

# The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Our *vision* is to ensure that all young children in Boulder County are valued, healthy and thriving.

Our *mission* is to expand and improve the comprehensive system of quality early childhood services for families in Boulder County.



Building brighter futures together.

## Letter to the Community...

The ECCBC Board of Directors: I like to say that I am living the Executive Director's dream. Highly credentialed people are asking me if they can join the ECCBC Board! Recently, the Board changed our By-laws to increase the board membership from 9 to 12 in order to add slots to expand our representation and expertise. I consider these 11 individuals as not only my colleagues (and yes....my bosses!) but my friends as well. We as a community are truly blessed to have this level of commitment to our young families across the county.

Quality: We know that children who spend time in a high quality early childhood setting do better in school and in life. However-the opposite is also true. Children who find themselves in settings (and this could be their own homes) where they are not stimulated or worse-set in front of a TV or computer...are experiencing a lost opportunity. One where their chances of success in life could have been enhanced but are not. Or worse-if they are in places where they do not feel valued, where the adults do not encourage the 'serve and return' interactions which we know are critical-these children can experience a loss of self-esteem which can last a lifetime. This is why ECCBC and early childhood councils across the state are committed to making lasting improvements to the quality of early childhood programs in Boulder County. Quality improvement is a collective effort on the part of our child care centers and homes, ECCBC, Colorado Department Human Services, Boulder County Department Housing and Human Services, and more early childhood partners. Together our dream is that Boulder County will have the highest level of quality childcare programs in Colorado.

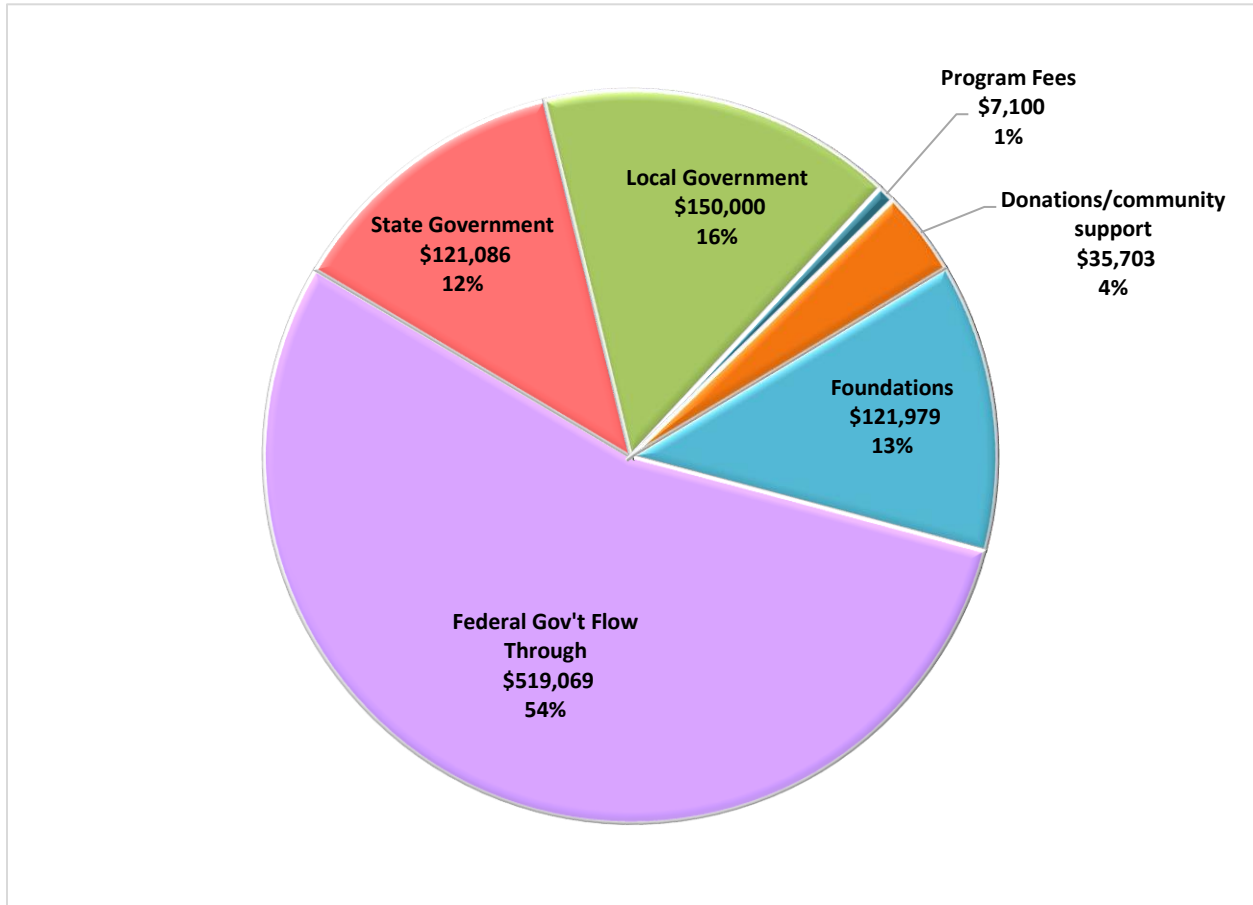
Collective Impact: More and more people are understanding just what Collective Impact is and how it functions (more detail to follow later on in this report). It is an exciting new way to manage a collaborative, a partnership-which focuses on the power of a common vision. If a group of us, from differing disciplines, with diverse skill sets, can all commit to a single goal-imagine the power that can be harnessed. That is what ECCBC has done within the Boulder County Early Childhood Collective Impact Project. Over 40 individuals have committed their organizations to a single vision that all children in Boulder County will arrive at school ready to learn.

Warm regards,



# Sources of Funds – 2016

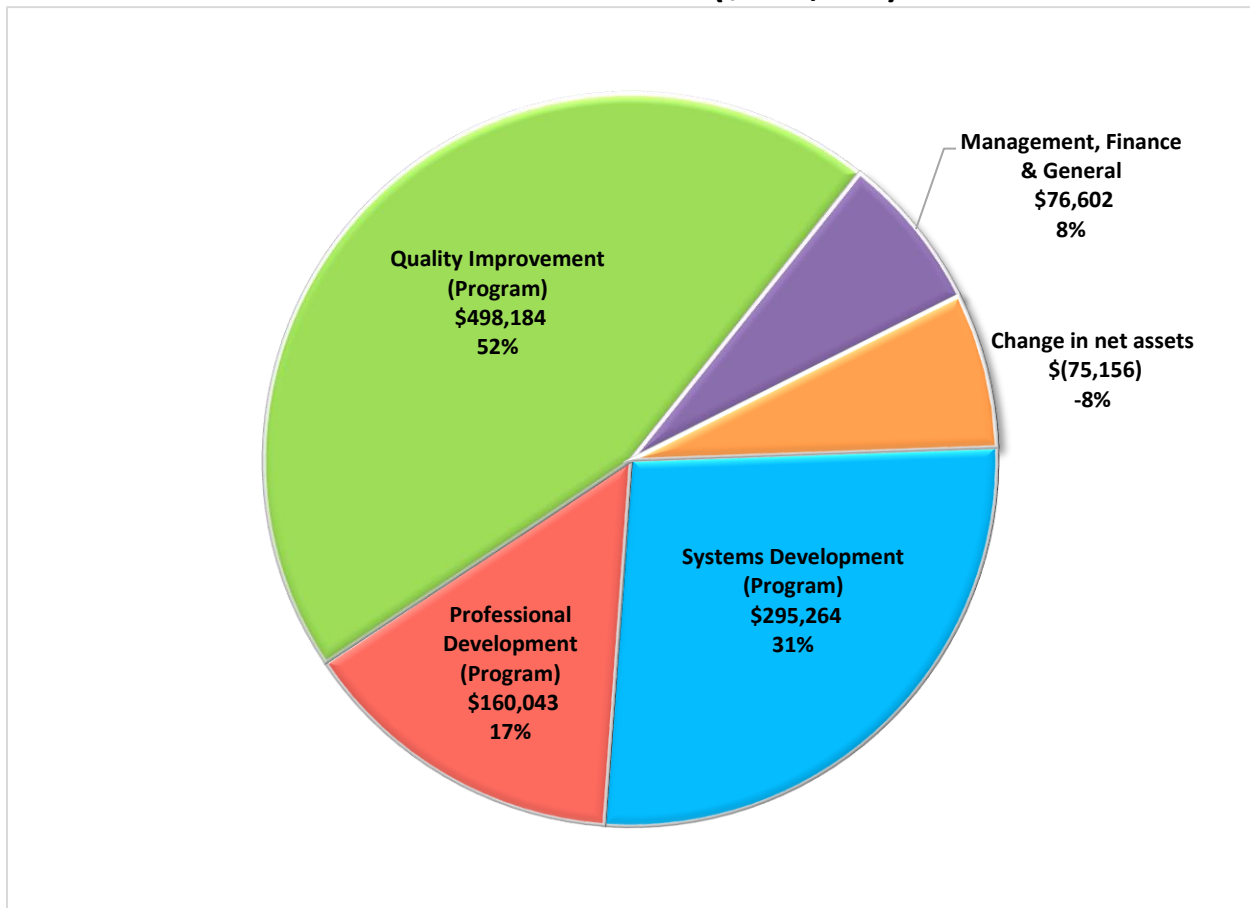
## Early Childhood Council of Boulder County 2016 Sources of Funds (\$954,937)



The FY 2016 budget increased by \$262,967 over the FY 2015 budget. That increase is accounted for through the Quality Program federal Race-To-The Top funding. These are funds that ECCBC provides to licensed childcare centers, homes and preschools to assist them to improve their quality rating scores in the Colorado Shines rated licensing program. State government support remained essentially flat. Local government support, which includes funds from both Boulder County and the City of Boulder, were reduced in FY 2016 due to a reduction in City of Boulder support. Foundation support also was reduced in that no additional funding was needed to support the Pay For Success program which is expected to conclude its work in early 2017. Donations, in the form of in-kind substantially increased as the Pay For Success consultants, Social Impact Solutions, provided over \$30,000 of in-kind work on the PFS project.

# Uses of Funds-2016

## Early Childhood Council of Boulder County 2016 Uses of Funds (\$954,937)



*Quality:* Not surprisingly, the Quality Improvement Program saw a 115% jump in program expenses over FY 2015, reflecting the work with licensed providers supported through the Race-To-The Top funds.

*Systems:* Our system-building efforts, captured both in our Collective Impact work as well as our Pay For Success Project, took up 31% of our program funds as opposed to 20% in the prior year.

*Professional Development:* Our Professional Development Program provided fewer scholarships in FY 2016 than in the previous year. It is assumed that many EC professionals have already accessed this resource so demand is leveling off.

*Management and General:* Management and general costs are well below the industry standard of around 18% reflecting a lean and efficient internal structure.

## 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

### **ECCBC Focus Priorities:**

**Quality Improvement:** We know that where young children spend their time, be that at home with parents, or in a licensed childcare facility or home, or in a family, friend and neighbor care environment, has a direct impact (both positively and negatively) on their growth and development which ultimately impacts their future school and life success trajectory. That being the case, ECCBC remains dedicated to working with families and licensed childcare providers to ensure that they have all the tools they need to positively support a child's healthy growth and development. Federal Race-To-The-Top funds significantly increased our Quality Programs budget for FY 2016. Those funds will end in June 2017.

**At risk children and their families:** Beginning in Jan 2014, ECCBC began the feasibility process of determining whether or not a Pay For Success (PFS) funding strategy would be an innovative way of expanding the Community Infant Project (CIP) which targets young families at risk for child abuse and neglect. PFS focuses on outcomes which can be translated into cost savings which would be used to repay a low interest loan from a commercial bank-which historically has been either JP Morgan Chase or Goldman Sachs. The appeal of such a loan is that it is structured such that should very specific performance measures not be attained (i.e. a prescribed reduction in child abuse and neglect referrals to Child Protective Services) neither the program (CIP) nor the re-payer (i.e. BoCo DHHS and/or Medicaid) are obligated to repay the loan. ECCBC continues to work with both CIP as well as BoCo DHHS in the development of cost models which will determine if such funding is feasible.

**Professional Development:** ECCBC remains dedicated to increasing the professional development offerings to EC professionals across Boulder County. A critical strategy to improve the quality of licensed early childhood programs (i.e. licensed centers, homes, preschools) is to improve the knowledge and skills of the early childhood workforce. The Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation has partnered with ECCBC for over ten years to fund this program. Several years ago, Boulder County doubled our professional development budget since they understood the crucial role that quality early childhood teachers play in the success trajectory of a young child's life.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD COLLECTIVE IMPACT COLLABORATION

For the past twelve years, as a statutory Early Childhood Council mandated to design, secure funding for and implement a comprehensive system of early childhood services, ECCBC has been leading the Boulder County effort to positively impact the school readiness of the approximately 18,000 county children age 0-5. ECCBC embodies the process referred to as collective impact, “the commitment of a group of important actors from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a specific social problem” (J. Kania, *Collective Impact*, The Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2011). Kania discusses five determinants of a collective impact organization:

**1) Backbone support organization:** “...dedicated staff separate from the participating organizations who can plan, manage and support the initiative through on-going facilitation, technology and communication support, data collection and reporting, and handling the myriad logistical and administrative details needed for the initiative to run smoothly.” The ECCBC Executive Director (Bobbie Watson) spends 100% of her time managing the early childhood systems building initiative by: 1) leading the 35+ member ECCBC Advisory Council in collaboration with the Advisory Council Co-Chair; 2) acting as staff to the ECCBC Board and 3) attending both county as well as state level partnerships and task forces to ensure that ECCBC ‘is in step’ with both local as well as state initiatives. As a free standing 501c3, ECCBC is independent of all other partners within the collective impact.

**2) Common agenda:** “Collective Impact requires all participants to have a shared vision for change, one that includes a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon actions.” The ECCBC Early Childhood Framework for Boulder County (based upon the state’s early childhood framework) was developed in July 2010 by the ECCBC Advisory Council. Many hours of debate and conversation led to the development of this early childhood common agenda. An update is due early in FY 2016.

**3) Shared measurement:** “Agreement on a common agenda is illusory without agreement on the ways success will be measured.” The ECCBC Advisory Council chose 29 mutually agreed upon indicators, covering all four (4) domains of early childhood. ECCBC produces a biennial *Indicators Report* that tracks goals and indicators as agreed upon in the Framework.

**4) Continuous communication:** The ECCBC Board and Advisory Council meet monthly with two (2) Board members appointed to the Advisory Council. In addition, the Advisory Council Co-chair attend the Board Annual Retreat in the fall of each year. The Board looks to the Advisory Council for all programs and services, as well as policy, recommendations.

**5) Mutually reinforcing activities:** “There must be a uniformity of effort. Stakeholders must agree upon strategies that support the work across disciplines and domains in order to serve the common agenda.” In the Framework, all of the strategies have been developed (and agreed upon) by the entire 35+ member Advisory Council. These are vetted, outcomes-based, ‘best practices’ that have a proven track record.

County-wide, ECCBC is acknowledged as a leader in the development of a high functioning, impactful Collective Impact Collaboration. We are excited to see how this ‘organic’ model continues to evolve and mature.

# **2016 ECCBC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

## Advisory Council Chair:

**Cynthia Divino**, - AC Chair- Executive Director In Reach

## Advisory Council Members:

**Teri Albohn**, CCAP Team, Boulder County Housing and Human Services

**Sarah Baglee**, Imagine

**Shela Blankinship**, St. Vrain Valley School District

**Kim Bloemen**, Boulder Valley School District

**Andre Bollaert**, The Acorn School/Wilderness Place

**Elaan Brudno**, Parents As Teachers, BoCo DHHS

**Marc Cowell**, Program Director, Sister Carmen Community Center

**Olivia Coyne**, Director, BoCo Head Start

**Annette Crawford**, Child Care Recruitment & Training, Boulder County

**Lisa Dion**, Play Therapy Institute of Colorado

**Matt Eldred**, TLC Learning Center

**Melissa Hisel**, Lafayette Library

**Sharon Kelley**, Licensing Specialist, Colorado Department of Human Services

**Jane McKinley**, Director, Nurse Family Partnership, Boulder County Public Health

**Alison Thielke**, Front Range Community College

**Linda Miron**, City of Lafayette

**Susan Moore**, Early Childhood Specialist, private consultant

**Amy Oglivie**, Executive Director, The Wild Plum Center, Longmont

**Matt Powell**, The Mental Health Partners Serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties

**Sarah Scully**, Boulder County Public Health

**Katherine Schwartz**, Congregation Har Hashem

**Jennifer Selbitschka**, Boulder Journey School

**Karen Zeid**, Parent Representative, private realtor in Boulder

# 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Private family law attorney in Boulder

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Executive Director, Boulder Day Nursery Association

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Retired BVSD Assistant Superintendent

### **Pete Dawson, M.D.**

Retired pediatrician

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CPA, Principal, CliftonLarsonAllen

### **Mary Wolf**

Community philanthropist and volunteer

### **Doug Yeiser**

President and CEO, Foothills United Way

### **Vicky Youcha**

Early Childhood Specialist

### **Jeff Zayach**

Executive Director of Boulder County Public Health

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**Early Childhood Council of Boulder County**

1285 Cimarron Drive, Suite 201

Lafayette CO 80026

[www.eccbouldercounty.org](http://www.eccbouldercounty.org)

**Council Staff: Bobbie Watson, Executive Director; Danielle Butler, Associate Director**