

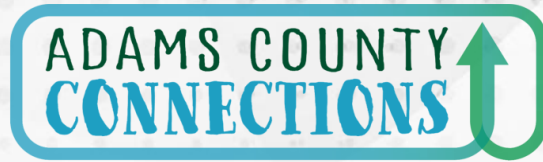
Connecting Families to Early Childhood Resources



Adams UPK Information Session and Office Hours

December 2025





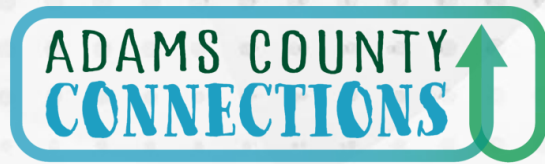
Connecting Families to Early Childhood Resources

MISSION:

Adams County Connections aligns organizations and resources to ensure high quality early childhood service delivery is seamless for families, providers, and most importantly, children.

VISION:

Every young child in Adams County has equitable access to high quality early childhood education and care that sets them on a path to success.



Connecting Families to Early Childhood Resources

VALUES:

- **We Partner:** We recognize all members of the Adams County community as valued allies in supporting our youngest residents, welcoming their ideas, contributions and collaborations with open arms.
- **We communicate:** We value human connection and will always personally respond to questions, requests, emails and calls.
- **We support quality childhood experiences:** We work to have all Adams county youngest learners in a high quality preschool experience
- **We value those who dedicate their lives to serving children:** We recognize the hard work that goes into caring for our youngest residents and find ways, big and small, to acknowledge, validate, and celebrate their impact.
- **We empower:** We continue to support partners, families, and communities until they are confident and equipped with the capacity to thrive on their own.
- **Continuous improvement:** We see challenges as learning opportunities, and continually evolve to better serve children, families, communities, and partners.
- **Empathy:** We strive to recognize and understand the perspectives, feelings and lived experiences of others, including *and especially* those most different from ourselves, and give one another grace.
- **Justice and Equity:** We affirm the dignity and worth of each member of our community, while recognizing and working to combat the structural forces (such as racism) that have harmed some groups while benefiting others.

Goal 1:

Strengthen community plan and sustainability, considering future leadership and system shifts.

Goal 2:

ACC partners will ensure that at least 97% of Universal Preschool (UPK) applications submitted result in children receiving services in SY 2026–27, while also achieving a 5% increase in UPK enrollment in Tier 1 neighborhoods.

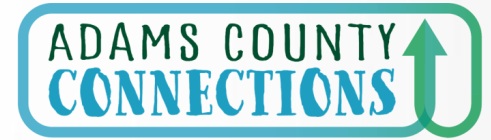
Goal 3:

ACC will host at least 90 total high-quality outreach activities (events, visits, and digital engagement) across the community by SY 2026–27, ensuring that at least 40% occur in Tier 1 neighborhoods (including social media).

Goal 4:

ACC will complete a total of 90 provider visits to support quality, recruitment, and retention with at least 40% occur in Tier 1 neighborhoods and will ensure that at least 20% of CCCAP providers transition to UPK providers by SY 2026–27.

Introductions, Purpose and Objectives



Connecting Families to Early Childhood Resources

Introductions and Purpose

- Provide local support to providers participating in the UPK program.
- Share the most recent updates from CDEC and answer provider questions.

Objectives

- To create a safe space for providers where they can share experiences and build relationships with Adams County Connections LCO staff and other providers within our catchment area.
- To promote networking, best practices and collaboration among participants.



CELEBRATION

Community Events



North Pole



Night MAC



Operation Freebird



26-27 Launch

Key Highlights

- **Record participation:** 5,319+ applications submitted, far surpassing last year's launch-day total.
- **Unprecedented traffic:** Nearly 1,700 concurrent users at launch and 4,200+ unique visitors in the first hour. The highest engagement in UPK history.
- **High satisfaction:** Early post-application survey results show 83% of families were satisfied with their experience.
- **System resilience:** Despite short periods of latency caused by 10x last year's peak traffic, the system remained fully operational with no crashes and no timeouts.
- **Fast stabilization:** Performance normalized within 45 minutes, with stable CPU, normal load times, and no detectable latency issues for the rest of the day.

12/17/2025

Adams 1179 applications submitted

Statewide 15031 Submitted



COLORADO

Department of Early Childhood

December 2025 Provider Updates

CDEC Accessibility Statement 1

Accessibility Statement

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) is committed to providing all Coloradans with equitable access to our services. CDEC is committed to providing timely responses to reports of inaccessible information or technology, or requests for a reasonable accommodation or modification. Such a report or request can be made to CDEC_ADA@state.co.us or by calling (720) 947-5020.

For questions regarding the Colorado Universal Preschool Program ("UPK"), please contact the Program directly at cdec_upk-program@state.co.us.

CDEC Accessibility Statement 2

CDEC shall make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures in an effort to ensure CDEC programs are accessible to individuals with disabilities and to ensure nondiscrimination against persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, in addition to and beyond CDEC's efforts regarding reasonable modifications to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities, CDEC is committed to ensuring access and preventing discrimination against all persons, and is committed to providing access and services for individuals whose first language is not English.

Agenda

- Reminders
 - Payments/Reconciliations
 - Children in Selected/Accepted Status
- Updates
 - Provider Handbook has been updated!
 - Reporting Reminders
- Quarterly Reporting
- Provider Office Hours
- Supplemental Hours Information
- 26/27 Program Year Updates
- Provider Payments and Funding
- Provider Resources

Reminders

- **Children in Selected Status for 25/26:**
 - **For the Direct Enrollment phase, children in Selected Status need to be either Accepted or Declined for the appropriate reason by the provider in their BridgeCare Provider Portal.**
- **Children in Accepted Status for 25/26:**
 - **Enroll your “Accepted” students in the Provider Portal**

All of your UPK students need to be in “Enrolled” status in the provider portal for the 25-26 school year in order to ensure payment.

If a student will not be attending your program, you must enroll to “unenroll” using the same date as start date and end date.

Updates

- Reporting Reminders
 - Please review the required reporting outlined in your Provider Agreement.
 - Reporting Requirements- Page 3 of Exhibit A
 - 1. Provider agrees to submit:
 - any additional and case-by-case specific documentation required to effectuate the Payment Schedule as laid out herein;
 - Monthly and or quarterly reports utilizing the templates attached to this Contract as Exhibit C regarding registration, enrollment, verification of a child's eligibility status, staff compensation, the delivery of services and expenditures.
 - The quarterly reports will be submitted by the Provider by December 31st, March 31st, June 30th. The quarterly reports shall be submitted through a system designated by CDEC.
 - The first quarterly reporting submission is due on January 16th. See the next slide for detailed information on reporting requirements.

Quarterly Reporting 1

Universal Preschool Provider Expenditure Reporting for the 2025-2026

Background: Providers will need to report expenditures on the funding that was received each year through the Universal Preschool Program (UPK). For additional information, see Provider agreement and the Expenditure Reporting memo, [OM-UPK-2024-0003](#).

To streamline your UPK Reporting and Processes, the Provider Expenditure Reporting Process is now available in [Metrix Enroll](#) on your dashboard.

Resources:

- [Expenditure Memo](#) - outlines standard requirements for Providers
- [2024-25 Quarterly Expenditure Template & Tools](#) (Q1 due January 16th) (The template provided can be used as your record-keeping tool to keep track of what you will enter into Metrix Enroll)
- [2025-26 Expenditure Reporting Guidance](#)
- [2025-26 FCCH-Universal Preschool Program -Expenditure Reporting Guidance](#)
- [Expenditure Reporting FAQs](#) - answers to common questions from Providers
- [Metrix Enroll](#) - dashboard where you will submit reporting (same account you access your UPK monthly payment reports)

Quarterly Reporting 2

Expenditure Reporting quarterly schedule:

- Quarter 1 (Q1) - August - November (Due January 16th)
 - Deadline extended due to the holidays
- Quarter 2 (Q2) - December - February (Due March 31st)
- Quarter 3 (Q3) - March - May (Due June 30th)

Please follow the steps below to submit your Universal Preschool expenditures report:

- [Click here](#) for visuals on the detailed step-by-step process.

Quarterly Reporting 3

UPK Program Survey

Background: This information will be used to support aligned Resource Bank professional learning, tools, and materials. This survey collects essential background information about your program, including:

- Program structure
- Curriculum and Assessment
- Educator compensation

Schedule: This survey is completed only once at the beginning of each school year. For 2025-26, the due date is January 16, 2026.

Important Notes:

- For multi-site or district-based programs, please only complete one survey that represents all centers/schools in your organization/district, unless you implement a variety of models, then please complete one for each site with a different model.
- This survey will be shared via MetrixIQ and will be completed through a link from Survey Sparrow.

Please begin gathering the necessary data and ensure that both reporting components above are completed and submitted by the deadlines stated in the Schedules.



Provider Office Hours

To help support these reporting requirements, CDEC will host open office hours on **Wednesday, December 17th, from 5-6 pm**. If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please don't hesitate to contact our Payments and Reporting team in advance. Submit a [request here](#).

UPK Provider Reporting - open office hours

- Wednesday, December 17 · 5:00 - 6:00 pm
- Time zone: America/Denver
- Google Meet joining info
- Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/rxc-zpzi-smj>
- Or dial: (US) +1 347-620-0922 PIN: 556 786 652#
- More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/rxc-zpzi-smj?pin=5925360302608>
- [Provider questions submission form](#)

If you have any additional questions or need assistance, please contact your LCO.

Quarterly Reporting 4

QRIS/PDIS Profile Updates

To streamline the process for reporting data on your staff and their credential levels in the near future, please begin working with your staff to be sure their PDIS profiles are connected to your program's QRIS/Colorado Shines profile. This data is not due by 12/31, but will be required to be completed by the end of this school year. From the Provider Hub, access your QRIS profile to:

- View staff associated with your program on the QRIS Workforce page
 - Note, this data comes from PDIS. If you are missing any staff, please have them update their employment and job role in the PDIS as described below.
 - View your licensed classrooms
 - Add classroom sessions, as needed, and select staff who work in each classroom session

Updating PDIS Employment Information From their PDIS profile, all staff need to:

- Select “Update My Employment” button on their PDIS dashboard
- Add your program as a “New” role in their employment history, making sure that lead teachers choose the “Job Role” of “UPK Lead Teacher”
- This guide walks through the steps of adding or updating employment information in the PDIS. See the guide in Spanish as well.

Take Action Now to Claim the New \$1,200 Care Worker Tax Credit

Want to earn \$1,200 in five minutes in recognition for your education and care for young children? Complete the [Care Worker Tax Credit attestation](#) today!

Qualifying early childhood professionals and family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) caregivers are eligible for the refundable \$1,200 Colorado [Care Worker Tax Credit](#). To claim the credit, you must [complete the Care Worker Tax Credit attestation](#) in the PDIS (My Account > Profile Settings).

The attestation takes less than five minutes to complete!

The new Care Worker Tax Credit is *in addition to* the Early Childhood Educator Income Tax Credit, which is available to qualifying early childhood educators who hold an active Early Childhood Professional Credential (ECPC) in 2025.

You could receive nearly \$3,000 back in your 2025 Colorado tax refund if you qualify for both credits.

Please help spread the word on these two tax credits by sharing this flyer: [Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Tax Credits](#).

Supplemental Hours Information

The most recent award date in the supplemental hours report is 11/11/2025. Please download an updated report to view students who have been awarded supplemental hours.

- The Provider download report includes information about children's eligibility for supplemental hours. If you need additional support with your provider download or understanding the columns in your report please contact your LCO.
- Moving forward award decisions will be based on actual, confirmed funds instead of financial projections, which will require review of actual funded students. This shift ensures the accuracy and stability of our award decisions, preventing potential overcommitments.

Reminders- Supplemental Hours Information 2 of 4

Note: Your download will be titled something similar to “Matched-MM-DD-YYYY” with a timestamp indicating the date and time you pulled this report. You may need to expand the column and wrap the text to see all of the information in each cell.

Please note that verification for supplemental hours is a manual process and may take 4-6 weeks to complete. Only applications that have been submitted will be reviewed for supplemental hours.

If you need additional support with your provider download or understanding the columns in your report please contact your LCO.

Reminders-Supplemental Hours Information 3 of 4

Report columns meaning:

Name of Column	Provider Download report name: Your download will be titled something similar to “Matched-MM-DD-YYYY” with a timestamp indicating the date and time you pulled this report.
Child Application Submitted at (Column A):	Date when the application was initially submitted
Child Application Last Updated:	Date when the application was last updated
Child Soft Eligibility: Hours Per Week (HPW)	<p>This indicates what hours a family will likely qualify for based on what they submitted in their UPK application. *any 30-hour eligibility must be verified and awarded before those funds are available.*</p> <p>Values in this column:</p> <p>15 HPW = only eligible for 15 HPW (no additional review will take place, not eligible for supplemental hours)</p> <p>15 HPW or 30 HPW (Supplemental Hours) = Definitely eligible for 15 HPW, pending review of additional 30 HPW.</p>

Reminders-Supplemental Hours Information 4 of 4

Name of Column	Provider Download report name: Your download will be titled something similar to “Matched-MM-DD-YYYY” with a timestamp indicating the date and time you pulled this report.
Family Supplemental Hours Awarded	This column contains the manual review, determination and upload of HPW from data in column P. *Note* These reports are different from 24-25. This column states either : “Yes, 30 HPW awarded,” which means supplemental hours have been awarded, and this family qualifies for supplemental hours. “No, Standard HPW Award,” which means this family qualifies for their standard hours per week “To be Determined,” which means this application has not yet been reviewed for supplemental hours.
Family Supplemental Hours Award Determination Date	The date in this column indicates the date this application was reviewed and verified for eligibility for the standard HPW or was awarded supplemental hours. If there is no date, it means that this application has not yet been reviewed for supplemental hours.

26/27 Program Year Updates-Program Setup Form

- The Program Set Up Form for 2026-2027 is still live!
 - Link to [2026-27 - Provider Guide - Program Setup Form](#)
 - Please review this guide to complete the PSUF for your 2026-27-programs located in your UPK Portal.
- Providers will need to submit a Calendar for the 2026-2027 PY. Please reference the [Calendar Submission Guidance](#) and use the [Universal Preschool 26-27 Calendar Submission form](#) to upload your Calendar for the 26/27 PY by August 1st 2026.
- If you missed the November 5th deadline, you are still able to submit your Program Set Up Form. Forms submitted after this deadline will be reviewed and approved sometime in January.

26/27 Program Year Updates-Provider/Family Timelines

- The 2026-2027 Provider Timeline is LIVE!
 - Link to [2026-27 Provider Timeline](#)
 - Beginning November 24th through December 5th Providers can add seats through the provider portal in preparation for the application opening and pre-registration phase.
 - To remove seats, contact your LCO. If program changes are needed, submit those requests to your LCO, though the changes will not be updated in the portal until January 2026.
 - Pre-Registration for the 26-27 PY will open up on December 9th. Families requesting Continuity of Care (CoC) placements, sibling attending, or child of an employee will be matched during this round. Families must complete their CoC registration by February 2nd.
 - The 1st family-to-provider matching round will run on February 16th 2026.
 - The 2nd and final family-to-provider matching round will run on March 16th 2026.
 - Direct Enrollment for the 26-27 PY will begin on April 1st.
- The 2026-2027 Family Timeline is also LIVE!
 - Link to [2026-27 Family Timeline](#)



2026-27 UPK Timelines

Pre-Registration

December 9, 2025 - February 2, 2026	Pre-registration application window for families requesting Continuity of Care (CoC) placements, sibling attending, or child of an employee.
February 2-11, 2026	Families must accept pre-registration matches.

Family Matching

December 9, 2025 - February 2, 2026	Registration through upk.Colorado.gov opens for families.
February 16, 2026, by 5 pm	CDEC runs the first family-to-provider matching round.
February 25 - March 6, 2026	Families notified of first round matches by 5 pm. Families must accept or decline by 11:59 pm on March 6.



2026-27 UPK Timelines

March 16, 2026, by 5 pm	CDEC runs the second family-to-provider matching round.
March 24 - March 31, 2026	Families notified of second round matches. Families must accept or decline by 11:59 pm on March 31.

Direct Enrollment

December 9th, 2025, through the end of the 2026-27 school year	<p>IEP: As soon as a family submits their application and is assigned to an AU, the AU can place the student into a program using the Program ID through the AU Portal.</p> <p>Families will accept matches as they happen throughout the school year, and providers will finish the enrollment process, moving students into Enrolled status.</p>
April 1 until the end of the 2025-26 school year	Non-IEP: Families enroll directly through providers.

Provider Payments and Funding-Provider Payments

- Please review the [Four-Year-old Preschool Services Funding and Payments \(25-26\) Operation Memo](#) for information on funding and payments.
- Providers must be licensed by CDEC to deliver program services to eligible children and must have a signed Universal Preschool provider contract with CDEC.
- Program services are defined as:
 - Per Rule and Regulations- Instructional and educational services provided to an eligible child by an eligible preschool provider pursuant to the CO Universal Preschool Program.
 - Minimum hours of service required in rule are defined by your submitted UPK calendar.
 - Services therefore begin on the first day defined within your UPK Calendar and end on the last day defined in your UPK Calendar.
- Per the Provider Agreement, you can not be paid for services provided before the contract is executed. Executed means that all necessary parties have signed including department representatives.
- Providers must enroll eligible children in their preschool program to qualify as participating providers.
- Providers must complete an enrollment form and have children enrolled via the Application Portal to be eligible for payment.

Provider Payments and Funding-Payment Reconciliation

- Please see the newly published [Payment Reconciliation Memo here](#).
 - Correction Note: The reconciliation payment schedule previously stated that submissions should be for enrollment months listed and now accurately states submissions are for the months payments were received.
- Depending on the timing of the Provider's entry in the UPK application system, known as the UPK Portal or BridgeCare, CDEC may include payments through a reconciliation payment process or in a monthly payment, whichever is more timely. See below for Reconciliation Payment schedule for 2025-2026, (also included in Operation Memo: [OM-UPK-2025-0001](#)
*includes final reconciliation if needed.
- [Reconciliation Payment Schedule 2025-2026](#)

Provider Payments and Funding-Payment Reconciliation

- Please see the newly published [Payment Reconciliation Memo here](#).
- Depending on the timing of the Provider's entry in the UPK application system, known as the UPK Portal or BridgeCare, CDEC may include payments through a reconciliation payment process or in a monthly payment, whichever is more timely. See below for Reconciliation Payment schedule for 2025-2026, (also included in Operation Memo: [OM-UPK-2025-0001](#))

Reconciliation Payment Schedule 2025-2026

Payment Date	For enrollment months	Deadline to Report Payment Issues
December 31, 2025	August - November	December 5, 2025
March 31, 2026	December - February	March 6, 2026
June 22, 2026*	March - May	June 5, 2026

*includes final reconciliation if needed.

Verifying COC - Real time placement

What's New

- Providers must verify all CoC applications

How to Verify CoC Students

1. Log in → Go to Matched tab
2. Look for NEW students with CoC tags
3. Check the box → Click Verify Child
4. Answer Yes / No to CoC questions → Verify

[CoC Verification Guide for Providers](#)

Rumor Control

- CCCAP waiver and impact on freeze
- UPK funding is not “taking” from CCCAP
- Funding buckets are separate

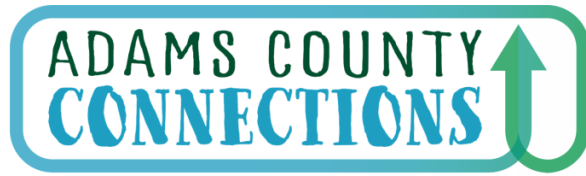
CDEC Independent Evaluation

The report highlights the tremendous progress Colorado has made towards building a unified, high-quality early childhood system, and highlights opportunities to continue to ensure Colorado's early childhood system can support all families throughout the state. This evaluation is an important milestone in the Department's journey and will guide our next phase of system-building.

Key Findings

- 1. Expansion through local partnerships:** School districts and community-based organizations partnered to add over 31,000 new preschool seats statewide in the first year of Colorado Universal Preschool, propelling Colorado from 27th to 3rd nationally for preschool access.
- 2. Progress on data modernization:** Through the successful implementation of ECIDS, CDEC has advanced the integration of child care licensing, Colorado Shines, the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP), and universal preschool program data, laying the groundwork for more comprehensive, evidence-based decision-making.
- 3. Workforce investments:** The Department successfully administered nearly \$50 million in workforce development grants to support higher education scholarships, credential attainment, and compensation stipends for early educators across both school and community-based settings.
- 4. Capacity building:** The Department has demonstrated measurable gains in high-quality providers (up to 33.4%) and infant/toddler capacity (up 2.1%).

Next Steps: The CDEC will use the findings from the independent evaluation to guide the next phase of its work, moving from building foundational systems to optimizing and refining them for greater impact. Over the next several years, the Department will focus on simplifying and coordinating family access to early learning and care, strengthening collaboration with local governments, community organizations, and other state agencies, and deepening data integration through ECIDS to better inform policy and measure outcomes. The Department also plans to continue investing in the early childhood workforce, ensuring stability, diversity, and professional growth across all program types. These efforts will align with its fiscal priorities and equity goals to create a more seamless, responsive, and sustainable early childhood system for Colorado families and providers.



Connecting Families to Early Childhood Resources

- **Adams UPK Helpdesk**
- Phone: 303-866-5223
- Payment Help Desk
- <https://raisingcoloradokids.com/en/>
- Book a Zoom with Beth
- Book a Zoom with Kelly

Provider Resources

Handbooks

- [Provider Handbook- Updated](#)
07/30/2025
- [UPK Family Handbook-Updated](#)
03/20/2025

Helpdesk

- [Colorado Universal Preschool Helpdesk](#)

Provider Questions for Office Hours

- [Provider Questions Submission Form](#)

CDEC Resources

- [CDEC Website](#)
 - Scroll down on the website for the CDEC Website Calendar. Includes links for provider meetings.
- [Colorado Universal Preschool Newsletter](#)
- [Sign up for updates or to access your subscriber preferences](#)

Provider Payments

- [Submit a UPK Payments Request](#)