

Support SB 19-XXX: Infant and Family Child Care Shortage Strategic Action Plan (Priola/Buentello & A. Valdez)

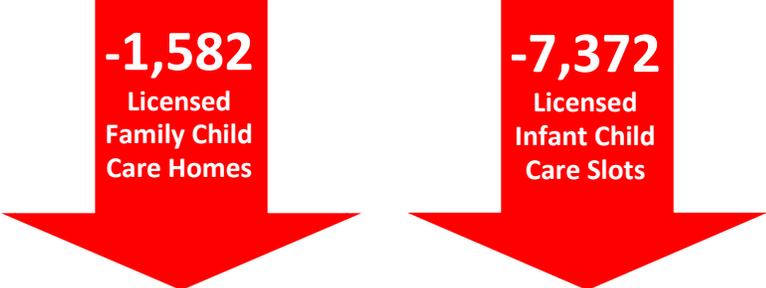
Colorado has a shortage of licensed, safe and affordable child care options and there is a growing need for child care as workforce participation grows. This bill would ensure Colorado takes a deep look at why we have such limited access to child care and requires the development of a strategic action plan to remedy the concerning decline in both infant and family child care.

Overcoming Barriers to Offering Infant & Family Child Care

Demand for child care is most heaviest for infants, but families often find few licensed options. In many counties, there are no child care centers, making family child care homes the only option working families have for licensed child care. Understanding the reasons for a lack of infant and family child care, and developing a comprehensive plan to address these obstacles, can improve access for families and communities.

- **Every single county** in Colorado experienced a drop in the number of licensed homes from 2010 to 2018 or had none to begin with.
- With just a few exceptions, most counties either experienced a **drop in the licensed capacity for infants** from 2010 to 2018 or had none to begin with.
- **Only five states saw a faster growth** in their child population than Colorado over the last 15 years, making the demand for child care even higher.

Between 2010 and 2018, Colorado saw a decline in both licensed family child care homes and licensed infant child care slots.



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Conduct A Detailed Analysis

The bill would ensure we have a detailed understanding of: 1) why infant and family child care are declining and 2) clear obstacles to promoting better access to licensed options.

Engage Diverse Stakeholders

The bill requires the engagement of diverse partners representing providers, educators, local government officials, business groups, parents, and policy organizations to develop the plan.

Recommend Policy Action

By Dec. 1 2019, the bill requires consensus-based recommendations to the legislature and other boards and commissions to remedy the issues identified in the analysis.

Almost **2/3** of mothers with children under 6 are working outside the home, compared with fewer than **1 in 10** in 1940—a sevenfold increase.



For every dollar spent in the Colorado early care and education sector, **\$2.25** is contributed to the state's economy.

Supporters of SB 19-XXX

Clayton Early Learning

Colorado Children's Campaign

Colorado PTA

Council for a Strong America

Denver's Early Childhood Council

Early Learning Ventures

Grand Beginnings (Grand County's Early Childhood Council)

Healthy Child Care Colorado

Huerfano- Las Animas (HuLA) Counties Early Childhood Advisory Council

Mile High Early Learning

Parent Possible

Raise Colorado (Prenatal, Infant, and Toddler Coalition)

Save the Children Action Network

About the Children's Campaign

The Colorado Children's Campaign is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization committed since 1985 to realizing every chance for every child in Colorado. We advocate for the development and implementation of data-driven public policies that improve child well-being in health, education and early childhood. We do this by providing Coloradans with trusted data and research on child well-being and organizing an extensive state-wide network of dedicated child advocates. For more information, please visit coloradokids.org.

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