Our Mission

Early Learning Ventures (ELV) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to quality, affordable child care. The organization focuses its efforts on improving the quality of child care programs offered at center and family child care homes across Colorado-BS percent of which are small, independent businesses that lack the infrastructure and resources to invest in quality improvements.
Stronger Business Services

Through business support and services, efficiencies, and regulatory compliance, ELV helps save child care providers time and money, thus building their capacity so they can invest more into improving the quality of care and education they provide.

- **RESOURCE PLATFORM**
  - web-based platform, powered by CCA for Social Good, giving providers access to valuable resources to optimize their business operations

- **ALLIANCE CORE**
  - robust child management system that efficiently tracks attendance, monitors licensing compliance, and results in time savings for staff and child record-keeping

- **BILLING MODULE**
  - built in to CORE, allowing providers to bill their parents directly for tuition and fees

- **MEMBER SUPPORT**
  - providing one-on-one customer support directly to providers when they need it

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Stronger Family Services

We work hand-in-hand with providers and families to bring enhanced services and resources directly to the learning environments to ensure all children reach their full potential.

- **QUALITY CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS**
  - in partnership with Early Head Start, increasing the quality of child care in the original four underserved Colorado counties (Arapahoe, Garfield, Mesa, Pueblo)

- **ELVHELP**
  - in partnership with Project Helping, connecting providers with volunteers who help with painting, cleaning, basic maintenance, playground building, and beautification

- **HEALTHY OPTIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS & PARENTS**
  - in partnership with the Colorado Health Foundation, encouraging providers and parents to serve healthy snacks

- **PARENT PORTAL**
  - parents can access tax statements and pay tuition and fees online with debit, credit, or ACH
2018 ELV

BY THE NUMBERS

39,873
CHILDREN IMPACTED

216
ALLIANCE CORE USERS

525
LICENSED EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS SERVED

2,007
RESOURCE PLATFORM USERS
1. Tell us about your most recent licensing visit.
Our licensing visit was wonderful. To be totally honest, it wasn’t time-consuming like it had been in the past. Before the licensing specialist arrived, she checked through all the information that was on CORE. So, this made the visit really, really simple. I would say the entire visit took under an hour.

2. How did you prepare for the licensing visit?
On our end, we always try to make sure that we keep all our children’s files in order and maintained within CORE. Also, before the visit, we made sure that everything that was in our staff files was where it needed to be and was within CORE. We made certain that all the immunizations and records were pulled and scanned in, ensuring that everything was totally up to date.

3. Now, the fun question: How many licensing infractions were identified?
Zero!

4. Did CORE help you during your visit?
Yes! Core allowed our licensing specialist to already have everything checked off before the visit. This allowed her to know exactly which parts she needed to look at, which ended up being on staff member’s files. The process was very easy and minimal.

5. Is there any specific feature within CORE that helped the most?
I like the ability to go in and put in the information for the staff and children.

6. What tips and tricks you would recommend to other providers who want to run a center with zero infractions?
I attend the majority, if not all, of the licensing meetings in Pueblo. These meetings help me be prepared for licensing and informs me on what is coming down the pipeline from the state. It also affords me the ability to ask questions and hear questions from other providers. It keeps us fully aware—meaning I’m never surprised by what licensing might want during a visit. Also, being proactive in CORE and having discussions with both ELV support and with IREE (Pueblo licensing) has greatly benefited us.

7. Any final suggestions?
Definitely attend the licensing meetings. I also highly recommend getting a system like CORE.
CORE has even helped remarkably with our food program by simplifying it and making it easier. Before CORE, we would utilize a ream of paper printing off everything for our food program. CORE’s alerts combined with our proactive approach helps keep everything in line.
401
EHS-ELIGIBLE INFANTS/TODDLERS & THEIR FAMILIES SERVED

5.9%
% OF INCOME ELIGIBLE POPULATION SERVED

100%
AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT (% OF FUNDED ENROLLMENT)

100%
OF CHILDREN RECEIVED MEDICAL & DENTAL SCREENINGS

2017-18 EHS
BY THE NUMBERS
Efforts to Prepare Children for Kindergarten

ELV supports both children and families’ approaches to learning and whole family wellness. ELV does this in collaboration with community partners in the areas of hearing, vision, dental, and developmental services for the child and through its partnerships with subsidies, family resource centers, government, and state agencies for families. ELV believes that a healthy family helps supports the lifelong learning of a healthy-minded child.

ELV’s direct school readiness learning approach includes the use of researched-based curriculum, assessment, and monitoring systems. ELV supports each of its EHS partnership sites’ implementation of Creative Curriculum for Infants Toddlers and Twos, Teaching Strategies Gold Online Assessment System, Ages & Stages Developmental Questionnaire, and the use of Alliance CORE, ELV’s record keeping and child management system.

In addition to implementing technology, ELV has positioned qualified, certified, and degreed professionals in each county to support onsite leadership and teaching teams through the implementation of Practice Based Coaching, Teachers Learning and Collaborating group, and Directors Learning and Collaborating groups. These professional learning environments are supported by ELV’s Leadership Team and additional support is provided by Training and Technical Assistance thought the Office of Head Start.

ELV emphasizes the development of the workforce as a necessary engine to support children’s approaches to learning. ELV partners with local college systems to ensure that teachers have accessible learning pathways for continuing education and professional growth. ELV’s partnerships with college systems places educators on a trajectory to earn their Associate Degrees, Director Certification, and sets them up for higher educational opportunities.
Family Engagement Activities for 2017-18

- Cooking Matters Classes
- Financial Activities
- Parenting Curriculum
- Coffee Talks
- Literacy Nights
- Healthy Options for Preschoolers & Parents Classes
- Health & Wellness Activities/Fairs
- Zumba Classes
- Leadership Opportunities
Family Engagement Activity

WISHES AND DREAMS CHILD LEARNING CENTER

Wishes and Dreams Child Learning Center hosted a DIY garden party for their family engagement meeting in April. For the activity, families learned how to grow vegetables and flowers at home. Wishes served a meal of make-your-own chef salad, offering a variety of vegetables for children and parents to choose from. Parents were provided a handout that showed them how to grow their own vegetables and which containers they should use. Wishes wanted to share this skill so families could lower their food costs by growing their own. At the end of the day, each family took home a "Plant a Pencil"-a pencil that, when planted at home, would produce a flower or vegetable.
Early Learning Ventures CY 2018 Financials

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<th>ACTUALS</th>
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<td>$4,416,154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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**FUNDING SOURCES**
- $3,395,047 (76%)
- $870,000 (20%)
- $194,824 (4%)

Early Head Start PY 2017-18 Financials

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<td>Administration</td>
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<td><strong>$3,284,622</strong></td>
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Federal Review

ELV participated in a Federal Monitoring Review in April 2017, as part of its Early Head Start – Child Care Partnerships grant and is considered in compliance with the federal requirements based on the criteria detailed in the FY 2016 EHS-CCP Monitoring Protocol that was used as a guide for the federal monitoring event. The Monitoring Protocol and the Monitoring event covered federal compliance related to the following areas: Fiscal Management, Health and Safety, Education and Child Development Service, Family and Community Engagement, and Program Management and Quality Improvement.
EHS-CCP Sites & Counties Served 2017-18

Sites are listed by county and include their Colorado Shines Rating as of July 2018. Colorado Shines is a quality rating and improvement system for all of Colorado's licensed early learning programs. It encourages and supports programs to improve their quality and to connect with families looking for quality care for their children. Ratings range from Level 1-5, with 5 being the highest.

ARAPAHOE
- Creative Learning Academy; Level 4
- Kids' Castle Child Care; Level 5
- Little Angel's; Level 4
- New Legacy Charter School; Level 4
- Rising Star Early Learning Center; Level 4

GARFIELD
- Caring Kids Preschool; Level 3
- Faith Lutheran; Level 3
- Fuller Child Care; Level 5
- Little Bears; Level 2
- Little Blue; Level 3
- Lizzy's Child Care; Level 4
- Yampah Mountain Children's Center; Level 4

MESA
- Aunt Patty's Child Care; Level 4
- Christian Community School; Level 2
- Country Care; Level 2
- Country Kids; Level 2
- Grand Valley Child Care; Level 2
- Jennifer's Child Care; Level 2
- Kinder Haus; N/A
- Lil Kurtain Klimbers; Level 3
- Lil Peaches; Level 2
- Little Imaginations; Level 2
- RS HS Young Parent Program; Level 2
- We Kare-A-Lot Preschool; Level 2
- Wishes and Dreams; Level 4

PUEBLO
- Children's Palace Learning Center; Level 4
- Imagination Station; N/A
- Kinderkirk Preschool; Level 3
- Life Center Academy; Level 4
- Yolanda Gonzales; Level 2