

Colorado Early Childhood Councils

Quarterly Report: FY2008-2009—First Quarter



FY2008-2009, First Quarter (July 1-Sept.30)

April 24, 2009

Building Systems Statewide

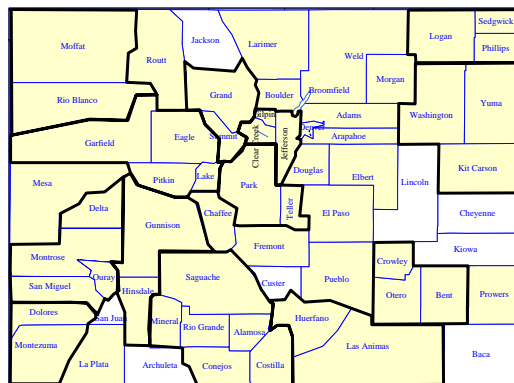
How can a community build partnerships between public, non-profit and private entities to better serve young children and their families?

Colorado has answered this question with the development of Early Childhood Councils — thirty-one collaborative partnerships across the state that bring early childhood interests together on behalf of children and families.

Colorado's Early Childhood Councils cover 89% of the state's counties. Each Council works to bring stakeholders from early learning, health,

mental health and family support together to:

- Build and support partnerships

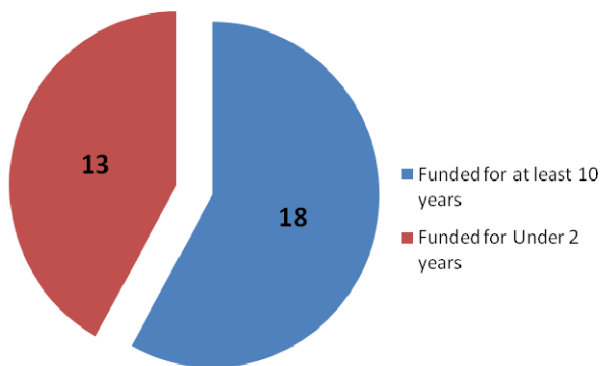


Thirty-one Early Childhood Councils cover 57 out of 64 counties in Colorado.

Special points of interest:

- COUNCILS' TOP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST FOR THE FIRST QUARTER RELATED TO EVALUATION AND DATA ANALYSIS
- THIS QUARTER, SEVEN COUNCILS' BUDGETS WERE MADE UP OF AT LEAST 25% LOCAL FUNDING
- BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2008, TWENTY-THREE COUNCILS HAD COMPLETED COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS

Council Funding History



Forty-two percent of Colorado's Early Childhood Councils formed less than two years ago.

- Share decision-making on program development and service delivery
- Combine funding and investments
- Develop and/or advocate comprehensive public policies
- Build public engagement around early childhood issues
- Share accountability for collaborative services and programs
- Collaboratively generate relevant education and leadership opportunities

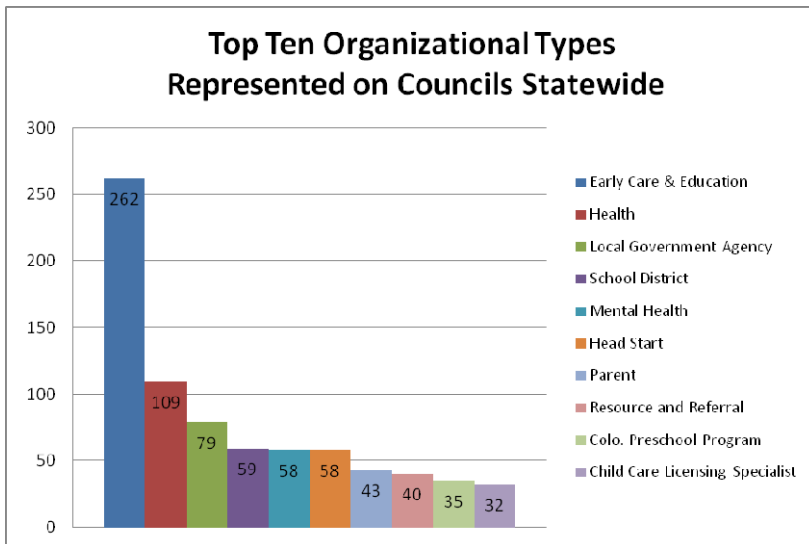
Forty-two percent of the Councils are new as of July 2007, reflecting a large expansion of the program statewide.

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Colorado Early Childhood Councils

Council Representation



Statewide, early care and education is the top category represented on Early Childhood Councils, followed by health and local government agencies.

ments, and resource and referral agencies.

Councils can also include representation from school districts, chambers of commerce, local business, faith-based and non-profit organizations, higher education and libraries.

Broad representation across the domains and across the community is one indicator of Council effectiveness. Because the primary function of Councils is to build partnerships

that support better services for young children and their families, the diversity of representation on Councils demonstrates the extent to which cross-agency partnerships are occurring.

Statewide, Colorado's Early Childhood Councils have their

greatest representation from the early learning domain ("early care and education" on the related graph). Because this domain (which includes child care and pre-school) is a common point of access into early childhood services for most children and families, this is a natural base of representation for Early Childhood Councils.

After early learning, health is the next most common representation on Councils, followed by local government agencies, school districts, mental health and Head Start agencies.

The distribution of representation on individual Councils will vary from this aggregate display to varying degrees. Statewide and in specific communities, discussions can and should take place as to what an ideal distribution across stakeholders might look like.

Under legislation passed in 2007 (HB07-1062) Early Childhood Councils are required to have representation from the four early childhood domains — early learning, family support, health, and mental health — as well as parents, local govern-

Case Study — Chaffee Early Childhood Screenings

"NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS BEEN DONE IN CHAFFEE IN OVER THIRTY YEARS. AND THE PART C COORDINATOR WAS RIGHT THERE TO SET UP SERVICES!"

On August 23, 2008, the Chaffee Early Childhood Council conducted its first collaborative *community-wide* child development screening events in over thirty years.

The events included Child Find screenings, which evaluate children — at no cost to parents — in a variety of areas, including cognitive functioning, physical functioning, hearing and vision, speech and language, and social and emotional development.

The screenings are used to help determine a child's eligibility for early intervention or preschool special education services.

The two events were held at each end of the county and brought together public health, home child care providers, parents, preschools, libraries, social service agencies, school districts, dental hygienists, the Part C Coordinator, preschools and others to conduct Child Find screenings, and screenings associ-

ated with oral health, height and weight, nutrition and health insurance eligibility.

The Council's role as convener and facilitator of the involved partners reflects the collaborative value of Early Childhood Councils.

The result: four infants/toddlers in the community were identified for early intervention services that they would not have known they were eligible for without this collaborative effort in the community.

Council Staffing

All Early Childhood Councils in Colorado have some level of staffing that includes at least a part-time coordinator. This is required by legislation and also reflects best practice for early childhood systems development.

As of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1-September 30, 2008), twenty one of Colorado's Early Childhood Council Coordinators were new to the job within the previous year. This is a high number, even considering that thirteen Councils are newly formed as of 2007.

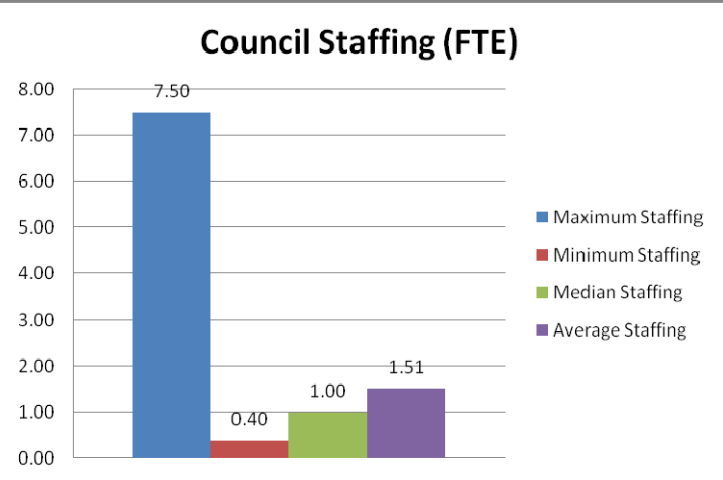
The number reflects a fairly high turnover rate among Council coordinators in the state and speaks to the difficulty of the job in general. Facilitating the collaboration of multiple agencies and stakeholders — sometimes in more than one county — is challenging and takes a par-

ticular skill set. There is an opportunity in Colorado to begin to identify the skill sets that will most help Councils hire and retain coordinators who can meet the Council's developmental needs.

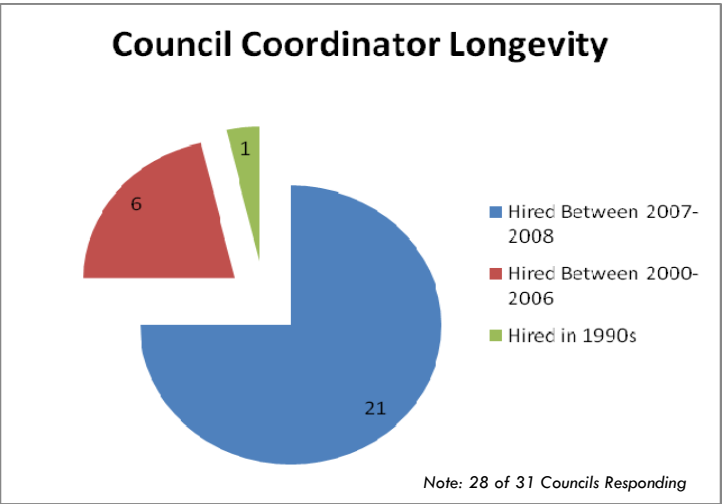
Some Councils, particularly those that have been in existence for ten years or more, have more staff than just a coordinator. On average, full-time equivalent staffing for Councils statewide is 1.51. Considering the task before them (to integrate services and funding directed at young children in their communities), many Councils

feel stretched thin on staffing.

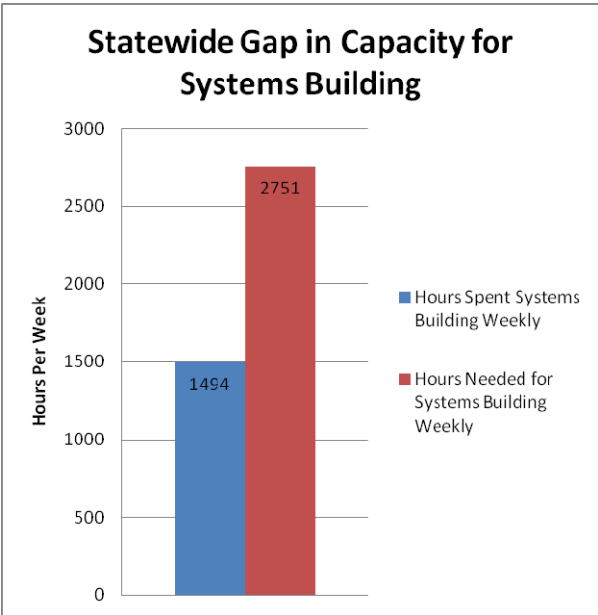
Statewide, Councils have identified a systems-building staffing gap of 1257 hours per week. At an average salary of \$23.50 (for coordinators), this translates into a systems-building capacity gap of at least \$1.5 million per year in straight salary costs alone.



While there is variation, the average Council has just one and a half full-time equivalent staff positions — and half have less than one.



The majority of Council Coordinators are new to the role.



There is a huge staffing gap for Councils statewide.

FOURTEEN COORDINATORS HAVE MASTER'S DEGREES IN SUBJECTS RANGING FROM PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Colorado Department of Human Services
people who help people



How Are Councils Funded?

ON AVERAGE,
LOCAL FUNDING
ACCOUNTED FOR
14% OF A
COUNCIL'S BUDGET
IN THE FIRST
QUARTER.
HOWEVER THREE
COUNCILS'
BUDGETS INCLUDED
OVER 50% LOCAL
FUNDING.

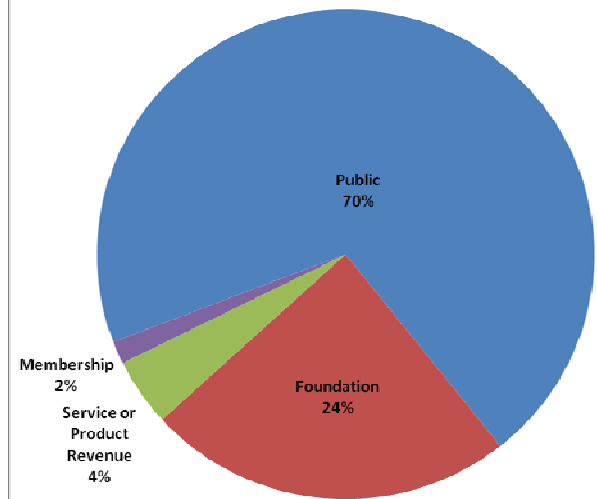
Most of Colorado's Early Childhood Councils' budgets — 70% — are made up of public funds.

While most of these funds are federal Child Care Development Block Grant/Child Care Development Fund monies, many Councils also utilize local and state funds for their collaborative efforts. Foundations fund almost a quarter of Early Childhood Council costs.

Other sources of funding for some Councils also include service or product revenue and membership fees.

Councils' ability to "braid" funding for their work from various sources is one important indicator of successful collaboration around early childhood services.

Council Funding Sources



Most Council funding is public, with the majority of funds coming from federal Child Care Development Block Grant/Child Care Development Fund monies.

Learn more about Colorado's Early Childhood Councils at:
www.cde.state.co.us/early/ECC.htm

Colorado's Early Childhood Councils integrate services delivered through a comprehensive early childhood system that includes quality care and education, family support, health and mental health programs. Authorizing legislation calls on the Councils "To develop and ultimately implement a comprehensive system of early childhood services to ensure the school readiness of children five years of age or younger." (HB 07-1062)

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The Early Childhood Councils program is administered at the state level by a partnership between the Colorado Department of Human Services and the Colorado Department of Education.