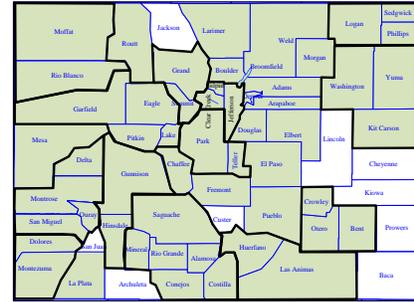


BENEFITS OF COLORADO'S EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS

FEBRUARY 2011



Serving 55 counties, Colorado's 30 Early Childhood Councils provide the foundation necessary for agencies and service providers to work together to build an infrastructure to deliver services and supports to our youngest children and their families. As a result, efficiencies are realized throughout the system, resources are coordinated and leveraged, decisions are strategic and long-term, and services are aligned minimizing duplication. With sustainability of high quality services as a goal, chances for successful outcomes for children have increased.

The State's strategic investment in the Councils is premised on the notion that infusing local communities with seed money for the creation and maintenance of a coordinated system of services — across all four domains of early learning, health, mental health and family support — will ultimately save money, reduce duplication, and leverage additional investments into the system. Examples of the benefits of the state's investment in the Early Childhood Councils include:

- ❖ Every dollar that the state invests in the Councils currently generates \$.56 in local and private investments
- ❖ At least 11 local government sources and 24 private foundations provide up to 1/3 of the Council budgets.
- ❖ The Colorado Trust is investing \$5 million over 5 years to integrate health into local early childhood systems.
- ❖ Collaboration of 1014 Council members representing 597 organizations
- ❖ More than 1/3 of the council partners share early childhood data across agencies
- ❖ 86% of Councils report developing or improving programs as a result of their partnerships.
- ❖ In FY 2010 Councils reported 139 cross – system alignments leading to: improved processes for client referrals across agencies; coordinated training and professional development opportunities; and, aligned application and eligibility standards - giving families access to a more seamless system of services.
- ❖ Councils are the forum for communities to decide how to best utilize limited resources, leading to the highest possible return on investments.
- ❖ The alignment of public and private policies with best practices for children and families.
- ❖ Development of a state level forum to share successful policies and practices across Councils.