



GRAND BEGINNINGS
STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 - 2020



Supporting Programs,
Health, and Education
for Young Children

OUR VISION

A community that values the health and development of young children, their families, and the professionals who provide quality early care and education.



OUR MISSION

To promote a child-centered school readiness system that fosters early learning, facilitates healthy child development, and promotes family success in Grand County.



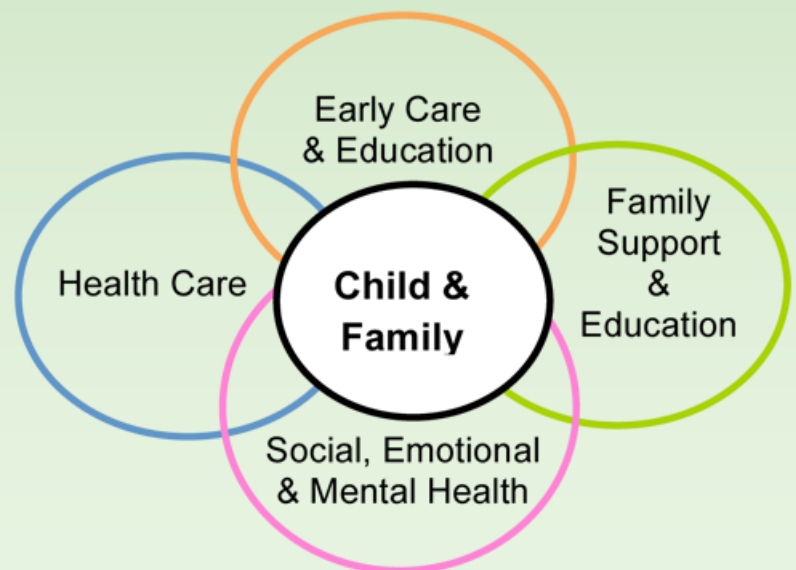
OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTION

To accomplish our mission and achieve our vision, Grand Beginnings works to leverage partnerships and resources that build and strengthen comprehensive early childhood services within Grand County.

Our Strategic Priorities

1. School Readiness
2. Mental Health and Social /Emotional Competencies
3. High Quality Early Care and Education Environments and Workforce
4. Healthy Child Development
5. Family Engagement and Success

Grand Beginnings seeks to be resourceful, responsible, and transparent with financial resources. Grand Beginnings work is made possible by the support of diverse public and private funding streams, including government grants, government contracts, and foundation grants.





SUPPORTING SCHOOL READINESS

Goal: All children are ready for school entry by being equipped with the school readiness and social/emotional competencies that lead to effective learners in the 21st Century.

Desired Results

- Early care and education programs in Grand County have the tools and supports to provide high quality early learning experiences that support the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills for children to be prepared for school entry.
- Families have access to education, materials, and supports to ensure that families are empowered to equip their children their children with the cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills that will prepare them for school entry.
- Community based early care and education programs and school districts work collaboratively to ensure school readiness skills are aligned with state standards, transition to the k-12 system is supported, and practices in the early elementary grades are developmentally appropriate.
- Increase availability of Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) and other subsidized early education slots in programs that demonstrate a commitment to and rigorously attain high quality, to ensure that all children have access to preschool, regardless of income, and respectful of parental choice.



SUPPORTING POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH

Goal: All children have the opportunity to develop positive self-esteem and self-awareness through a community approach to promoting mental wellness and the development of social and emotional competencies, as part of overall healthy development.

Desired Results

- Young children and their families have local access to resources and supports to promote the positive development of their child's self-esteem and mental health through preventative and intervention services.
- Early care and education programs have the tools, trainings, and resources to support children with challenging behaviors in the classroom and to promote social and emotional competencies.
- The community is educated on the importance of promoting mental wellness in children and families, the long term negative effects of poor mental health, the intrusive force of toxic stress on development, and the prevention and intervention strategies they can employ to support young children and their families.
- Local capacity to serve young children and their families with intervention is developed through professional development opportunities for existing service providers and the recruitment of new providers.



HIGH QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION ENVIRONMENTS AND WORKFORCE

Goal: All families have access to a variety of high quality early care and education programs that best meets their needs and those programs are staffed by a highly qualified and competent workforce.

Desired Results

- Professionals providing early care and education have access to resources, training, technical assistance, and coaching that promotes positive relationships, early learning, and continuity of care.
- The early care and education workforce is recognized and compensated for providing a critical role to the growth and development of Grand County and its residents.
- Improved access and affordability of early care and education programs to meet family and community needs.
- Early care and education programs demonstrate a commitment to continuous quality improvement and to providing a high quality environment that aligns with best practices, state standards, program philosophy, and family needs.



HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Goal: All children have the opportunity and supports to maximize their individual healthy development.

Desired Results

- Cross –sector, routine, standardized and universal developmental screenings are administered, ensuring that most Grand County children receive five screenings by the age of five.
- Most children have access to preventive oral, hearing, and vision screenings in a variety of settings that are coordinated to remove barriers for families to access these services.
- Improved family engagement in healthy practices, including access to healthy food, proper use of car seats and helmets, increased immunization rates, and physical activity.
- Most young children have access to coordinated, continuous , and comprehensive health care services through medical homes.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND SUCCESS

Goal: Families are informed, prepared, and empowered to support and advocate for their child's healthy development and school readiness.

Desired Results

- Increased and varied opportunities for families to engage in parent education that focuses on school readiness, social and emotional development, positive behavior guidance strategies, relationships, and healthy practices.
- Improved family engagements with families feeling equipped with tools and supports to participate in leadership opportunities and to advocate for their child's needs and the needs of all young children in Grand County.
- Families feel supported by the greater community, reporting decreased parenting stress and greater engagement in their children's development, early care, and education.