

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



OTHER

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 fifth 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

- ◆ Waitlists and priorities for families with children already enrolled are unfair and not always accurate or managed well.
- ◆ The need for more a regional approach and regional support in this area, it's not just an issue for people who live here.
- ◆ Childcare program hours/days often don't match the need for parents working in the resort economy.
- ◆ Would prefer center-based care, concerned about safety at in-home providers.

Ideas / Solutions

- ◆ Use the HB 1052 to create a regional tax to support childcare, expand the city tax to county wide.
- ◆ New facilities, several locations suggested, advocate for a facilities construction fund like the school BEST fund.
- ◆ Development/mitigation fee for childcare. Advocate at the state level but innovate here first.
- ◆ Integrate infrastructure or programming somehow with senior citizens and growing profession of senior healthcare workers. Not seniors caring for children but perhaps some crossover with buildings and staff.
- ◆ Advocate at the state level for paid family leave at least 12 weeks for each parent.

This was the final area that we asked people to respond to, with whatever was on their mind. You can see we are a community that is family focused, and that we all have great ideas for solutions. What resonates with us is the need to work together, and to continue to be an advocate for what is best for children. Kids First is approaching our organizational 30 anniversary, and our commitment continues. Please reach out to us with your on-going questions and ideas. Thanks!

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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