

## **Early Learning Alliance at Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council**

### **Sponsoring Organization:**

Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council  
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### **Contact Person:**

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### **Service Delivery Area:**

Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council (ACECC) was one of 12 original Community Consolidated Child Care Pilots legislated in 1997 (SB 97-174). ACECC is one of 30 Early Childhood Councils throughout Colorado and serves all of Arapahoe County as well as all Aurora Public Schools (some of which lie in Adams County.) Arapahoe is a large county spanning 850 square miles. The county includes 9 incorporated cities and towns, and 9 school districts. There are approximately 781 licensed facilities in Arapahoe County with the capacity to serve 26,177 children.

### **Type of Organization:**

Independent, non-profit ECE agency, 501(c)(3)

### **Summary of Approach:**

The Early Learning Alliances at ACECC is recruiting a network of ECE centers and family ECE providers, joined by a central 'hub', who will work together to increase quality, improve access, and deliver their services in a more streamlined and efficient way. These providers will be recruited from current sites participating in ACECC Quality Improvement projects, School Readiness Improvement Program, and outreach through pre-licensing and working with state licensing specialist. The goal is to recruit nine (9) family child care providers and five (5) centers in the first year, growing to a total of thirty (30) center-based ECE programs and seventy (70) home-based programs by 2012. Each participating ECE center or home will become an "Affiliate" of the ELA at ACECC, and will enter into a contractual agreement outlining the services and benefits they will receive. Services may vary by participant, but include some or all of the following: quality improvement supports; fiscal management; purchasing/procurement; human resources; administrative operations and development; supportive services for families and children.

## **Type of Approach:**

ACECC will serve as an “umbrella” organization for the purpose of coordinating some shared services for centers or homes. Additionally, ACECC will continue to serve as a hub for a range of ECE support services that will be available to programs whether or not they chose to participate in the ELVA.

## **Services:**

- **Quality Improvements:** training, curriculum support, interface with child care licensing, support for accreditation and/or quality rating, support for classroom and/or child assessments, and other interventions needed to ensure high quality services.
- **Fiscal Management:** fee collection, management and billing for government subsidy contacts, accounting and budgeting, tracking payment to providers. The ELVA at ACECC is working towards tracking enrollment for all sites, bill parents and private pay sources, track parent payment status and follow-up with delinquent payments. These services will be overseen by the CFO at ACECC.
- **Bulk purchasing of supplies and services:** negotiated procurement for all items and services purchased by ECE providers on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly basis.
- **Marketing:** enrollment of families and marketing of high quality care.
- **Human Resources:** staffing/supervision, staff recruitment/screening, HR policies and compensation, benefits (health, disability, retirement), substitutes and temps, staff orientation and start-up training of providers.
- **Administrative, Operations and Development:** fundraising, insurance (liability, property, children’s accident, workers compensation), legal services, Information Technology, facility maintenance, nutrition program management, food service production.
- **Supportive services for families and children:** health/mental health screening, consultations, medical homes, immunizations record keeping, health education, early intervention, family sufficiency and community connection, parent events and involvement.
- **On-site technical assistance** (e.g. professional development and comprehensive services)
- **Training**
- **Quality Improvement assessments, training and resources**
- **Shared staff for administrative support** (ACECC fiscal office administer contracts, handle billing, marketing, HR and peer connect.)
- **USDA Food Program management** - sponsorship, fiscal management, gap funding
- **Fee collection and enrollment**
- **Shared staff for program support** – ECE quality improvement coaching and mentoring
- **Purchasing** (equipment, food, supplies) through procurement department for all operations
- **Access to obtain benefits** (health, life, dental, liability insurance, etc.)
- **Banking**
- **Financial services on ELVA IT platform**

## **Staff at Network Coordinator or "Umbrella" Organization:**

Executive Director  
Quality Improvement Consultants  
Chief Financial Officer  
Accounting & Purchasing Specialist  
Administrative Support

Contractors  
Bi-lingual Support

**Funding:**

Start-up venture capital for the ELVA at ACECC is provided by the David and Laura Merage Foundation. The Foundation investments will include grants, loaned staff, in-kind technical assistance, and access to a range of resources within the Foundation as well as Consolidated Investment Group (the business owned by David Merage). Additionally, ACECC currently has multiple public and private funding streams including: Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Human Services, Arapahoe County Department of Human Services, Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, Kaiser Foundation, St. Mary Land & Exploration Company, Colorado Health Foundation, Colorado Children's Trust, and others. Revenue projections are based on multiple revenue sources. The ELVA income strategy includes a membership fee paid by the affiliate. The fee will be a percentage of their monthly child care revenue or a flat monthly fee depending on the affiliate's gross revenues. The fee structure will be phased in incrementally and initially ELVA services will be provided, free of charge, for a predetermined period of time, as a marketing tool. The assumption is that when the affiliates experience the value an ELVA will bring to their independent business, they will be willing to pay a fee for the service.