

Child-Friendly Communities

HB 24-1237: Programs for the Development of Child Care Facilities

Representatives Bradfield and Lukens; Senators Marchman and Rich

A “child-friendly community” is one in which the needs of children and families can be met close to home or work. The availability of child care is critical to a thriving community and economy. This legislation seeks to create a **more favorable environment for the development, creative reuse, and community integration of facilities for child care** in Colorado.

Why? The processes to open a family child care home or commercial child care center are often lengthy, confusing, and costly. Colorado is missing out on many opportunities to expand access to child care because **potential partners get stuck** in navigating these challenges. We have an opportunity to **expand access to child care** by reducing operating costs, freeing up capital for other costs such as staffing, and paving the way for a more sustainable child care business model.

This legislation helps to reduce costs and burden for child care by providing the technical planning, building, construction, and development supports needed to increase child care capacity in communities. This legislation creates **incentives** and **support** for local governments, private partners, developers, and child care providers to:

- Formally recognize the critical value of child care in community planning and development
- Create regulatory alignment and simplification
- Navigate the process of creating or developing a child care facility
- Access capital to help with development or renovation for new child care spaces

LEGISLATION COMPONENTS

Program	Description
Child Care Development Technical Assistance	Create a support mechanism including training, web resources, and technical assistance to support local governments, private developers, and child care providers with the development of new family and commercial child care facilities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Navigate the technical requirements for creating child care facilities● Build capital stacks and identify appropriate locations that will support the development of new child care facilities● Understand local planning and regulatory best practices to address child care needs, supply constraints, and affordability● Expert consultants and technical experts to advise and support the implementation of recommended solutions
Child-Friendly Communities Planning Grant	Create a grant program to help local government accelerate the development of new family and commercial child care facilities by taking actions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hiring assistance to evaluate and adopt local policies to support child care development● Conducting a local land and facility inventory● Developing and/or implementing aligned regulatory requirements and streamlined review and approval processes/timelines
Child Care Development Capital Fund	Funding to directly support the development of family and commercial child care facilities that meet a demonstrable need in a community. Local governments may apply independently or in partnership with a non-profit or private partner.

CONTACT

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HB 24-1237 Supporters

Adams County Board of County Commissioners	Denver Metro Building Owners and Managers Association	LeAnn Williams
American Association of University Women of Colorado (AAUW)	Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce	Little Den Early Learning Center
Bell Policy Center	Denver Preschool Program	Longmont Economic Development Partnership
Bossed Up	Diane Price	Maiker Housing Partners
The Boulder Chamber	Downtown Denver Partnership	Mile High United Way
Campster, LLC	Dream Centers	Pennrose
CARE Housing	Early Care and Education Consortium (ECEC)	Rural Homes/Rural Homes Early Childhood Initiative
City of Fountain	Early Childhood Council for Yuma, Washington, and Kit Carson Counties	Serena R. Bruzgo
City of Fort Collins	The Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County	Small Business Majority
City of Pueblo	Early Connections Learning Centers	Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning
Clayton Early Learning	Early Learning Ventures	Springboard Child Care, Inc.
Colorado Alliance of YMCAs	Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA)	Stand for Children Colorado
Colorado Chamber of Commerce	The Efshar Project	TLC Learning Center
Colorado Concern	Elephant Circle	Town of Monument
Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI)	Family Star Montessori	Town of Estes Park
Colorado Children's Campaign	Florence Crittenton Services	Unique Play Place
Colorado Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC)	Four Points Funding	Wildflower Nature School
Colorado Hospital Association	Fuel & Iron Food Hall	Wildflower Schools
Colorado Municipal League (CML)	Gary Advocacy	The Women's Foundation of Colorado
Colorado PTA	Gorman & Company, LLC	Woodward
Colorado Rural Health Center	Healthier Colorado	
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC	Healthy Child Care Colorado	
Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce	Hope House Colorado	
Community Hospital	Housing Colorado	
Council for a Strong America Colorado	Huerfano-Las Animas Counties Early Childhood Council	
Counties & Commissioners Acting Together (CCAT)	Junior League of Denver	
	Laradon	