

Public Funding For Early Childhood in Larimer County



LARIMER THRIVE BY FIVE

THE SITUATION: Importance of Early Childhood

What happens in the early years lays the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health.

- **85%** of brain development occurs before the age of 5.
- Children's earliest experiences with their caregivers **directly impact** how neural connections are made.

THE SITUATION: Access to Care in Larimer County

Larimer County is facing a crisis in early childhood care and education.

- 2023 estimates show that licensed capacity for child care is only **16%** of the population for children ages 0-18 months and **36%** for children ages 18-36 months.

*According to the ECC Shared Measures Report 2023.



THE IMPACT: On Families

The average Larimer County family spends between **12-20%** of their annual income on child care for one child.

The **US Department of Human Services** recommends that child care costs should not exceed more than **7%** of a families budget.



THE IMPACT: On Child Care Providers

Early educators make an average of **\$16-\$19** an hour.

- In order to increase educator salaries, programs must increase tuition rates, which negatively impacts families.



The poverty rate for early educators in Colorado is **15.1%**.

THE IMPACT: On Our Community

Care shortages in Larimer county have resulted in nearly **\$100M** in lost earnings, productivity & revenue.



11% of working parents have turned down a position due to lack of child care.

16% of employers have seen employees leave for child care reasons.

THE SOLUTION: Proposed Policy

The Larimer County Board of County Commissioners should refer a ballot question to voters in November 2024 to:

- To increase the county-wide sales & use tax by 0.25% (25 cents on a \$100 purchase), which will generate an estimated **\$20M** per year in revenue.
- The measure should include a 15 year sunset provision



\$10M distributed to Larimer County Families to offset the cost of tuition



\$7M invested into the early childhood workforce in Larimer



\$2M invested into capital projects to increase the number of programs

How to get Involved

Learn how you can help solve the child care crisis at LarimerCARE.org