



August 27th, 2024

Welcome, Jordan Cobb!



We're excited to introduce Jordan Cobb as the newest member of the Early Childhood Council. Jordan joins us as an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, bringing a wealth of knowledge and passion for supporting the mental well-being of young children. Her experience and dedication will be invaluable to our team as we continue to promote healthy development for the children and families in our community.



PROPERTY TAX INITIATIVES THREATEN CRITICAL SERVICES, PROGRAMS FOR COLORADO KIDS

What's at stake if Initiatives 108 and 50 pass?

When Coloradans get their ballots in the mail this fall, they could potentially vote or two measures that would have disastrous consequences for Colorado kids and families: if passed: Initiatives 50 and 108.

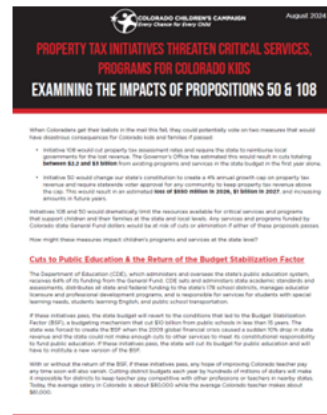
These ballot initiatives would, together, permanently cut property tax rates and limit property tax revenue - an important source of funding for essential services like public schools, firefighters, and more.

Legislators are preparing for a [special session](#) focused on property taxes. The Colorado Children's Campaign supports efforts to find a solution that results in these initiatives being removed from the ballot. But it's important to understand what might happen if these initiatives appear on this year's ballots and pass.

Our newest brief highlights programs and services that rely on funds that are at risk. It focuses on K-12 education, early childhood, family economic prosperity, and child and family health.

Read our latest brief to learn more about how Initiatives 50 and 108 could affect programs and services for kids and families.

Read the Brief





UPDATE



COLORADO
Department of Early Childhood

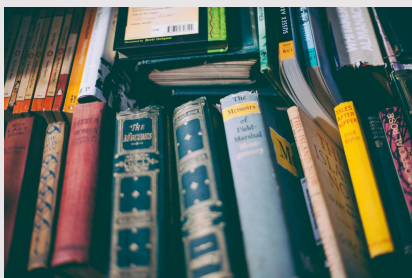
UPK Updates

Family matching rounds are complete! Families received their match notification on July 23rd, and were to accept or decline their match by July 30th.

There's still time to enroll in Colorado Universal Preschool before school starts! The program is now moving to its "walk-in" enrollment phase. Families can work with providers in their area to fill out an application at upk.colorado.gov and enroll in the Universal Preschool program on site, as long as the provider has space. Families with children who have an IEP will still be placed through AUs and the school district.

Space is limited! Registering now is the best way to ensure your child has access to your families top preschool choice.

As always please contact [719-214-6202](tel:719-214-6202) for additional information and support with the application.



Lending Library

Introducing the new Lending Library Bookshelf!

We're excited to announce we now have a Lending Library located inside the office entrance at the Early Childhood Council of San Luis Valley. This bookshelf of resources is filled with early childhood materials for educators, directors, home providers,

and more! We also have resources for parents with young children, including educational books, disability information, DVDs, flyers, books on CD, and brochures.

Please feel free to take what you can use and leave behind what you no longer need for others who may find them useful. The Lending Library is open to the community during our regular business hours.

Please help yourselves and spread the word!

Childcare Resource and Referral (CCRR)

Do you or anyone you know need help paying for childcare?

The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) helps families that are working, searching for work, in school or homeless find low-income childcare assistance. Contact your local Department of Human Services for more information. Details are below!

- Alamosa County contact Linda Bruder at [\(719\) 589-2581](tel:7195892581).
 - Conejos County contact Margaret Jiron or Christine Garcia at [\(719\) 376-5455](tel:7193765455).
 - Costilla County contact Marissa Vigil at [\(719\) 672-4131](tel:7196724131).
 - Rio Grande County contact Wendy Barela Sierra [\(719\) 657-3381](tel:7196573381).
 - Saguache County contact Christina Wilson [\(719\) 655-2537](tel:7196552537).
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Open Your Own Child Care Program



- Do you have a passion for teaching and supporting the healthy development of infants, toddlers, and young children?
- Are you interested in working from the convenience of your home?
- Do you want to start your own business?
- Would you like to teach preschool at YOUR site for the new Universal Preschool (UPK) program

We have a rewarding career opportunity for you!

The Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley can share how to become a licensed family child care home provider.

We will cover the steps in the process, cash incentives, grants, UPK and other key points for licensing. Contact us if you are interested using the information below!



Ready to get started?
Scan the QR code or email Amanda
at ecresource@eccslv.org



 **Wonderschool**

Child Care Construction Guidebook Overview

The CDEC is pleased to share child care construction guides that are available on the [CDEC website](#). The purpose of the Child Care Construction Guidebooks is to inform and assist in navigating the many layers of construction projects as they relate to building and or expanding child care. Family child care home and center based providers as well as those considering constructing a child care facility will benefit from these reference guides. Thrive Community Building, the TA Vendor

who created these guides is offering a virtual overview opportunity of these guides on:

- September 24, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

The same information will be shared at all the overviews. To register to attend any of these virtual overviews click [here](#).

Early Head Start_x
Free Quality Child Care Services!
Birth to 3

Expectant Families and Teen Parents

- Child Care 28+ hours per week
 - Year-Round Program
 - Family Services
 - Education Services
 - Health Services
 - Nutrition Services
 - Disabilities Services
 - Community Resources

Families with children with special needs are encouraged to apply
Military families encouraged to apply
We do not provide daily transportation to & from the center. However, we may be able to provide transportation in certain circumstances in conjunction with other community agencies.

Begin Application Here

Contact us Today!
(719) 937-4010
401 Santa Fe Ave
Alamosa, CO 81101

Service Areas:
Saguache
Costilla
Alamosa
Rio Grande

Early Head Start Free Quality Child Care Services

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
for Rio Grande County and Center, CO!

Now accepting applications for Early Head Start! Click the link below to complete the interest form.

Click [Here](#) for interest form.

Coaching

****CANCELLED****

Due to certain circumstances, The ECCSLV Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care (EQIT) course has been cancelled for this Fall semester.

The EQIT Team will take this semester to refocus goals for training and plan to offer the course in the Spring of 2025.

Please watch for EQIT training information as Spring of 2025 approaches.

A program designed to help lower to middle-income Colorado families save money for higher education.

**CollegeInvest will match up to \$2,500
Dollar for dollar match up to \$500 per year**



How do I qualify for the program?

You must start before the child turns nine years old
The account owner must be parent or guardian and a Colorado resident

For more details about income eligibility,
terms, and conditions, scan the QR Code.



Un programa designado a ayudar a las familias de clase media de Colorado a ahorrar dinero para la educación superior.

CollegeInvest va a igualar hasta \$2,500
Igualaremos dólar por dólar hasta \$500 por año



¿Cómo puedo ser elegible para el programa?

Deben comenzar antes de que el menor cumpla 9 años
El dueño de la cuenta debe ser un padre o tutor y residente de Colorado

Para obtener más detalles sobre
cómo calificar, escanee el código QR.



College Invest (CDHE) grant programs for newborns to 8 year old's

College Invest (CDHE) has asked that we share the provided information about their state-sponsored matching grant

programs for newborns through 8 year old's. These are very generous programs aimed at incentivizing parents to start saving for their children's future higher education as early as possible.

Below you'll find the steps along with links to basic details about the grant programs and 529 savings plans:

- **First Step:** This program provides a one-time \$100 contribution from CollegeInvest available for any child born or adopted in the State of Colorado on or after January 1, 2020. First Step recipients are also automatically enrolled in our Matching Grant Program for 5 consecutive years where **CollegeInvest will match up to \$2,500 in education savings.**
Click [here](#) to see the First steps Flyer

For even more information click the link below.

<https://www.collegeinvest.org/first-step/>

- **Matching Grant Program:** Designed to help lower to middle-income families save money for higher education, this program can provide eligible account owners **with matching funds – up to \$500 each year for up to five awards** – when they open and contribute to a CollegeInvest 529 College Savings Account.

Children up to 8 years old are eligible.

<https://www.collegeinvest.org/matching-grant-program/>

- **What is a 529 higher education savings plan?**
<https://www.collegeinvest.org/what-is-a-529-plan/>

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Samuels, the Community Outreach Coordinator at [College Invest](#)
bsamuels@collegeinvest.org

Quality Improvement

Colorado Shines Quality Improvement Funds

Colorado Shines Quality Improvement funds are now available for licensed childcare programs that are rated at a Colorado Shines Level 1 or higher. Quality Improvement funds are

allocated based on program type (center or home-based), the number of classrooms and Colorado Shines quality rating level.

Minor Improvement Funds

Minor improvements funds (Reimbursement funding) to support programs that serve infants and toddlers may be available. Eligible programs must hold a Colorado Shines Level 2 or higher and have an active Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) fiscal agreement. All project requests must be related to the support of infants and toddlers within the program that is making the grant request.

*****The Intent to apply deadline is 8/31/2024*****

If you need additional information, please contact Monique Bosch by clicking the email link eccoach@eccslv.org

Do you have something you would like to share in our newsletter?

If individuals and organizations in the community want to share relevant information through this email list, ECCSLV will do their best to include the information in the next available e-newsletter.

ECCSLV considers requests based on relevance, capacity, and timeliness. We do not guarantee that all information will be shared.

Stay connected with us!

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newsletter!

Click on the social media links below to follow us on all platforms!

We post regularly to our social media accounts regarding events and important last minute information that is usually not included in our bi-weekly newsletters.

Be sure you are subscribed so you don't miss out!





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