



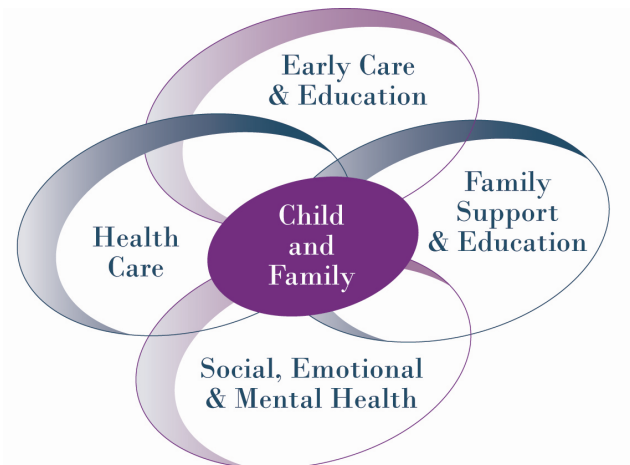
# EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL OF LARIMER COUNTY

## 2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Early Childhood Council,

Our 2010 fiscal year (from July 2009 through June 2010) brought amazing growth and expansion. Starting with our three year strategic plan, our community came together to make an impact on early childhood services across all four domains of our work:



Some of the key highlights of this year included an update of our 2003 Economic Impact study, significant expansion of our work in addressing health and mental health care issues, the addition of a parenting education program targeting at-risk families during the prenatal and infancy stages of their children, and growth in the work we are doing with early care and education programs working with high risk children.

Our thanks go to all of our 2009-2010 funders and partners for working collaboratively with the Council to better serve children in Larimer County.

Bev Thurber



### A WHOLE NEW LOOK

In keeping with the expansion of our services, the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County (ECCLC) also updated our look last year. Our website was re-vamped; we developed a new logo, created new agency brochures and letterhead, updated the information sheet about the child care referral program, and created a flier to engage the business community titled *Child Care: the Hidden Cost of Doing Business*. Our new logo more clearly communicates the circle of support that we strive to create for Larimer County children.

## EXTENDING OUR REACH

As we look back, we begin to understand why we sometimes felt a little breathless last year. ECCLC’s growth in several areas was remarkable. We provided a record number of college scholarships to early care and education (ECE) professionals. We also helped ECE providers access stipends for taking college classes through Colorado’s Office of Professional Development.

Our After School Zone conference had record attendance last year. We are proud to be one of the communities investing significant time and energy in supporting school age caregivers.

We also launched the first Bridges Conference to facilitate communication between ECE providers and early elementary teachers. The hope is that this communication will support a positive transition into the school systems and thereby foster children’s school success.

School readiness was never far from our minds. Through the state sponsored “School Readiness” project, we worked to ensure that children have the foundational skills necessary for a smooth transition from early childhood into the K-12 education system.

THE AFTER SCHOOL ZONE CONFERENCE ATTENDEES INCREASED BY 41% FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

### AVAILABILITY OF CARE

TOTAL FACILITIES		406
FAMILY CHILD CARE	250	
CHILD CARE CENTERS		47
TOTAL CAPACITY		11,975

AVERAGE NATIONAL STAFF TURNOVER RATE: 25-50%

TURNOVER RATE AMONG ECCLC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: 2%



## WORKING HAND IN HAND

ECCLC’s strives to address the needs of the whole child. No one entity can do this alone, so we work to achieve our goals through partnerships. This past year we developed several new partnerships.

We are particularly excited about the partnerships to support children’s social/emotional development using the Pyramid Model. ECCLC, Vanderbilt University (CSEFEL), Colorado State University, Poudre and Thompson School Districts, Larimer Center for Mental Health, Early Intervention, and a parent formed the Larimer Pyramid Implementation Team and worked together to align and coordinate efforts in the community.

ECCLC also participated in a United Way sponsored task force to address school readiness of Larimer County children. All three school districts, ECCLC, United Way and ECE providers are developing a shared vision of what children in Larimer County need in order to be ready for school.

A new task force was formed to address access to child care for low income Loveland residents. The city of Loveland, ECE providers, ECCLC and concerned community members are evaluating ways to combine resources to address this issue.

Another exciting new project developed through partnership is Best Start for Babies. Weld County’s Promises for Children and ECCLC teamed up to provide this 10 week training for parents of children up to one year of age.

## THE BIG PICTURE

ECCLC has received both state and national recognition for effective collaborations and systems building work. ECCLC Assistant Director was interviewed for the Colorado Trust Issue Brief, *Early Childhood Systems Building from a Community Perspective*.

In addition, ECCLC's Executive Director was invited to participate in the National Communities of Practice Forum, along with a representative from the Lt. Governor's office and a Program Officer from the Colorado Trust. Representatives from 8 communities across the nation met 4 times to share best practices and cutting edge strategies.

ECCLC was also one of 15 communities across the nation invited to participate in an Early Learning Community meeting in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the US Department of Health and Human Services. ECCLC Executive Director and the Executive Director of Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center presented on Larimer County's system building efforts.



### CHILD CARE IMPACT STUDY FINDINGS

- Children are spending more hours per week in out of home care
- Parents are missing more work due to unstable or unreliable child care
- Cost is a major barrier to finding and keeping good child care
- Lack of availability in some geographic areas severely limits child care options
- Vacancies in formal child care would be nonexistent if some families did not rely on friends and family for child care. In other words, we would very shortly exceed available capacity

## A LOOK AT THE COMMUNITY

To ensure that we are addressing the right issues, ECCLC monitors trends in the early care and education field. Last year we gathered data on turnover rates among scholarship recipients, impact of child care, supply of care and demand for child care referrals and behavioral issues in child care settings.

The 2010 child care impact study provided critical information as we plan the future of our work. View the full report at <http://www.ecclc.org/economic-impact>

ECCLC's annual child care supply and demand study revealed that the number of child care facilities continues to decline. Although the demand for customized child care referrals by phone is declining, more families are accessing our child care database via the internet. Find supply and demand information, including data by city, at <http://www.ecclc.org/availability>.

ECCLC also surveyed child care providers to assess the type and frequency of challenging behaviors they see in child care settings. Respondents were also asked to rate the effectiveness of various behavior management strategies.

### CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS SEEN MOST OFTEN IN CHILD CARE SETTINGS

- Tantrums
- Excessive crying
- Fearfulness
- Anxiety
- Excessive clinginess
- Hurting self and others

# 2009-2010 FINANCIAL REPORT

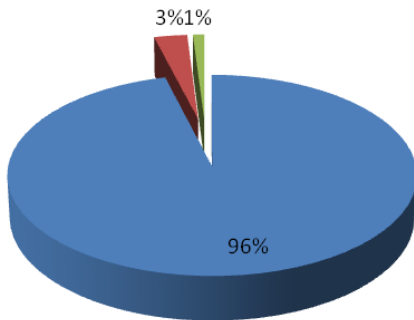
## THANKS TO OUR 2009-2010 FUNDERS!

*We deeply appreciate the support provided by the following major funders during our 2009-10 fiscal year. Our thanks also go to the many individuals and businesses who supported us with their generous contributions.*

- Bohemian Foundation**
- Colorado Department of Education**
- Colorado Department of Human Services**
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (TGYS)**
- Colorado Trust**
- El Pomar Foundation’s North Regional Council**
- Qualistar Colorado**
- Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation**

### 2009-10 Expenses

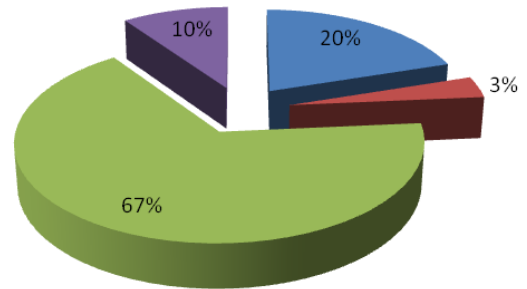
Total expenses = \$701,650



- Program
- General & Administrative
- Fundraising

### 2009-10 Revenue

Total revenue = \$746,371



- Foundations
- Program Income and Contributions
- Government Contracts
- Nonprofit Organization Contracts