

# MESA COUNTY CHILD CARE 8,000



## WHAT IS IT?

Child Care 8,000 is a community initiative to increase capacity to serve children in child care and support parents to work.

Together, we will work to maintain current facilities at capacity, add additional slots, and license new facilities until we reach 8,000 slots for children (0-13 years).

## HOW DOES THIS HELP OUR COMMUNITY?



Quality child care gets kids ready for school, leading to successful careers later in life.



An increase in licensed, quality child care slots means 300 additional jobs in Mesa County, which will boost our economy by about \$9 million annually.



Affordable, quality child care alleviates stress on families, allowing our community to grow.

## WHAT IS THE PLAN?

Work with the community to develop and refine solutions to the following questions:

1. How can we create a career pipeline with training and apprenticeships to build a stable industry in which people can thrive?
2. How can we make early education an attractive profession in which people can make a living by empowering residents who are interested?
3. How can we decrease costs for child care facilities through shared services or a business co-op model?

## GOALS

- Meet the needs of our community by doubling our licensed child care slots by 2022.
- Engage with community members to learn how we can break down barriers for facilities and families.
- Work together to increase quality of licensed child care across the board by bringing current facilities to capacity, expanding facilities and opening new facilities.

## WHY DO WE NEED TO INVEST IN THIS INITIATIVE?

- Licensed facilities serve just 24% of the 10,000 children in Mesa County ages 0-13. Families are sometimes faced with choosing a child care option because it's what is available - not necessarily because it's what truly meets their needs.
- Lack of licensed child care limits parents who want to be part of our workforce. Many child care facilities are already at full capacity and providers don't offer early morning, late afternoon or weekend care, leaving parents without options.
- Children are missing enriching opportunities. In Mesa County, approximately 30% of third-grade students meet or exceed proficiency in English and math.

## MOMENTUM

- Expansion of the Mesa County Public Health Early Childhood Services Team to provide additional technical assistance and training needs to providers.
- Assisted local child care facilities to open more than 800 slots since August 2017.
- Funded a cohort of 20 participants to obtain the Childhood Development Associate (CDA) credentialing that allows them to be lead teacher qualified.
- The Partnership for Children & Families applied for funding to engage with family, friend and neighbor (FFN) care providers and the families who utilize their services.