



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This quarter marked continued progress across the Bright Futures Roadmap network, with strengthened collaboration, problem-solving, and community engagement in Jefferson, Clear Creek, and Gilpin counties.

### **Advancing Strategy & Alignment**

We made significant strides in developing a shared theory of change to guide collective action across the local early childhood system. In partnership with Butler Institute for Families at DU, a draft was reviewed with Community Learning Network members and will be finalized in the coming quarter.

### **Supporting Families Through Collaboration**

- The Home Visitation Collaborative's Spring Fling brought together 78 professionals to build stronger referral networks and deepen cross-program trust.
- The Jeffco Family Navigation team continues to serve as a key hub, coordinating nearly 780 referrals so far this year, including 265 to home visitation programs.

### **Growing the Early Childhood Workforce**

- The Talent Pipeline Management Cohort, launched in partnership with the Arvada Chamber, is tackling child care workforce shortages by identifying system-level barriers and employer-led solutions.

### **Driving Solutions in Mountain Communities**

- In Clear Creek County, collaborative community conversations led by Expanding Early Care & Learning (EECL) and supported by TBF inspired county commissioners to take action on child care funding for the 2025–26 school year.
- In Gilpin County, a resource fair co-hosted with local partners offered families and residents tools to expand access, understand licensing, and build summer child care solutions.

### **Other Key Updates**

- Colorado Universal Preschool (UPK) enrollment for the 2025–26 school year continues, with 3,420 applications submitted and outreach underway across Jeffco Library branches.
- Triad Bright Futures welcomed Amber Troutman as the new Mountain Communities Coordinator, who supports UPK and stakeholder engagement in Clear Creek, Gilpin and Western Jefferson counties.

Together, we continue to move toward a more aligned, equitable, and responsive early childhood ecosystem, one grounded in family voice, strong partnerships, and a shared vision for systems change.

## COLORADO UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL

In April, the UPK program moved from matching rounds to direct enrollment. As of the end of June, 3,420 family applications were submitted for Jefferson, Gilpin and Clear counties with enrollment completed for 3,140 students. Student enrollment is down slightly from 2024 due to fewer 4-year-olds in our catchment area for the 2025-26 school year. Meanwhile, preschool provider participation has risen to 211 with more providers expressing interest in UPK for next year. Triad Bright Futures (TBF) responded to 528 help tickets supporting providers and families with the UPK program. We also collaborated with Jefferson County Public Libraries to offer nine UPK enrollment outreach events at library branches and partnered with Jeffco Public Schools to support school district outreach.



*“Jeffco Public Schools coordinated outreach efforts with Triad Bright Futures to ensure families understood the UPK application process and eligibility requirements, using clear and accessible materials to boost participation. Open houses have offered the opportunity for families to enroll in the program on-the-spot and provide language translation services if needed.”*

*The greatest accomplishment of our collaboration has been expanding access to UPK for Jeffco Schools families and helping ensure families are well-informed about the application process and eligibility. Collaboration with Triad Bright Futures and CDEC in monitoring enrollment trends, reducing or adding seats as needed, and keeping us updated with new information has helped us maximize capacity and better serve our family demand. We especially appreciated the support we received when we were testing students to determine eligibility for our Spanish programs.”*

*Roula Lederhos, Enrollment & Finance Coordinator  
Jeffco Public Schools Early Learning*

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES AND ROADMAP CORNERSTONES

## OVERVIEW

The Jeffco Bright Futures Roadmap cornerstone workgroups met for eight meetings with 72 partners in attendance. In the mountain communities, 84 community members and Roadmap partners gathered across Clear Creek and Gilpin counties for meetings and events to advance child care funding strategies and increase child care options.

After several meetings where TBF Community Learning Network partners discussed desired outcomes and indicators for local systems change, the group convened in Q2 to review a first draft of the Bright Futures Roadmap theory of change, along with Butler Institute and TBF staff. A final draft of the theory of change and evaluation plan will be presented to the TBF Advisory Board for review and approval in October.

## MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES

Led by Expanding Early Care and Learning (EECL) and supported by Triad Bright Futures, we conducted a series of community conversations designed to expand funding strategies for child care affordability, quality, usefulness, and access ([AQUA](#)) in Clear Creek County. There continues to be strong engagement from local government, center directors, community-based organizations, and parents in efforts to expand child care in Clear Creek. Lisa Duran and the EECL team presented on the AQUA model at the Global MindEd Conference in June.

“These meetings propelled our County Commissioners to take a hard look at needed child care and funding within the County and enabled scholarship funding for the upcoming 2025–2026 school year. Without our collaboration I am uncertain whether we would have achieved the current momentum for early child care.”

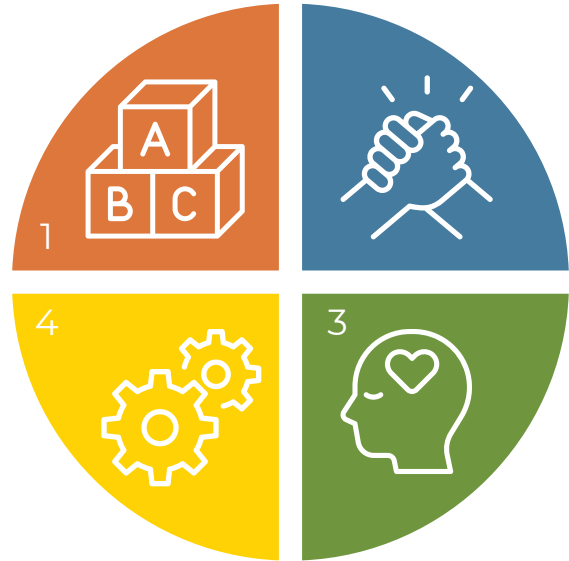


Pamela Marsh, President  
Expanding Early Care & Learning  
in Clear Creek County

In Gilpin County, Triad Bright Futures, Child Care Innovations, and Triad Early Childhood Council hosted a [Child Care Resource Fair](#) at the Gilpin County Library. Mountain Kids child care center staff, families, county staff, and advocates explored strategies for expanding child care options, including Family Friend and Neighbor care (FFN) and pathways for residents to become providers. The group also learned about licensing options and brainstormed summer child care swaps. The [event was covered](#) by the Mountain Ear local community newspaper.

# CORNERSTONE UPDATES

1. **A variety of high-quality early care and education options** that meet family needs, provided through a mixed-delivery system.
2. **Home visiting programs that meet diverse family needs** and ensure that parents are supported in their role as a child's first and most important teacher.
3. **Families, child care programs, providers have access to mental health consultation** to fully support the social-emotional development of children and mental health of adults.
4. **A robust screening, assessment, and referral system** that works to address physical, social-emotional, behavioral, and social determinants of health.



## CORNERSTONE 1

### QUALITY EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

ECE Partners continue to develop the resources on the [Provider Wellness](#) page hosted on the TBF website and have integrated these resource lists with the 2-1-1 platform.

Rachel Meixner with Jeffco Head Start, Jess Fuller with Greater Arvada Chamber of Commerce and Jennifer Anton sat down for an [interview on the Engage Jeffco Podcast](#) to raise awareness about the child care crisis in Jefferson County — and how local leaders are stepping up with real solutions.

The Talent Pipeline Management cohort in collaboration with Greater Arvada Chamber of Commerce met twice this quarter. This group of child care business partners is identifying the root causes for the workforce shortage in the Jeffco child care industry, quantifying the need, and identifying employer-led solutions for growing the pool of qualified teachers at the local systems level.

One of the cohort participants had this to say about the Cornerstone 1 collaboration:

“Being a part of Cornerstone 1 has allowed me to partner with and hear from different voices in the field. Though we all work from different perspectives and in varying roles in the community, we have been able to come together to address the needs of families, caregivers, children and the ECE Workforce. To date I think one of our greatest accomplishments has been bringing our collective knowledge together to build the provider resource and wellness page. I feel like it was a small idea that a couple of us had, that we were then able to flesh out through partnership and networking.”

Naomi Janowiak, Owner  
The Goddard School Arvada





## CORNERSTONE 2

### FAMILY SUPPORT & HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

The second annual Jeffco Home Visitation Collaborative's Spring Fling in June was a major highlight, drawing 78 home visitors and early childhood professionals. The event featured a "professional speed dating" activity focused on helping programs share information and strengthen referral networks. All participants received a comprehensive program directory, promoting easier access and connection. Importantly, Latina Maternal Child Health Leaders for Equity (MCHLE) leaders were involved in planning and participating in the event, marking a step toward a more inclusive and equitable early childhood ecosystem.

In April, the Home Visitation Collaborative helped coordinate shared learning opportunities such as Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE) training and began gathering input on future training topics to better align professional development with home visitors' needs.

Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) facilitates the Jeffco Home Visitation Collaborative, which brings together family support programs for pregnant people and families with young children in the region. JCPH operates two family support programs, Family Connects and Nurse-Family Partnership, both of which are active participants in the Home Visitation Collaborative. JCPH also hosts the infrastructure for a centralized intake and referral process, the Family Navigation team, helping streamline family access to home visiting services.

The Family Navigation system continues to be a vital hub for connecting families to appropriate services. In 2024, Family Navigation team referred 265 families to home visitation programs and helped coordinate nearly 780 referrals to essential community resources such as food, housing, and baby supplies. This growth in utilization shows both the trust in the system and its increasing effectiveness.





## CORNERSTONE 2

### FAMILY SUPPORT & HOME VISITING PROGRAMS

*“The Bright Futures Roadmap network has significantly amplified the impact of our work at Jefferson County Public Health. Having a well-resourced and responsive early childhood coordinating body has enabled us to better align our strategies with other key partners, avoid duplication, and collectively leverage limited resources for greater, system-wide outcomes. Specifically related to expanding access to early childhood home visitation services:*

- Family Connects entered its second year of implementation, providing universal postpartum nurse home visits to all families with newborns, an essential step toward a universal access model. Parents as Teachers expanded through a new partnership with Jeffco Public Schools.*
- Programs have taken steps to improve referral pathways through strengthened relationships and build trust among home visitors across organizations, which has resulted in more effective cross-program referrals.*

*JCPH values the intentionality of the Bright Futures Roadmap efforts in fostering strong partnerships and a collaborative environment where partners can problem-solve together. We especially appreciate the commitment to centering family voice and lived experience and the network’s focus on clarifying roles and expectations, even through the challenges and seemingly endless iterations of systems change.*”

*Mary Margaret Fouse-Bishop  
Maternal Child and Family Health Systems Supervisor  
Jefferson County Public Health*





### CORNERSTONE 3

#### ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION & SUPPORT

Partners have completed a local landscape map of mental health and social emotional supports and have met with 2-1-1 to discuss options for integrating these resources into the 2-1-1 database (as well as TBF resource lists), as well as the possible development of a guided resource screening tool. Additionally, partners are preparing to share out and train navigators and other partners on use of the landscape map in facilitating referrals.



*"Since the beginning, Nebula Early Childhood Collaborative has been an engaged and committed partner in the Bright Futures Roadmap initiative, particularly within Cornerstone 3: Access to Mental Health Consultation & Support. At Nebula, we believe that mental health promotion begins with connection, prevention, and culturally grounded care. Our work centers on creating access to community-based professional development for early childhood providers and delivering Nurturing Parenting classes in Spanish, Dari, Arabic, and English.*

*A key part of our Cornerstone 3 collaboration has been the intentional effort to align dates and delivery of parenting and family services, so that partners can make timely referrals and families are not left waiting months for essential support. This level of system coordination has directly benefitted the communities we serve.*

*What we value most in this collaboration is a shared commitment to "no wrong door" entry. Instead of duplicating efforts, we are working together to ensure every community has a culturally and linguistically responsive access point to care. This approach reduces barriers and empowers families to receive what they need from trusted sources, in their language, and in ways that reflect their values.*

*As a lifelong Jeffco resident, I have never witnessed this level of community-centered planning for families. Some of the greatest accomplishments of this collaboration include:*

- *Expanded access to family support and mental health consultation through cross-agency coordination*
- *Language justice and cultural responsiveness embedded throughout service delivery*
- *A collective shift from siloed efforts to unified care, where every provider and family feels part of a larger system of support*

*The Bright Futures Roadmap is more than a plan—it's a reflection of our shared belief that community transformation begins with connection and trust."*



*Rebecca Armentrout, Executive Director  
Nebula Early Childhood Collaborative*

## IMPACT ON EQUITY

The Maternal Child Health Leaders for Equity (MCHLE) project bridges the gap between Latine families in Jeffco communities and the systems intended to serve them. MCHLE aims to reduce inequities and increase resilience with a pilot model that improves access to culturally responsive maternal and child health services provided to Spanish speaking community members by public and community-based organizations. In Q2, Cuenta Conmigo Cooperative and TBF hosted two educational sessions, including a community navigator simulation, along with a full day retreat. The retreat brought together the 20 community leader participants and six TBF partners for a day of learning and connection.

We started with a “forest bath” at a park led by one of the community leaders, focusing on the power of nature to reduce stress and increase creativity. Other topics included:

- Learning about the Two Loops model for systems change (a map of how change occurs in living systems)
- Birth justice and the important role of doulas presented by Elephant Circle
- Application of project management principles to create a plan for Latina Breastfeeding Week (September 8-13)
- Learning session on community advocacy campaigns

Since January, MCHLE community leaders have completed:

- 368 hours of practice alongside Bright Futures Roadmap network partners
- 61 co-mentor meetings with Bright Futures Roadmap partners
- Participation in weekly reflective circles, peer learning, and community building with Cuenta Conmigo staff

It is exciting to witness the growth and transformation of two of our leaders, who presented their projects: “Connected Breastfeeding,” which is a support line for breastfeeding mothers, and the “Doula Program for Pre-Pregnancy Planning.” In the coming months, the leaders will continue developing new projects. Mid-term assessments show that a number of participants have interest in possible career paths focused on community-centered mental health.





## IMPACT ON EQUITY

*“The importance of food awareness and security made us think. What we eat affects how we live. In the rush for convenience, we forget about being healthy, fair, and natural. It’s time to promote the consumption of fresh foods.”*

MCHLE Community Leader

*“The practice helped me to experience and understand what a navigator is, the steps to follow, and using the resources we have in the community was something that impacted me, knowing how many resources we have and how to take advantage of them to help others.”*

MCHLE Community Leader

*“I learned about the projects [my] co-mentors are engaging in. One co-mentor is participating in the Lactancia Latina project group and interested in obtaining her IBCLC. Our other co-mentor is interested in creating a Who’s Who directory of MCHLE participants to foster connection and networking opportunities. I am curious to see how my co-mentors can inform my approach to MCH work and how leveraging the resources at my organization can help advance community-driven projects.”*

TBF partner



# THANK YOU!