



**COLORADO**

**Office of Early Childhood**

Department of Human Services

## *State and Federal Stimulus Strategies*

### Family Strengthening

The Office of Early Childhood provides communities and families with the support they need so children have a healthy environment in which to thrive.

#### **Activity 1: Reduced Child Care Tuition for Families**

«» This activity will dedicate over \$100 million from the child care stabilization grants (see the Access handout) to reduce or eliminate child care tuition payments for families. COVID-19 continues to be economically devastating for child care providers. • As many families across the state lost income, they stopped sending their children to child care, thus reducing the tuition payments child care providers depend on to stay open. This activity will help families to enroll in child care by allowing providers to reduce or eliminate tuition payments. This will support families to return to work, help build back enrollment numbers at child care facilities across Colorado, and result in \$100 million kept in the pockets of families across the state, with families saving an average of \$450 per child over the grant. • Funding Source: ARP • Funding Amount: \$101,516,223

#### **Activity 2: Reducing CCCAP Copayments**

⤴ This activity will lower the cost of child care for low-income families enrolled in the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) by lowering the parent fee that families pay out of pocket to a maximum of 10% of gross income. This strategy also invests in a communications strategy to ensure eligible families are aware of CCCAP and its benefits. • Cost of care is a major barrier for many families trying to access licensed, high-quality child care. By reducing the copayment families pay for CCCAP, more families will be able to enroll their children in care, thus being able to work or attend school, with more money left over for food, transportation, housing, and other vital costs. • Funding Source: CRRSA • Funding Amount: \$6,307,914

### **Activity 3: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants**

«» This funding will maintain the additional Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) consultant positions recruited in July 2020 in accordance with Governor Jared Polis' Executive Order (D 2020 120), requiring the state to respond to the health and well-being of children, families and providers impacted by COVID-19. It will also allow for eight additional full time ECMH consultant positions (three funded by CRRSA, five funded by ARP), bringing the total to 52 positions statewide. • ECMH consultants partner with early childhood professionals and caregivers, increasing their confidence and ability to promote children's healthy social-emotional development and mental health. These efforts simultaneously support the growth and wellbeing of adult caregivers, reducing stress and increasing staff retention. Supporting the mental health of early childhood providers is critical to ensuring that child care facilities remain open and operating so that children can continue to access quality care and support. • Funding Source: CRRSA & ARP • Funding Amount: \$4,976,213 (\$4,076,213 CRRSA; \$900,000 ARP)

### **Activity 4: Health and Mental Health Grants**

«» The health and mental health targeted grants are designed to improve the well-being of child care providers and families to support and facilitate a positive, engaging, and reciprocal caregiving environment for children. Providers will have the ability to opt-in to grants that will provide them with a menu of options including trainings, mental health counseling for their workforce and families, social-emotional and health screenings for children, family health education, and access to child care health consultants. • The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on communities, families and child care providers. This activity supports the mental health of child care providers, reducing turnover and keeping child care facilities staffed and operational. It also supports children and families by increasing access to screenings, family education, and referrals to preventative care so that all children can be healthy and thriving at home and in child care settings. • Funding source: ARP • Funding Amount: \$6,400,000


### **Activity 5: Health and Mental Health Programs**

«» This activity will fund evidence-based health and mental health programs, including Incredible Years, Pyramid, and Conscious Discipline, that providers may opt-in to participate through state intermediaries. These Health and Mental Health programs will complement the trainings and services that providers may purchase individually through the grants offered under Activity 2. • The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the wellbeing of children and child care providers. The training and coaching offered through these programs will support child care providers to recognize and reduce challenging and concerning behaviors in children, and to reduce stress, burnout, and turnover among existing early childhood educators and staff, keeping child care facilities open and operating. • Funding Source: ARP • Funding Amount: \$1,930,000


## Activity 6: Indoor Air Quality Improvement Grants

«» This activity will fund child care providers to update or replace inefficient or outdated heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to provide clean, filtered air for children in care. Indoor air quality has been proven to improve both short- and long-term outcomes for children, affecting not only physical health but behavior and education success as well. In partnership with the Colorado Energy Office, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) will design the grants to address the growing need for filtered indoor air, highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased frequency of wildfire smoke in Colorado as a result of climate change. • These grants will not only positively impact the health of children, they will support the stabilization of the child care sector in the state, both by reducing utility costs through increased energy efficiency and by increasing the return of families enrolling their child in care through evidence-based COVID safety protocols. • Funding Source: ARP • Funding Amount: \$3,000,000


## Activity 7: Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

 Colorado will receive additional funding through the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program to support the purchase of \$100 grocery store cards by MIECHV contracted agencies, for distribution to families; to support MIECHV contracted agencies to request technology for virtual visits (including both support for the agency or to loan families technology, including laptops, tablets, smartphones, and prepaid cellular and data cards); and to support home visitors by providing funds for one year of Enhanced Home Visiting training and support through state intermediary Parent Possible. This will include support from a regional mental health consultant. • Home visiting services are vital to families as Colorado continues to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Providing direct assistance and expanding the access and quality of available home visiting services will help strengthen families and prepare children for school, particularly children cared for at home or by a family, friend or neighbor. • Funding Source: ARP • Funding Amount: \$829,563

## Activity 8: Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)

 Colorado will receive additional funding through the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program to provide direct services to families, including funding for organizations to implement fatherhood support networks and to provide respite care services for parents. The funding will also allow PSSF agencies to request funding to provide technology support for children that are learning at home. Funds will also be provided for recreation support activities that build social connections and social capital building activities. Finally, funding will support the 2022 Strengthening Colorado Families and Communities Conference, enhancements to OEC data systems to improve user experience, and workforce development activities that support PSSF agencies to retain and train staff. • Colorado families continue to face significant stress during the COVID-19 pandemic. Support through PSSF will assist families through these stressful times, prevent child maltreatment, and help keep children safe at home. • Funding Source: CRRSA • Funding Amount: \$285,019

## Activity 9: Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)

 Colorado will receive additional funding through the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program to provide direct services to families, including funding to expand home visiting programs and parent support programs. Funding will also support the 2022 Strengthening Colorado Families and Communities Conference, enhancements to OEC data systems to improve user experience, systems collaboration work that will support state and local level alignment to improve outcomes for children and families, work by counties to develop a local child maltreatment prevention plan, and funding to support leadership opportunities and stipends for parents supporting the work of the Office of Early Childhood and stakeholders by sharing their experiences. • Preventing child abuse before its first occurrence remains vital as Colorado recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. Support through CBCAP will engage the many stakeholders who can help prevent child abuse to strengthen and expand the work they are doing. • Funding Source: ARP • Funding Amount: \$4,200,999

### Key:

CRRSA - Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act

ARP - American Rescue Plan

CCDF - Child Care & Development Fund

«» - Strategies that stabilize the early childhood sector

⤴ - Strategies that grow and expand the early childhood sector

 - Strategies that support the OEC's capacity WIG

 - Strategies that support the OEC's workforce WIG

 - Strategies that offer direct services to families

 - Strategies that build family strengthening infrastructure in Colorado

 - Strategies that support system collaboration

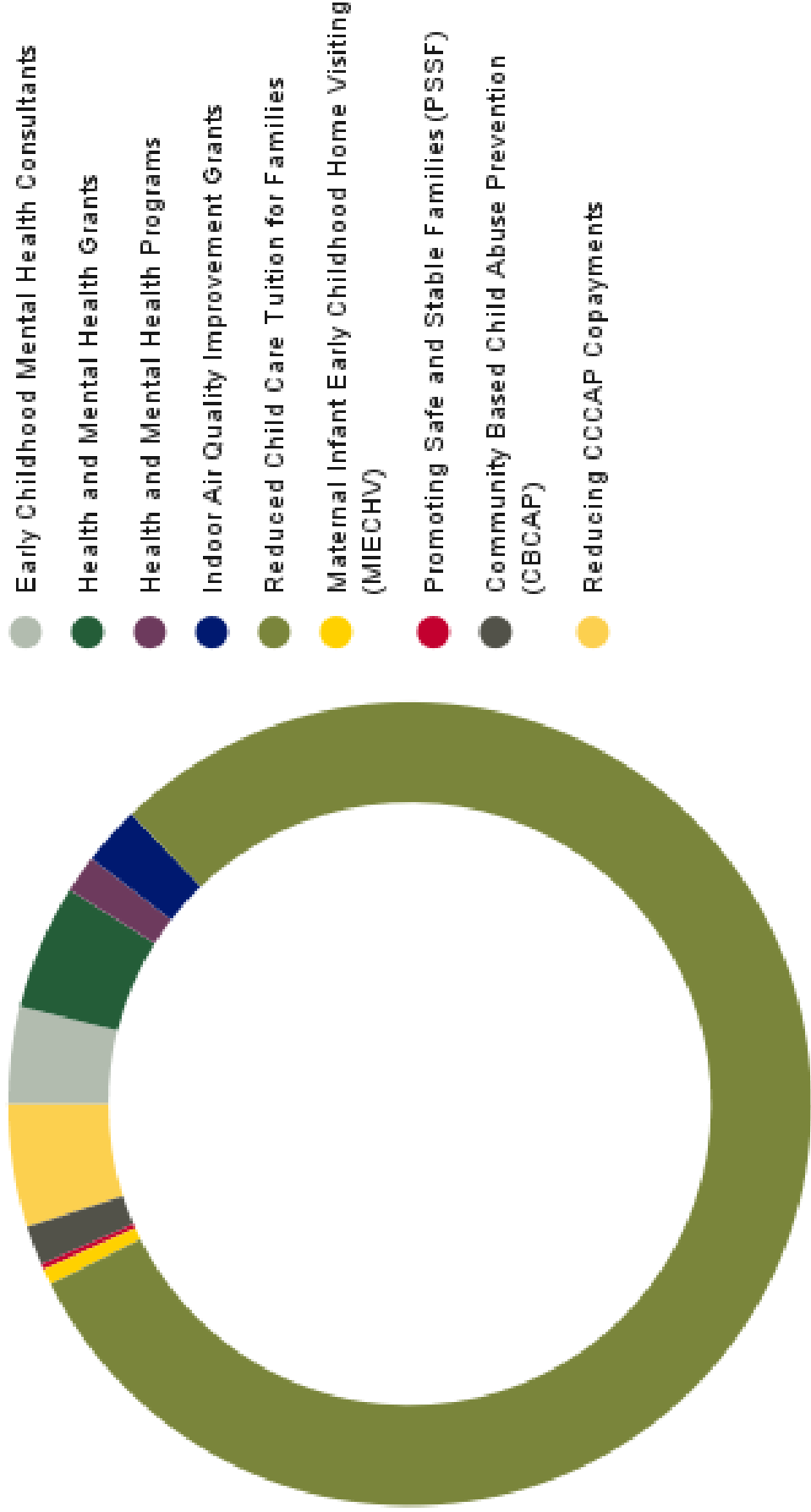
 - Strategies that support parent leadership

 - Strategies that support service delivery

Revised September, 2021

# Percentage of Spending Breakdown Family Strengthening

Family Strengthening - \$127.2M



\*\* These funds will be spent across two fiscal years, FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23.

\*\* This graph reflects the roughly \$2 million that will be utilized by the Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23. CBCAP has until 2025 to expend the full \$4,200,999 received.