

The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

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...

It appears that the early childhood domain has (at last!) come of age. We see evidence at the national, state and local levels that both policy makers as well as our community at-large are all aligning with our **READY COMMUNITY** goal:

The community recognizes the importance of early childhood as integral to the quality of life in Boulder County and as a critical part of the continuum of social equity. The community implements policies that support all families with young children throughout the country.

At the federal level, the administration released an RFP to support early head start expansion efforts across the country. Clayton Early Learning (in Denver) received one of those awards and is looking to expand early head slots across the state in the neediest communities.

At the state level, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) continues to increase funding to early childhood councils to improve the quality of early childhood centers and homes. ECCBC continues to receive increased support from the OEC.

Locally, the voters of Boulder County voted by a margin of 63% to support the continuation of funding for the Safety Net (Initiative 1B) which will provide \$75M to support subsidized childcare as well as other supports to keep families stable and thriving. HUGE thanks to all of you who supported this initiative! It makes Boulder bolder!

ECCBC continues to develop our Pay For Success feasibility study which will determine if this innovative financing strategy is appropriate to support an expansion of the Community Infant Home Visitation Program (CIP) to more at risk families across Boulder County. We are working with our consultants (Social Impact Solutions) and our partners (Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services, The Mental Health Partners, the CIP staff and Boulder County Public Health) to develop our cost models.

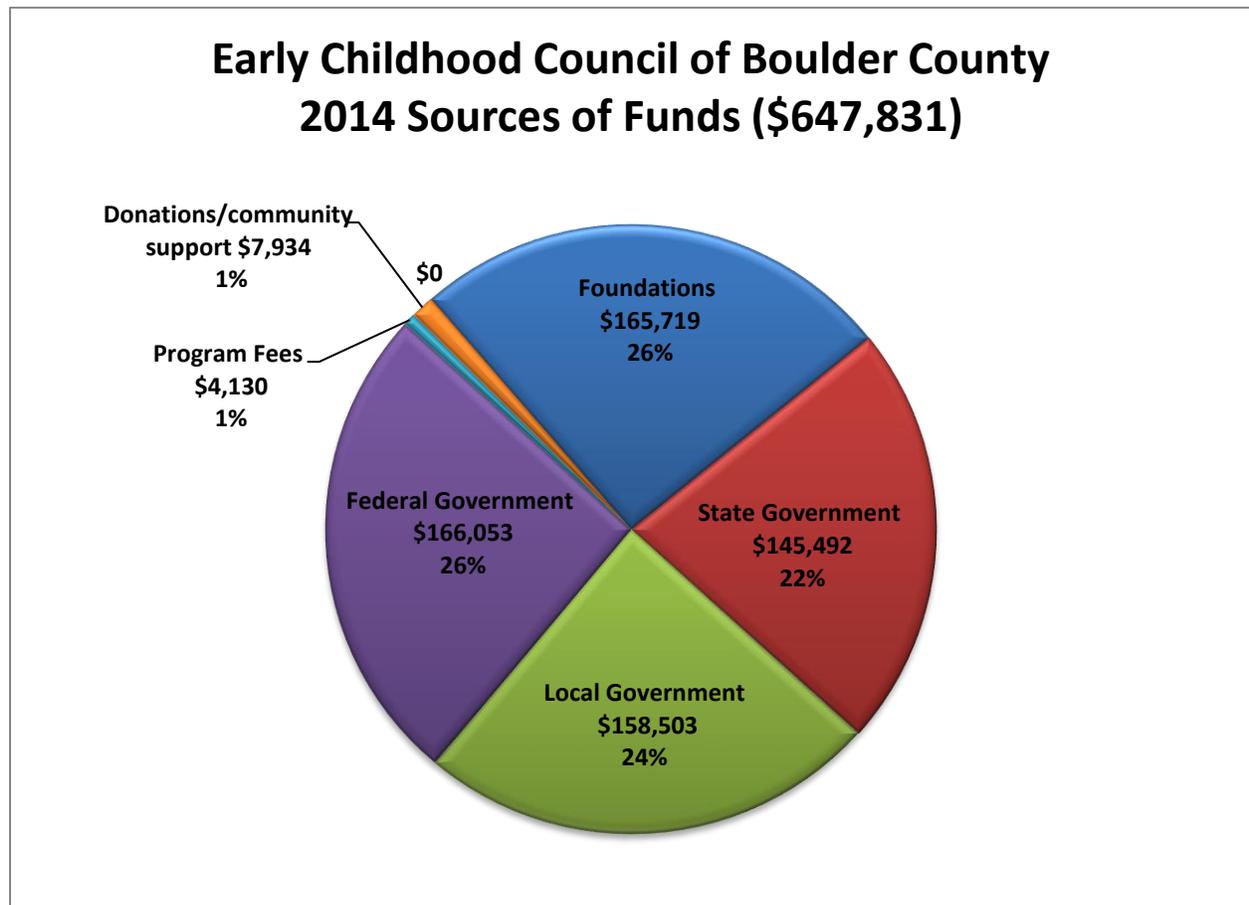
The ECCBC Advisory Council has taken on an expanded role within the early childhood arena in Boulder County. They are acting as technical experts to agencies across the county (including EFFA, Boulder County Public Health and The Dream Big Project) to advise these agencies how best to provide supports to young families across Boulder County.

It is indeed an exciting time to be working in early childhood. Thank you to all our supporters and we invite you to join ECCBC in our efforts to improve the early childhood system.

Warm regards,



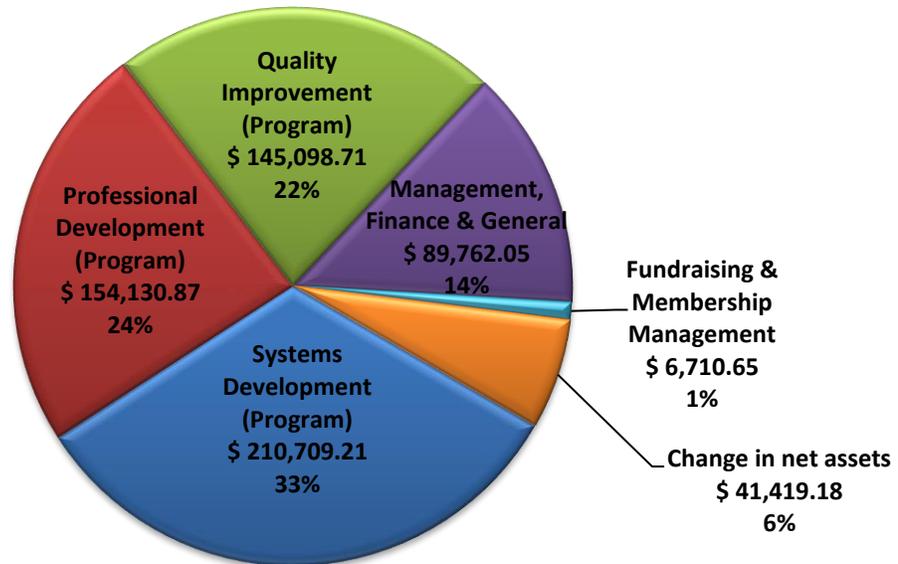
Sources of Funds – 2014



The biggest change between FY 2013 (\$544,333) and FY 2014 (\$647,831) occurred within the private foundation grants. This funding area saw an increase from \$124,805 (FY 2013) to \$165,719 (FY 2014), an increase of 32%. ECCBC began the Pay for Success Feasibility Study and private foundation grants funded this effort. Federal government grants increased slightly from \$152,243 to \$166,053. State support also increased significantly from \$12,353 to \$145,492. This increase of \$133,140 reflected the state support for the Infant Toddler Quality and Availability Grant (ITQA) which was begun in FY 2014 and is used to improve the quality of childcare in licensed centers and homes who provide infant/toddler early care and education services to CCAP (Child Care Assistance Program) families. Local government support actually fell from \$206,341 in FY 2013 to \$158,503 in FY 2014. That reflects the discontinuance of the City of Boulder's support for the Touchpoints Training. The Federal government support remained essentially flat from \$152,243 in FY 2013 to \$166,053 in FY 2014.

Uses of Funds-2014

Early Childhood Council of Boulder County 2014 Uses of Funds (\$647,841)



The greatest change in uses of funds between FY 2013 and FY 2014 occurred in the area of Quality Improvement. With the passage of HB 1291, the state funded the Infant Toddler Quality and Availability Grant, designated to increase the quality of licensed childcare centers and homes who provide care for CCAP families with infants and toddlers. Funds were also provided to both increase the number of licensed slots for infants and toddlers as well as provide financial incentives to those infant toddler CCAP providers who improved the quality of their programs. This grant opportunity was unique in that it was designated only to the 31 early childhood councils in Colorado who were able to submit this grant application in conjunction with their county CCAP provider. Of the 31 EC councils, 12 were approved for this grant with ECCBC being one of the twelve. It is anticipated that funding for this initiative will be renewed in coming years. Management and General increased proportionally between FY 2013 and FY 2014 to support the increase in the Quality Program.

2014 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.

Children aged Birth to Three: As the school districts continue to expand programs for four and five year olds, the ECCBC Board has decided to focus our efforts on the B-3 population, given the alarming paucity of resources available to this group (which number about 12,200 in Boulder County in 2013). In Jan 2014, the Board decided to pursue the investigation of a Pay for Success financing model to expand the capacity of the Community Infant Program to provide home visitation to families across Boulder County.

At-risk children: According to the 2013 ECCBC Indicators Report, an estimated one in five children under age 5 in Boulder County, or 18.2%, lived below the poverty line. This is almost double the rate of 9.5% in 2000. Every year, a cohort of these children arrive at kindergarten *not* ready to learn. More has to be done to ensure that these vulnerable children succeed in school and in life.

Emphasis on an early childhood mixed delivery model: As both school districts continue to expand services for 4 and 5 year olds, there is an increasing negative impact on the childcare providers, including both nonprofit and for profit centers as well as licensed family childcare homes. ECCBC is committed to assisting these entities to remain fiscally healthy in order to ensure the full range of parent childcare options. A successful business model is built upon 'cost shifting' between the more profitable 4 and 5 year olds (since the teacher to child ratio is higher and therefore less costly) and the more resource-intensive care for infants and toddlers. So-as more 4 and 5 year olds move into district preschools, licensed centers and homes are losing revenues needed to support the more costly infant/toddler market. ECCBC is committed to working with all childcare providers to ensure operational sustainability.

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 19,000 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-Chairs; 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 2014.
- 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 2 Board members appointed to the Advisory Council. In addition, the Advisory Council Co-chairs 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.

ECCBC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Advisory Council Chair:

Cynthia Divino, - AC Chair-Boulder Institute for Psychotherapy & Research

Advisory Council Members:

Lorraine Archuletta, Boulder County Housing and Human Services

Kim Bloemen, Boulder Valley School District

Andre Bollaert, The Acorn School

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

Lisa Dion, Play Therapy Institute of Colorado

Matt Eldred, TLC Learning Center

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

Shela Blankinship, St. Vrain Valley School District

Kate Johannes, Director, Boulder County Head Start

Jim Koch, Licensing Specialist, Colorado Department of Human Services

Joan Martin, retired, Early Childhood Specialist

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

Sarah Nelson, Program Director, Sister Carmen Community Center

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

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

Linda Schow, ECCBC Professional Development Coordinator

Sarah Scully, Boulder County Public Health

Katherine Schwartz, Congregation Har Hashem

Jennifer Selbitschka, Boulder Journey School

Karen Zeid, Parent Representative, private realtor in Boulder

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Early Childhood Council of Boulder County

1285 Cimarron Drive, Suite 201

Lafayette CO 80026

www.eccbouldercounty.org

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