

Healthy Kids. Healthy Economy. Healthy Community.



LARIMER THRIVE BY FIVE

Without accessible, affordable child care and early childhood education, Larimer County will experience:

REDUCED ECONOMIC OUTPUT.

10% of Colorado residents quit or don't take a job because of childcare challenges. During the pandemic this challenge was heightened and families in Larimer County reduced their work by 42% due to lack of childcare. Unreliable childcare and early education leads to work absences and can remove talented employees from the workforce.

\$8.3 Billion

WAGES LOST BY U.S. FAMILIES EACH YEAR DUE TO LACK OF CHILDCARE.

\$3 Billion

LOST REVENUE FOR U.S. BUSINESSES DUE TO EMPLOYEE ABSENTEEISM FROM CHILDCARE ISSUES.

WORSE OUTCOMES FOR KIDS.

A child that is in an affordable and quality early education program will be better prepared for kindergarten, read earlier, be more likely to graduate high school and attend college, earn a higher wage, live a healthier life and have better developed life skills.

↑ Increased Healthcare costs

↑ Increased crime

↓ Decreased earnings

↑ Increased unemployment

↑ Increased remedial education

**\$12,000
A YEAR**

The average cost Larimer County families pay a year per child for childcare, often \$16,000 for an infant.

**40%
SHORTAGE**

in childcare access for families with preschoolers unable to find care due to lack of access. 75% with infants cannot find care.

37% OF INCOME

based on an average median HHI of \$64,919
spent on childcare for a family of four with two kids under the age of 5 and area.

Tackling the Challenge.

Provide affordable, quality early childhood education & care to children in Larimer County.



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STUDYING THE PROBLEM.

- » In 2008, United Way of Larimer County and the Coloradoan conducted a community-wide assessment of poverty in Larimer County and determined the absence of affordable childcare was the single greatest deterrent to a family's self-sufficiency.
- » In 2018, three local groups (Be Ready, Directing Change, and the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County) collaborated to write a white paper, A Workforce Strategy and Major Economic Driver: Child Care in Larimer County, highlighting two primary barriers for families seeking to find childcare so they can work: first, the cost of childcare & second, the lack of licensed childcare openings.
- » In January of 2021, the ECCLC launched an education campaign around the need for and benefits of quality early childhood education called, Larimer Thrive by Five.

The problem hasn't gone away: It's just gotten worse.

- » There are an estimated 7,000 children under the age of 5 in Larimer County who do not have access to licensed child care.
- » There are only two nonprofit child care centers in Larimer County providing infant care. Early childhood support and services must be an essential part of Larimer County.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR A STRONGER FUTURE.

Communities across Colorado – Aspen to Telluride, Denver to Summit County – and across the country have successfully secured dedicated public funding through ballot initiatives. They have invested those resources in a variety of programs such as:

- › tuition assistance
- › help working families cover the cost of care
- › professional development and wage support for early educators
- › capital costs to expand and improve child care and preschool facilities

These initiatives have both the political support of voters and a track record of success in supporting working families and preparing kids for success in school and life.

STAY UPDATED.

A collaborative of community leaders are pursuing a dedicated local funding source for early care and education priorities, potentially for the November 2021 ballot.

Visit [LarimerThriveByFive.org](https://www.LarimerThriveByFive.org)
sign up for our newsletter to stay engaged & learn more!