

The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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.

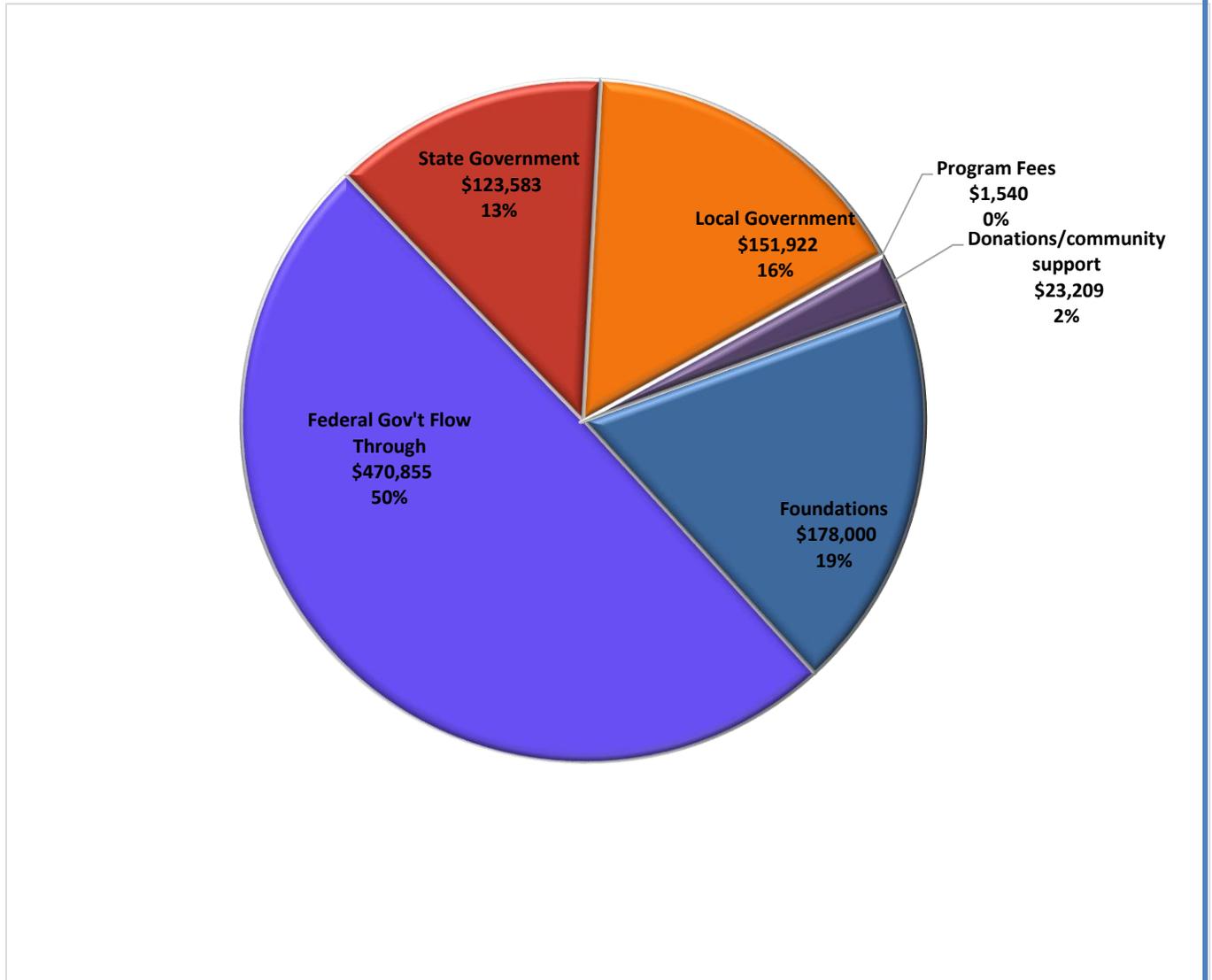
Quality: We know that children who spend time in a high quality early childhood setting do better in school and in life. However-the opposite is also true. Children who find themselves in settings (and this could be their own homes) where they are not stimulated or worse-set in front of a TV or computer...are 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 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,

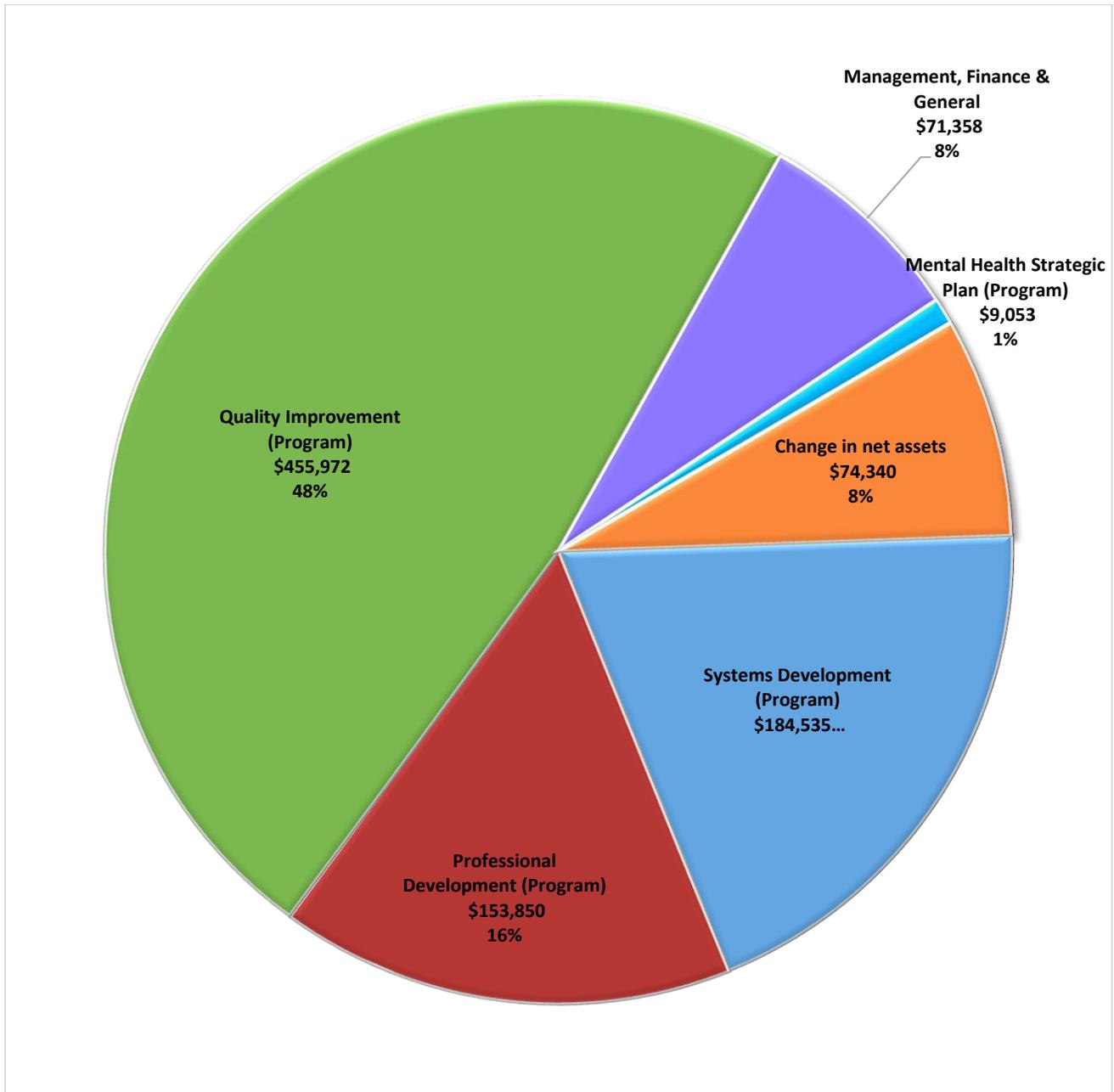


Sources of Funds (\$949,109)



The FY 2017 budget was essentially flat from FY 2016, being \$5828 less. Race-to-the-Top federal quality funds came to an end and the state of Colorado replaced a portion of those funds. The largest increase in funding was seen in the foundations category, with an increase of 45% over last year. That increase is due to a grant from the Dodge Family Fund to support a two year position through The Mental Health Partners to place an additional Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant in a high CCAP licensed center.

Uses of Funds-(\$949,109)



Quality funding was reduced so you will see a comparable reduction in spending in this area. Systems Development was also reduced due to the completion of the Pay-For-Success project. PD and M&G remained essentially the same as FY 2016.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

CCR&R: ECCBC applied to the Office of Early Childhood to become the CCR&R for Boulder County. Effective Oct. 1, 2017 ECCBC CCR&R staff provided support in the form of technical assistance for new and existing child care providers.

Quality Improvement:

ECCBC Quality staff continued to provide CO Shines navigation services to licensed ECE providers across Boulder County. They also provided QI funds to assist providers to improve their quality as demonstrated by an increase in CO Shines quality-rated licenses. As of the end of FY 2017, the following % by rated licenses:

- Current # by Levels:
 - Level 1: 120 (49%)
 - Level 2: 77 (31%)
 - Level 3: 6 (2%)
 - Level 4: 42 (17%)
 - Level 5: 1 (<1%)

At risk children and their families: In September, ECCBC presented to the community the findings from the 4-year long feasibility study for a Pay-For-Success funding mechanism to expand the Community Infant Program. A complete copy of this study can be found at our website (<https://www.eccbouldercounty.org/for-community/our-publications/>). Bottomline, for every \$1.00 spent on CIP, Boulder County saves \$1.37.

Professional Development: Our Professional Development staff continued to provide certified trainings and scholarship funds to ECE providers and professionals across Boulder County:

- Bright E.Y.E.S Early Learning Summit, Feb. 25, 2017 (446 hours)
- Spring 2017 Provider Forum (FLIP IT), April 29, 2017 (117 hours)
- Touchpoints Individual-Level Training (ILT), June 16, 23 and 30, 2017 (360 hours)
- Bringing FLIP IT to you! July 15, 2017 (143 hours)
- Bringing FLIP IT to you! Sept. 1, 2017 (78 hours)
- Fall 2017 Provider Forum (FLIP IT), Oct. 14, 2017 (156 hours)
- Quality Nights – Keeping the Passion: Self-Care for Early Childhood Educators, Oct. 30, 2017 (12 hours)

- Quality Nights – Enhancing the Early Childhood Professional, Nov. 27, 2017 (14 hours)
- Quality Nights – Empowering Teacher-Family Partnerships, Dec. 18, 2017 (28 hours)
- Bringing FLIP IT to you! Dec. 9, 2017 (108 hours)

Financial Incentives for Professional Development

- \$33,225 in Financial Incentives (71 awards) for college level coursework
- \$4,900 in Financial Incentives (14 awards) for Pyramid Plus certificate completion

Early Childhood Mental Health Task Force: In the spring of 2017, ECCBC in partnership with Boulder County Public Health, convened a group of early childhood experts to look at the needs/gaps of early childhood mental health services in Boulder County. After a several months long study, the group recommended the following strategies:

Universal Home Visitation: Create a universal home visitation approach so all families with newborns have access to quality information and support. Provide education, screening, and community connections through this trust source.

Mental Health Integration: Integrate behavioral health into primary care and existing social services. Share community exemplars for integrating behavioral specialists into primary care settings (e.g. community health centers) and further build out expertise working with young children and their families. Ensure that if a parent is being seen for mental health issues, that children are screened as well.

Cultural Responsiveness: Train, embed, and ensure programs and services have and use culturally and linguistically responsive supports.

A full copy of this study can be found at our website:

<https://www.eccbouldercounty.org/for-community/our-publications/>

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 and updated in 2014. Many hours of debate and conversation led to the development of this early childhood common agenda.

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 attends 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.

2017 ECCBC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Advisory Council Chair:

Cynthia Divino, - AC Chair- ECCBC Board, therapist in private practice

Advisory Council Members:

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

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, CCAP Team, Boulder County

Lisa Dion, Play Therapy Institute of Colorado

Matt Eldred, TLC Learning Center

Suzannah Evans, SVVSD Kindergarten teacher

Andrea Foote, Community Infant Program, MHP

Melissa Hisel, Lafayette Library

Jessica Jones, EC of The Broomfield Early Childhood Council

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

Alison Thielke, Front Range Community College

Linda Miron, Quality Coach

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

Jennifer Selbitschka, Boulder Journey School

Brittany Siegel, !Imagine

Karen Zeid, Parent Representative, private realtor in Boulder

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President and CEO, Foothills United Way

Vicky Youcha

Early Childhood Specialist

Jeff Zayach

Executive Director of Boulder County Public Health

Early Childhood Council of Boulder County

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