



MESA COUNTY
*Partnership for
Children & Families*
**2018-2019
ANNUAL REPORT**



Vision

Helping families reach
their full potential.

Mission

Create, coordinate and sustain a
resource-rich, inclusive community so that
children reach their full potential in safe
and optimally nurturing environments.



Our Team

We are grateful for our talented team—with over 179 combined years in early childhood and 49 total years with PCF—which enhances the ability of Mesa County children and families to grow and thrive. Featured in the photo above are just some of our team members: (back row, from left) Cassie Shults, Holly Jacobson, Gladys Dial and Lacy Hildebrand, and (front row, from left), Stephanie Stelljes and Vail Shoultz-McCole.

Not pictured: Barbara Michel and Deborah Dearmin.

Legacy

For over 20 years, members of the Partnership for Children & Families have served Mesa County as part of its early childhood council. Together we have: improved early learning environments to prepare young children to enter kindergarten; increased the tools and resources available to families; focused on making sure that families have access to social, physical and mental health services; and delivered educational and coaching supports to increase the effectiveness of early childhood professionals. Guiding and supporting our work are the following organizations.

Our Partners, Members and Funders

Alternative Perspectives

Ariel Clinical Services

Buell Foundation

Colorado Department of Human Services

Colorado Mesa University

Colorado Preschool Program Parents

Colorado Preschool Program Teachers

DentaQuest

Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance

Early Learning Ventures

Extended Hours

Family, friend and neighbor care providers

Grand Junction Imagination Library

Hilltop Community Resources

How are the Children?[®]

Licensed childcare providers

MarillacHealth

Mesa County Department of Human Services

Mesa County Libraries

Mesa County Public Health

Mesa County Valley School District 51

Mind Springs Health

Parents

Rocky Mountain SER Head Start

St. Mary's Medical Center Pediatric Therapy Program

STRiVE

United Way of Mesa County

Western Colorado 211

Western Colorado Community College

Western Slope Center for Children

Our Thanks

Simply put, PCF could not accomplish its aims without the help of its partners, funders, parents, business owners and the community at large. Throughout our two decades of existence, we've been fortunate to have had so many contributions of time, expertise and resources that have advanced our success and our impact. We are made stronger and are inspired by the leadership, dedication and compassion you all hold for early childhood programs and participants. Thank you for your care!

Reflections from *our leadership*

Frederick Douglass said, “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” This is exactly why the Partnership for Children and Families (PCF) is in existence. Data continues to show that investments in the area of early childhood contribute to improved outcomes for both the individual *and* the community.

In fiscal year 2018–19, PCF had several areas of focus for our work in early childhood education and care, including the following:

- **Childcare remains expensive and can create a burden for a family’s budget.** We celebrated the implementation of free full-day kindergarten, knowing the significant savings this would provide families—estimated at \$2,500–\$5,000 per year depending on household composition. This creates an opportunity for children to be in care that is safe, while taking scheduling challenges and worries about cost off the shoulders of parents. We also anticipate a positive impact on learning and readiness when new data is released in summer 2020.
- **Although unemployment is low, we saw a unique challenge as a result; it is much harder to staff childcare centers, daycares and preschools.** Pay for most of these jobs starts around minimum wage, and credentialing must occur before the employee can start. With this in mind, PCF is exploring ways to engage the community in systems-level change (easier access to schooling, increased wages, etc.) and to continue strategic partnerships and collaboration to address the shortage of qualified staff. We are incredibly grateful to our funders who enable and empower us to explore creative solutions and new ways of advancing our work.
- **Driving our work moving forward, we developed our 2019-2022 Strategic Plan** which included a robust process of engaging, listening to and planning with our stakeholders. We also implemented internal changes to provide more stability, including the creation of an executive committee to help guide the work and vet opportunities.

We have great gratitude for all members of our partnership, as they bring strength to our work, have contributed to our accomplishments, and will bring about even more future successes!



Abby Landmeier
PCF Board Chair



“Through strong commitment from community leaders and with the goal of ensuring our youngest children are free from abuse and neglect, the Early Childhood Partnership was born. Over the years parts of the organization have evolved, including its name, but one thing remains the same: its dedication to infants, toddlers and young children and to making sure they are valued, healthy and thriving. We believe that the greatest accomplishment any community can achieve is safeguarding both the safety and success of its children. It has truly been a collaborative effort and we thank you!”

Holly Jacobson Former PCF and ECC Coordinator

Our highlights
Some accomplishments for
2018-2019:

2,000+

Pinwheels for Prevention were distributed for Month of the Young Child and Child Abuse Awareness Month in April

1,857

early childhood (EC) professionals have an EC credential

68

licensed childcare providers participated in quality improvement programming

918

coaching hours were provided to increase quality in local childcare programs

60

early childhood professionals received trainings from PCF

200

hours of professional development were provided for EC professionals

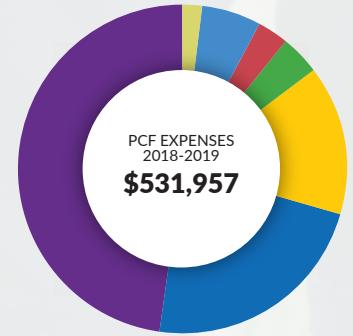
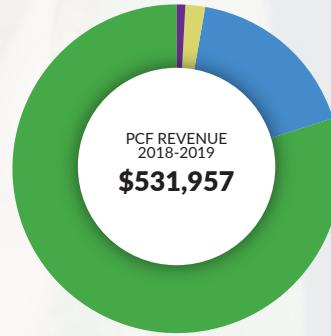
571

children enrolled in PCF early literacy programs

250+

people attended the Day in the Library event

Our financials
 Revenue and expenses for
 2018-2019:



Government contracts (80%)

Foundation grants (17%)

Fiscal agency in-kind contribution (2%)

Donations (1%)

Fees and other (less than 1%)

Salaries and benefits (48%)

Client and program supplies (23%)

Indirects (15%)

Contract labor (6%)

Rent (4%)

Travel (3%)

Professional fees and training (2%)

Parent and family incentives
 (less than 1%)

PCF is fiscally sponsored by Hilltop Community Resources (Hilltop).
 Financial data shown here reflects Hilltop's fiscal year, running
 from August 1 through July 31.

Indirect costs include those incurred by Hilltop, such as
 management of accounting, human resources, etc.



Reflections from our partners and participants

"As the director of early childhood for Mesa County Valley School District 51, I have collaborated frequently with the Partnership for Children and Families. Whether it has been working side by side on quality childcare initiatives, accepting Month of the Young Child proclamations with elected officials, or having district preschool teachers attend professional development trainings, the Partnership for Children and Families is an important partner in promoting and executing early childhood initiatives.

Specifically, this year we have worked with the Partnership for Children and Families on increasing the number of school district preschool classrooms that have a Colorado Shines quality rating. I'm proud to collaborate and be a part of this membership organization that continually focuses on the success of young children and their families. We are moving the needle on quality care in our community one classroom at a time."

Kim Self PCF Executive Committee Member



"I am a mother of three wonderful children ages 2 months, 2 years and 18, and I have had my in-home childcare business for two years. I have partnered with PCF for a year and a half and have received a tremendous amount of help from the organization. The staff are always here to help with resources. I am also working with Early Learning Ventures/Early Head Start and just completed my Colorado Shines Environmental Rating with a Level 4*.

I would not be able to accomplish the goals I have set for myself and my business without the help of the partnerships I have within the community. I'm looking forward to what 2020 will bring."

Dana Shepple Owner, Learn, Laugh and Love Childcare

* Colorado Shines criteria and rating scales are used for quality improvement programming. Learn more at www.coloradoshines.com.

"Our collaboration with PCF has been more than a benefit for the children and families. It has strengthened the community and the childcare workforce, and it continues to plant seeds for future growth and development within the field of serving children, families and communities!"

Ty Johnson Early Learning Ventures Early Education Manager





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