

# EARLY CHILDHOOD GOVERNANCE IN MISSOURI AND COLORADO: A COMPARISON



	MISSOURI OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD	COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
Administration	Governor Mike Parson (Republican)	Governor Jared Pollis (Democrat)
Method of Creation	<a href="#">Executive Order 21-02</a>	<a href="#">HB 21-1304 (Legislation)</a>
Organizational Structure	Consolidation into an existing state agency: <a href="#">MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education</a>	Creation of a new cabinet agency: <a href="#">Colorado Department of Early Childhood</a>
Leadership	Assistant Commissioner <a href="#">Dr. Pam Thomas</a>	Executive Director <a href="#">Lisa Roy</a>
Governance	<a href="#">Commissioner Margie Vandeven</a> (appointed by Governor) and <a href="#">State Board of Education</a> (8 members appointed by Governor and confirmed by Senate)	Dr. Roy is a cabinet director reporting directly to Governor Pollis.
Creation Timeline	Executive Order 21-02 was issued on January 28, 2021, establishing the Office of Childhood with an effective/operational date of August 28, 2021 (7 month ramp up period).  Following a 60-day waiting period during which the legislature has the right to respond to executive orders (in this case they did not), office integration efforts began April 1, 2021. This integration was completed on August 13, 2021.	HB21-1304 was signed into law by Governor Pollis on June 23, 2021. The law established an effective/operational date of July 1, 2022 (1 year ramp up period).  A subsequent bill, HB22-1197 advanced the agency’s start date to March 1, 2022, to allow for the hiring of key staff in advance of the July 1 “go live” date.  An interagency agreement with the CO Department of Human Services covers several administrative processes - including payroll, invoicing - that weren’t ready to transition when CDEC launched. This agreement will end on September 30, 2023.
Before and After Structures	The creation of Missouri’s Office of Childhood involved the integration and colocation of services previously housed across three state agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MO Department of Social Services (come visiting, child care subsidies, and professional development)</li> <li>• MO Department of Health and Senior Services (home visiting, child care licensing, safe sleep/cribs,</li> </ul>	Prior to the transition, many of Colorado’s early childhood programs were delivered via an Office of Early Childhood within the Department of Human Services, while others were housed within the Colorado Department of Education. The creation of DEC consolidates programs from both into a separate cabinet agency structure.  Additional programs housed within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Child and Adult Care Food Program [CACFP] and

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	<p>Parent Advisory Council, professional development), and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (home visiting, quality rating system, early intervention/Part C, prekindergarten and early childhood special education, professional development).</li> </ul>	<p>Women, Infants and Children [WIC], were not included in the initial transition, but were suggested for revisiting after the initial start-up phase.</p>
<p><b>Programs Housed</b></p>	<p><b>Home Visiting and Parent Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developmental screenings</li> <li>• School-based Parents as Teachers, federal &amp; state-funded home visiting models</li> <li>• Safe Sleep &amp; Safe Cribs</li> </ul> <p><b>Early Intervention (First Steps, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child find</li> <li>• Referral</li> <li>• Evaluation and Assessment services,</li> <li>• Home visits and other services for children with significant developmental delays or disabilities and their families.</li> </ul> <p><b>Quality Programs (Early Learning, Preschool, and Afterschool):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal (IDEA Part B/619, &amp; Title 1 preschool programs</li> <li>• State-funded preschool</li> <li>• Afterschool programs</li> <li>• Professional Development,</li> <li>• Quality Assurance Report (QAR)</li> </ul> <p><b>Child Care Compliance (via 7 regional offices):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensing</li> <li>• Inspections</li> <li>• Investigations</li> </ul> <p><b>Child Care Subsidy</b></p>	<p><b>DEC includes five main divisions:</b></p> <p><b>Division of Universal Preschool</b> - Provides access to a minimum of 10 hours of voluntary, high-quality preschool to every child in the year before kindergarten.</p> <p><b>Division of Early Learning, Access, and Quality (DELAQ)</b> - Increases access to affordable, high-quality early learning environments and identifies innovative approaches to achieving school readiness, safe, stable, and nurturing environments, and resilience in early childhood.</p> <p><b>Division of Early Learning, Licensing and Administration (DELLA)</b> - Licenses and monitors approximately 5,000 child care facilities in Colorado, including child care centers, preschools, family child care homes, neighborhood youth organizations, and children’s resident camps, to ensure safe, qualified care.</p> <p><b>Division of Early Childhood Workforce (DECW)</b> - Professionalizes, honors, and grows early care and education professionals to recruit and retain a diverse, well- compensated, highly competent, and thriving early childhood workforce across all Colorado communities.</p> <p><b>Division of Community and Family Support (DCFS)</b> - Provides families and communities across Colorado with the resources needed to support young children to be healthy, valued, and thriving in the places that they spend their time, beyond child care and preschool.</p> <p>DCFS is organized into four units: Early Childhood Mental Health, Early Intervention Colorado, Family Strengthening, and State Systems Building Initiatives. Each unit focuses on strengthening the abilities of families and communities so that all children can be healthy, valued, and thriving.</p>

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		<p>ECMH includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child First</li> <li>• Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation</li> <li>• Incredible Years</li> <li>• ECMH Support Line</li> </ul> <p>Family Strengthening includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI)</li> <li>• Nurse-Family Partnership</li> <li>• Parents as Teachers</li> <li>• SafeCare Colorado</li> <li>• Healthy Steps</li> <li>• Colorado Community Response (CCR)</li> <li>• Family Resource Centers</li> <li>• Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)</li> <li>• Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)</li> <li>• Colorado Child Abuse Prevention Trust Fund (CO CAP)</li> <li>• Colorado Fatherhood Program</li> <li>• Family Support Through Primary Prevention</li> <li>• Mobile Child Care for Substance Abuse Treatment Pilot</li> </ul> <p>The State Systems Building Initiatives Unit maximizes program impact, access, and delivery across Colorado’s early childhood system by coordinating operations, funding streams, and resources to promote strategic alignment and meaningful implementation of efforts designed to support families, young children, and professionals. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colorado Shines Brighter Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five (PDG B-5)</li> <li>• Colorado Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS): Health Integration Prenatal-to-Three Project</li> </ul>
<p><b>Total Budget/FTEs</b></p>	<p>FY22 - \$660 million (excludes one-time COVID relief dollars)</p> <p>150 FTEs</p>	<p>2022-2023 - \$796.7 million</p> <p>208 FTEs</p>