The Latest from Counties for Kids

Celebrating County Leadership in Prenatal-to-Three: Case Studies from the PN-3 County Leaders Academy

Local Strategies for Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences
Feb 1, 2023  Infant/toddler mental health

Open for Business: Strategies for Engaging the Business Community in Local Child Care Efforts
Nov 29, 2022  Child care

Celebrate the Week of the Young Child with Counties for Kids!

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the world’s largest early childhood education association. The purpose of the Week of the Young Child (WANC) is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

During this WANC, we invite all county leaders to join the Counties for Kids network of champions and use local approaches for advancing PN-3 policies, programs and systems. We encourage you to use the resources below to share how your county is celebrating young children during WANC and year-round!
Instructions

To mute/unmute and start/stop video:

To access the chat box:

To raise/lower your hand:
PN-3 Peer Learning Network: Long-Term Strategies for Strengthening the Child Care Workforce (Rural and Smaller Suburban Counties)

• Welcome (5 min)
• Mesa County, Colo. Presentation (15 min)
  • Stephanie Bivins, Director, Mesa County Partnership for Children and Families
• Questions & Interactive Discussion (35 min)
• Conclusion (5 min)
STRENGTHENING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION WORKFORCE

RURAL RESPONSE IN MESA COUNTY, COLORADO

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PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

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CHILDCARE NAVIGATOR  ECE WORKFORCE COORDINATOR  QUALITY IMPROVEMENT NAVIGATOR  QUALITY IMPROVEMENT NAVIGATOR

Our team envisions a community with high-quality early childhood care and education that better the lives of young children.
MESA COUNTY, CO

MORE THAN HALF (55.6%) OF MESA COUNTY WORKERS EARN LESS THAN $17.50 PER HOUR, AN ESSENTIAL WAGE FOR HOUSEHOLD STABILITY.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS VARIES BY AS MUCH AS 80% AMONG DIFFERENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN MESA COUNTY.

1 IN 3 HOUSEHOLDS HAVE CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD LIVING AT HOME.

POPULATION
151K

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
$55,579

SNAP USAGE
11%

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
91.2%

MESA COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT, 2021
IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS

- LOW WAGES & SHORTAGE OF WORKERS.
- SHORTAGE OF OPENINGS.

MESA COUNTY LICENSED EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSROOMS WERE CONSISTENTLY UNDERSTAFFED BY 25-30%.
STRENGTHENING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION WORKFORCE

INCREASE QUALITY.

GROW AVAILABILITY.

GETTING FUNDS TO FACILITIES.

SUSTAINABILITY.
WHAT'S NEXT
FEATURES

- 154 child care spots offering ample CO Child Care
- Assistance Program (CCCAP) spots
- Serving infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children
- Kitchen for healthy child care meals and snacks Indoor gross motor skills area
- Space for child evaluations and screenings Observation rooms for workforce training
- Office space for early childhood support services including Partnership for Children and Families
- Meeting space for childhood workforce training
SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

CHANGE THE CONVERSATION. MAKE IT ABOUT ECONOMIC GROWTH.

EXPAND YOUR VISION BEYOND TRADITIONAL FACILITIES.

SUSTAINABILITY IS CRITICAL. TALK WITH EMPLOYERS AND OTHER FUNDERS WHO HAVE A LONG-TERM STAKE IN THE SUCCESS OF CHILD CARE.
THANK YOU.

Mesa County Partnership for Children & Families
Discussion Questions

• What do you know about the early childhood workforce in your county?

• What are the major challenges for providers in your county? What supports do providers have access to in your county (e.g., shared services, education supports)?

• Based the information that you’ve heard today, is your county or state doing similar work to build and maintain the early childhood workforce?

• Do providers in your county reflect the diversity of your community? Can parents find care in that meets their linguistic and cultural needs and preferences?

• Has your county used CARES funding or American Rescue Plan Act funding to support the child care workforce? (i.e., operating grants for child care providers, bonuses, wage increasements, access to professional development)
Contact Us

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