

Healthy Child Care Colorado's *Advocacy Framework* reflects our priority to build safe, supportive, and healthy early childhood settings and systems where children and professionals learn and grow. We advocate for strong systems, standards, services, and adequate funding that contribute to a united and comprehensive approach to early childhood, both at the state and federal level. Through our efforts, we aim to elevate whole person health and well-being for children and the adults who care for them by increasing equitable access to quality services, promoting access and inclusion for all children birth to age eight, and elevating early childhood professionals and caregivers.

Promote Quality Services Across Early Childhood Settings

- **Evidence-Based Programs and Practices:** Support the implementation and expansion of high-quality, evidence-based early childhood programs that ensure all children receive the best possible care and education.
- **Inclusive and Safe Environments:** Advocate for efforts that ensure early childhood settings are safe, supportive, healthy, and inclusive for all children, regardless of their backgrounds, abilities, or geographic location.
- **Health Across All Domains:** Elevate policies, standards, and services that promote all domains of health for children and the adults who care for them, including but not limited to physical, mental, social-emotional, environmental, and oral health.

Increase Equitable Access to Health Services and Supports

- **Affordable Child Care:** Advocate for increased investment in affordable child care options to ensure that all families in Colorado, regardless of their backgrounds, abilities, or geographic location, have access to quality early childhood education.
- **Funding for Early Childhood Systems:** Push for enhanced funding for early childhood systems and services, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to meet the diverse needs of children, families, and providers.
- **Systems Change and Collaboration:** Foster collaboration across agencies, stakeholders, and philanthropic partners to promote efficient, integrated early childhood services that improve outcomes for children and families and elevate community voice.

Support and Elevate the Health and Well-being of the Early Childhood Workforce

- **Fair Compensation:** Advocate for policies that ensure competitive wages and benefits for early childhood educators, those serving in **early childhood consultative roles**, and other early childhood professionals to recognize their essential role and retain talent in the field.
- **Fund Training and Development of Career Pathways:** Promote increased funding for comprehensive training programs that enhance the skills and knowledge of early childhood professionals and promote career pathways and professional advancement.
- **Workforce Support:** Develop initiatives that provide ongoing professional development and mental health resources for educators, fostering a healthy work environment and reducing burnout.

To learn more about how advocacy fits into our broader organizational mission and goals, view HCCC's [Strategic Roadmap](#).