



TELLER PARK **EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

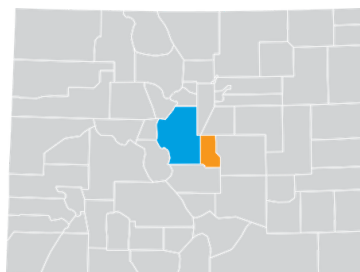


2025 **ANNUAL REPORT**



ABOUT TPECC

The **Teller Park Early Childhood Council (TPECC)** is the primary organization leading early childhood system-building efforts in Teller and Park Counties, an expansive region covering **2,770 square miles** with a combined population of over 42,000. In 2023, children under age five made up 3.7% of the population—totaling nearly **1,600 children**.



Our Mission

To develop and implement, through collaborative partnerships, an effective early childhood system that supports the needs of early childhood professionals, children, and their families.

Our Vision

All early childhood professionals, young children, and their families are happy, self-sufficient, and thriving within their communities.

We partner with providers, families, community organizations, and local leaders to ensure that **all children and families have access to high-quality early learning opportunities**. We play a critical role in strengthening our region's early childhood infrastructure through coaching, professional development, and collaborative system-building.



LEADERSHIP REFLECTIONS

As I reflect on fiscal year 2025–26, I am proud of all we have accomplished together to support children, families, and early childhood professionals across Teller and Park Counties. The profession of early care and education is rooted in relationships, and compassionate connections remain at the heart of every referral, training, collaboration, data-informed decision, and professional development opportunity we provide.

This new year brought continued growth in knowledge, partnerships, and community impact. Together, we strengthened supports for families, expanded opportunities for early childhood professionals, and continued building systems that help children enter school ready to thrive.

As we move into the coming year, our shared mission calls for continued innovation and collaboration to address workforce development, early intervention, mental health supports, and accessible, high-quality childcare for all families. We remain committed to creating equitable opportunities and responsive systems that meet the evolving needs of our communities.

I am honored to work alongside an exceptional team whose dedication and passion ensure children gain the skills and support they need for lifelong success. I am deeply grateful to our early childhood providers, Board members, families, staff, and community partners whose commitment and collaboration continue to advance our shared vision and strengthen outcomes for children across our region.

Thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and care. Together, we are strengthening early care and education, supporting families, and building a brighter future for the children and communities we serve.

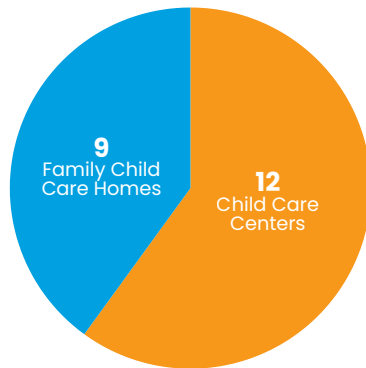
With gratitude,

Tiffany Pieper

TPECC & LCO Executive Director

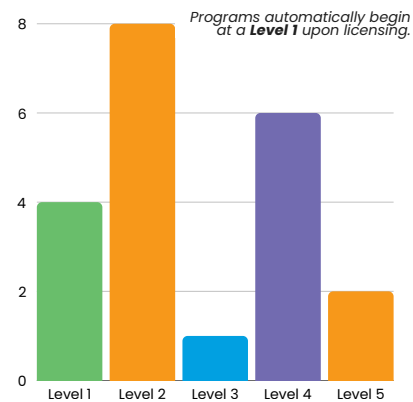
TELLER AND PARK COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

The charts below illustrate the composition of licensed child care providers in Teller and Park counties, including the breakdown between family child care homes (FCCHs) and centers, along with the current quality ratings for all programs. This snapshot offers a starting point for understanding our region's early care and education infrastructure and the ongoing challenges related to quality, capacity, and accessibility.



Licensed Providers

21



Quality Ratings

21

Understanding Our Local Child Care Capacity

Accurately capturing child care capacity in Teller and Park Counties is complex, as licensed capacity reflects physical space rather than staffing levels, quality standards, or program ratios. In these counties, there are approximately **1,698** children under age five and **631** licensed child care slots, resulting in a deficit of roughly **1,067** slots. Limited availability of infant and toddler care continues to constrain access in Park and Teller Counties, particularly for working families.



"Tiffany from TPECC is incredibly supportive, knowledgeable, and always willing to help. She's been a consistent partner through meetings, committees, and community work, and her guidance has made a meaningful impact on our program."

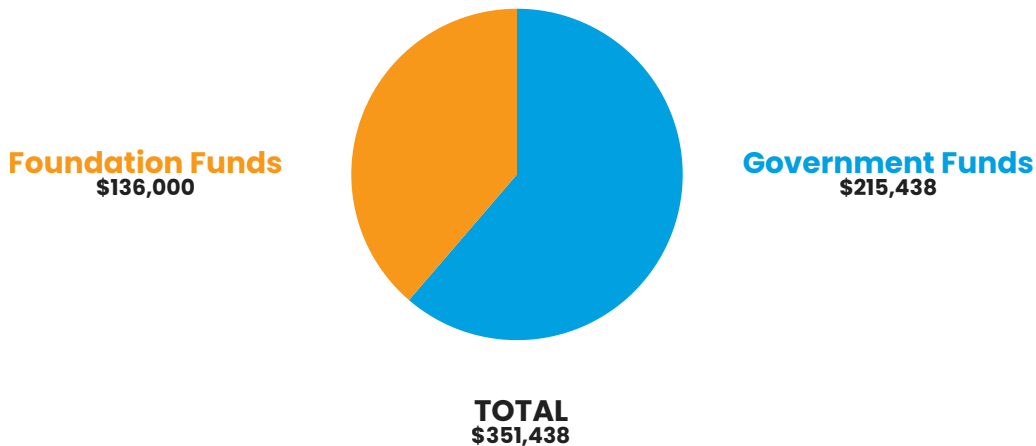
- TPECC Survey Respondent

TELLER AND PARK COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

TPECC is committed to transparency and responsible stewardship of all funds. The charts below highlight our primary sources of revenue and how those funds were allocated to support programs and operations during the reporting period.

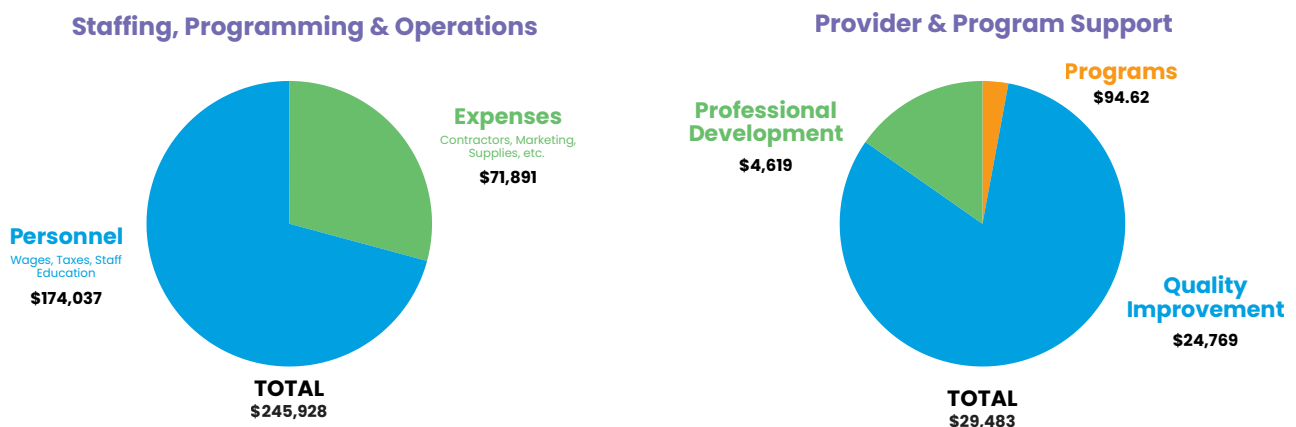
Revenue Sources

This chart shows the percentage of TPECC's funding received through government grants, foundation support, and events. These funds make it possible to sustain programs, build partnerships, and respond to local early childhood needs.

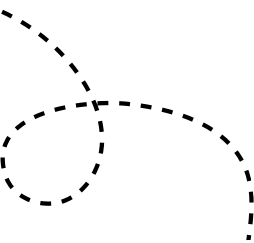


Expenditures

The first chart shows TPECC's overall spending on staffing, programming, professional development, and operations to maximize community impact. The second chart breaks down direct investments in program and provider support, highlighting our commitment to strengthening local early childhood services.



Financial totals are based on year-end accounting statements and may include timing differences related to state funding received at the close of the fiscal year.



2024–2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Goal 1: Provide Service Delivery

- **Objective 1:** Coordinate, enhance, expand, and advocate for high quality early childhood home visiting programs.
- **Objective 2:** Expand awareness of and access to Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Services.
- **Objective 3:** Improve the quality of Early Childhood Education environments and the early childhood workforce.

Strategic Goal 2: Maximize Family Knowledge/ Engagement

- **Objective 1:** Continue to centralize and increase parent and caregiver access to early childhood information.
- **Objective 2:** Encourage engagement and family management.
- **Objective 3:** Develop skills in evidence-based practices that support families in meeting their children's learning benchmarks.

Strategic Goal 3: Increase Meaningful and Equitable Access

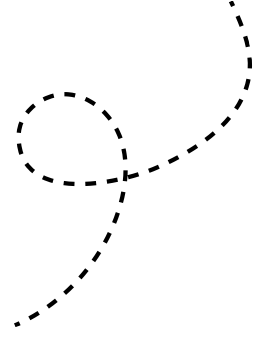
- **Objective 1:** Increase the availability of developmental screenings and referral processes in appropriate settings where children are served.
- **Objective 2:** Increase availability of affordable, convenient, and quality care, especially for infants and toddlers.
- **Objective 3:** Continue and scale collaboration and coordination between preschool and kindergarten programs to ensure successful transition.

Strategic Goal 4: Strengthen Business Practices

- **Objective 1:** Continue investing in quality-enhancing professional development opportunities and workforce recruitment and retention strategies across the early care and education landscape.
- **Objective 2:** Continue to develop a diverse early childhood workforce.
- **Objective 3:** Increase knowledge and supports around child care licensing and offer essential business support to child care providers.

Strategic Goal 5: Deepen Local Impact

- **Objective 1:** Expand our work by convening, learning, collaborating and advising on new ideas, including with state and local partners.
- **Objective 2:** Become more recognized as a leader in the community to build an infrastructure for information sharing and advocacy on issues within its program areas impacting children, birth to five, their families, and the professionals who serve them.
- **Objective 3:** Ensure financial sustainability.



2025 STRATEGIC PROGRESS

Strategic Goal 1: Provide Service Delivery



TPECC's HIPPy program provided **133 home visits** in 2025 while focusing on rebuilding enrollment and strengthening family engagement through relationship-based home visiting and community outreach. Efforts included recruitment events, library partnerships, and group-based activities that supported early literacy and caregiver connection. The program continued to expand visibility across rural communities while maintaining a strong emphasis on trust-building and consistent family engagement.

Quality Improvement coaching supported early childhood programs in strengthening instructional practice and improving classroom quality through individualized coaching and reflective support. Coaching focused on helping educators build skills, improve learning environments, and navigate quality systems such as Colorado Shines. This work also included supporting programs through transitions and system changes while maintaining a consistent focus on continuous improvement.

131

**Hours of Coaching
Provided**



Early Childhood Mental Health services provided ongoing, preventative support across **7 early childhood centers**, including **8** classroom cases and **7** child-specific cases. Consultation focused on strengthening educator capacity, supporting children's social-emotional development, and improving classroom environments through collaboration with teachers, directors, and families. The work remained highly relational and centered on early identification and coordinated support for children with emerging needs.



2025 STRATEGIC PROGRESS

Strategic Goal 2: Maximize Family Knowledge/ Engagement



Family Engagement & Access to Information

TPECC supported families within a maturing Universal Preschool system, providing increased navigation support as programs transitioned into Year 4 implementation, including continuity of care and structured matching processes. TPECC reached **167 enrolled children** (64 Park / 103 Teller) and assisted **13–21 families per month**. Engagement included community outreach events, with **7** families supported at Touch a Truck and **4** families applying for UPK at the Teddy Bear Picnic, along with direct support for **55** active Year 4 UPK applications.

Strengthening Family Navigation and Decision-Making

TPECC strengthened family understanding of early childhood systems through direct support with **UPK enrollment, developmental screening follow-up, and referral pathways**. This included development and use of family-facing EI and Child Find resources, along with ongoing one-on-one support to help families navigate evaluation processes and early intervention services.

Expanding Access to Early Childhood Information

TPECC continued to improve access to early childhood information through updates to the Truteller Early Years and Park Parents websites, distribution of kindergarten readiness and family engagement materials, and targeted outreach through community events and **trusted local partners** such as medical offices and schools.



“Classroom observations and coaching have been especially supportive for our new teachers.”

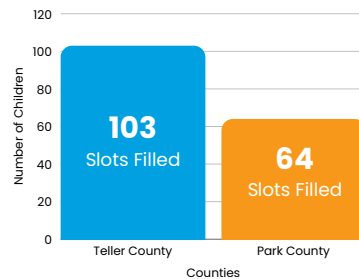
– TPECC Survey Respondent

2025 STRATEGIC PROGRESS

Strategic Goal 3: Increase Meaningful and Equitable Access

Access Through Universal Preschool & Child Care Navigation

Universal Preschool (UPK) continues to serve as a key access point for early care and education across Teller and Park Counties. In addition to supporting families through UPK enrollment, TPECC provided Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) services to **28 families** seeking child care, helping families identify programs that meet their needs and navigate available options across the region.



Expanding Developmental Screening & Referral Pathways

TPECC continued to expand developmental screening efforts across early childhood and community-based settings, **screening 103 children** and making **11 referrals** for additional evaluation and services. Screening activities were conducted in partnership with providers such as Baby Station and coordinated with The Resource Exchange to strengthen screening capacity for the 2025–26 year. Partnerships with healthcare and community organizations continue to improve access to screening and referral pathways across the region, helping connect children and families to services as early as possible.

Increasing Access to Early Care, Especially for Infants & Toddlers

Access to care remains a critical challenge, particularly for infants and toddlers. In response, TPECC **supported the expansion of care** through efforts such as the temporary emergency licensing of Little Baby Station in Woodland Park and continued collaboration with providers to increase available slots. These efforts reflect a responsive approach to addressing immediate gaps in care while working toward longer-term capacity building.

Strengthening Transitions into Kindergarten

TPECC supported smoother transitions into kindergarten through family-facing readiness resources and partnerships with local school districts. In 2025, **72 Kindergarten Readiness Backpacks** were distributed, including **8 to HIPPY families** and **64 to Woodland Park School District RE-2 students**. Additional efforts included distributing Kindergarten Roadmaps and engaging families in conversations about school readiness expectations. This work strengthens alignment between early childhood and K–12 systems while helping families prepare for a successful transition to kindergarten.

2025 STRATEGIC PROGRESS

Strategic Goal 4: Strengthen Business Practices

TPECC continued to **strengthen the early childhood workforce** through targeted professional development, business support, and licensing guidance. Efforts focused on building provider sustainability through Pyramid Plus scholarships, financial tools such as cost of care and budgeting templates, and access to training opportunities including PDIS and CPR.

Support for providers also included business and operational resources, such as tax credit information, insurance guidance, and connections to small business development opportunities. These efforts were complemented by ongoing outreach to Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers, including distribution of toolkits and resources to support informal providers.

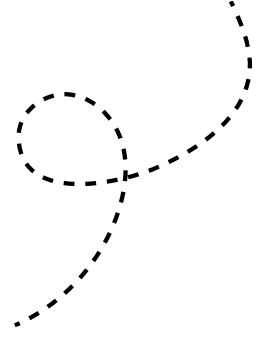
TPECC also supported the early childhood workforce pipeline by **engaging prospective providers** at multiple licensing levels and identifying new providers entering the system. Participation in advisory groups, workgroups, and regional collaborations further strengthened alignment across workforce development, licensing, and system-level supports.



"Nichole from TPECC has always been very supportive and prompt in responding to our needs."
– TPECC Survey Respondent

This chart illustrates the four key areas of provider support offered by TPECC, including professional development, business and financial supports, licensing and regulatory guidance, and Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregiver supports.





2025 STRATEGIC PROGRESS

Strategic Goal 5: Deepen Local Impact

Systems Collaboration & Regional Partnerships

TPECC continued to deepen its local and regional impact through active participation in cross-sector collaborations, including early childhood, human services, education, and mental health partners. Staff engaged in ongoing coordination through regional coalitions, policy councils, and interagency planning efforts, strengthening alignment across systems that support children and families. These partnerships reinforced TPECC's role as a connector within the early childhood system.

Community Presence & Visibility

TPECC maintained a consistent presence at local events and community gatherings to strengthen relationships with families and partners. Participation in community-based events supported direct engagement, increased awareness of early childhood resources, and strengthened trust and visibility across Park and Teller Counties.

Policy, Funding & Systems Sustainability

TPECC engaged in broader policy and sustainability conversations related to early childhood funding, workforce supports, and regional planning. This included systems-level coordination related to early childhood funding integrity, including collaboration on payment reconciliation processes and alignment between UPK, CCCAP, and provider reimbursement systems. Participation in statewide discussions, funding model exploration, and emergency planning initiatives reflected growing involvement in long-term infrastructure development for early childhood systems. These efforts reinforced TPECC's role in supporting both immediate coordination and long-term system sustainability.





THANK YOU

Our Generous Donors

- El Pomar Foundation-Teller
- Colorado Springs Health Foundation
- Colorado Housing and Finance Association (CHFA)
- Buell Foundation
- El Pomar Foundation-Park
- Sunstone Project Foundation
- Sam S Bloom
- Quick Foundation
- Burt Foundation
- Colorado Springs Health Foundation
- Ackerman
- Ent YES

Our Team

Tiffany Pieper, TPECC & LCO Executive Director
Ashlyn Sims, LCO Coordinator
Kacie Wheeler, HIPPY Coordinator
Jessica Ornelas, HIPPY Home Visitor
Nichole Worrel, Childcare/Workforce Navigator
Judy Bayley, Quality Improvement Coach
Tammy Hagins, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant

Our Board

Nicol Randolph, Chair
Ashlee Shields, Secretary
Natalie Hermansen, Financial Secretary
Amber Hardin, Member at Large
Andria Hladik, Member at Large



TELLER PARK **EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL**

 PO Box 777 Woodland Park, CO 80866

 719-659-3313

 coordinator@tellerparkecc.org

 www.tellerparkecc.org