

Early Childhood Council of Boulder County

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Our *vision* is to ensure that all young children
birth to five in Boulder County are ready
to succeed in school and life.

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



Letter to the Community...

Wow! 2013 continues the pattern of increasing focus on the early childhood world. And along with that comes an ever-increasing focus on ECCBC.

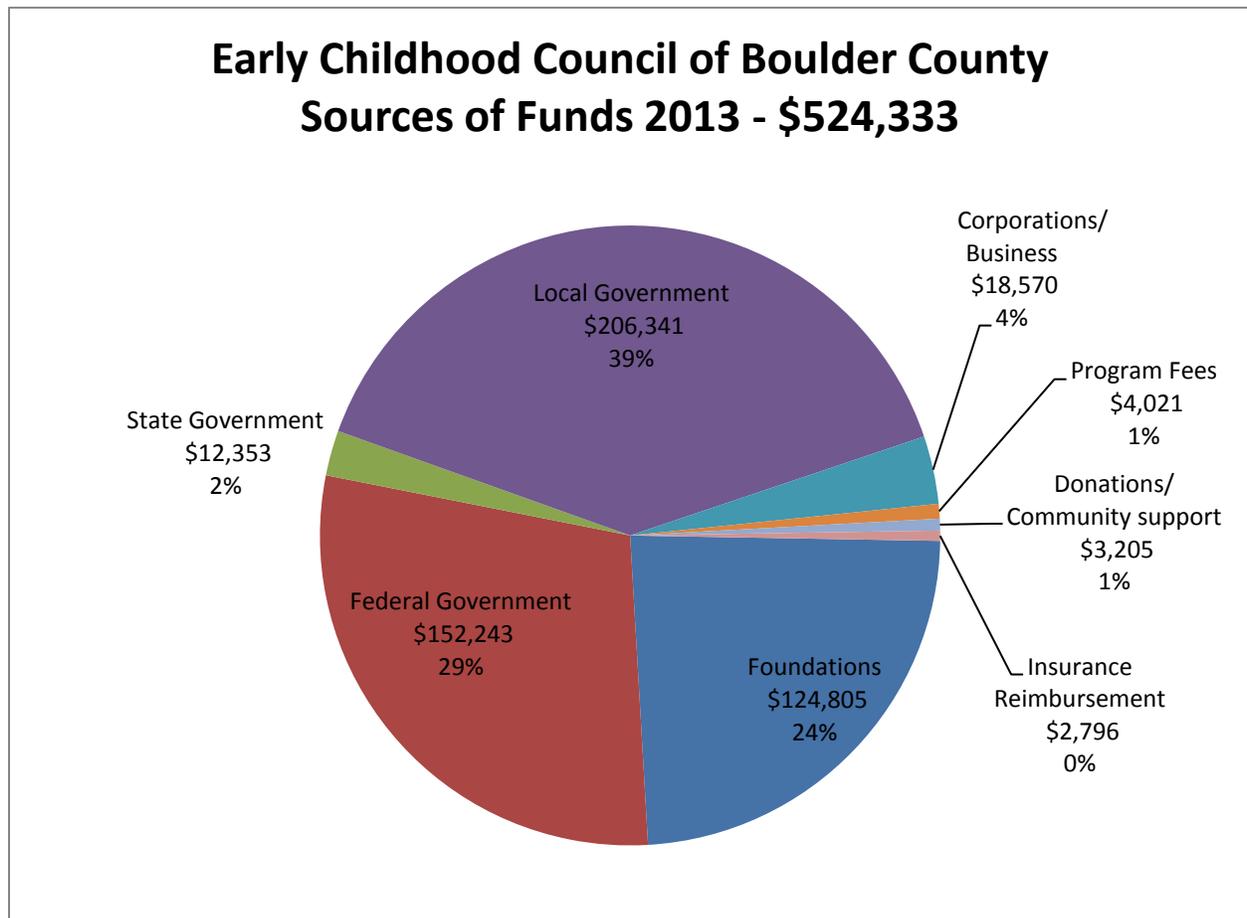
The Board of Directors decided at their November Annual Planning Retreat (2013) to spend the upcoming 18 months (Jan 2014 – Spring 2015) focusing on a new and innovative funding strategy. We know that investment in the birth to three 'space' is very very small, including Early Head Start in Longmont and the Colorado Childcare Assistance Program (CCCAP) which is a childcare subsidy for low income working families. A few dollars come in to nonprofits in the county to fund family support and parent education programs. But after that, the public investment is almost non-existent. As we know, the birth to 3 timeframe is a critical period of high brain activity, with over 600 neuronal connections made per minute. The trajectory of a child's life can be impacted (either positively or negatively) during those first 1000 days of life. So where a child spends their day and the quality of their home life is crucial to that child's future. Given the importance of these formative years, the ECCBC Board decided to look into the feasibility of launching a pilot Pay-for Success (PFS) program that would focus on expanding the 'reach' of home visitation programs in Boulder County. PFS is designed to take upfront private investment dollars (from banks and/or philanthropic organizations) and invest those dollars in proven interventions that will result in dollar savings to the local and state governments and/or school districts. So, for example, \$8 million was invested by Goldman Sachs in Utah to expand high quality preschools for 4 and 5 year olds. Longitudinal research has shown that by investing in preschools, the number of children identified in kindergarten as needing special education services can be reduced by a factor of 50%. That reduction in costly special education services saves the local school district around \$10,000 per student per year. It is these savings which are used to re-pay the initial loan. The school districts *only replay the loan if specific child outcomes (i.e. a reduction in special education costs) are realized*. If the success indicators are not met-the investors (in the Utah case-Goldman Sachs) loses its investment. Neither the school district nor the taxpayers are 'on the hook' to re-pay the bank.

ECCBC is currently pursuing a PFS program for Boulder County, specifically looking at expansion of home visitation programs. It is both exciting and cutting edge. Stay tuned!

Warm regards,

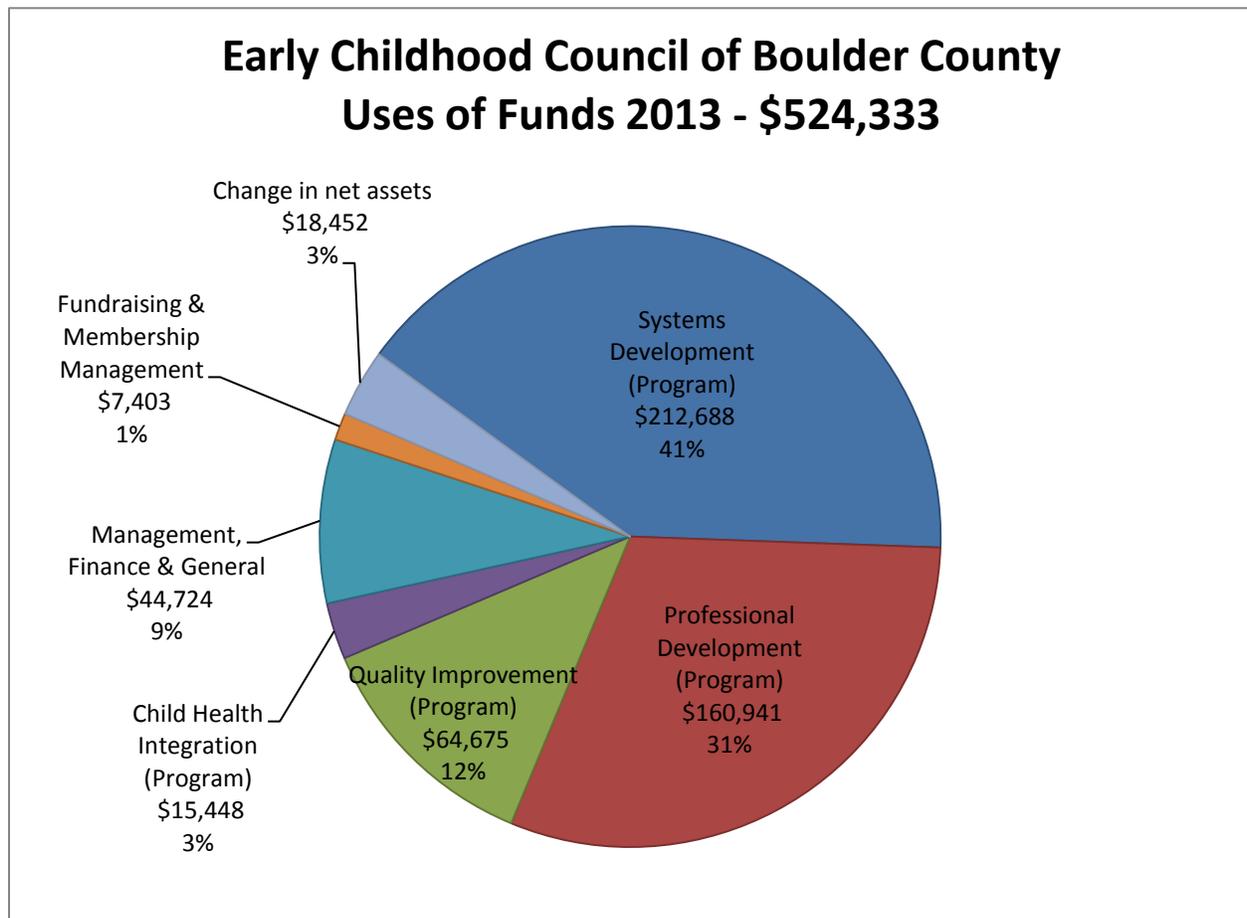


Sources of Funds – \$524,333



The majority of the council revenue in 2013 was sourced from local government funds (39%), including Boulder County and City of Boulder. State and federal flow-through funds provided 31% of council revenues. Support from Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, Foothills United Way and The Rose Community Foundation provided an additional 24% of funds. Private organizations, the statewide Cavity Free at Three program and Invest in Kids, provided 4% of total revenue for the year for special projects. Early childhood systems development work undertaken by council director staff was funded by Colorado Department Human Services systems grants braided with local Boulder County Housing and Human Services funding. The ECCBC's professional development program, including a staff position, was supported by the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation and Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services. A City of Boulder Educational Excise Tax grant funded the establishment and development of the ECCBC Touchpoints training team in 2013. Additional funding from the Colorado Department of Education and a \$50 per person training fee supported the Expanding Quality Infant Toddler (EQIT) trainings. Community support from contributions by members of the Board of Directors supported additional systems development activities as well as operational functions.

Uses of Funds – \$524,333



Direct Services (professional development and quality improvement) to the child care community of Boulder County accounted for 43% or \$225,616 of the 2013 budget funds. \$160,941 or 31% of the total budget was spent on supporting the professional development needs of licensed child care providers in Boulder County through career path support and access to high quality training opportunities. \$64,675 was spent on quality improvement services for child care providers and the children in their care. Quality improvement activities included Qualistar rating support, resources for new materials, parent resources, and social emotional skill development for preschoolers. Child Health Integration activities continued in 2013 representing 3% of budget funds dedicated to young child oral health education outreach. Systems planning funds (\$212,688) provided council staff, contractors and resources to promote and develop the foundations of the early childhood system in Boulder County, namely: serving as the county-wide convener of the early childhood Advisory Council as well as other county early childhood partnerships; developing multi-partner funding strategies; policy research, development and dissemination; building public awareness of early childhood; and addressing accountability and quality within the early childhood system.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

At the close of FY 2012, the ECCBC Board of Directors identified three areas of focus: birth to three populations, at-risk children and a continued emphasis on a mixed delivery system. Moving into FY 2013, the staff applied for grants which added 'density' to each of these areas:

Birth to Three populations: ECCBC received a grant from the City of Boulder in order to allow ECCBC to become the 10th *Touchpoints* Training Team in Colorado. *Touchpoints* is a training developed by Dr. T Barry Brazelton from the Harvard School of Medicine. Its guiding principal is that families are the experts concerning their own children and should be approached and invited into consultation as such. Childcare providers are instructed in ways to develop and broaden relationships with parents with the ultimate goal to improve relationships between children, parents and childcare givers.

At Risk Families: It comes as no surprise that 1 out of 5 children under the age of five who live in Boulder County are living in poverty (i.e. a family of four who earn less than \$23,000 a year). These children are at huge risk not only of repeating the cycle of poverty in their own lives, but of living unhealthy lives, and not arriving at kindergarten ready to learn which puts them at greater risk of not reading on grade level at 3rd grade-which is statistically predictive of not graduating high school. That being said, there is a paucity of public dollars which are targeted at helping these young families prepare their children for school and for life. With that in mind, the ECCBC Board decided to investigate the feasibility of bringing a Pay for Success loan program into Boulder County. (See Executive Director's letter to the community for a more indepth discussion of Pay for Success).

Flood of September 2013: No need to go into more details about the epic floods of September 2013. However, the role that ECCBC played was crucial. ECCBC applied for a grant from Foothills United Way and used the funds to support childcare providers who were negatively impacted by the floods. Over \$35,000 was moved out into the community of childcare providers. This strengthened the **mixed service delivery model** by bringing needed resources to community childcare providers.

Re-design of the ECCBC Early Childhood Framework: Members of the ECCBC Advisory Council spent most of FY 2013 re-designing the Early Childhood Framework which acts as the strategic plan to design and implement a comprehensive high quality system of programs and services for all young children across Boulder County. ECCBC remains the only one of 31 early childhood councils to have undertaken this task. This document is designed as a logic model with a common agenda, delineated outcomes, strategies and indicators per early childhood domain (early literacy, health, social/emotional development, and family support). The Fourth Community Indicators report (see www.eccbouldercounty.org for the full report) which is based upon the 31 indicators identified in the Framework was published in November 2013.

Programs & Services – Professional Development

Professional development career path initiatives awarded \$50,000 in financial incentives to 116 EC professionals for undertaking college level coursework. Thirty-six individuals received recognition for achieving an Early Childhood Credential. Since 2004, over \$252,000 has been distributed in incentives for ongoing college level education to Boulder County child care providers through the ECCBC Financial Incentive program. Monthly Training Calendars with news and information continued to be provided in 2013 to over 300 licensed child care providers in Boulder County. Overall, ECCBC provided approximately 750 clock hours of ongoing professional development in 2013. Sponsored trainings included Eco Healthy Child Care training and Invest in Kids Teacher Classroom Management training series. The Expanding Quality Infant Toddler caregiving training program maintained growth in 2013 to provide four (4) EQIT cohort trainings, including 6-8 hours of coaching for each trainee. The program trains providers in best practices in infant toddler care through EQIT 48 hour curriculum and one-to-one coaching. The Boulder County EQIT team of four (4) dedicated early childhood experts worked with 96 child care providers in Boulder County in 2013. These activities provided an additional 4,608 contact hours of training and 400 contact hours of coaching.

Programs & Services – Quality Improvement

The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County in partnership with Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services received the Colorado Infant Toddler Quality and Availability grant in the fall of 2013. BCDHHS was awarded \$68,000 of the grant to issue tiered reimbursement and ECCBC was awarded \$127,191 to improve quality and availability to providers participating in the ITQA grant. Thirteen centers/homes were selected that serve infants and/or toddlers and currently serve Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) families. The program offered quality improvement support and services to 38 classrooms impacting over 300 infants and toddlers in the community. Through the grant ECCBC provided coaching, monthly Directors Circle trainings and worked collaboratively with local early childhood partners to provide access to a variety of additional no cost services for program participants. Nine child care centers received support for a Quality rating or a national accreditation of which six received a 3 or 4 start rating. Additional support was given to create 25 new infant toddler slots for capacity building.

Programs & Services – Child Health

ECCBC was awarded \$15,450 to promote the Cavity Free at Three program in Boulder County. ECCBC Child Health Coordinator educated 85 general and pediatric dentists; 42 pediatricians; 48 obstetricians; 11 nurse/midwives; and 2 hospital administrators on young child oral health.

ECCBC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Larraine Archuleta, Boulder County Department Housing and Human Services

Jordana Ash, Mental Health Center Serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties

Debbie Bethel, Longmont YMCA

Kimberley Bloemen, Boulder Valley School District

Annette Crawford, Child Care Recruitment & Training, City of Boulder

Peter Dawson MD, People's Clinic

Lisa Dion, Play Therapy Institute of Colorado

Cynthia Divino, PhD, Boulder Institute for Psychotherapy and Research

Matt Eldred, The Acorn School for Early Childhood Development

Judy Fry, Child Care Resource & Referral, City of Boulder

Janet Gutman, St Vrain Valley School District

Melissa Hisel, Lafayette Public Library

Joan Holtz, Imagine!

Kate Johannes, Boulder County Head Start

Jim Koch, Colorado Department of Human Services

Linda Kopecky, City of Longmont

Will Kropp, Parenting Place

Joan Martin, Early Childhood Specialist

Linda Miron, City of Lafayette

Susan Moore PhD, University of Colorado

Sarah Nelson, Sister Carmen Community Center

Amy Oglivie, Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families

Linda Schow, ECCBC Professional Development

Sarah Scully, Boulder County Public Health

Katherine Schwartz, Congregation Har Hashem

Jennifer Selbitschka, Boulder Journey School

Alison Thielke, Front Range Community College

Karen Zeid, Parent Representative

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