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Child and Family Development

The Challenge

Human brain development research shows that a child's first five years are the most important for healthy development, and what happens in those years can have a profound impact on later academic success and life. The most significant factor in a child's well-being is a family's economic security.

The Impact We Seek

To give children the emotional, social and educational readiness to succeed in school and life through:

- High-quality and accessible child care and early childhood education
- Helping individuals obtain the skills and resources they need to provide for their families
- Educating and influencing policymakers

Child and Family Development Grantmaking

To address these needs in child and family development, we fund programs and projects in these areas:

- Early childhood development, especially parent education programs and high-quality early childhood education
- Family self-sufficiency, including employment training and family support services
- Efforts to plan, create, implement and evaluate public policy that has a positive impact on early childhood education and development, and family self-sufficiency

Learn more about Child and Family Development [grant guidelines](#), [submitting a grant application](#), [recent grants](#) and the members of our [Child and Family Development Committee](#).

Collaborations and Leadership in Child and Family Development

In addition to inviting grant applications for these grant priorities, the Child and Family Development program area takes leadership by creating and participating in initiatives to change the community. Here are a few examples:

- **Race to the Top funding** – We were instrumental in helping Colorado secure a \$29.9 million federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant in 2012 which will help increase access to high-quality early learning opportunities for all Colorado children. [Learn more](#) about Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge.
- **The Alliance for Early Success** – We are advancing Colorado policies that lead to improved health, learning and economic outcomes for young children in collaboration with several funding partners, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Visit the Alliance for Early Success' [website](#).
- **Early Childhood Mental Health Study** – In partnership with [Caring for Colorado Foundation](#) and our [Health](#) program area, we completed an [environmental scan](#) (PDF) of Colorado's early childhood mental health systems, which identified many gaps, as well as steps for addressing systemic challenges.

A variety of resources inform our work in Child and Family Development. View our [studies and reports](#).

Donor Engagement

We invite you to join us as we connect people, resources and innovative ideas to strengthen the community. Please contact the [Child and Family Development program officer](#) if you are interested in joining us in this work.

More grantmaking you might like to read about

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SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER - CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



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STORIES OF IMPACT



Child and Family Development

9to5 Colorado (Denver): \$10,000 for leadership development and civic engagement of low-income women and their families.

Accion New Mexico · Arizona · Colorado (Albuquerque, NM): \$10,000 to support a small business lending and financial education program in the Metro Denver area.

Bal Swan Children's Center (Broomfield): \$10,000 to support teacher training and quality improvement activities to help maintain 4-star Qualistar rating.

Bayaud Enterprises (Denver): \$50,000 to train individuals as employees in a technology support call center service utilized by federal agencies.

The Bell Policy Center (Denver): \$40,000 toward a \$120,000 grant to support general operating support for research and analysis, public education, collaboration, outreach, and advocacy. The grant was jointly funded by the Foundation's Education and Health program areas.

Bright Beginnings (Denver): \$50,000 to expand and enhance the Denver Talks Back program, which aims to improve language engagement between caregivers and children aged 9 months to 3 years.

Children First of the Rockies (Longmont): \$10,000 for a program which educates parents to prevent neglect and abuse and encourages nurturing parenting to promote healthy child development.

Children's Haven Child Care Center (Lakewood): \$11,620 to support quality improvements and staff development for an early education center in Southwest Denver.

Children's Outreach Project (Denver): \$20,000 for professional development and quality improvement of their high quality early childhood educational programming which serves at-risk families.

Clayton Early Learning (Denver):

\$7,500 to bring the Birth to Five Policy Alliance, a national organization that provides support and funding for early childhood policy work, to Colorado.

\$8,000 to support the state-level early childhood advocacy efforts by helping with the local match for the Alliance for Early Success grant.

Colorado Center on Law and Policy (Denver): \$25,000 toward a grant totaling \$50,000 for the Family Economic Security Program, which provides research, education, advocacy and litigation on behalf of low-income Coloradans. This grant was jointly funded by the Foundation's Health program area.

Colorado Participation Project (Denver): \$15,000 for guidance, training, and supporting human service organizations in their nonpartisan advocacy and civic engagement efforts. Colorado Nonprofit Development Center serves as fiscal sponsor.

Colorado Succeeds (Denver): \$5,000 toward a \$10,000 grant to partially fund a study on the quality and consistency of READ Act implementation in schools across the state. The grant was jointly funded by the Foundation's Education program area.

Community Action Development Corporation (Boulder): \$10,000 to support the implementation of the Boulder County Circle Campaign, which focuses on three critical indicators: positive changes in family assets, amount of social services benefits received and monthly income.

Denver Asset Building Coalition (Denver): \$20,000 to provide free tax preparation, financial education, and financial services to the low-income people in Denver and Aurora.

Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (Lafayette): \$25,000 to support the efforts to ensure that all young children from birth to five in Boulder County are ready to succeed in school and in life.

Early Childhood Funder's Collaborative (Boston, MA): \$3,000 for the Early Childhood Funders' Collaborative. Third Sector New England serves as fiscal sponsor.

El Centro Humanitario (Denver): \$25,000 to support intensive trainings and increased access to employment opportunities for domestic workers.

Emily Griffith Foundation (Denver): \$30,000 to support the Parents as Students program which gives financial support and resources to parents attending Emily Griffith Technical College.

Family Resource Center Association (Denver): \$255,000 to strengthen the statewide network of 23 family resource centers which helps families become more self-reliant.

Florence Crittenton Services of Colorado (Denver): \$40,000 to support a program to help teen parents raise healthy families.

Friends of the Haven (Denver): \$10,000 to support professional training and materials to maintain high quality early childhood programs at The Baby Haven.

Grantmakers for Children, Youth, and Families (Silver Spring, MD): \$2,500 to engage funders across all sectors to continually improve their grantmaking on behalf of children, youth and families.

Growing Home (Westminster): \$20,000 for capacity building, family self-sufficiency and early childhood intervention programs.

Hope Center (Denver): \$20,000 to provide professional development and quality improvements for a center that provides high quality early childhood education services to low-income children in Northeast Denver.

Invest in Kids (Denver): \$75,000 for The Incredible Years program which promotes positive parent, teacher and child relationships to increase a child's success at school.

Jeffco Public Schools (Golden): \$30,000 to partner with the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Program to deliver home-based, parent involved early learning to help children in Jefferson County begin school ready to learn.

Jefferson Center for Mental Health (Wheat Ridge): \$15,000 for early intervention services that provide children ages 0-5 and their families with therapy and education services.

Mary Wickersham Consulting, Inc. (Longmont): \$7,000 for consulting services to assist Rose Community Foundation and other early childhood funders to participate in the development of Pay for Success financing structures.

Mercy Housing Inc. (Denver): \$20,000 to provide educational and constructive activities to adults and youth.

Metropolitan State University of Denver Foundation (Denver): \$10,000 for the Family Literacy Program which is designed to give at-risk children and their caregivers the life skills and educational tools to be successful.

Mi Casa Resource Center (Denver): \$30,000 to advance economic success for Latino families.

Mile High Montessori Early Learning Centers (Denver): \$15,000 for a birth-to-age-three parent education program for low income families.

Mpowered (Denver): \$15,000 to support comprehensive financial coaching to low-income families.

Policy Matters (Wheat Ridge): \$8,333 towards a \$25,000 grant for one year of state-level legislative monitoring services. The grant was jointly funded by the Foundation's Education and Health program areas.

Qualistar Colorado (Denver): \$75,000 to improve the school readiness of Colorado's children through the implementation of a Quality Rating and Improvement System which measures and improves the quality of early learning settings and helps parents find and choose high quality care.

Reach Out and Read Colorado (Denver): \$15,000 to train pediatricians to educate parents about the importance of their involvement in their child's early development and provide developmentally appropriate books at well-child visits.

Rocky Mountain Parents as Teachers (Denver): \$10,000 to provide parents with parenting education and support to financially disadvantaged families and those at risk of child abuse or neglect.

Rose Community Foundation (Denver):

\$3,000 for consulting services to document the history of the early childhood movement in Denver, and write a concept paper for the next phase of work for the Office of Early Childhood.

\$2,500 toward a grant totaling \$5,000 for consulting support for facilitation of the early childhood mental health funders collaborative. This grant was jointly funded by the Foundation's Child and Family Development and Education program areas.

\$50,000 for a new organization, the Colorado Early Childhood Foundation, which will work collaboratively with the Office of Early Childhood and others to continue building an infrastructure to advance results-driven early childhood service delivery.

\$4,000 to the Colorado Department of Education to hire a consultant to coordinate and write a grant for the Preschool Development Grants competition which would support efforts to build, develop, and expand voluntary, high-quality preschool programs.

\$75,000 toward a \$150,000 grant to support the Opportunity Youth Initiative over three years. This grant was jointly funded by the Foundation's Child and Family Development and Education program areas.

\$7,500 for consulting services to assist Rose Community Foundation and other early childhood funders to participate in the development of Pay for Success financing structures.

TLC Learning Center (Longmont): \$15,000 for professional development training for staff at an early learning center.

Tools of the Mind (Denver): \$25,000 to support a locally developed early childhood curriculum, in its transformation from start-up to national model. Third Sector New England serves as fiscal sponsor.

University of Colorado Foundation (Broomfield): \$70,000 over two years for the Pregnancy and Parenting Partners to provide accessible and affordable prenatal, postnatal, and infant care to low-income women and their children.

Warren Village (Denver): \$40,000 to provide comprehensive services to low-income, single-parent families working to move beyond the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

Work Options for Women (Denver): \$25,000 for a program that helps impoverished women gain the skills and confidence they need to work their way out of poverty and become gainfully and permanently employed in the food service industry.

Worklife Partnership (Denver): \$25,000 to support employers' ability to retain valuable employees by leveraging community resources. Colorado Nonprofit Development Center serves as the fiscal sponsor.