



Douglas County Early Childhood Council Strategic Plan 2023-2026

(Approved September 20, 2023)

DCECC Vision

Every Child has the foundations to reach the stars!!

DCECC Mission

Foster and promote a comprehensive, high quality, and responsive system of early childhood services and supports for families with children, prenatal to age eight.

Strategic Focus Areas

DCECC's Board has identified three focus areas under which goals and activities have been developed:

1. Ongoing Support of Existing Programs and Services
2. Expanding Connections with Families and Community partners
3. Organizational Development and Performance.

Goal 1: Strengthen existing programs and services in order to promote high quality programming for families and children with a focus on promoting school readiness.

Activity	Measurement	Progress
<p>1.1 Monitor and increase the number of programs with an active MOU for CSQI (Colorado Shines Quality Improvement) Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the number of programs at Level 2 or higher from a baseline of 51 programs at Level 2 and 67 programs at Levels 3-5 by 10% per year ● Decrease number of existing programs at Level 1 by 10% per year from a baseline of 109 ● Increase MOUs for CSQI from baseline of 127 by 10% per year ● Increase coaching hours from a baseline of 2245 by 10% per year 	
<p>1.2 Improve implementation of Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) by enhancing support for current providers and parents to maintain baseline number of providers and increase number of participating programs through education and outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain and/or increase number of participating programs from baseline of 133 ● Provide a minimum of 2 information sessions for providers and for parents between Nov. and Jan. each year ● Offer bi-weekly virtual office hours from Jan. thru June 	
<p>1.3 Engage interested programs to participate in LENA (Language ENvironment Analysis) to increase awareness of language interactions with young children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain and/or increase number of classes participating from baseline of 8 	

1.4 Expand understanding of working with Infants and Toddlers through EQIT (Expanding Quality for Infants and Toddlers) classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to offer 4 classes per year ● Maintain and/or increase number of graduates from baseline of 60 	
1.5 Support programs with identified facility improvement needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitor use of Emerging & Expanding or capital improvement grant funds 	

Goal 2: Expand support for and connections with families and other community organizations in order to identify gaps in services, eliminate redundancies and ensure families have the opportunity to expand their understanding of effective parenting skills and resources

Activity	Measurement	Progress
2.1 Develop a calendar of classes for parents to be offered virtually or in person based on feedback from parent survey data gathered in 2022 and maintain on website	Calendar of classes with at least 2 classes offered per month Year 1 – monitor the number of parents attending classes Year 2 and 3 – increase number of parents attending	
2.2 Lead Advocates for Families - a coalition of service providers in Douglas County that support families (Current members: Douglas County Health Department, Douglas County Human Services, Advocates for Children CASA, Developmental Pathways, Douglas County School District, Family Resource Center of Douglas County, Backpack Society, YANA)	Strategic plan of this group to be developed in Fall 2023 will identify ways this collaboration will support families with young children in Douglas County	

2.3 Attend community events to share information about child development, Universal Pre-K and classes offered by DCECC and increase visibility of Council	Attend at least 3 community events per year	Strive to Thrive - July YANA Fitfest - August
2.4 Present at least one back-to-school presentation to prepare parents of children entering kindergarten	Date of meeting and number of parents participating	November
2.5 Drive traffic to website by providing links to resources and supports for parents	Increase number of "hits" to website from baseline TBD (upgrade of website precludes current baseline)	
2.6 Partner with Douglas County School District and Developmental Pathways to inform families of supports for early intervention needs by distributing information about screening events hosted by DCSD and including information about early intervention on the website	DCSD flyers distributed Gather data on attendance at screening events	

Goal 3: Improve organizational functioning by strengthening relationships and understanding within the Executive Council

Activity	Measurement	Progress
3.1 Reaffirm/refresh the vision and mission of the DCECC in order to reflect the current priorities of the Council	Updated vision and mission by January 2024	January
3.2 Establish committees and encourage all members to participate in at least one	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committees Established by September of each year 	

<p>committee</p> <p>Current committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parenting Committee ● Stakeholder Meeting Planning Committee ● Vision/Mission Update Committee ● Budget/Grant Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agendas and Minutes ● Membership recorded 	
<p>3.3 a Year 1 - Investigate opportunities to increase funding to support Council priorities through outside grant funders and/or fund raising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Committee formed by September 2023 ● Opportunities identified by May 2024 	
<p>3.3 b Year 2 & 3 – Increase funding year over year</p>	<p>Amount of funding increase</p>	
<p>3.4 Provide opportunities for team building and active engagement during DCECC executive council meetings in order to develop into a high functioning team.</p>	<p>Agenda/minutes of DCECC executive council meetings</p>	