



Douglas County Early Childhood Council Strategic Plan 2023-2026 (Updated August 2024)

DCECC Vision

We strive to ensure all Douglas County families and early learning professionals have an awareness of and equitable access to high quality early childhood services, systems, and supports.

DCECC Mission

The mission of Douglas County Early Childhood Council is to promote the development of the whole child, birth to five, by fostering collaboration with families and providers. We are dedicated to providing awareness and access to high quality resources and supports; and utilizing community partnerships to ensure every child has a nurturing and responsive early childhood experience.

DCECC Values

- **Family and Provider Partnerships** - We actively seek to partner with families and providers to benefit young children.
- **Integrity** - We consistently hold ourselves accountable to our mission and vision.
- **Collaboration** - We collaborate with each other and our stakeholders to achieve shared goals.
- **Inclusion** - We embrace the inclusion of all families in early childhood care and education regardless of background, identity and circumstance.
- **Equity** - We believe in providing equitable access to early childhood opportunities and resources

- **Communication** - We communicate information and resources to increase families’ understanding of child development and parenting.

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
1.1 Monitor and increase the number of programs with an active MOU for CSQI (Colorado Shines Quality Improvement) Services	<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 83 by 10% per year ● Increase coaching hours from a baseline of 2594 by 10% per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Level 2 increased from 51 to 61 ● Level 3-5 remained at 67 ● Level 1 programs decreased to 104 ● MOUs 70 - the state ran out of funding partway through the year and could not grant all MOU requests ● Total coaching hours 1,754.5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CSQI coaching hours 1144 ○ LENA coaching hours 360 ○ EQIT Coaching hours 164 ○ E & E Coaching hours 86.5 ● Several factors impacted coaching hours. In FY23, we directed coaches to charge 2 hours of coaching for

		<p>every hour of face to face CSQI coaching to cover the additional costs related to coaching such as travel time, emails, report writing, etc. In FY 24, we significantly increased the hourly rate for CSQI coaching to account for the additional costs so they could charge one hour for each hour of face to face coaching. Our reported CSQI coaching hours for FY23 were 2250. The actual face to face coaching hours were 1125. Therefore, total coaching hours for FY 23 were really 1,469 hours. A 10% increase would be an additional 147 hours. We increased coaching by 285.5 hours.</p>
<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased UPK participating programs to 149 ● UPK Providers received weekly email updates and 3 virtual meetings ● Offered 7 virtual meetings for parents to understand UPK ● Office hours were reduced due to lack of need - provided 8 times between October and June
<p>1.3 Engage interested programs to participate in LENA (Language ENvironment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain and/or increase number of classes participating from baseline of 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased participation to 16 classes

Analysis) to increase awareness of language interactions with young children		
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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 classes offered • 79 students successfully completed class
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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 E & E grants approved and funded • 5 E & E grants on hold - do not specifically support infant and toddler spots

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	Calendar of classes with at least 2 classes offered per month	Sept. 2 classes - 9 and 60 parents Oct. 5 classes - 15, 8, 9, 0, 14 parents

<p>feedback from parent survey data gathered in 2022 and maintain on website</p>	<p>Year 1 – monitor the number of parents attending classes Year 2 and 3 – increase number of parents attending</p>	<p>Nov. 3 classes - 12, 0, 95 parents No classes offered in December Jan. 2 classes - 7 and 15 parents Feb. 4 classes - 6, 9, 0, 45 parents Mar. 2 classes - 15 and 14 parents Apr. 4 classes - 0, 6, 7, 3 parents May 2 classes - 20 and 40 One class in June was the second half of a May class with 40 attending.</p>
<p>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, YANA)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Link to Organizational Information</p>
<p>2.3 Attend community events to share information about child development, Universal Pre-K and classes offered by DCECC and increase visibility of Council</p>	<p>Attend at least 3 community events per year</p>	<p>Strive to Thrive - July YANA Fitfest - August FCCH Conference - September South Metro Chamber Panel Presentation - November Strong Mamas Thriving Babies - March, April The Hive Open House - March Rally for Kids - April Baby Shower Castle Rock Adventist - April Mom-mosas for Mamas - May</p>
<p>2.4 Present at least one back-to-school</p>	<p>Date of meeting and number of parents</p>	<p>Getting Ready for Kindergarten - November</p>

presentation to prepare parents of children entering kindergarten	participating	9th - 12 parents Preparing for my child's transition to kindergarten with an IEP - November 15th - 7 parents
2.5 Drive traffic to website by providing links to resources and supports for parents	Increase number of "hits" to website	FY 23 Unique Visitors 10,310 Total Visits 15,806 FY24 Unique Visitors 17,819 Total Visits 27,438
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	A total of 20 children were screened during the DCSD community screening dates.

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	Updated. Link to new document.

<p>3.2 Establish committees and encourage all members to participate in at least one 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"> ● Committees Established by September of each year ● Agendas and Minutes ● Membership recorded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parenting Committee met 8/16/23, 10/25/23, 11/29/23 and 5/9/24 ● Vision/Mision Update Committee met 11/16/23 and 5/9/24 ● Budget Committee met 11/13/23 ● Stakeholder Meeting Planning Committee met 10/23/23
<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>The Budget Committee met in November and decided to postpone actively seeking additional funds until Vision, Mission and Goals were updated.</p>
<p>3.3 b Year 2 & 3 – Increase funding year over year</p>	<p>Amount of funding increase</p>	<p>Not Started</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>	<p>Link to Agenda/Minutes Folder</p>