

# COMMITTED to Ensuring Our Young Families have Affordable & Available Daycare

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## Problem

Grand County has 660 children under the age of 5 and currently only 41.2% (272 children) are in our 10 licensed day care centers and 1 licensed family child care home. There are currently 267 children on the waiting list for child care.

## Issue

There is a serious shortage of licensed early childhood professionals. In order for a Child Care Center to become licensed, it needs to maintain strict child to teacher ratios and all teachers must be licensed. Licensing requires 2-8 months training, plus background check and additional annual training. A beginning teacher's pay range is \$18.44 - \$26.40 per hour (\$42,661/year). The cost of living to be self-sufficient averages across Grand and Jackson County \$102,719/year for a family of 4 with young children. You can assume that the income in the Fraser Valley will need to be higher.

## Affordability

There is major gap in the average cost to families and the estimated true cost to provide care.

	<b>Cost to Parent (Based on 4 days/week)</b>	<b>Cost of Provider to Provide Service</b>
<b>Infant Care</b>	\$40 - \$90 per day \$8,320 - \$18,720 per year	\$107 per day \$22,256 per year
<b>Toddler Care</b>	\$40 - \$85 per day \$8,320 - \$17,680 per year	\$90 per day \$18,720 per year
<b>Pre-K Care</b>	\$31 - \$75 per day \$6,448 - \$15,600 per year	\$75 per day \$15,600 per year

## Solution

Partner with Grand Beginnings by providing financial assistance for staff training and recruitment. The Town Board needs to spearhead efforts to secure funding for the construction of a 100-child

care facility in Victoria Village. This initiative will greatly benefit numerous local families, addressing a crucial need within our community.

Thank you to Katy Hale, with Grand Beginnings, for providing the State of Early Education Childhood in Grand and Jackson.

SCROLL FOR MORE INFORMATION



# The Case for Early Childhood

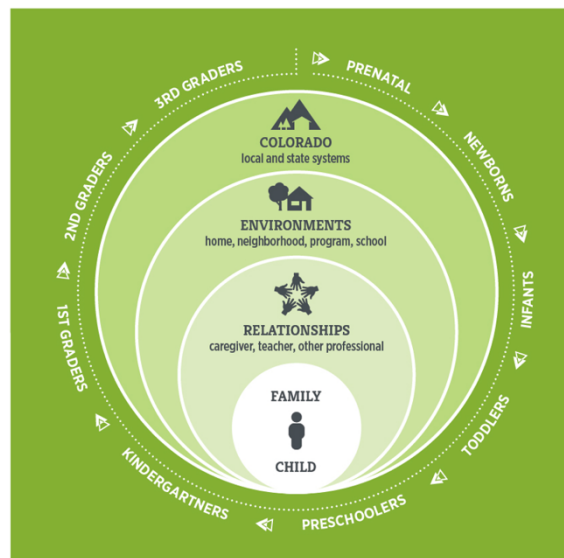
1. Ages birth to 5 = Most critical years in human brain development

- Not investing in these years is a missed opportunity.

2. High-quality early childhood experiences and programs have a significant impact on children, their families, and the community:

- Increased earnings for family members, who can fill jobs in the community and increase household income; and later on, the child. This can break the cycle of poverty for families while generating more tax revenue for communities.
- Increased school readiness and social-emotional skills, decreasing use of special education, juvenile, and “welfare” services, resulting in lower expenses for communities.

## The Early Childhood System



## An overview:

	Approx. Population of Children Under Age 5	Number of Children in Licensed Care	% of Pop. Under Age 5 Served in Licensed Care
Colorado	317,625	153,751	48.4%
Grand County	660	272 (10 centers and 1 family child care home)	41.2%
Jackson County	50	16 (1 center only)	32.0%

11 Grand and Jackson County Centers (82%) Rated High Quality (Level 3-5)!!!!

## Children Served by Age:

	Number of Children in Licensed Pre-K Care	% of Pre-K Pop. Served in Licensed Care	Number of Children in Licensed Toddler Care	% of Toddler Pop. Served in Licensed Care	Number of Children in Licensed Infant Care	% of Infant Pop. Served in Licensed Care
Grand County	203	74% (trending upward)	53	24% (trending upward)	16	14.5% (trending downward)
Jackson County	16	77% (trending downward but serving all interested)	0	0% (unchanged over time)	0	0% (unchanged over time)

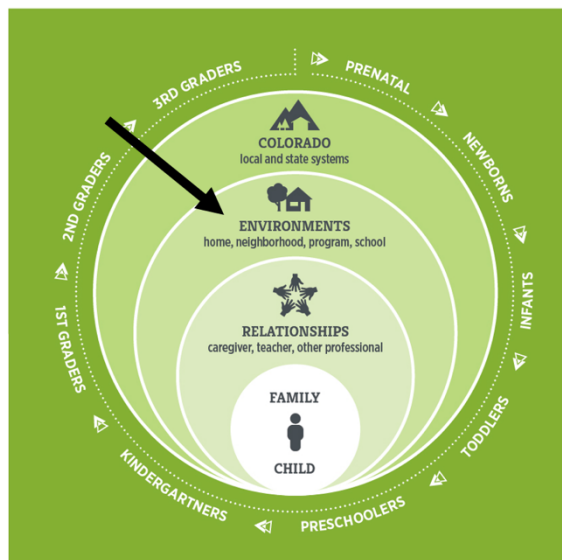
## Waitlist by Age in Grand County\*:

Age of Child	Total on Waitlist	Unduplicated on Waitlist	Unduplicated and Not Enrolled in a Licensed EC Program
Infant	54	38	Data not available
Toddler	115	81	Data not available
Pre-K (3 years before Kindergarten)	24	24	Data not available
Pre-K (2 years before Kindergarten)	113	67	53**
Pre-K (3 years before Kindergarten)	110	57	16

\*No waitlist in Jackson County

\*\*UPK enrollment cross check doesn't yield everyone since most 3 yo of them aren't in the portal—incomplete figure.

## The Early Childhood System



## By Location:

	Number of Licensed Centers	Number of Licensed Family Child Care Homes	Number of Pre-K Children in Licensed Care	Number of Children in Infant & Toddler Licensed Care
East Grand (WP through Granby)	8	0	148 (trending upward)	55 (trending downward)
West Grand	2	1	55 (trending upward)	14 (trending upward)
Jackson County (Walden)	1	0	16 (trending downward)	0 (unchanged over time)



## Let's Talk about Licensing...

### 1. Licensing is SUPER Important

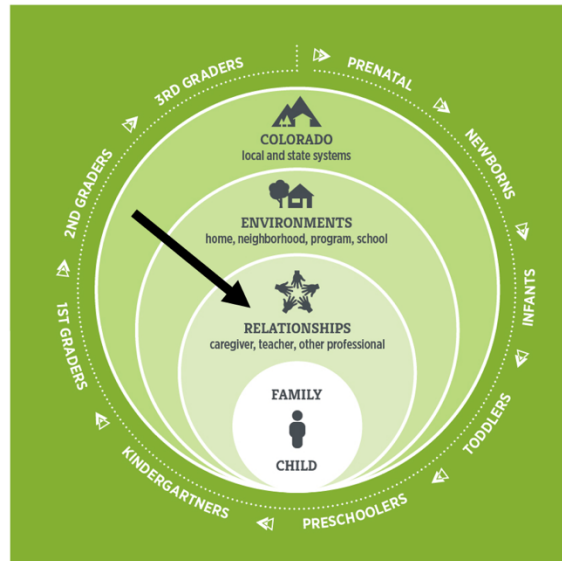
- Getting licensed is the only regulatory mechanism we have to ensure the basic health and safety of children in early care and education.
- Majority of adverse outcomes occurring to children in care happens in unlicensed settings or when a provider violates licensing regulations.

### 2. Licensing is an Involved Process

- The process can take a while (2-8 months average)
- Licensing is just the beginning of a high-quality EC program.



# The Early Childhood System



## Early Childhood Professionals

### 1. EC Teachers are Highly-Specialized

- So much more than “babysitters”
- Minimum teacher requirements: Fingerprints, Background Check, 15 hrs preservice training/yr, CPR/First Aid/Med Admin current, lesson planning, bachelors/associates/cda, TSG/HWT/IY/Other basic trainings (>10 full days), more on rating years/to raise PDIS level

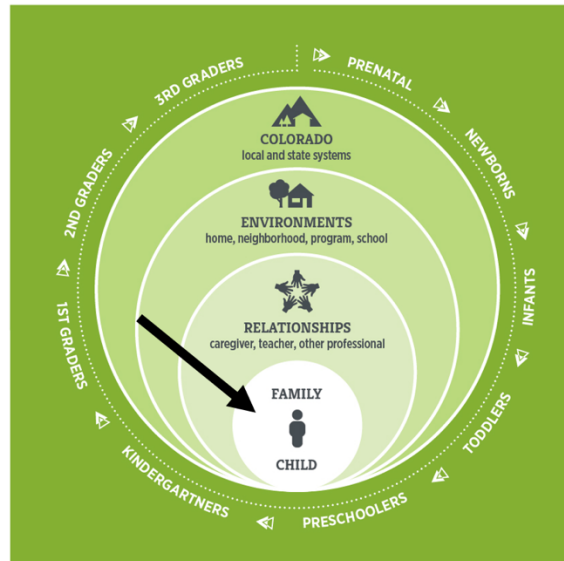
### 2. EC Teachers are Not Adequately Compensated

- Center Director pay: Range: \$17.54-\$37.75/hr, Average: \$27.28/hr, \$56,742/yr
- Assistant Director pay: Range: \$18.90-\$30/hr, Average: \$24.70/hr, \$51,376/yr
- Lead teacher pay: Range: \$18.44-\$26.40/hr, Average: \$21.72/hr, \$45,178/yr
- Assistant teacher pay: Range: \$18-\$26.40/hr, Average: \$20.51/hr, \$42,661/yr
- Cost of Living to Be Self-Sufficient (averaged across Grand/Jackson): \$102,719/yr for family of 4 with young children

### 3. The Number of EC Teachers Matter

- Strict Child to Teacher Ratios Need to Be Maintained (Mandatory)

# The Early Childhood System



## Early Care and Education Costs

For Grand County:

Age of Care	Average Cost to Families	Estimated True Cost to Provide Care
Infant Care	\$64/day (range \$40-\$90) = \$13,056/year for 4 days/week	\$107/day= \$21,828/year for 4 days/week
Toddler Care	\$60/day (range \$40-\$85) = \$12,240/year for 4 days/week	\$90/day= \$18,360/year for 4 days/week
Pre-K Care	\$48/day (range \$31-\$75) = \$9,792/year for 4 days/week	\$75/day= \$15,300/year for 4 days/week

Cost of living to be self-sufficient: \$107,484/yr for family of 4 with young children. Yet, average wages (not income) = \$45,261.



# The Early Childhood System



Grand Beginnings is a nonprofit 501(c)3 agency supported by both private and public investments that works to leverage partnerships and resources to strengthen comprehensive early childhood services and supports within Grand and Jackson Counties so that young children, their families, and communities are successful.

Our mission is to promote a child-centered school readiness system that fosters early learning, facilitates healthy child development, and promotes family success in Grand and Jackson Counties.

Grand Beginnings runs the Grand and Jackson County Early Childhood Council, a coalition of community members and leaders representing families, early childhood education, health, mental health, family and child support services, K-12 education, businesses, and local government.

We bring partners together to build the local early childhood system--this isn't our system, it is a community system.



## Our Work: Strategic Priority Area-Child Health and Development

- Facilitating cross-sector, routine, standardized and universal developmental and preventive screenings (vision, oral health, and hearing) with clear referral and follow-up pathways as part of the Meeting Milestones Initiative (MMI).
- Coordinating screening and referral systems that are maintained and offered in variety of settings with data collection to remove barriers for families to access these services, also part of the Meeting Milestones Initiative (MMI).
- Providing family engagement in healthy practices, including access to healthy food, proper use of car seats and helmets, safe sleep, increased immunization rates, and physical activity.
- Ensuring most young children have access to coordinated, continuous, and comprehensive health care services through medical homes.

**Value of Services Grand Beginnings Provides to Community for this Strategic Priority: \$91,477/year minimum**



## Our Work: Strategic Priority Area-Early Childhood Mental Health Supports

- Provide trainings and resources to EC programs to universally promote social and emotional competence to address and support children with challenging behaviors.
- Provide free evidence-based early childhood mental health consultation to EC teachers, families, and young children so that EC programs have the support to address young children's mental health needs and not remove children from programs for behavior/mental health concerns.
- Facilitate preventive strategies and intervention services in the community for young children and their families to promote the positive development of their child's self-esteem and mental health. This includes providing family groups/classes such as Incredible Years, Conscious Discipline, and Circle of Security.

**Value of Services Grand Beginnings Provides to Community for this Strategic Priority: \$116,000/year minimum**





## Our Work: Strategic Priority Area-Early Care and Education Environments and Workforce

- Employ comprehensive strategies to recruit, retain, and support a strong and qualified EC workforce.
- Provide free relationship-focused coaching, technical assistance, and support for all EC sites resulting in continuous quality improvement.
- Provide regular trainings and technical assistance to implement curriculum and best practices that support early learning, nurturing relationships, and improved child outcomes.
- Assist with licensing and opening of new EC centers and family child care homes.
- Provide and/or pay for evidence-based professional development opportunities that support qualified staff and increased Colorado Early Childhood Educator Credential Levels such as college classes and CDA certifications.

**Value of Services Grand Beginnings Provides to Community for this Strategic Priority: \$349,722/year minimum**



## Our Work: Strategic Priority Area-Family and Caregiver Support and Education

- Provide free families engagement and education opportunities focused on school readiness, social and emotional development, positive behavior guidance strategies, relationships, and healthy practices.
- Facilitate leadership opportunities for families to advocate for their child's needs in the community.
- Advocate for and implement evidence-based strategies that reduce child maltreatment, child poverty, and increase positive parenting practices.
- Fundraise and pay for our Community Tuition Assistance Program to increase the affordability of EC programs to meet family and community needs.

**Value of Services Grand Beginnings Provides to Community for this Strategic Priority: \$103,000/year minimum**



# Sources

- Grand Beginnings, Grand and Jackson County Licensed Program Child Care Resource and Referral Survey, 2023.
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- Colorado Children's Campaign, Kids Count in Colorado, 2023.
- The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado 2022, November 2022, Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington School of Social Work.
- Bureau of Labor Statistics QCEW, 2021.



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