

Childcare Lunch and Learn
Licensed Family Childcare Home and
Infant Care
Community Feedback



**ZONING, BUILDING,
FIRE, and OTHER
REGULATIONS**

In response to Senate Bill 63, The Colorado Office of Early Childhood asked communities to gather feedback in 5 areas as it applies to the need for licensed infant and family home childcare. This is the third of those areas, with the top 3 to 5 barriers and solutions. We had over 9 total pages with your comments, so please know that we will use those locally even if they didn't all make the top 5.

Barriers

- ◆ Land use planning and permits are costly and take a great deal of time.
- ◆ HOA and Affordable housing guidelines for being able to work out of your home are confusing, arbitrary, and often do not allow for licensed home childcare.
- ◆ Land and buildings that would be suitable for childcare are in short supply and extremely expensive!
- ◆ Outdoor space that is large enough and fenced for childcare is nearly non-existent.
- ◆ Zoning varies but can be a barrier concerning number of children to be cared for and parking especially.

Ideas / Solutions

- ◆ Change local zoning, Affordable housing rules, and HOA rules to allow licensed childcare homes.
- ◆ Enact a mitigation fee to be used for childcare in much the same way as public schools.
- ◆ Advocate for legislation for tax credits (for everyone) for infant/toddler teacher pay supports.
- ◆ Build fenced playgrounds in public parks to be used for licensed childcare programs; require fenced playgrounds in new affordable housing developments.
- ◆ Create public/private partnerships for newly built housing & redevelopment projects. Incentivization for childcare space in employee housing and in private homes/accessory dwelling units (ADU).

Kids First staff advisory board and staff actively advocate for policy changes at the local and state level that support young children and their families. We will continue to address local zoning and other barriers, and we encourage you to keep informed and to be an advocate for children. Colorado has a [childcare contribution tax credit](#) that gives an individual or business a 50% credit on your state income taxes when you donate to a childcare program. Check it out or call us at the number below.

We look forward to sharing the other areas that we asked for your feedback. Please also contact us to learn more about the services we provide and how we work with childcare programs and families.

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