



Douglas County Early Childhood Council (DCECC)

Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Douglas County Early Childhood Council Strategic Plan 2017-2020

VISION: Every child has the foundation to reach for the stars!

MISSION: Foster and promote a comprehensive, high quality, and responsive system of early childhood services and supports for families with children, prenatal to age eight.

ORGANIZATIONAL SUMMARY

The Douglas County Early Childhood Council (DCECC) was formally organized in June 2007 with federal funding administered by the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Colorado Department of Education. The DCECC Director was hired in March 2008. The current total population of Douglas County is 328,632 with an early childhood population of 20,046 (0-5 years) [US Census Bureau-2016]. There are currently 273 early learning facilities in Douglas County, with a 49% engagement rate to date in the Colorado Shines Quality Rating Improvement System [CDHS–March 2017]. DCECC’s strategic plan was written in alignment with the Early Childhood Colorado Framework to improve the accessibility, quality, and equity of early childhood services for children, prenatal to eight years old, and their families in Douglas County in the areas of: Family Support & Education; Health & Well-Being; and Learning & Development. Given the unique and potentially misleading economic identity of Douglas County, DCECC represents the county in statewide efforts to strengthen the system of early childhood. It collaborates with early childhood partner organizations and local key stakeholders to identify early childhood challenges in Douglas County and to work collaboratively together to improve the quality of care and services and to promote positive well-being outcomes for families with young children.

Douglas County Early Childhood Council Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Goal 1: Early learning providers in Douglas County have access to opportunities that support high quality care and education.

Goal 1. Strategy 1: Engage early learning programs to achieve higher quality levels in CO Shines.

| Activities/Steps | Timeline | Who | Progress indicator |
|---|-----------------------|---|--|
| Provide outreach to licensed early learning providers to increase knowledge about and engagement in CO Shines QRIS to at least 60% (Level 2 or higher). | Oct. 2017 - June 2018 | DCECC Director EQIT Trainers ACC Teachers QI Navigators/QI Coach | SUGAR CRM Data ecConnect # and names of providers |
| Provide technical assistance, consistent coaching and QI funding to early learning programs who are eligible to participate in the Colorado Shines Quality Improvement grant. | Oct. 2017 - June 2018 | DCECC Director QI Navigator QI Coach | SUGAR CRM Data ecConnect # and names of providers Amount of funding |
| Track program participation rates from CO Shines data system; integrate SUGAR data into outreach strategies. | Oct. 2017 - June 2018 | DCECC Director QI Navigator QI Coach | SUGAR CRM Data |
| Promote Colorado Shines Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) and Early Learning Development Guidelines (ELDG) at least once a month. | Oct. 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director Executive Committee Key Stakeholders | DCECC Website links Facebook posts # of provider meetings held # of Journey to Kindergarten brochures distributed |
| Increase the percentage of communities with access slots to Colorado Child Care Assistance subsidies in high quality programs (Level 3-5) | Oct. 2017-June 2020 | DCECC Director CCAP Director | SUGAR CRM ecConnect CCAP data for Douglas Conty |
| Increase number of children with child care subsidies that are served in high quality care (Levels 2+) from 45% to 60% | Oct. 2017 – June 2018 | DCECC Director QI Navigator CCAP Director | SUGAR CRM ecConnect CCAP data for Douglas County |

Goal 1. Strategy 2: Offer professional development training opportunities to ECE professionals.

| Activities/Steps | Timeline | Who | Progress Indicators |
|--|---|--|--|
| Share and promote up to date ECE information/trainings via provider email list and DCECC website. | Oct 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director Web Master | DCECC website Email messages |
| Collaborate with partner agencies to provide and promote professional development opportunities. | Oct. 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director Executive Committee Partner Agencies | DCECC website Email messages Promotional Fliers |
| Offer four Expanding Quality for Infant Toddler Care (EQIT) courses per year. | Oct. 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director EQIT Team | Course dates held Attendee Rosters |
| Develop a local Resource Fair for early learning providers to educate them regarding resources and supports in Douglas County (i.e. General Membership Meeting). | Date TBD | DCECC Director Professional Development Subcommittee | Date of resource fair Promotional materials for resource fair Evaluation results |
| Connect ECE professionals with community college offerings in early childhood. | Ongoing as they arise Oct. 2017 – June 2018 | DCECC Director Executive Committee ACC Teachers | DCECC website Email messages |
| Explore funding strategies to provide scholarships to ECE students | Oct. 2017 – June 2018 | DCECC Director Executive Committee ACC Early Childhood Dept. | # of scholarships provided \$ amount of scholarships |
| Explore the concept of learning communities and peer learning opportunities (i.e. community roundtable and/or mentorship program among early learning providers) | Oct. 2017 – March 2018 | DCECC Director Professional Development Subcommittee | Meeting minutes |

Goal 1. Strategy 3: Foster communication and promote engagement between Douglas County School District (DCSD) and early learning environments regarding effective transition practices.

| Activities/Steps | Timeline | Who | Progress Indicators |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Develop and conduct annual survey for area centers, Family Child Care Homes (FCCH), and faith-based preschools about their interest in transition practices with DCSD. | Oct. 2017, Sept. 2018, Sept. 2019 | DCECC Director Early Learning Provider CCR&R | # of returned surveys # of participating facilities who have a transition plan in place |
| Hold General Membership meeting for early learning providers and families regarding transition to kindergarten. | Annual 2017-2020 in month of November | DCECC Director DCSD Teachers CPP Coordinator Early Learning Providers | # of attendees Evaluation Results |
| Explore the potential of holding an annual transition event introducing centers and FCCH to DCSD Kindergarten teachers | Oct. 2017 – March 2018 | DCECC Director Executive Committee DCSD Kindergarten Teachers Center/FCCH representatives Douglas County Child Care Association | Meeting agendas # of attendees # of evaluations |

Goal 1. Strategy 4: Support the practice of quality referral processes in early learning settings.

| Activities/Steps | Timeline | Who | Progress Indicators |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Distribute referral guidelines brochure: “ <i>Observe, Connect, Collect, Share to Support Child Development</i> ” to early learning settings; offer trainings to providers (broad or on-site) about how to use this resource. | Ongoing – Oct. 2017 – June 2018 | DCECC Director QI Navigator Home Visitors: SafeCare & NFP *Early Childhood Collaborative | # of guidelines distributed Names of provider sites Evaluation Results |
| Distribute Parent Letter to early learning settings to help support the appropriate use of Early Intervention/Child Find referrals. | Ongoing – Oct. 2017 – June 2018 | DCECC Director QI Navigator EQIT Trainers | # of Parent Letters distributed Names of provider sites |
| Early Childhood Collaborative Workgroup will create and distribute common messaging materials about the importance of identifying developmental delays to area providers. | Ongoing – Oct. 2017 – June 2018 | DCECC Director QI Navigator MH Consultants EQIT Trainers *Early Childhood Collaborative Members | Completed samples of messaging materials # of materials distributed and to whom |

*Early Childhood Collaborative of Douglas County consists of: Tri-County Health Dept., Douglas County Early Childhood Council, Douglas County School District Child Find, Developmental Pathways, AllHealth Network (mental health network), Douglas County Dept. of Human Services, SafeCare,

Goal 2: Families with young children have practical knowledge about available resources and programs that support early learning and promote optimal health and well being.

Goal 2. Strategy 1: Connect and empower families to access resources, services and education.

| Activities/Steps | Timeline | Who | Progress Indicators |
|--|--|---|---|
| Provide parents with information about CO Shines and QRIS. | Ongoing Oct. 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director QI Navigator/QI Coach ACC Teachers | # of attendees to meeting # of communication materials distributed |
| Connect with Douglas County Libraries (DCL) to promote early literacy and community offerings to families with young children. | Ongoing Oct. 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director DCL | DCECC website # of J2K resource brochures # of Promotional fliers |
| Offer Journey to Kindergarten (J2K) workshop annually; provide J2K resource brochures to families through available community outlets. | Ongoing October 2017 - June 2020 | DCECC Director Executive Committee DCSD Community agencies Early learning providers | # of J2K brochures distributed # of attendees Evaluation Results |
| Provide relevant early childhood information through DCECC website, Facebook page, and general membership meetings; maintain website with ELDG, childhood development, health updates, parenting tips and parent education/training opportunities. | Ongoing Oct. 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director Web Master ACC Teachers WIC Tri-County Health Dept. | Postings and links on DCECC website and Facebook page # of promotional fliers |
| Promote Early Learning and Development Guidelines (ELDG) | Ongoing Oct. 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director DCL DCSD Teachers ACC Teachers EQIT Trainers | # of J2K brochures distributed (ELDG website listed on back) ACC Curriculum EQIT Curriculum |

Goal 2. Strategy 2: Strengthen and support a coordinated system of care for developmental screening and referral for children ages birth to five.

| Activities/Steps | Timeline | Who | Progress Indicators |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|
| Distribute Parent Letter to community to support Child Find referrals. | Ongoing Oct 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director Executive Committee Key Stakeholders | # of parent letters distributed |
| Early Childhood Collaborative Workgroup will create and distribute common messaging materials for families. | Ongoing Oct 2017 – June 2020 | Early Childhood Collaborative | # of materials distributed Samples of messaging materials |
| Share information and data outcomes to inform necessary data driven decisions. | Ongoing Oct 2017 – June 2020 | Early Childhood Collaborative | Data Reports |

Goal 2. Strategy 3: Support programs that promote positive social emotional development.

| Activities/Steps | Timeline | Who | Progress Indicators |
|--|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Share resources with families to increase their knowledge and awareness about social emotional development. | Ongoing Oct. 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director Executive Committee CPP Coordinator ECPAC | # of social emotional brochures/resource materials DCECC website post # J2K Brochures distributed |
| Improve access and knowledge about the importance of perinatal screenings. | Ongoing Oct. 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director Perinatal Learning Collaborative Executive Committee | # of informational materials DCECC Website Trainings |
| Explore funding opportunities to offer Nurturing Parent Program (NPP) skills classes to promote safe, stable and nurturing environments. | Oct. 2017 – March 2018 | DCECC Director Executive Committee | Names of funders contacted # of funding opportunities secured |

Goal 3: Strengthen and sustain the work of the Douglas County Early Childhood Council through funding opportunities, collaborative partnerships, and community engagement.

Goal 3. Strategy 1: Work across domains of health, mental health, early learning and family support to strengthen the early childhood system in Douglas County.

| Activities/Steps | Timeline | Who | Progress Indicators |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Develop partnership agreements (MOU's) with key stakeholders | May 2017 and annual after that | DCECC Director | Signed MOU's |
| Collaborate with community partners to ensure coordinated services between agencies. | Ongoing Oct 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director Executive Committee | Collaborative meeting agendas |
| Serve as committee member on the following collaborative workgroups: HB 1451 Collaborative Management Group (CMG), Perinatal Learning Collaborative, Douglas County Health Access Workgroup, Early Childhood Collaborative of Douglas County, Colorado Preschool Program Advisory Council, Early Childhood SubPac, and other key groups identified. | Ongoing Oct 2017 – June 2020 | DCECC Director Executive Committee | Meeting agendas Meeting minutes |

Goal 3. Strategy 2: Identify and engage with funders to support the strategic direction of DCECC.

| Activities/Steps | Timeline | Who | Progress Indicators |
|---|------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Set up meetings with new and existing funders. | Oct. 2017 – June 2018 | DCECC Director | Dates of meetings Name of funders |
| Secure funding to support ongoing work of DCECC. | Ongoing | DCECC Director Executive Committee | Grant opportunities secured |
| Explore holding an Early Childhood fundraising event for families. | Oct. 2017 – March 2018 | DCECC Director Executive Committee | Meeting Minutes |
| Explore fee for service opportunities. | Oct. 2017 – March 2018 | DCECC Director Executive Committee | Meeting Minutes |
| Explore collaborative funding opportunities with ECCLA, if they become available. | Oct. 2017 – June 2018 | DCECC Director ECCLA Board Early Childhood Councils | Meeting Minutes |