STONGER
Together

EARLY LEARNING
Ventures™

2019
ANNUAL REPORT
Early Learning Ventures (ELV) is a non profit organization dedicated to expanding access to quality, affordable child care. The organization focuses its efforts on improving the quality of child care programming offered at center and family child care homes across Colorado - 85% of which are small, independent businesses that lack the infrastructure and resources to invest in quality improvements.

Our Mission:

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Stronger Businesses

Operating as a partner, **not** a product, we provide virtual administrative support services, and improved regulatory compliance. This saves child care providers time and money, thus building their capacity to deliver higher quality care and education.

**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 records management system, that efficiently tracks attendance, monitors licensing compliance, and results in time savings to staff and child record-keeping

**BILLING MODULE**
built into CORE, allowing providers to bill their parents directly for tuition, fees, and make payments

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

Stronger Families

Working 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 six underserved Colorado counties (Arapahoe, Adams, Garfield, Morgan, Mesa, Pueblo)

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

**HOPP**
in partnership with the Colorado Health Foundation, our Healthy Options for Parents and Preschools program helps individuals learn nutritional tips and encourage 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

Strengthening the Business of Child Care
2019 ELV BY THE NUMBERS

41,895 CHILDREN IMPACTED

604 LICENSED EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS SERVED

266 ALLIANCE CORE USERS

995 RESOURCE PLATFORM USERS
AN INTERVIEW WITH BRITTANY HASEMANN, OWNER, & DIRECTOR

COLORADO SHINES LEVEL: ◆◆

1. How has ELV/EHS helped you with your recent success and opening of your newest child care business?
We've been a success story of business. Starting with the CORE team, they've built a family around me and the children. I've been able to hire employees and CORE has saved me time.

2. What recommendations would you give to other providers who may be overwhelmed with the process that you've gone through of being in the early childhood education field?
Remember who you're doing this for. You are these children's safe place and security. You're a super hero to them and there's nothing comparable to receiving their love.

3. What are you most excited about for the future of your centers?
Dreams come true. We are super excited and this is very surreal as it's been in the strategic plan as of five years ago. My dreams are coming up and happening and I'm ready to get started. There is a high need for child care in Mesa county and the children deserve it, they deserve the best.

On Thursday, December 12th 2019, the White House held a summit on childcare and family paid leave, and Brittany Hasemann of Grand Junction, Colorado was invited by President Trump to share her incredible story of starting her own thriving Family Child Care Home Business and opening up a brand new child care center with the support of Early Learning Ventures (ELV).
Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships

468
EHS - ELIGIBLE INFANTS/TODDLERS & THEIR FAMILIES SERVED

100%
AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT (% OF FUNDED ENROLLMENT)

PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED*

Arapahoe County: 2.17%
Garfield County: 22.9%
Mesa County: 9.5%
Pueblo County: 5.48%

*These numbers do not include the counties of our Early Head Start expansion grant that was awarded in March 2019

Please see page 10 of this report for a full list of EHS Child Care Partners in all six counties.
Early Learning Ventures (ELV) continues to approach learning in a holistic way that provides support around young learners and their families. ELV partners with a number of entities to ensure its efforts in making sure the child and family are at the heart of service delivery. ELV partners with community service providers to ensure young learners hearing, vision, and developmental screening needs are met to ensure there are no obstacles in their way towards healthy growth and development.

ELV is always looking for creative ways to partner with community constituents to limit or decrease obstacles in meeting the whole family needs. ELV has increased its efforts in collaborating with systems to ensure families do not have barriers to accessing subsidies, community resources, as well as transportation support. ELV future efforts include building a stronger partnership with housing authorities that will help bridge the gaps and decrease housing disparities amongst those families enrolled in ELV programs.

ELV continues to grow its collaboration with community college systems and uses its investment in the teachers working with young learners and their families as a strong strategy to prepare young learners for Kindergarten. Teachers are prepared by ELV providing and supporting access to researched-based tools, high-quality training and development, along with coaching to improve implementation of best practices in every learning environment ELV collaborates with.

Teachers have received over 3000 cumulative coaching hours, completed over 1200 hours of college level courses, have earned over 40 Child Development Associate Credentials and have participated in more than 25 Teachers, Learning, and Collaborating groups across six counties. ELV believes having a prepared workforce with the necessary tools to drive early learning, growth and development in the whole child that includes the family, is the best way to prepare young learners not only for Kindergarten, but for life.

Ty Johnson
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Each year, Early Learning Ventures updates their community assessment in order to outline the strengths and need of ELV EHS service delivery areas to ensure that programming remains responsive. Early Learning Ventures completed their most recent community assessment update in August 2019. The rates of individuals and especially students experiencing homelessness increased in Arapahoe, Garfield and Mesa Counties. This indicates a need for increased focus on recruitment of children experiencing homelessness and providing services to this under-resourced demographic.

In 2019, the minimum wage increased statewide, however, the living wage in each county for one adult and one child remains at least 3 times more than the federal poverty guidelines. The living wage is the hourly rate that an individual in a household must earn to support his or herself and their family. This is something we continue looking at and discussing with the Office of Head Start. Of additional note, unemployment increased in Arapahoe, Mesa and Pueblo counties.

Finally, the number of preschool slots did not increase in any county Early Learning Ventures serves with the exception of Garfield County, which increased by 46.4%. Despite this increase, there is still significant need in all ELV EHS service delivery areas for high quality, accessible infant and toddler care.
Country Care and Country Kids hosted a Cooking Matters demonstration for their families. The need became apparent after hearing that families needed strategies to encourage young children to try new foods. During the next family engagement event, they shared healthy eating tips and tricks. They finished the meeting with a fun and engaging activity creating some snack art. After their masterpieces were complete, they got to try each element of the snack. Parents were impressed that this simple activity encouraged new foods without any conflict. Parents were excited to try more food based activities with their children at home to encourage well rounded diets.
### Early Learning Ventures CY 2019 Financials

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>ACTUALS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$5,013,144.00</td>
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### Early Head Start CY 2019 Financials

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<th></th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>ACTUALS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
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<td>$3,275,022.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Federal Share</td>
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<td>Cash</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$899,662.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total EHS Program Funding**

- **Government Grants**: 80%
- **Foundations**: 14%
- **Fees/Earned Income**: 6%

**Non-Federal Share**

- **Cash**: $249,814
- **In-Kind**: $649,848
- **Total Non-Federal Share**: $899,662

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**Early Learning Ventures**
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These levels correspond with each Early Head Start's CO Shines rating for their program.

### 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
- *Children's Chalet*: Level 4
- Shailee's Sunbeams: Level 3
- The Baby Haven: Level 5

### MESA:
- Aunt Patty's Child Care: Level 4
- Country Care: Level 4
- Country Kids: Level 4
- *Jennifer's Child Care*: Level 2
- Lil Kurtain Klimbers: Level 3
- Lil Peaches: Level 2
- *Little Imaginations ELC*: Level 1
- *Little Imaginations FCCH*: Level 2
- *R5 HS Young Parent Program*: Level 2
- *We Kare-A-Lot Preschool*: Level 2
- Wishes and Dreams: Level 4
- Dana Shepple: Level 4
- Landmark Christian Preschool: Level 3
- *The Learning Tree*: Level 3
- *Little Blossoms*: Level 1

### ADAMS:
- *Step by Step CDC*: Level 4
- *Little Boots ELC*: Level 5
- Bernice Martinez: Level 4
- *DeeDee Overton*: Level 2
- Bree Andreen: Level 5

### MORGAN:
- *Sarah Neal*: Level 1
- *Donna Araujo*: Level 1
- *Rio Marquez*: Level 1

### PUEBLO:
- Children's Palace Learning Center: Level 4
- *Southside Childrens Center Prairie*: Level 2
- *Southside Childrens Center Sprague*: Level 3
- *Kinderkirk Preschool*: Level 3
- Life Center Academy: Level 4
- Yolanda Gonzales: Level 4
- *Erica's Home Daycare*: Level 1

### GARFIELD:
- Caring Kids Preschool: Level 3
- Faith Lutheran: Level 3
- Fuller Child Care: Level 4
- Yampah Mountain Children's Center: Level 4

* = not yet rated since joining ELV