

A photograph of three children playing outdoors in a forest setting. Two girls are on a large fallen log in the foreground, one balancing and the other jumping. A third child is standing behind them, waving. They are all wearing warm clothing like jackets and hats, suggesting it's cold outside.

JOINT COMMUNITY REPORT

2016-2017



MESA COUNTY
partnership
for Children & Families

The logo for the Family & Adolescent Partnership. It features a stylized figure in blue and white, with a large ampersand symbol integrated into the design. The text "Family & Adolescent PARTNERSHIP" is written in a blue, sans-serif font below the graphic.

Family &
Adolescent
PARTNERSHIP

WELCOME



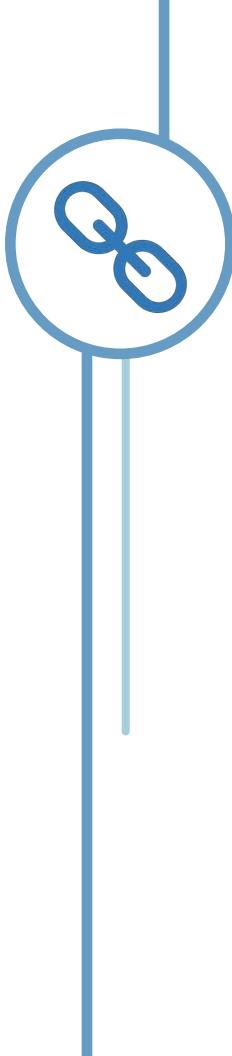
Photo courtesy of Laura Mullenix Photography, Grand Junction, CO.

PAULA MATTAS
FAP BOARD CHAIR

SARAH JOHNSON
PCF BOARD CHAIR

2016 and 2017 were exciting and impactful years, here at the Partnership for Children & Families (PCF) and the Family & Adolescent Partnership (FAP)! We are pleased to present to you a collection of stories and data that help illustrate the work of our collaboratives during this time in Mesa County.

As a community we've seen many wins for the wellbeing of our families, including the ability to impact the lives of 7,779 infants, toddlers, young children and adolescents through both PCF's and FAP's direct engagement with the community. Exemplifying its status as a trusted community leader, PCF partnered with the Colorado Children's Campaign to host the It's About Kids Network annual retreat, as well as the KIDS COUNT data information release event, which attracted over 100 attendees.



We've also been challenged with an increasing need for mental health and coping supports, especially for our young people. Fortunately, some help is on the way. Mesa County was awarded a four-year Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant to implement high-fidelity wraparound services. This best practice approach carefully coordinates many services to address the needs of at-risk youth, allowing us to increase their wellbeing and help prevent out-of-home placement with the Department of Human Services (DHS). FAP staff are now trained in this specialized approach and began implementing it in 2017.

Through it all, we are continually amazed and grateful for the strong commitment to partnership from our local nonprofits, government, small businesses and community members. We look forward to another year of collaboration, connection and community.

Sincerely,
Sarah and Paula



Photo courtesy of Laura Mullenix Photography, Grand Junction, CO

OUR HISTORY

In an effort to provide an efficient, community-based infrastructure to support a statewide early childhood system, in 1997 the Colorado General Assembly began to form Early Childhood Councils (ECCs) with the mission to address underlying issues that prevent children and families from accessing quality care and services. There are currently 34 participating councils in Colorado, including Mesa County, which is known locally as the **Partnership for Children and Families (PCF)**. Councils statewide are working together as an innovative network that links policy to practice and community to child—in other words, ensuring that what works is supported by legislation and that those resources are available to children and families wherever they live.

In an effort to encourage collaboration on behalf of youth who are involved with multiple systems (child welfare, juvenile justice, school, etc.), in 2004 state legislators established the Collaborative Management Program (CMP) through House Bill 1451. Mesa County is one of over 35 Colorado counties participating in this effort to develop more uniform and connected local systems that best serve children and families. Locally known as the **Family & Adolescent Partnership (FAP)**, the group serves any family with kids ages 0-21 through identifying, coordinating and funding the appropriate services that will help families overcome obstacles and thrive together.

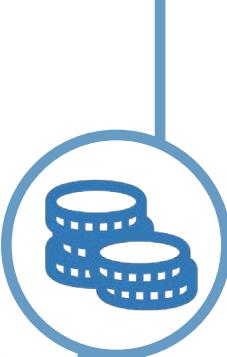


*This joint
community report
is a physical
representation of
our vision and
commitment to
collaboratively
serving Mesa County
children, youth
and families.*

PCF 2016-2017 FINANCIALS*

Historically, Early Childhood Councils (including the local Partnership for Children and Families) receive federal funding from the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and Colorado state funds via the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood. However, that funding was drastically reduced in 2011/2012 as a result of the continued constriction of the state's economy. Without state general funds to support Councils, they are fully reliant on federal funding via pass-through grants from CCDF. These events, along with various shifts in policies, priorities and oversight have had a dramatic impact on the Councils' abilities to fulfill their mission and statutory charge as identified in the enabling legislation HB 1062 passed in 2006.

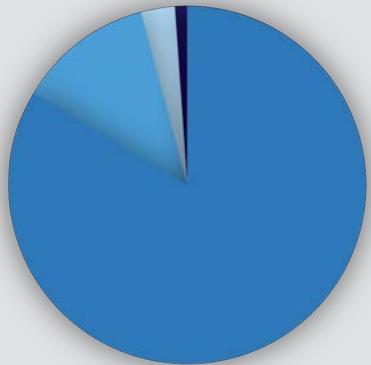
Currently, Councils including PCF use a variety of funding mechanisms to provide support to their programs, including federal/state contracts as well as foundation grants, private donations and nominal fees for services, when needed.



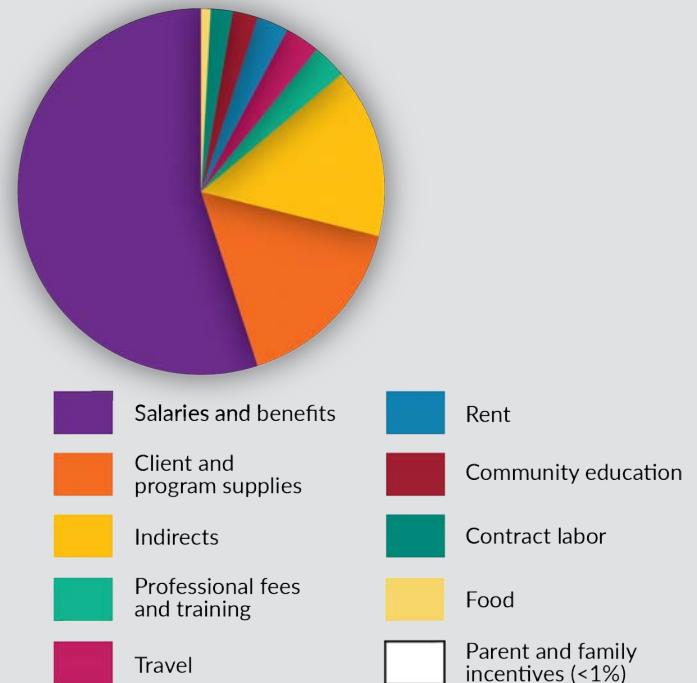
*PCF financials reflect the fiscal year of its fiscal sponsor, Hilltop Community Resources, running from August 1 through July 31.

PCF FY 2016-2017

REVENUE \$536,574



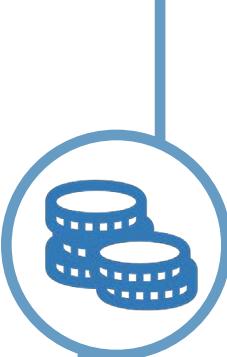
EXPENSES \$536,574



FAP 2016-2017 FINANCIALS*

FAP, a Collaborative Management Program (CMP), is funded through statewide collection of divorce court fees, which are then allocated to participating communities using a formula that considers community size and performance. Regarding the latter, each CMP selects annual goals within the program's four focus areas—juvenile justice, child welfare, education, and health and mental health—and receives funding according to how many goals each program achieves. For the reporting period of state fiscal year (SFY) 2015-2016, FAP achieved its outcome targets in all three areas and as a result received a payment of \$236,321. This amount, combined with remaining funds from the previous year, also known as “rollover funds,” provided the available funding to support FAP programming for the 2016-2017 year.

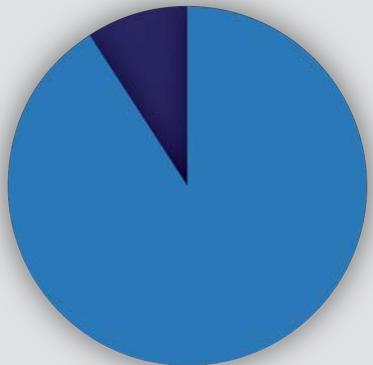
The primary expenditure of FAP funding goes toward client costs. These direct services include funding for community-based case management, youth mentoring, specialty mental health care, pro-social activities and other everyday items that present as barriers for student or family success.



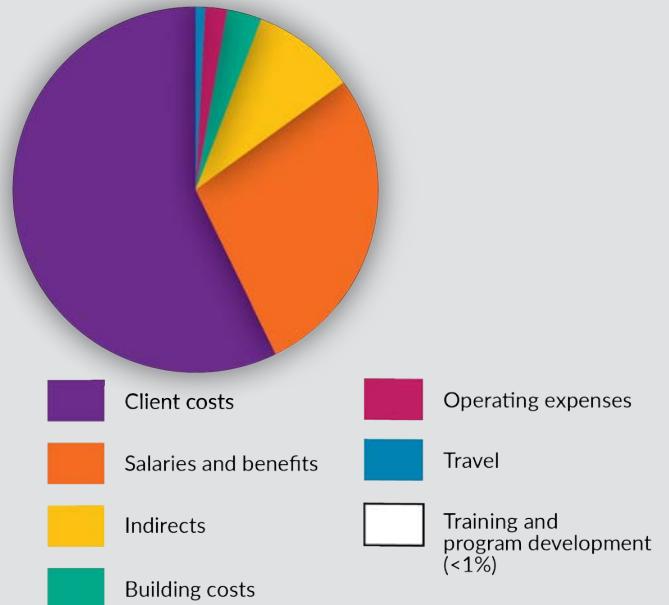
*FAP financials reflect Colorado's SFY, running from July 1 through June 30.

FAP FY 2016-2017

REVENUE \$260,673



EXPENSES \$243,203





BY THE NUMBERS

The case for investing in collaborative, high-quality and preventative services is strong. By identifying families' needs and connecting them with a web of supports earlier, we find greater success at lesser overall cost.

For example, according to per-person averages calculated in 2017, the estimated cost of out-of-home placement for a child placed into the custody of the Department of Human Services (DHS) is **\$220 per day**. For comparison, the per-person average cost of providing community-based services is roughly **\$218 per year**.

When services are provided before the level of risk elevates, not only do families' overall wellbeing and success improve, but community resources are allocated more effectively. That's just one example of the positive impact made by PCF and FAP.



PCF and FAP coordinate a variety of services and efforts to create a robust **continuum of care** in Mesa County.

The following data points provide a brief snapshot into what our work looked like in 2016 and 2017.

195

professionals with an early childhood credential, which recognizes their increased knowledge and experience

2,075

coaching hours provided to increase quality in local childcare programs



\$66,913

in direct funding support
to local childcare providers for quality improvement

238

early childhood professionals received trainings from PCF

34

community members received trainings from PCF

Early Childhood and Quality Childcare Supports

1,279

youth served
through planning
and coordination of
best-fit supports
and providers

364

families participated in
a multi-agency review
process designed to
identify and connect
families to services

287

families received
community-based
case management



One of PCF's goals is to ensure that children who participate in our program through 131 licensed childcare providers are safe and ready to learn. This last year, Corina, one of our quality improvement coaches, provided 35 hours of support at Eagle View Learning Center. During this time, she coached, encouraged and championed best practices with management and staff—identifying opportunities to improve classroom safety, increase parent engagement with the center and create a stimulating learning environment with activities for kids of all ages. With this support, *the quality of the center improved from 2 stars to 4 stars.¹*



¹Rating per Colorado Shines, the statewide quality rating and improvement system. For more information, please visit: <https://www.coloradoshines.com/>

Children, Youth and Family Services



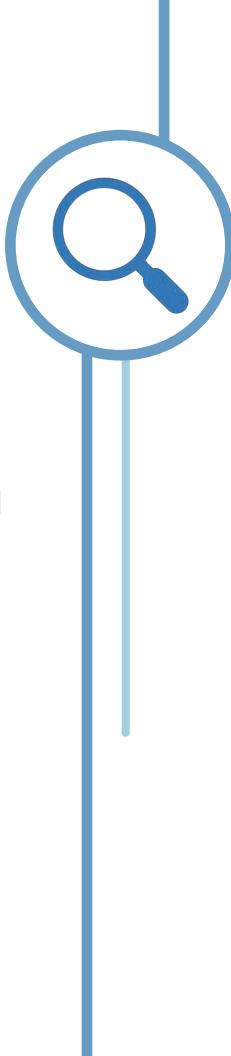
BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Tracking data and monitoring outcomes are crucial to program success. But numbers only get better through the hard work of real people making meaningful change.

Meet Patty and Pat Garner. They have been licensed in childcare for 28 years and currently run a family childcare home called Aunt Patty's Childcare in Grand Junction, Colorado. Aunt Patty's is licensed to provide care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Having the coaching from [PCF] has helped us because you can get caught up in a certain way of doing things, being licensed for so many years," Patty explains. "You have to be open to change. Online training is awesome, because I don't have to take a night off or tell my parents they have to find somebody else. I can do my trainings right there online."

Being aware of people's circumstances and actively adjusting to best support individuals is a cornerstone of PCF and FAP services. Keep reading to learn the stories of more people who have benefited from this approach.





Meet Brook Leoni

Brook is in her second year as the lead preschool teacher at Chipeta Elementary School, pictured here with her assistant teacher, Luz Weeks (right).

"I have been participating in the [PCF] quality improvement coaching program for 2 ½ years. I have worked in early childhood for over 13 years, previously working for Head Start in New Mexico. It has always been my goal to get my classroom rated and achieve a Colorado Shines Level 5 (the highest rating possible). PCF helped me to attain this level in my first year as a teacher with School District 51. Corina Otero is an amazing coach and helped us to achieve our goal."

Tommy's Story

In January 2017, FAP met Tommy—an infant with a life-threatening disease. After learning of his condition through his extensive hospitalization, a primary care practice referred the family for case management support for his parents, who, while working hard to stay on top of things, were understandably overwhelmed. FAP provided Tommy's parents with a Family Navigator, who worked with them to identify helpful community services and natural social supports. As a result, Tommy's siblings were connected to pro-social recreation, and his parents began using their peer networks and have become more skilled in working through medical documentation required for Tommy's needs. Now they feel more confident and empowered to advocate for their child's and family's needs. *"Keri Brice has been a great help to me and my family. She has helped me find resources that assist me in the care of my son as well as connecting me with people who understand this new journey we are on. I am so grateful for Keri and everything she has done to help us," shares Tommy's mother.*

"Our office is located in the Mesa County Workforce Center and we work closely with job seekers, employees, employers and students to assist families in finding suitable childcare and offer referrals to other community programs to assist families. I am very proud of the collaboration between Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), Child Care Licensing, the Partnership for Children & Families, Western Colorado Community College and our childcare providers. Through this work, Mesa County was awarded the Early Headstart Grant for ages birth to 3 years old to assist with early intervention to prepare for school readiness. With the high cost of childcare in Colorado the CCAP is vital to helping low-income families stay employed and have safe and reliable childcare."



FAP receives referrals for a number of needs, from a variety of sources, including schools, juvenile court, human services, mental and behavioral health centers, pediatric offices and directly from parents.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from some extra support, please call (970) 244-0613 or email us at fapreferrals@htop.org.

Meet Melissa Schierland

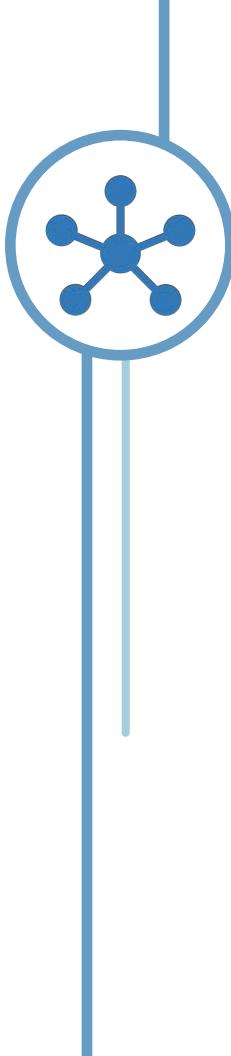
Melissa has been assisting families in Mesa County for three years and is the supervisor of the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) at Mesa County's Department of Human Services. CCAP assists low-income families with the cost of childcare during employment, job search and attending school or college. She also participates on both the board and membership level for PCF.



THANK YOU

Because of the generous and ongoing support of our partners and funders, we are able to have a positive impact in our communities. **You make a difference.**

Alternative Perspectives • Ariel Clinical Services • Buell Foundation • Colorado Department of Education • Colorado Department of Human Services • Colorado Preschool Program Parents • Colorado Preschool Program Teachers • Colorado Public Defenders, GJ Office • DentaQuest • Division of Youth Corrections, Western Region • Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance • Early Learning Ventures • Executives Partnering to Invest in Children • Grand Junction Imagination Library • Grand Junction City Attorney's Office • Grand Junction Police Department • Hilltop Community Resources • How are the Children?® • Marillac Health • Mesa County Department of Human Services • Mesa County Domestic Violence Task Force • Mesa County Library • Mesa County Partners • Mesa County Public Health • Mesa County Sheriff's Office • Mesa County Valley School District 51 • Mesa District Group • Mind Springs Health • Parents • Rocky Mountain SER Head Start • Rocky Mountain West Insurance • St. Mary's Pediatric Therapy Program • Strive • United Way of Mesa County • 21st Judicial District • 21st Judicial District Attorney's Office • 21st Judicial Probation Department • Western Colorado 211 • Western Colorado Community College



Partnership for Children and Families (PCF)

1129 Colorado Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501 | (970) 244-0617 | mesacountypcf@htop.org | www.mesacountypcf.org

Vision: Helping families reach their full potential.

Mission: Create, coordinate and sustain a resource rich community for all families so that children reach their full potential in safe and optimally nurturing environments.

Family and Adolescent Partnership (FAP)

1129 Colorado Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501 | (970) 244-0613 | fapreferrals@htop.org

Vision: We enhance the vitality of youth and families regardless of challenge and circumstance.

Mission: Serving our youth and families needs first by coordinating innovative services next.

Where our partnerships live and serve.

Hilltop's **Family Resource Center** (FRC) brings together many services under one roof in an integrated fashion. Individuals and families visit our single location to receive a wide array of services, designed to respond to the holistic and comprehensive needs of each individual. This enhanced and coordinated approach to care provides increased value to each client—a client who comes to the FRC is triaged by front desk staff, and then directly connected to all services that they may need, instead of just one. These include prenatal care access, family support and education, domestic violence services, therapy and counseling services, healthcare enrollment assistance, and community case management to ensure connection and provide a “warm handoff” to other services within the FRC and the community as appropriate.



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