



Mesa County

**PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
FAMILY & ADOLESCENT PARTNERSHIP**

2017-2018 COMMUNITY REPORT

Dear friends,

The Partnership for Children & Families (PCF) and the Family & Adolescent Partnership (FAP) are pleased to present our Fifth Annual Joint Community Report—and we have a lot to share!

At the core of our work is a strong commitment to *serving the whole family* to promote their health, wellbeing and self-sufficiency, and our 2018 activities reflect just that.

- Following the state’s lead, FAP focused on *applying a two-generation (2-Gen) lens* to all of its programming, ensuring both youth and parents receive support and helping future generations to establish healthy behaviors and environments now.
- Selected by OMNI Research Institute, FAP became a *pilot site for new data collection tools* that will identify needs, gaps in service and opportunities for more evidence-based programming.
- To help increase the quality of care for our entire community’s at-risk 3- to 5-year-olds, PCF entered into *formalized agreements with all three school districts* in Mesa County—Mesa County Valley School District 51, De Beque Joint District 49-JT and Plateau Valley School District 50.
- In addition to support received for its early literacy kits, PCF received monies through local Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds for *implementing a Child Development Associate (CDA) certification and related college credit* to help boost the number of lead teacher-qualified employees at licensed childcare facilities.
- PCF is also a key partner with the *Child Care 8,000 initiative*, as it complements PCF’s work toward increasing our community’s capacity to provide quality childcare and support parents.

Inevitably, we’ve seen some challenges, including continued decreases in program funding for PCF and losses of local resources. Fortunately, we have wonderful staff, partners and funders who have come up with quick and creative solutions, making sure our community still receives a high level of support and service.

As always, *our partnerships have been a huge part of our success* and our ability to bring new ideas and programming across all of Mesa County, despite any challenges. We are ever grateful to our board members and community partners who have continued to “show up” to the table and be there when it really counts. We look forward to a wonderful new year and wish you the same!

In gratitude, Sarah and Paula



SARAH JOHNSON
Board Chair, PCF



PAULA MATTAS
Board Chair, FAP



OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT WE RECEIVE.

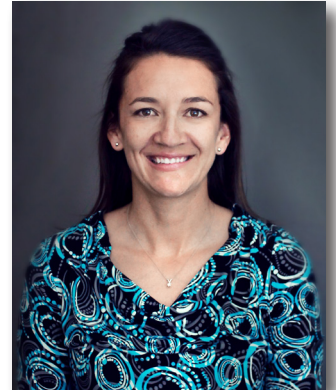
Alternative Perspectives • Ariel Clinical Services • Buell Foundation • COACT Colorado • Colorado Department of Education • Colorado Department of Human Services • Colorado Preschool Program Parents • Colorado Preschool Program Teachers • Colorado Public Defenders, GJ Office • DentaQuest • Division of Youth Services, Western Region • Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance • Early Learning Ventures • Grand Junction Imagination Library • Grand Junction City Attorney’s Office • Hilltop Community Resources • How are the Children?® • Marillac Health • Mesa County Department of Human Services • Mesa County Domestic Violence Task Force •

COLLABORATION IN ACTION

Helping to increase access to childcare

"Health is the dynamic interaction between people, their location, the conditions in which they live, and the community policies and systems in place. A strong early childhood system is an essential part of a thriving community; it ensures children start school ready to learn and allows their parents to work. We are working to address the childcare shortage in our community through the Mesa County Child Care 8,000 initiative, which seeks to increase the number of available childcare spots. We value relationships with our partners like PCF—its role in providing quality supports and trainings to childcare providers is essential to these efforts."

Diana Williams is the deputy director at Mesa County Public Health (MCPH), having been with the organization for eight years and with the Child Care 8,000 initiative since its inception. Additionally, she facilitates the Mesa County Community Services Block Grant process and sits on the Mesa County Valley School District 51 Wellness Advisory Committee.



Got Kids?
WELCOME TO THE ROAD MAP FOR FAMILIES
MESA COUNTY COLORADO

over **4,000** visits to the Got Kids? Road Map website

The Got Kids? Road Map website provides information about local resources available for children and their families.

Learn more at www.gotkidsroadmap.com

COLLABORATION IN ACTION

Facilitating families' connection to health services

Linda Manchester is a licensed clinical social worker, therapist and member of the integrated care team at Western Colorado Pediatric Associates. Also serving as a member of the Individualized Service and Support Team (ISST), Linda has seen firsthand the value of coordinated care for the whole child and family.

"Recently we reviewed the case of a young man involved with the juvenile justice system. We learned that he had been experiencing epileptic seizures but had no primary care provider. Using the agency connections at the table, we were able to set a doctor's appointment by the end of the day, and he was seen within a couple of weeks. His mother, who was also present at the ISST meeting, was overwhelmed with gratitude and shared 'I've been trying to get him help for so long.' For families who are so involved with so many systems, often you add just one more service or provider and it fragments their energy and ability to move forward. By communicating with each other, and considering the whole picture of wellbeing, we were able to help this young man and his mother get the help they needed most."

..... TO OUR BOARD MEMBERS, FUNDERS, AND PARTNERS ...

Thank you!

Mesa County Library • Mesa County Partners • Mesa County Public Health • Mesa County Valley School District 51 • Mind Springs Health • Parents • Rocky Mountain SER Head Start • Rocky Mountain Health Plans • 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 • Western Colorado Pediatric Associates



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.

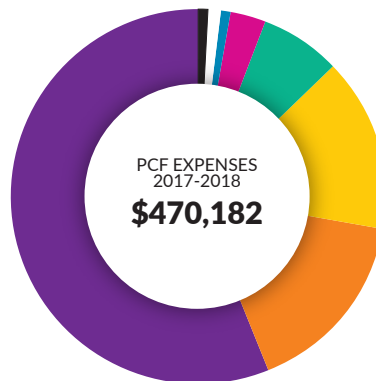
Our history and focus

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. Currently there are 34 participating councils, including our local council which is known as Mesa County **Partnership for Children and Families (PCF)**. Together, councils: improve the quality of early learning environments to prepare young children to enter kindergarten; build the resources and skills of families; ensure that families have access to social, physical, and mental health services; and deliver resources to increase the effectiveness of early childhood professionals. Observing Colorado's long tradition of ensuring decisions remain as near to communities as possible, councils are locally governed and coordinated with local partners.

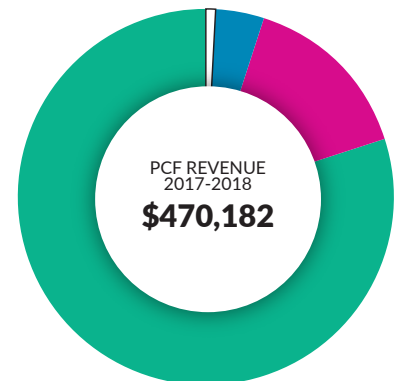
Our funding

Early childhood councils (including Mesa County's Partnership for Children and Families) receive federal funding from the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and state funding via the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood.

Additionally, councils including PCF use a variety of funding mechanisms to provide support to their programs, including federal and state contracts, in-kind contributions from partners, foundation grants, private donations and nominal fees for services, when needed.



*Indirect costs include those incurred by PCF's fiscal sponsor, Hilltop Community Resources, such as management of accounting, human resources, etc.



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

Get
in
touch!



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61%

of licensed childcare providers participate in quality improvement programming*** with PCF

Of providers participating, 39% are Level 1, 48% are Level 2, and 13% are Levels 3-5.



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



children enrolled in PCF's early literacy programs

over 550

Annually, these children are showing around an 8% increase in literacy skills.

262

A 26% increase from last year!

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

hours of professional development provided for EC professionals

328

PCF IN ACTION

Supporting quality improvement

Over the past year, Stephanie Bivins, M.Ed., (pictured with her family) and her preschool program located in De Beque participated in Colorado Shines—a quality rating and improvement system administered by the state that monitors and supports early learning programs.

"We felt it was a unique opportunity to deepen our intentionality. PCF provided support throughout this process and assisted our program in understanding how to input our data, where to find information, how to utilize the Colorado Shines website as a resource, and were positive coaches and cheerleaders throughout the process. PCF's support was vital. We uncovered both strengths and areas for improvement. In receiving a Colorado Shines Rating of a Level 5 (the highest achievable level), we acquired detailed and valuable feedback that will only continue to strengthen our practices to fidelity. My staff and I were humbled and excited and maybe a little nervous going through this process, but with the support we received from PCF, we felt encouraged and empowered to make gains towards our goal of quality services for our community."



PCF IN ACTION

Facilitating professional development



"One of the most transformative experiences of my life was the day I started working in early childhood. After having children, I spent years wondering whether I should further my education while working at a childcare center. In spring 2018, I had the great opportunity to join the Child Development Associate (CDA) cohort sponsored by PCF. I knew this was my chance to start my education. While taking the course, I was given the tools to grow and develop as an early childhood educator. The college credit opportunity at Western Colorado Community College has helped me to start on the career path of earning my associate degree in early childhood education, which will help me to provide quality care and education to the children in Mesa County."

Kayla Kintz is an early childhood teacher at a licensed childcare center in Grand Junction. Funding for the CDA program is supported by Community Services Block Grant funds through Mesa County Public Health and Mesa County Department of Human Services.



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

Mission
Building and maintaining a continuum of care that prevents and reduces child
maltreatment, delinquent behavior, and educational failure.

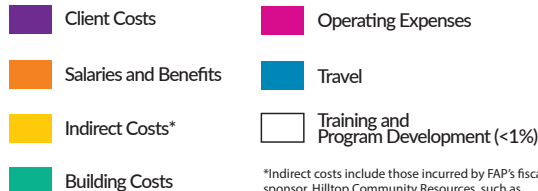
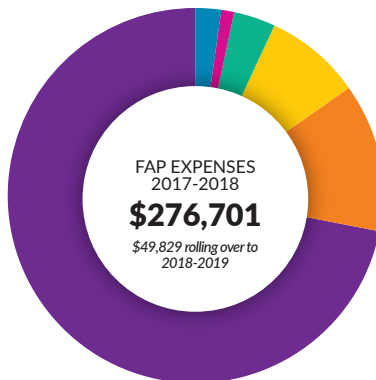
Our history and focus

In an effort to encourage collaboration, reduce duplication of services and thus better serve agency-involved children and families, Colorado state legislators established the statewide Collaborative Management Program (CMP) in 2004 through House Bill 1451. Mesa County is one of more than 35 participating counties focused on building uniform and linked systems, and its local organization is known as the **Family & Adolescent Partnership (FAP)**. Using its comprehensive knowledge of local resources and its secure online information-sharing system, FAP serves as a central point of connection for identifying, coordinating and funding appropriate services that help families to thrive. FAP oversees multiple “staffing” teams consisting of youth- and family-focused professionals, as well as the families themselves. Considering accessibility, these teams recommend and connect families with services to support their unique situations and needs.

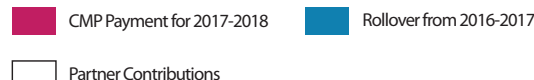
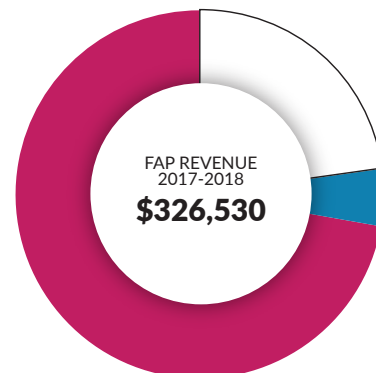
Our funding

The Family and Adolescent Partnership is primarily funded through statewide collection of divorce court fees, which are then allocated to participating communities using a formula that considers community size and performance. Any unused CMP funding may be “rolled over” to the following 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 to child or family success.



*Indirect costs include those incurred by FAP's fiscal sponsor, Hilltop Community Resources, such as management of accounting, human resources, etc.



FAP is fiscally sponsored by Hilltop Community Resources. Financial data shown here reflects Colorado's state fiscal year (SFY), running from July 1 through June 30.

Get
in
touch!



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FAP IN ACTION

Wrapping support around families



Jo Ann Martinez (pictured here with her son, Carlos) and her family participated with Mesa County’s High-Fidelity Wraparound program, coordinated by FAP, this past year.

“Each member of our [Wraparound] team has been involved in different aspects of our lives in one way or another ... One of our goals was to get my son, Carlos, into football. Kevin [a program specialist with the Get Real Program] helped him get into football and ensured that he made it to the practices and games. Kevin has gone above and beyond to be a positive male role model for my son (which had been a goal, also), showing him what it is to be a man of his word and accountable.”

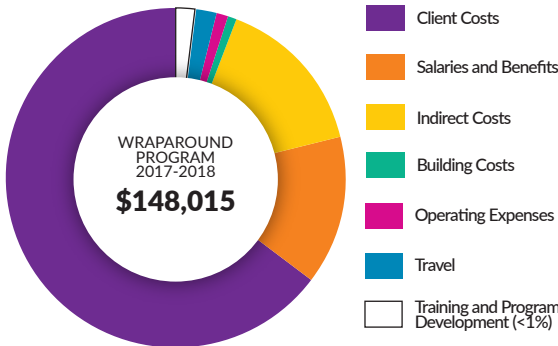
Rick Diaz, a youth mentor with Hilltop’s Family Connections program, has also provided positive role modeling and notes that *“Wraparound’s ability to bring together teams of agencies for the benefit of families in their times of need is truly what our community stands for. It has been an honor and privilege to participate.”*

Timothy McArthur, juvenile social worker with the local Public Defender’s Office, is also an enthusiastic supporter of the program. He shares, *“I have seen the [Martinez] family progress in a degree not commonly seen among other families I have worked with. The program provides families with social capital and connection ... [and] is an invaluable resource that can positively impact not only the individual families but also the community as a whole.”*

The family has also worked closely with multiple other agencies with the coordination and support of the Wraparound program. *“I am so grateful ... From housing to treatment for my boys, to helping with school issues, [the Wraparound team’s] help has motivated us to accomplish a great deal, and I know it is only the beginning.”*

MORE ABOUT WRAPAROUND

In partnership with Hilltop Family Resource Center, FAP secured funding from the Office of Behavioral Health to offer High-Fidelity Wraparound—an evidence-based practice designed to balance complex mental and behavioral health needs with multisystem involvement. The program was fully launched in 2018, and Hilltop and FAP are exploring sustainable funding to maintain it.



The Wraparound program budget is shown here separately, as it is not a FAP exclusive program. FAP does, however, provide oversight of its funds.

youth received support through a multi-agency staffing model*

363

**The Individualized Service and Support Team (ISST), Kids Needing Extra (KNEX) and High Fidelity Wraparound programs are composed of representatives from various local organizations and are designed to connect children and families to local services.*

youth received support through prevention services**

632

***Prevention services, such as community-based case management, are implemented in lieu of child welfare or juvenile justice system involvement.*



98% of youth served had no substantiated abuse or neglect findings after start of services

people and agencies participated in the FAP Oversight Board

23

evidence-based models were used—High Fidelity Wraparound, Strengthening Families, and Love & Logic

3



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