

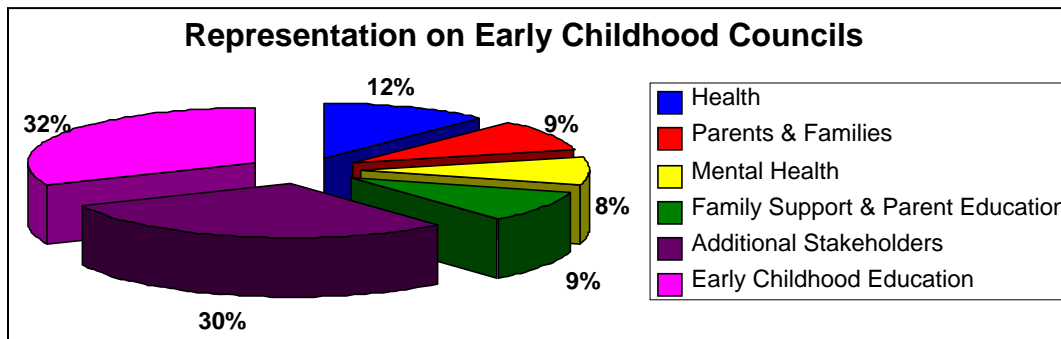
Colorado's Early Childhood Councils

Building an Early Childhood System

The **Early Childhood Councils** are a recent legislative expansion (HB06-1062) of the *Consolidated Child Care Pilots* that existed from 1997 – 2006. Currently, **31 Early Childhood Councils are active in 56 of Colorado's 64 counties**. The intent of EC Councils is to change the way early childhood stakeholders do business through collaborative planning, networking, funding, coordination and implementation. Each county is locally led by an Early Childhood Council that is a community-based collaborative working to build a comprehensive early childhood system that connects children, families, and resources to quality services in early care and education, health, mental health and family support.

Who Participates in Early Childhood Councils?

The Early Childhood Councils are composed of **community leaders** representing education, mental health, health, and family support & education. Parents, families and stakeholders from higher education, business, local government, libraries and other community members also sit on local councils. Councils are public/private partnerships and have funded oversight structures that guide their work through a formalized governance process that is equitable and community-based.



2006-07 Pilot Continuation Report ~ Aggregate Percentage of Partners

What is the Work of the Early Childhood Councils?

The Early Childhood Councils are focused on developing a comprehensive early childhood system that integrates the multiple systems that support young children and their families; early care and education, health, mental health and family support. All 31 Early Childhood Councils are working on **eight goals** to define, unify and guide their systems building work. These goals were created collaboratively with state and local partners from across Colorado and are in alignment with the state-level Early Childhood Council (the **Early Childhood State Systems Team**) that is staffed and supported by **Smart Start Colorado**, our state early childhood systems building initiative (smartstartcolorado.org).

- ★ Program Quality & Standards
- ★ Program Availability
- ★ Parent & Family Engagement
- ★ Professional & Workforce Development
- ★ Public Engagement
- ★ Governance
- ★ Accountability
- ★ Funding & Finance

