



# HB 16-1227: Colorado Child Care Assistance Program

Eligibility Criteria for Teen Parents and Domestic Violence Survivors

Reps. Kagan & DelGrosso/Sens. Hill & Crowder

*Passed the General Assembly with 90 out of 100 Members voting 'Yes'*

*and with 58 members cosponsoring the bill*

## THE ISSUE

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**The number one barrier preventing teen mothers from completing high school is access to child care.** In 2014, 3,387 babies were born to teen mothers in Colorado. The dropout rate nationwide for teen mothers is over 62%. A lack of child care inevitably forces young moms to drop out, continuing the cycle of poverty and need for continued government assistance for herself and her children. A similar dynamic prevents domestic violence survivors of all ages from affording child care so they can achieve economic self-sufficiency and independence.

## THE CHALLENGE

The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) provides low-income families with access to child care so they can get into the workforce, off government assistance, and on the path to self-sufficiency. CCCAP helps two generations break the cycle of poverty by giving parents the opportunity to get the education and training they need to find employment while also providing access to an early childhood education for their children, setting them up for success in Kindergarten. **However, CCCAP is often inaccessible to those who need it most — specifically teen mothers and domestic violence survivors.** In nearly every county in Colorado, a teen mother or a domestic violence survivor must first take the baby's biological father to court or obtain administrative action for child support before they can access CCCAP assistance. This is an insurmountable barrier for many of these young people and domestic violence survivors, many of whom often live in unstable situations and lack the skills and self-confidence necessary to comply with this requirement.

## THE SOLUTION

**Exempt teen moms and domestic violence survivors from the child support engagement requirement as a condition of receiving CCCAP.** This well-intended requirement has made the program often inaccessible to parents and their children at a sensitive time in their lives. An exemption only for teen parents and domestic violence survivors of all ages would maintain the requirement for the vast majority of participants in the program while permitting those at one of the most sensitive periods in their lives still have a path to self-sufficiency.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CCCAP funds are made available only for specific purposes including education, training or other activities that facilitate participation or re-entry into the workforce. The program is administered through county departments of human services under the direction of the Colorado Department of Human Services. Counties set eligibility requirements for families. With this legislation in place, policymakers can direct counties to align their eligibility requirements. The legislation *does not require counties to serve more people*; it simply changes the eligibility requirement for new applicants trying to access child care assistance. Funding sources for CCCAP include a mixture of federal, state, and county dollars, as well as parent fees which are set by the state on a sliding scale.

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## Breaking the Cycle of Poverty for TWO Generations

Florence Crittenton Services is a Colorado non-profit that educates, prepares and empowers teen mothers and their children to become productive members of the community. Our comprehensive, two-generation approach provides academic, social-emotional and health support for pregnant and parenting girls, along with Early Childhood Education for children ages six weeks through Pre-K.



### Teen Mom Graduation Rates

38%

National Average

94%

Florence Crittenton Services

### 2015 Results

**94%** of eligible seniors graduated from high school

**93%** of children reached or surpassed their development milestones for kindergarten-readiness

**96%** of graduates had post-secondary plans

**95%** of children up-to-date on well-child checks

**100%** of children were up to date on immunizations.

### Florence Crittenton Services' Model for Success



### SUPPORTERS

Florence Crittenton Services  
Colorado Children's Campaign  
Mile High United Way  
Women's Foundation of Colorado  
Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
Aurora Public Schools  
Denver Public Schools  
Adams County  
Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry (CACI)  
National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)  
Denver Women's Collaborative  
New Legacy Charter School  
Colorado League of Charter Schools  
Charter School Institute  
Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Denver  
Catholic Charities of Central Colorado  
Catholic Charities Diocese of Pueblo  
Colorado Catholic Conference  
American Association of University Women, Col. Spgs.  
Colorado Parent & Child Foundation  
Aspen Community Foundation  
SafeHouse Denver  
Junior League of Denver  
Women's Collaborative for Colorado  
Children's Hospital Colorado  
Colorado Head Start Association  
Clayton Early Learning  
Qualistar Colorado  
Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado  
CWEE  
9to5 Colorado  
Colorado Center on Law and Policy  
All Families Deserve A Chance Coalition  
Stand for Children Colorado  
Bell Policy Center  
Hope House of Colorado  
Democrats for Education Reform-CO  
Mile High Montessori Early Learning Centers  
Lutheran Family Services, Rocky Mountains  
The Kempe Foundation  
Mt. Sopris Montessori School  
Valley Settlement Project  
Colorado Succeeds  
Colorado Association for the Ed. of Young Children  
Bright By Three  
Aspen to Parachute's Cradle to Career Initiative  
Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health  
The Gathering Place  
Early Learning Ventures  
Mountain BOCES  
Yampah Mountain High School  
Opportunity Coalition  
Colorado Parent Teacher Association  
Early Childhood Summit  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses – CO Chapter