
			the program and mitigate
			unintended consequences.

- 2019-2020: Changes were made to recognize policy changes related to implementation of universal preschool and the need to coordinate with system partners to provide care beyond the 10 hours per week that universal preschool will provide.
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy to implement and evaluate UPK.

### **4.2.3** A

### 4.2.3 Access Thresholds.

Analyze eligibility and family income thresholds across multiple early childhood and family support programs to provide more consistent, equitable access.



### 4.2.3 Access Thresholds.

Analyze eligibility and family income thresholds across multiple early childhood and family support programs to reduce administrative burden and increase consistent and equitable access.



### 4.2.3 Access Thresholds.

Analyze eligibility and family income thresholds across multiple early childhood and family support programs to reduce administrative burden and increase consistent and equitable access.



### 4.2.3 Access Thresholds.

Analyze eligibility and family income thresholds across multiple early childhood and family support programs to reduce administrative burden and increase consistent and equitable access.

### Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: The change reflects input that individuals seeking assistance encounter administrative burdens that deter them from accessing support programs.
- 2020-2021: No change
- 2021-2022: No change



### 5.1.1 Pre-licensing &

**Start-Up**. Explore challenges to ECE program pre-licensing and start-up activities, and investigate how business consultants/navigators could support start-ups through technical assistance on launching and sustaining a



### 5.1.1 Pre-licensing &

Start-Up. Explore challenges to ECE program pre-licensing and start-up activities, including license-exempt ECE providers, such as FFN, and investigate how business consultants/navigators could support through technical assistance on launching and



### 5.1.1 Pre-licensing &

**Start-Up**. Partner with early care and education providers to address pre-licensing and start-up challenges, and connect them to resources to support sustainability and financially sound business practices, including how to achieve livable wages.



### 5.1.1 Pre-Licensing &

**Start-Up**. Partner with early care and education providers to address pre-licensing and start-up challenges and connect them to resources accessible in multiple languages to support sustainability and financially sound business practices,



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
financially sound ECE program	sustaining a financially sound,		including how to achieve livable
with livable wages.	licensed ECE program with		wages.
	livable wages.		

- 2019-2020: Family, friends, and neighbors (FFN) were added to more explicitly call out the importance in supporting unlicensed providers such as FFN as start-up businesses because they play a key role in providing care for many families and children in Colorado.
- 2020-2021: To be more proactive, the strategy was updated from "Explore" to "Partner to address" pre-licensing and start-up challenges. Additionally, the strategy was broadened to "early care and education service providers" to acknowledge business support needed for all providers. The second sentence was updated to connect "achieving livable wages" as part of sustainability and sound business practices.
- 2021-2022: Update to include resources accessible in multiple languages.

### **5.1.2** Business Practices.

Provide the "Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Programs" training series to ECE providers to strengthen foundational knowledge of sound fiscal management and business operations. Develop a business resource toolkit to accompany the training series.

### 5.1.2 Business Practices.

Provide the "Strengthening Business Practices for Child Care Programs" training series to early care and education providers to strengthen foundational knowledge of sound fiscal management and business operations. Develop a business resource toolkit to accompany the training series.

### 5.1.2 Business Practices.

Partner with OEDIT, Small Business Development Center Network, and Early Childhood Councils to provide business training and individualized consultation to strengthen early care and education providers' foundational knowledge of sound fiscal management and business operations.

### 5.1.2 Business Practices.

Partner with OEDIT, Small Business Development Center Network, and Early Childhood Councils to provide business training and individualized consultation to strengthen early care and education providers' foundational knowledge of sound fiscal management and business operations.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated for accuracy.
- 2021-2022: No change



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
5.1.3 Financing	5.1.3 Financing	5.1.3 Financing	5.1.3 Financing
Strategies. Study and	Strategies. Study and	Strategies. Study and	Strategies. Study and
implement financing strategies	implement financing strategies	implement financing strategies	implement financing strategies
to incentivize weekend and off-	to incentivize weekend and off-	to incentivize weekend and off-	to incentivize weekend and off-
hours services and ECE for	hours services and early care	hours services and early care	hours services and early care
children with special health or	and education for children with	and education for children with	and education for children with
developmental needs.	special health or developmental	special health or developmental	special health or developmental
	needs.	needs.	needs.
Summary of the update over time	:		
• 2019-2020: No change			
• 2020-2021: No change			
• 2021-2022: No change			
5.1.4 Micro-grants.	5.1.4 New & Expanding	5.1.4 New & Expanding	5.1.4 New & Expanding
Provide ECE micro-grants to	<b>ECE Micro-grants</b> . Provide early	<b>ECE Microgrants</b> . Provide early	<b>ECE Grants.</b> Provide early care
support start-up costs, targeting	care and education micro-	care and education micro-	and education grants to support
providers in child care deserts	grants to support start-up costs,	grants to support start-up costs,	start-up costs, targeting
and those serving infants,	targeting providers in child care	targeting providers in child care	providers in child care deserts
toddlers, or children with	deserts and those serving	deserts and those serving	and those serving infants,

infants, toddlers or children

with special health or

developmental needs.

Summary of the update over time:

special health or developmental

needs.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: This work moved to stimulus funding in 2020
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

infants, toddlers, or children

with special health or

developmental needs.



toddlers, or children with

needs. Evaluate grants to

programs.

special health or developmental

understand the capital, start-up, and expansion needs of ECE

2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
5.1.5 Integrated Financing. Develop tools to inform and support the integration of ECE funding streams including CCCAP, Colorado Preschool Program, Head Start, and local subsidies, and provide guidance on blending and braiding funds.	5.1.5 Integrated Financing. Develop tools to inform and support the integration of early care and education funding streams including Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, Colorado Preschool Program, Head Start, and local subsidies, and provide guidance on blending and braiding funds.	5.1.5 Child Care Business Guides. Develop and disseminate business guides to early care and education providers to support connections to resources and the adoption of best practices including the blending and braiding of funding streams, budgeting, regulatory compliance, and other operational functions of a small business.	5.1.5 Child Care Business Guides. Maintain, update, and promote business guides to new and existing early care and education providers to support connections to resources and the adoption of best practices, including the blending and braiding of funding streams, budgeting, regulatory compliance, and other operational functions of a small business. Partner with EPIC to develop an Employer-Based Child Care Business Guide.
Summary of the undate over time	۸•		

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated for accuracy. These guides will be a high-level compendium of resources covering business best practices, including the integration of early care and education funding streams, blending and braiding funds, budgeting, legal structures, regulatory compliance, marketing, and more.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.

### 5.1.6 Local Regulations. Study the effect of local regulations on the availability of infant and toddler child care, and family child care homes, including minimum wage thresholds.

5.1.6 Local Regulations.

Study the effect of local regulations on the availability of infant and toddler child care and family child care homes. Identify regulations that might cause barriers to increase the availability of infant and toddler

care.

5.1.6 Local Regulations.

Study the effect of local regulations on the availability of infant and toddler child care and family child care homes.

Identify regulations that might cause barriers to increase the availability of infant and toddler care.

5.1.6 State and Local
Regulations. Study the effect of state and local regulations on the availability of infant and toddler child care and family child care homes. Identify regulations that might cause barriers to increase the



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
			availability of infant and toddler
			care.

- 2019-2020: Changes were made to more broadly identify conflicting regulations that might serve as barriers to implementing infant and toddler care, removing references to any specific barrier. Additional comments on this strategy were related to action steps to implement this strategy.
- 2020-2021: No change

• 2021-2022: Update to include state regulations.

### 6.1.1 Colorado Shines

Updates. Continue to retool the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for the Environmental Rating Scale 3 (ERS 3) and implement other tools. Support more ratings, including alternative pathways, through an increase in rating assessors. Incorporate stakeholder workgroup findings into the QRIS Framework, including an increased emphasis on cultural and linguistic responsiveness. Complete a validation study in 2022.

### 6.1.1 Colorado Shines

Updates. Continue to retool the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for the Environmental Rating Scale 3 and implement other tools. Support more ratings, including alternative pathways, through an increase in rating assessors. Incorporate stakeholder workgroup findings into the QRIS Framework, including an increased emphasis on cultural and linguistic responsiveness. Complete a validation study in 2022.

### 6.1.1 Colorado Shines

Updates. Implement the new Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Framework and the Environmental Rating Scale 3. Complete a validation study of the Framework in 2023.

### 6.1.1 Colorado Shines

Updates. Finalize the new Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Framework and the Environmental Rating Scale 3 by completing a validation study of the Framework in 2023.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: The strategy was updated to reflect a new phase in the work. The framework was updated and released as of September 2021. The implementation will be January 2022. The validation will start in late 2022 and will be completed in 2023 to have enough data to make determinations that the structure is valid.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy.



### 2022 Recommended Update 2019 Strategy 2020 Strategy 2021 Strategy 6.1.2 Consultative Roles **6.1.2** Consultative Roles **6.1.2** Consultative Roles **6.1.2** Consultative Roles Alignment. Review key Alignment. Review key Alianment. Review key Alignment. Review key consultative roles, including consultative roles, including consultative roles, including consultative roles, including Expanding Quality in Infant Expanding Quality in Infant Expanding Quality in Infant Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care (EQIT) Specialist **Toddler Care Specialist Toddler Care Specialist Toddler Care Specialist** Network, ECMH Consultants, Network, Early Childhood Network, Early Childhood Network, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants. Mental Health Consultants. Mental Health Consultants. Colorado Shines ORIS Coaches. and Child Care Health Colorado Shines ORIS Coaches. Colorado Shines ORIS Coaches. Colorado Shines ORIS Coaches. Consultants, to ensure and Child Care Health and Child Care Health and Child Care Health coordination and collaboration Consultants, to ensure Consultants, to ensure Consultants, to ensure coordination and collaboration between roles. Identify coordination and collaboration coordination and collaboration qualifications and ongoing between roles. Identify between roles. Identify between roles. Identify professional development qualifications and ongoing qualifications and ongoing qualifications and ongoing supports to ensure individuals professional development professional development professional development are equipped to support quality supports to ensure individuals supports to ensure individuals supports to ensure individuals practices within licensed ECE are equipped to support quality are equipped to support quality are equipped to support quality practices within licensed early practices within licensed early practices within licensed early programs. care and education programs. care and education programs. care and education programs. Summary of the update over time: 2019-2020: No change 2020-2021: No change 2021-2022: No change 6.1.3 LENA Grow. Build 6.1.3 LENA Grow. Build 6.1.3 LENA Grow. 6.1.3 LENA Grow. infrastructure through publicinfrastructure through public-Continue to build infrastructure Continue to build infrastructure private partnerships to support private partnerships to support that empowers local that empowers local and coordinate LENA Grow and coordinate LENA Grow implementation partners to implementation partners to implementation across the implementation across the expand access to LENA Grow expand access to LENA Grow across the state. across the state. state. state.



2022 Recommended Update 2019 Strategy 2020 Strategy 2021 Strategy 2019-2020: No change 2020-2021: The strategy was updated to reflect the next phase of implementation. 2021-2022: No change 6.1.4 FIND Coaching. 6.1.4 FIND Coaching. 6.1.4 FIND Coaching. 6.1.4 FIND Coaching. Build relationships and Build relationships and Build relationships and Build relationships and infrastructure to pilot Filming infrastructure to pilot Filming infrastructure to pilot Filming infrastructure to pilot Filming Interactions to Nurture Interactions to Nurture Interactions to Nurture Interactions to Nurture Development (FIND) Coaching, Development (FIND) Coaching Development (FIND) Coaching, Development (FIND) Coaching and explore opportunities to and explore opportunities to and explore opportunities to and explore opportunities to expand FIND through publicexpand FIND through publicexpand FIND through publicexpand FIND through publicprivate partnerships. private partnerships. private partnerships. private partnerships. Summary of the update over time: 2019-2020: No change 2020-2021: No change 2021-2022: No change 6.1.5 Informed and 6.1.5 Informed and 6.1.5 Informed and 6.1.5 Informed and **Effective ECE for Children of** Effective ECE for Children with Effective ECE for Children with Effective ECE for Children with **Delays or Disabilities.** Enhance **Delays or Disabilities.** Explore **Delays or Disabilities.** Develop all Abilities. Build the capacity and align the roles of the development of local state-level infrastructure to of state-level coaches to consultative support communities of practice to help pilot and sustain community support inclusion practices in professionals. Train consultative formal (licensed) early care and implementation teams early childhood settings. support professionals to help education providers adopt promoting the adoption of providers make referral inclusive practices and connect inclusive practices in early care determination concerning IDEA to early childhood mental and education programs. Part C or Part B Section-619, health services and other early childhood mental health resources in their community.



services, and other supports.

- 2019-2020: In response to continuous quality improvement and to increase efficiency, the recommended updates recognize the efficiencies to be gained by leveraging current referral partners, such as CCBs, to be a resource for ECE providers. Furthermore, it is recommended that this strategy move under objective 6.1, as the outcome is more focused on quality environments than workforce development and retention.
- 2020-2021: The strategy was updated to reflect the next phase of implementation.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy.

6.2.1 Professional

Development Information

System. Re-platform the

Colorado Shines Professional

Development Information

System (PDIS) to improve user

experience, enhance data

collection, and enable

transcreation of the site into

Spanish. Add 24 eLearning

course hours based on identified

needs.

6.2.1 Professional

Development Information

System. Re-platform the

Colorado Shines Professional

Development Information

System to improve user

experience, enhance data

collection, and enable

transcreation of the site into

Spanish. Add 24 eLearning

course hours based on identified

needs.

6.2.1 Professional

Development Information

System. Support user access to, and participation in, the updated Colorado Shines

Professional Development Information System. Add new eLearning course hours in English and Spanish based on identified needs.

6.2.1 Professional

Development Information

System. Support user access to, and participation in, the updated Colorado Shines

Professional Development Information System. Add new eLearning course hours in English and Spanish based on identified needs.

Summary of the update over time:

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: The strategy was updated to reflect the next phase of implementation.
- 2021-2022: No change



Provide Child Development Associate (CDA) Scholarships to 250 ECE professionals, targeting areas with known workforce shortages. Add CDA professional 6.2.2 CDA Credential.

Provide Child Development Associate (CDA) scholarships to 250 early care and education professionals, targeting areas with known workforce shortages. Add CDA professional 6.2.2 CDA Credential.

Provide Child Development Associate (CDA) scholarships to early care and education professionals, targeting areas with known workforce shortages. Add CDA professional 6.2.2 CDA Credential.

Provide Child Development Associate (CDA) scholarships to early care and education professionals, targeting areas with known workforce shortages. Look at innovative



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
development specialists to	development specialists to	development specialists to	ways to support the CDA
support implementation.	support implementation.	support implementation.	credential as a workforce
			pathway.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: The strategy was updated to reflect the next phase of implementation.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy.

6.2.3 Coaching. Pilot a state ECE coaching model including Colorado Shines QRIS and EQIT. Increase staff to meet the needs of known coaching deserts and provide additional meetings and formal supports for coaches. Update courses, transcreate coaching materials, and explore a telehealth approach to coaching.

6.2.3 Coaching. Pilot a state early care and education coaching model including Colorado Shines Quality Rating Improvement System and Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care. Increase staff to meet the needs of known coaching deserts and provide additional meetings and formal supports for coaches. Update courses, transcreate coaching materials, and explore a telehealth approach to coaching.

6.2.3 Coaching. Pilot a state early care and education coaching model including Colorado Shines Quality Rating Improvement System and Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care. Utilize regional coaches to increase data collection and provide datainformed training and formal supports for coaches including reflective supervision. Update courses, transcreate coaching materials, and utilize a telehealth approach to coaching.

6.2.3 Coaching. Expand the state program for early care and education coaching. This program includes CQI, EQ Relates, UPK, and other coaching models actively used across the state. The regional coaching team spearheaded the coaching initiative to provide formal supports for coaches, such as data-informed training and reflective supervision, and to collect data on the effectiveness of their support.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: The strategy was updated to reflect the next phase of implementation, specifically, expansion to use regional coaches to support reflective supervision.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect a new phase of the strategy. CDEC will continue to support but will not use PDG funding in 2023.



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update
6.2.4 Reciprocity. Explore	6.2.4 Reciprocity. Consider	6.2.4 Reciprocity. Consider	6.2.4 Reciprocity. Consider
reciprocity in credentials and	developing a framework to	a framework to address	a framework to address
licensure across states (starting	explore reciprocity in	reciprocity in credentials and	reciprocity in credentials and
with Region VIII) and countries	credentials and licensure across	licensure across states (starting	licensure across states (starting
(starting with countries with the	states (starting with Region VIII)	with Region VIII) and countries	with Region VIII) and countries
highest migration to Colorado),	and countries (starting with	(starting with countries with the	(starting with countries with the
and provide supports for review	countries with the highest	highest migration to Colorado),	highest migration to Colorado),
of transcripts and other	migration to Colorado), and	and provide supports for review	and provide supports for review
approval processes.	provide supports for review of	of transcripts and other	of transcripts and other
	transcripts and other approval	approval processes.	approval processes.
	processes.		

- 2019-2020: The change reflects comments to move beyond exploring reciprocity to developing a framework to support the efforts to implement this strategy. The intent of this change is to streamline a process for determining reciprocity from other jurisdictions so that the onus does not fall on Colorado to predetermine reciprocity with every other licensing jurisdiction.
- 2020-2021: The word "developing" was removed and "address" was added to support further action with this strategy.
- 2021-2022: No change

### 6.2.5 ECE Competencies. Enhance the training alignment process to increase the number of trainings aligned with Colorado Competencies for Early Childhood Educators and Administrators.

6.2.5 ECE Competencies.
Enhance the training alignment process to increase the number of trainings aligned with Colorado's Competencies for Early Childhood Educators and Administrators.

6.2.5 ECE Competencies.
Enhance the training alignment process to increase the number of trainings aligned with Colorado's Competencies for Early Childhood Educators and Professionals.

6.2.5 ECE Competencies.
Enhance the training alignment process to increase the number of trainings aligned with Colorado's Competencies for Early Childhood Educators and Professionals.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: This strategy was updated with the new ECE competencies document name.
- 2021-2022: No change



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update	
6.2.7 Compensation.	6.2.6 Compensation.	6.2.6 Compensation.	6.2.6 Compensation.	
Explore strategies to ensure	Explore strategies to ensure	Explore strategies to ensure	Prioritize and implement	
worthy and livable	worthy and livable	worthy and livable	effective, sustainable strategies	
compensation for early care and	compensation for early care and	compensation for early care and	to ensure worthy and livable	
education professionals. Work	education professionals. Work	education professionals. Work	compensation for early care and	
to enhance compensation,	to enhance compensation,	to enhance compensation,	education professionals. Ensure	
including benefits, and create	including benefits, and create	including benefits, and create	strategies enhance	
compensation parity across	compensation parity across	compensation parity across	compensation, including	
settings, sectors, and age of	settings, sectors, and age of	settings, sectors and age of	benefits, and create	
children served.	children served.	children served.	compensation parity across	
			public and private settings,	
			sectors, and age of children	
			served.	
Summary of the update over time	:			
• 2019-2020: No change				
• 2020-2021: No change				
	1 3, 3	ork underway to study compensatio	n for UPK workforce, EI providers,	
and other pilots underway to				
6.2.7 Formely compensation	6.2.7 Did not exist	6.2.7 Recruitment and	6.2.7 Recruitment and	
		<b>Retention</b> . Update the Early	<b>Retention</b> . Update the Early	
		Childhood Workforce 2020 plan	Childhood Workforce 2020 plan	
		to support the recruitment and	to support the recruitment and	
		retention of early care and	retention of early childhood	
		education professionals who are	professionals who are from	
		from diverse backgrounds and	diverse backgrounds and speak	
		speak the language and reflect	the language and reflect the	
		the cultures of children in care.	cultures of children in care.	
Summary of the update over time	:			
• 2019-2020: No change				



2019 Strategy	2020 Strategy	2021 Strategy	2022 Recommended Update

- 2020-2021: This non-PDG funded strategy is recommended for addition to reflect the need to develop a plan to recruit and retain professionals from diverse backgrounds and who speak the language and reflect the cultures of children in care. This strategy is necessary in order for children and families to experience equitable and inclusive services, and to see themselves represented in the places where they access services. PD requirements for the field are almost exclusively available in English, and sometimes in Spanish. This prevents potential educators from receiving PD in their preferred language, which further perpetuates our workforce development problems in the field. If a para or support staff role is the only role available due to lack of access to PD, we are (our systems are) actually preventing children from experiencing a diverse culture of care.
- 2021-2022: Change "early care and education" to "early childhood" professionals to reflect that the update happening in 2023 will broaden the plan to EC professionals.

broaden the plan to EC professionals.			
6.2.8 Did not exist	6.2.8 Did not exist	6.2.8 Pipeline	6.2.8 Pipeline
		Opportunities. Explore and	Opportunities. Expand access
		expand access to early	to apprenticeship and coaching
		childhood apprenticeship and	opportunities for early
		peer mentoring programs,	childhood professionals,
		including providing concurrent	including providing concurrent
		enrollment apprenticeship	enrollment for groups such as
		opportunities for high school	family friend and neighbor
		students to gain work	providers, retirees, and high
		experience in early care and	schoolers through
		education settings.	apprenticeships.

- 2019-2020: No change
- 2020-2021: This non-PDG funded strategy is recommended for addition to reflect the momentum around apprenticeship as a strategy for ECE professional recruitment.
- 2021-2022: Update to reflect work being done statewide on apprenticeships, no longer in explore phase, but can be expanded. Also, broaden to the larger EC workforce.





Marzano Research is a women-owned small business dedicated to working with educators and system leaders to learn, evolve, and thrive. We offer sophisticated education research and consulting capabilities with a collaborative, small-business approach. As a certified benefit corporation, we believe in using business as a force for good and are committed to creating a positive impact for our employees, clients, stakeholders, community, and environment.

MarzanoResearch.com

Denver, CO + Portland, OR Info@MarzanoResearch.com 720.463.3600 © 2022 Marzano Research