



Early Childhood Council
of the San Luis Valley

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



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A Brief History of ECC SLV

The Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley (ECC SLV) began in 2000 as a Child Care Pilot Community to address challenges in delivery of a seamless child care system. The San Luis Valley pilot community was co-founded by two child care center directors. As one of the 18 pilot communities across the state, the work started with \$4,000 and a group of passionate community members. The organization was incorporated with the State of Colorado in 2003.

In 2007 the Colorado General Assembly established Early Childhood Councils to positively impact services and supports for young children and their families by building local early childhood systems throughout the state. This legislation (formally) charged Councils with increasing and sustaining the quality, accessibility, capacity, and affordability of early childhood services for children 0-5 years and their families in the areas of early care and education, family support, mental health, and health. The local pilot became the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley and obtained 501(c)3 nonprofit status in 2007.

Our tag line **“Working Together for Children”** has also been used since 2007, as recognition of the longtime partnerships with local community agencies, organizations and stakeholders. This community-based partnership is foundational to the beginning, growth and continuation of the Council’s work and impact on the early childhood system in our region.

As the hub of early childhood efforts in the SLV, today, we work tirelessly to build community awareness and engagement; disseminate information and resources; provide professional development and coaching; create leadership opportunities, secure funding and facilitate collaborative partnerships; build community capacity; and advocate for needed change.

Sherri Valdez, Executive Director



Our Mission is to support the well-being and optimal development of each young child by:

- Connecting families to vital resources
- Empowering early childhood professionals
- Strengthening the system of early learning

We envision a community where all members prioritize and invest in our children to build a thriving society.

- We value the critical importance of relationships by welcoming individual perspectives.
- We strive to authentically engage and listen for understanding and to create equitable collaborations.

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR



95

Early Head Start Children Served

58

EHS Childcare Partnership Children Served



86%

Eligible Population Served
(Service Area)

77%

Average Monthly Enrollment



95%

Average Monthly Enrollment for
EHS Childcare Partnership



59%

Children received a dental exam*



35%

Children received medical exams*

The agency's efforts to prepare children for Kindergarten

ECC SLV's Early Head Start Program helps prepare children and families for success in school and beyond. The Early Learning Outcomes Framework (ELOF) and School Readiness Goals guide EHS staff in helping children be successful. Early Head Start staff provide professional development and prepare activities, and materials to increase the following learning domains for children:

- Approaches to Learning
- Social Emotional Development
- Language and Communication
- Cognition
- Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development

Results of the most recent review by the Secretary and the financial audit:

WATSON COON RYAN, LLC

Watson, Coon, Ryan, LLC completed an audit of the financial statements for the ECC SLV for the year that ended December 31, 2023. Their presentation of findings noted the following:

“The Council received an **Unmodified Opinion for all reports:**

- The highest level of opinion available
- Indicates we believe the amounts and disclosures as adjusted are materially correct

Indicates that we did not note any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal controls

Indicates we believe the Council is materially compliant with compliance requirements of Federal programs”

EHS Parent Involvement

- The number of classroom Volunteers was 10
- 100% of families participated in a family needs assessment
- 100% of families participated in family goal setting
- 100% of families participated in home visits & parent-teacher conferences



2022 Childcare Partners

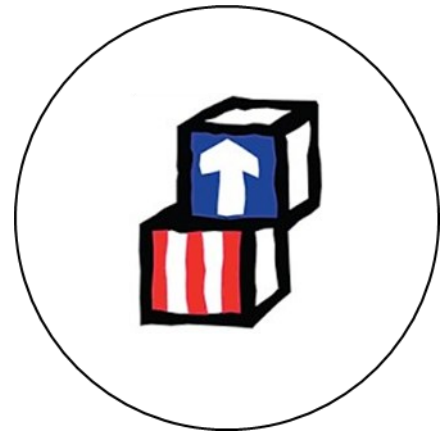


Centennial Early Learning Center
San Luis, Colorado

Colorado Shines Level 5

Center Early Head Start
Center, Colorado

Colorado Shines Level 2



Children's Garden ELC
Alamosa, Colorado

Colorado Shines Level 1

Gingerbread House ELC
Alamosa, Colorado

Colorado Shines Level 3



2022 Childcare Partners



Haskin Early Learning
Center
Center, Colorado

Colorado Shines Level 4

Tiny Tots Childcare and Preschool
Monte Vista, Colorado

Colorado Shines Level 3



Tiny Hands Daycare
Blanca, Colorado

Colorado Shines Level 3

NFS & 2023 Budget

2024 Non-Federal Share

ECC SLV is required to collect a 25% non-federal match on every federal dollar expended. In fiscal year 20234 our NFS Match is

\$341,513 for Early Head Start Funding

Federal Funds Total =\$1,366,053

Total Fundings=1,707,566

Funds used to Directly Support Programs 2023

