

Larimer County 2019 Community Health Improvement Plan Executive Summary



Public Health

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 2018, the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment gathered our community for an all day public health summit. Over 250 community members attended, representing a variety of interests and backgrounds. They learned about the health of Larimer County, some of the problems we face, and what the community is working on. Together, they worked to prioritize focus areas for our Community Health Improvement Plan. The community members chose two priority focus areas:

- Promote Mental and Emotional Wellbeing Across the Lifespan
- Provide Access to Quality Childcare



This summit was just the start to additional and ongoing community engagement around the health of Larimer County. Please, read through this document. This Community Health Improvement Plan is just that, the community’s plan. Throughout the next few years, we will work closely with our partner agencies and other community members to convene and move this plan forward. We’d very much like to have your input and collaboration through this process.

Thank you for your interest and support in promoting a healthy Larimer County. It takes a whole community to make change!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tom R. Gonzales".

Tom Gonzales, MPH
Public Health Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer Lee".

Jennifer Lee
President, Board of Health

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), is a 5-year plan that began after Colorado passed the Public Health Reauthorization Act in 2008. This legislation requires local public health agencies to create a health improvement plan, based on a community health assessment and with community input about priorities at least every five years.

The Larimer County 2019-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan development process focused on a data-driven prioritization process and meaningful community engagement to identify community needs and values, potential strategies, and community governed implementation of strategies to fill gaps. This effort involved compiling county-level health data to assess community health status, assessing capacity of public health partners to address community health issues, gathering input from community partners and community members, and identifying existing strategies and gaps.

The Larimer County’s Community Health Improvement Plan kicked off with the Healthy Larimer Summit on Jan. 24, 2018, that convened over 180 representatives of community agencies from diverse sectors. Participants looked at community health data and participated in both a group and individual prioritization process that helped identify the top community priority areas for the next five-year CHIP. Priority areas were then reviewed by the CHIP Leadership Committee and the Health Equity Committee before going to the Board of Health for final approval on March 15, 2018.

Priority areas:

In an equitable and culturally responsive manner,

- 1. Promote Mental and Emotional Wellbeing Across the Lifespan, focusing on Addressing Gaps in the Required Continuum of Care, Substance Use Disorder and Treatment, and Primary Prevention**
- 2. Provide Access to Quality Childcare, focusing on Affordability, Recruitment and Retention of the Childcare Workforce, and Infant and Toddler Care**

The CHIP contains a detailed Action Plan for each of the two priority areas, each of which includes a five year focus and community-level indicators of success, goals, and strategies. The CHIP Team has developed formal partnerships with 50 other community entities, each of which is contributing to at least one strategy in the action plan. Working together, these agencies will make Larimer County an even better place to live, work, and play.

Follow our progress or get involved at [Larimer.org/CHIP](https://larimer.org/CHIP)

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN?

A Community Health Improvement Plan is a community-driven and action oriented collaborative plan that focuses on select priority issues that require multiple sectors all working together to make a significant change in the community. CHIPs are created through a community-wide prioritization and planning process, utilizing community data in decision-making and is intended to serve as a community vision for health and a resource for organizations to ensure collaboration, promote across-sector strategic planning, and de-duplicate efforts.

How to Use a CHIP

A CHIP is a strategic framework that organizations, collaborations, and coalitions can plug into to assist with partnership development, strategic planning, and applying for grants. It is intended to be a living document, and the most up to date strategies and metrics can be found on our website. The CHIP Team and the Healthy Larimer Committee support the work of other community partners and provide guidance in creating new strategies to fill gaps or create more equitable implementation of strategies to best meet the most impacted populations.

In order to make a significant impact in the CHIP priority areas, the CHIP team sees their role and the role of the CHIP in the following ways:

Role of CHIP Team

Support/Monitor - The CHIP team will be supporting efforts in our community, focused on the CHIP priority areas, that are being done in a collaborative and streamlined way. The Team will be connecting additional partners to this work, promoting these efforts, and highlighting successes through the CHIP dashboard.

Convene - The CHIP Team can convene partners to assist with collaborative efforts to more effectively move the needle on identified CHIP outcomes. When there are multiple partners working on similar initiatives, the CHIP team can serve as a neutral party to convene stakeholders and discuss ways to collaborate, streamline efforts, and develop measurable strategies and outcomes. The strategies developed in this convening effort can be incorporated into the CHIP where the CHIP Team will take on a supporting role.

Expand - The CHIP team can take a leading role in expanding efforts to fill gaps in our communities related to the priority areas. This includes developing partnerships to create collaborative efforts, identifying backbone organizations, seeking out funding opportunities, and identifying best practices. In order to build momentum, the CHIP team may develop initial workgroups to expand efforts that lead to the development of strategies within CHIP priority areas.

Role of the Healthy Larimer Committee

Ensure Equitable Implementation of Strategies - Using the community partner-developed CHIP Equity Process and Matrix, the Healthy Larimer Committee will have the opportunity to assess existing CHIP efforts to ensure they are implemented in the most equitable way, focusing on the impact of these strategies on the most under resourced populations. Once the assessment is complete, community partners will be encouraged to work with the Healthy Larimer Committee and the CHIP Equity Process and Toolkit to identify creative ways to ensure equity in their work.

Identify Opportunities to Expand Efforts to Impact the Most Under Resourced Populations

- The Healthy Larimer Committee, with their wealth of knowledge through lived experience, will be able to identify gaps in our community efforts for specific under resourced populations, identify barriers for these populations, and identify creative ways to utilize community capacity to better reach populations that are most impacted.

Roles of the CHIP

Highlight Community Successes - Through the CHIP dashboard, the great work of our community partners is highlighted in a public way. This provides a structure for CHIP partners to share their updated performance metrics to community members, community organizations, and policy makers to view CHIP partner successes all in one place.

De-duplicate and Streamline Efforts - The CHIP framework organized community efforts to be able to easily identify duplicative efforts so that community partners can streamline and collaborate to create efficient partnerships.

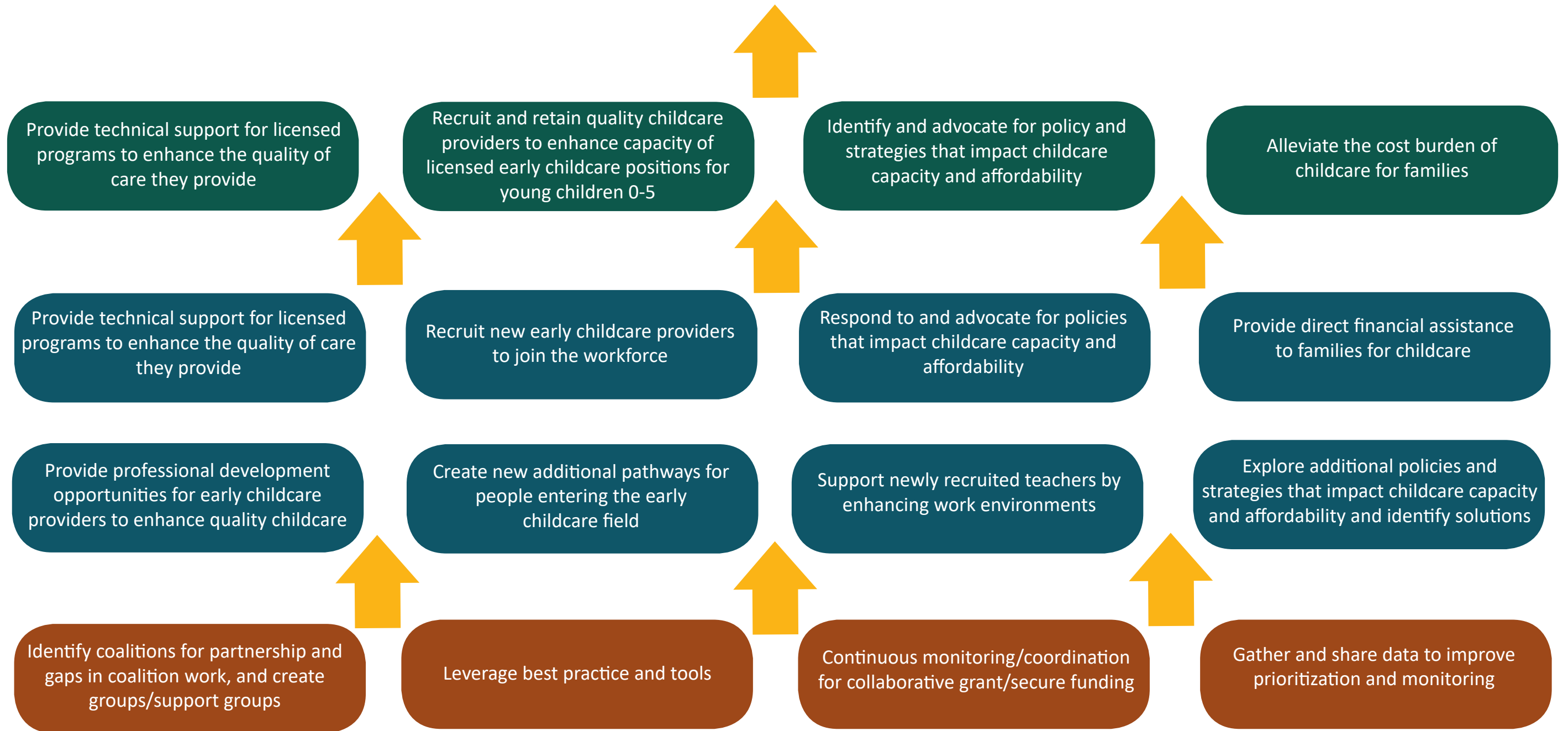
Create Stronger Grant Applications - Through participation in the CHIP process, community partners not only have the opportunity to include their role within the larger CHIP effort in their grant applications, but can utilize the CHIP framework to quickly identify partners across multiple sectors for a collaborative grant application.

CHIP ACTION PLANS

In an equitable and culturally responsive manner, promote mental and emotional wellbeing across the lifespan; focusing on addressing gaps in the required continuum of care, substance use disorder and treatment, and primary prevention.



In an equitable and culturally responsive manner,
provide access to quality childcare



- CHIP Roles and Responsibilities
- Community Goals
- Community Outcomes
- CHIP Priority Area