



**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD  
LOCAL COORDINATING ORGANIZATIONS (LCOs)**

*Paper applications can be mailed to entities upon request. Please submit requests for a paper application to [cdec@state.co.us](mailto:cdec@state.co.us)*

[Click here](#) to scroll down to a map of catchment areas and a school district guide

***Do you need support with this application?***

*The Early Childhood Transition Team is here to help. We are offering virtual office hours, during which we will be available to answer your questions. Office hours will take place via Google Meet every Monday at 12:30pm and every Wednesday at 5:00pm through June 20.*

[Click here](#) to join our Monday afternoon office hours

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For more information, visit this [FAQ document](#) and our website at [cdec.colorado.gov/local-coordinating-organizations](http://cdec.colorado.gov/local-coordinating-organizations)

**SECTION I- OVERVIEW**

**A. The Establishment of Local Coordinating Organizations**

With increased funding through the passage of Proposition EE and bold early childhood initiatives led by Governor Jared Polis, Colorado is in a pivotal position to transform its entire early childhood landscape. In July of 2022, the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) will officially open and will be charged with overseeing this early childhood system, including the implementation of 10 hours of universal, voluntary preschool by July 2023, for children in the year before kindergarten.

Currently, Colorado is in the process of re-envisioning its infrastructure (e.g., leadership, capacity, workforce, resources, partnerships) to successfully launch a program of this scale. HB 22-1295 lays a foundation for this infrastructure by authorizing the creation of Local Coordinating Organizations (LCO) in all regions of the state. To ensure that community voices are elevated and local partnerships are fostered, LCOs will serve as CDEC’s partners in each area of the state and will implement the state’s early childhood vision in accordance with their local context.

**B. Expectations for LCOs**

Through this Request for Applications (RFA), CDEC is seeking to identify and support Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs) for the three-year period beginning July 1, 2022, continuing through June 30, 2025. The satisfactory execution of responsibilities



during year one (2022-2023) is a requirement to continue agency designation and funding for year two (2023-2024) and year three (2024-2025).

**At a high level, in their community, LCOs are charged to:**

- Develop a unified plan with community partners for the successful rollout of UPK and longer term birth to five goals for comprehensive early childhood services and supports for the catchment area
- Coordinate, at a minimum, enrollment for universal preschool in year one, adding other early childhood and family support programs as able
- Serve as a local resource for family access to quality early care and education from birth to five and beyond
- Engage with all community partners and stakeholders
- Strengthen the local early childhood system by supporting providers, growing capacity, and increasing access
- Plan for the allocation of equitable funding in the community, with consideration of a parent's choice of provider\*
- Administer additional functions related to early childhood as applicable

*\*Please note that the Department will administer funds directly to providers, unless the LCO explicitly requests and demonstrates the ability to serve this role (see page 7).*

**To fulfill this charge, LCOs must complete an annual community plan that describes their strategy to:**

- Ensure as many families as possible can access early childhood programs and services for which they are eligible, from birth to age five and beyond
- Ensure mixed delivery through the recruitment of both school- and community-based partners, as well as family child care providers and other participating entities
- Allocate per-child slots equitably across sites and programs
- Address capacity needs and assist in aligning all available resources with community demand
- Allow families as much choice as possible in their selection of child care providers
- Coordinate, at a minimum, enrollment for universal preschool in year one, adding other early childhood programs as able

At a minimum, this community plan includes the following deliverables:

1. Annual unduplicated count of all children served, with waiting list, vacancies, and family demand as available



2. Unified funding request for catchment area
3. Recruitment and enrollment plan
4. Budgets for all applicable funds, including administration
5. Initial, long term plans for coordinating other early childhood and family support services

A more thorough list of responsibilities for LCOs can be found in HB 22-1295 and are outlined in more detail in the draft LCO agreement [linked here](#) (for informational purposes only - you do not need to submit this agreement at this stage). CDEC will provide ongoing support to guide and assist LCOs with executing these responsibilities. CDEC will monitor LCOs and review all deliverables to determine if adequate implementation of the outlined responsibilities is occurring and to provide technical assistance, partnerships, and support in accordance with each community's needs. Over time, as the needs of Colorado families change and the state's early childhood infrastructure continues to develop, expectations for LCOs may shift and expand to best align with community needs.

### C. Funding

Because the size of the catchment area and complexity of work will vary for LCOs, not every entity will receive the same amount of funding. LCOs may receive various types of funding from CDEC including administrative funds.

- Administrative funding is the funding given to LCOs to perform their roles. This funding will account for the complexity of work for the LCO in their community. The details for this funding are forthcoming, but we expect to be able to accommodate reasonable requests such as funding to hire staff support, to add technological infrastructure, or other administrative purposes.
- Per-child funding will be allocated by CDEC based on the unified funding request submitted as part of the community plan.

## SECTION II- APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

### A. Eligible Applicants

Per HB 22-1295, any public agency or Colorado-based nonprofit organization may apply, including newly formed organizations, strategic partnerships between organizations, or other locally determined innovations. To account for the diversity of Colorado's regions and community based leadership, the LCOs will not necessarily be the same type of entity in every corner of the state.

### B. How to Apply

The LCO Application has three parts, which can be accessed on the CDEC website. Those



interested in applying must complete the Application and any attachments, and submit as one document by *June 20, 2022*, to *cdec@state.co.us*. Applicants may also mail the complete application, including attachments, to CDEC at 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203. The application packet must be received by the deadline.

**Part 1 – LCO Applicant Profile**

Complete the LCO Applicant Profile, which includes requests for adjustments to catchment area of coverage.

**Part 2 – Rationale and Evidence for Designation as LCO**

Use the questions in this section to describe why your organization is suited to serve as the LCO for your community.

**Part 3 – Partner Support**

As part of the application, applicants must have the support of local partners in their community. In accordance with HB 22-1295, applicants must have the support of (at a minimum) families, providers, Early Childhood Council, local and tribal agencies, school districts, charter schools, and local government within the community. Applicants may include more organizations, such as Administrative Units, community nonprofits, intermediary organizations, etc.

**C. Application Instructions, Deadline and Other Important Dates**

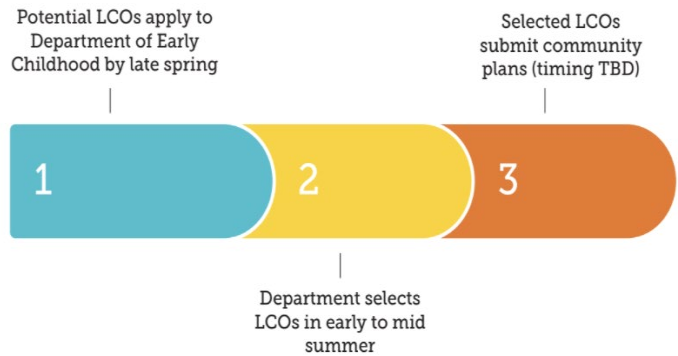
Complete the application, which can be done using a PDF reader (e.g., Adobe Acrobat). Individuals without access to a PDF reader can request a Google- or Word-Doc version of this application via email to *cdec@state.co.us*. Please include the application, with letters of support (or signatures on a single letter of support) either included in this file or attached in a separate file. An electronic copy of the application file must be sent via email to *cdec@state.co.us* by *4:30 PM on Monday, June 20, 2022*. Please indicate that *this is an LCO application in the subject line*.

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| May 11, 2022                         | Application Template released                                       |
| Mondays & Wednesdays beginning May 9 | Informational Q & A sessions for interested applicants              |
| June 20, 2022                        | Applications must be submitted by 4:30pm to <i>cdec@state.co.us</i> |
| July 15, 2022                        | Applicants notified of selection                                    |



### D. Selection Process

All applications will be reviewed for completeness and the review will determine whether the applicant has the capacity to fulfill LCO responsibilities. Interviews or additional application rounds may be conducted as part of the selection process. Successful applicants will be notified via email by July 15.



#### Selection Criteria:

- Quality and efficiency of the applicant’s proposed operating model and the likelihood the applicant will have the capacity, experience, and support to successfully fulfill the responsibilities and duties of an LCO. Specifically, the capacity to:
  - Support families in applying for early childhood and family support programs and services birth to five and beyond, where appropriate
  - Understand local family demand for universal preschool programming
  - Equitably match parents to preschool providers for the universal preschool program through a mixed delivery system that, to the fullest extent practicable, accommodates family choice
- Demonstrated community partnerships and support, and the feasibility and quality of the applicant’s plan to coordinate with other entities within the proposed community



**APPLICATION**

*Definitions*

- *Community: Catchment area for which the LCO is designated*
- *Community Partner: All early childhood partners within the catchment area for which the LCO is designated, including but not limited to ECCs, counties, school districts, child care providers, Head Start, CCR&R, FRCs, BOCES, AUs, advisory councils. Community partners will not be the same for every LCO but should be inclusive and representative of the local landscape.*

**PART 1: LCO APPLICANT PROFILE**

*Complete the following questions:*

**LCO Entity or Partnership Entities**

**Mailing Address**

**Physical Address**

**Primary Contact Name**

**Primary Contact Title**

**Telephone**

**Email**

**For which catchment area are you applying? Please see catchment area chart and map, where the name and boundary of each catchment area is indicated.**

**If you have significant concerns about the boundaries of your catchment area, or if you are requesting to partner with an LCO applicant in another catchment area, please detail that information here. Note that requests cannot result in a school district being split into multiple catchment areas.**



**PART 2 – RATIONALE AND EVIDENCE FOR DESIGNATION AS LCO**

*Use this section to provide a brief justification for your organization to be designated as the LCO for your community.*

**Describe your organizational capacity, or the capacity of your LCO partnership, to serve as LCO in your community.**

*Please include any history of successfully completing similar roles in your community in your response. Note that administrative funding will be available to support LCO capacity. (500 words or less)*

**In reflecting on the roles and responsibilities of an LCO, what do you see as your organization’s greatest strength? What will require the most support or growth for your organization? (500 words or less)**

**Why are you applying for the specific catchment area you indicated in Part 1? (250 words or less)**



**Briefly describe your history or future plans to foster collaboration between community partners in your proposed catchment area and elevate the perspectives and experiences of families and providers. In accordance with HB 22-1295, please reference your plans to coordinate with, at a minimum, Administrative Units, ECCs, Head Start Agencies, FRCs, and county departments of human services for the administration of CCCAP.**

**CDEC will administer funding to providers, unless LCOs have a demonstrated ability to do so themselves, and request the authority to manage provider payments. If your organization wishes to be responsible for the distribution and administration of public funding within your community, please describe your history and capacity to administer payments to providers. Otherwise you may leave this section blank. (350 words or less)**

**Please indicate your plan to ensure the availability of a mixed delivery system and the equitable allocation of funding among preschool providers based on family choice. If you are a direct service provider, please address your plan to ensure there are no conflicts of interest in serving this role. (250 words or less)**

**PART 3 – PARTNER SUPPORT**

As part of the application, applicants must have the support of local partners in their community. In accordance with HB 22-1295, applicants must have the support of (at a minimum) families, providers, Early Childhood Council, local and tribal agencies, school districts, charter schools, and local government within the community. Applicants may include more





**COLORADO**

**Department of Early Childhood**

organizations, such as Administrative Units, community nonprofits, intermediary organizations, etc.

Letters of support or signatures on a single letter of support may be used to indicate notification of and endorsement of application. Letters should include contact information if any follow up is needed as part of the application process. Please compile all letters into one document, include the partner's name along with each letter or signature, and attach it along with this application.

Please submit your completed application and letters of support as an email attachment to [cdec@state.co.us](mailto:cdec@state.co.us) by June 20, 2022.

***Do you need support with this application?***

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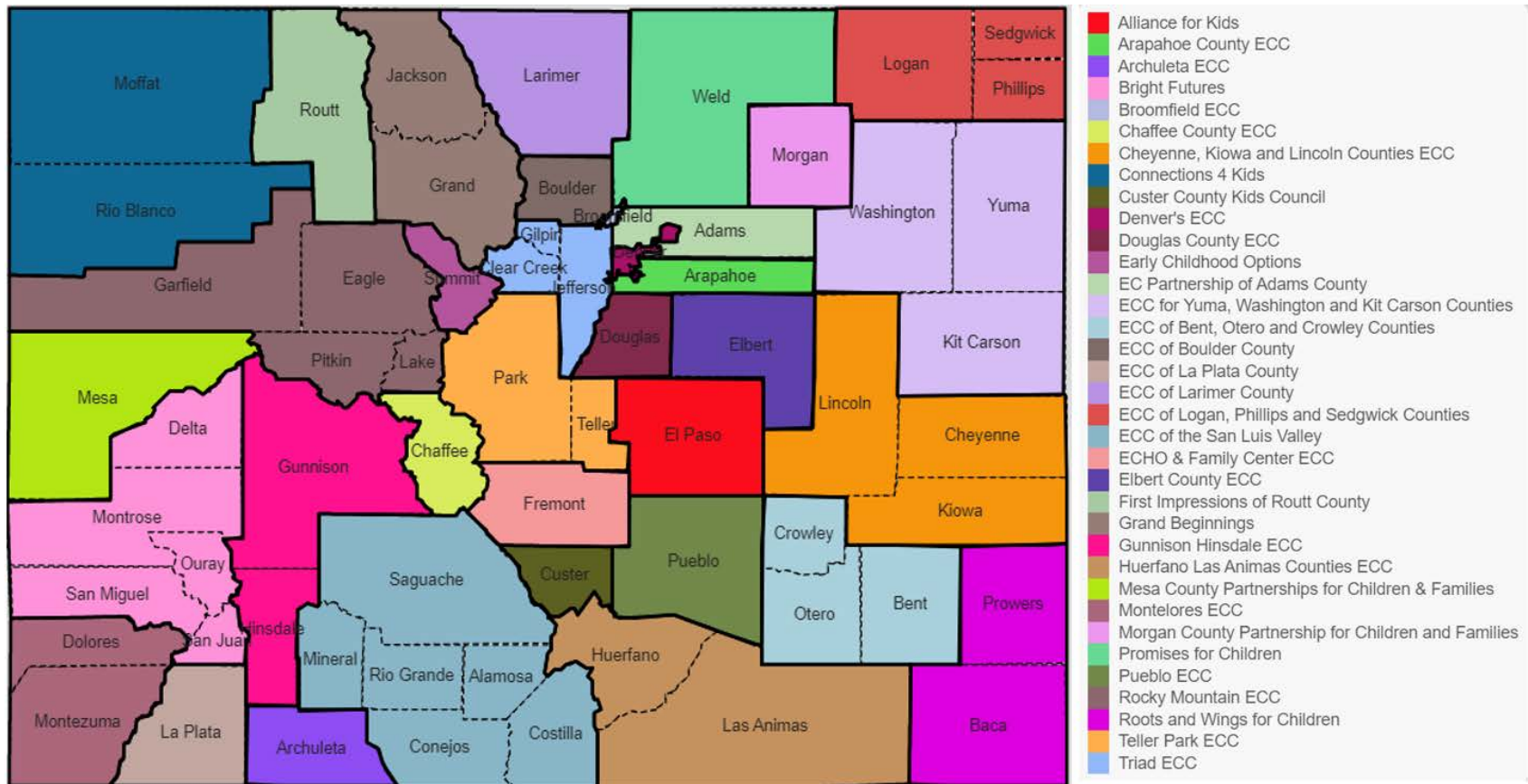
# LCO Catchment Areas

Click on the map below to download an interactive version

Continuing scrolling on this page to view the list of school districts in each catchment area

If the link does not work, please paste this into your browser:

[http://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=13YV6jWUwhphjqmHntq1sFklyvwM\\_iake](http://drive.google.com/uc?export=download&id=13YV6jWUwhphjqmHntq1sFklyvwM_iake)



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# List of School Districts in Catchment Areas

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| Connections 4 Kids   | First Impressions of Routt County                     | Grand Beginnings  | ECC of Larimer County                                       | Promises For Children  | Morgan County Partnership for Families   | ECC of Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick  | Denver's ECC   | Elbert County ECC   |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| Moffat County RE-No 1, Rangely RE-4, Meeker RE-1               | Steamboat Springs RE-2, Hayden RE-1, South Routt RE-3 | North Park R-1, West Grand 1-JT, East Grand 2                     | Poudre RE-1, Estes Park R-3, Thompson R2-J                  | Ault-Highland RE-9, Pawnee RE-12, Windsor RE-4, Eaton RE-2, Briggsdale RE-10, Prairie RE-11, Johnstown-Milliken RE-5J, Greeley 6, Platte Valley RE-7, Weld RE-1, Weld RE-8, Weld County RE-3J, | Wiggins RE 50-J, Weldon Valley Re 20-J, Fort Morgan RE-3, Brush RE 2-J   | Plateau RE-5; Valley RE-1; Buffalo RE-4J; Frenchman RE-3; Revere; Julesburg RE-1; Haxton RE-2J; Holyoke RE-1J   | Denver County 1  | Elizabeth, Kiowa C-2, Elbert 200, Agate 300, Big Sandy 100-J  |
| Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County                    | ECC of Boulder County                                 | Broomfield ECC  | Triad ECC   | Douglas County ECC   | Arapahoe County ECC  | ECC for Yuma, Washington & Kit Carson Counties  | Cheyenne, Kiowa, Lincoln ECC   | Alliance for Kids   |
| Westminster 50, Mapleton 1, Adams 12, Adams 14, Brighton 27-J, | St. Vrain Valley RE-1J, Boulder Valley RE-2           | Broomfield is served by school districts in other catchment areas | Gilpin County RE-1, Clear Creek RE-1, Jefferson County RE-1 | Douglas County RE-1  | Adams Arapahoe 28-J, Cherry Creek 5, Englewood 1, Sheridan 2, Littleton 6, Strasburg 31-J, Byers 32-J, Bennett 29-J, Deertrail 26J | Akron R-1, Lone Star 101, Otis R-3, Yuma 1, Wray RD-2, Woodlin R-104, Arickaree R-2, Liberty J-4, Idalia RJ-3, Arriba-Flagler C-20, Hi-Plains R-23, Stratton R-4, Bethune R-5, Burlington RE-6J | Limon RE-4J, Genoa-Hugo C-113, Karval RE-23, Kit Carson R-1, Cheyenne County RE-5, Eads RE-1, Plainview RE-2 | Lewis Palmer 38, Academy 20, District 49, Peyton 23-JT, Calhan RJ-1, Manitou Springs 14, Colorado Springs 11, Cheyenne Mountain 12, Fountain 8, Harrison 2, Widefield 3, Ellicott 22, Hanover 28, Miami/Yoder 60-JT, Edison 54-JT |



# List of School Districts in Catchment Areas

| ECHO & Family Center ECC   | Custer County Kids Council                     | Pueblo ECC                       | Huerfano-Las Animas Counties ECC  | ECC of Bent, Otero & Crowley Counties   | Roots and Wings for Children   | Rocky Mountain ECC  | Early Childhood Options  | Mesa County Partnership for Children & Families          |
|--|--|----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| Canon City RE-1, Cotopaxi RE-3, Fremont RE-2   | Custer County C-1                              | Pueblo City 60, Pueblo County 70 | Huerfano RE-1, La Veta RE-2, Aguilar Reorganized 6, Primero Reorganized 2, Trinidad 1, Hoehne Reorganized 3, Branson Reorganized 82, Kim Reorganized 88 | Fowler R-4J, Crowley County RE 1-J, Manzanola 3J, Rocky Ford R-2, Cheraw 31, Swink 33, East Otero RE-1, Las Animas RE-1, McClave RE-2 | Lamar RE-2, Granada RE-1, Holly RE-3, Pritchett RE-3, Springfield RE-4, Campo RE-6, Vilas RE-5, Walsh RE-1 | Garfield 16, Garfield RE-2, Eagle County RE-50, Roaring Fork RE-1, Aspen 1, Lake County R-1 | Summit RE-1  | Mesa County Valley 51, Plateau Valley 50, DeBeque 49-JT, |
| Bright Futures   | Gunnison Hinsdale ECC                          | Chaffee County ECC               | Teller Park ECC   | Montelores ECC  | ECC of La Plata County   | Archuleta ECC   | ECC of the San Luis Valley   |  |
| Delta County 50-J, Montrose County RE-1J, West End RE-2, Norwood R-2J, Telluride R-1, Ridgeway R-2, Ouray R-1, Silverton 1 | Gunnison Watershed RE-1J, Hinsdale County RE-1 | Buena Vista R-31, Salida R-32    | Platte Canyon RE-1, Park County RE-2, Woodland Park RE-2, Cripple Creek-Victor RE-1   | Dolores County RE NO 2, Dolores RE-4A, Montezuma Cortez RE-1, Mancos RE-6   | Durango 9-R, Bayfield 10 JT-R, Ignacio 11-JT   | Archuleta County 50 JT  | Mountain Valley RE-1, Center 26 JT, Moffat 2, Creede, Upper Rio Grande C-7, Sargent RE 33-J, Sangre De Cristo RE 22-J, Monte Vita C-8, Del Norte C-7, Alamosa RE-11J, North Conejos RE-1J, Sanford 6J, South Conejos RE-10, Sierra Grande R-30, Centennial R-1 |  |