

Connecting Families to Early Childhood Resources



Adams UPK Information Session and Office Hours

January 2026



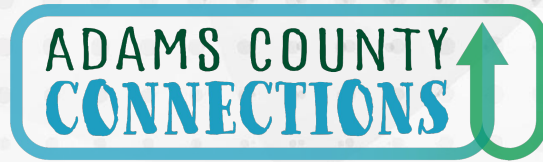
Update: Streamlining Communication & Town Hall Format

1. Direct Access to Information

- **The Change:** Instead of routing monthly slides through LCOs, CDEC will now email monthly content directly to all providers.
- **The Goal:** To ensure you receive critical updates faster and more consistently.

2. Evolution of Town Halls

- **New Format:** With updates handled via email, we are keeping this meeting time.
- **Focus:** We will shift to an "Emerging Themes" and "Open Office Hours" format.
- **Benefit:** Less presentation time, more time for your questions, feedback, and community discussion.



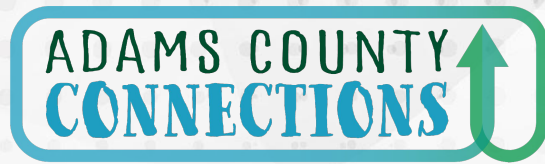
Connecting Families to Early Childhood Resources

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.

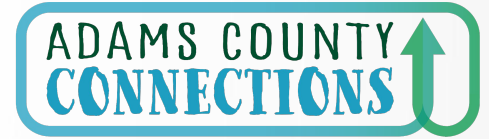
Goal 3:

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



Helping providers with
26/27 calendars and fees



Hosted family night

Staff Spotlight: Celebrating Beth Russell



“Beth helped me 2 years ago when I was freaking out (no other way to put it) while using the UPK system for the first time and could not figure out how to select my school of choice. I called Beth and she answered immediately and fixed things on her end perfectly.

It was a huge relief.

Fast forward to 2 years later when I needed to sign up his younger brother for UPK. I realized just today that my school of choice I had selected does not offer the hours I need for my child. I went into the system but could not edit the school so again, called Beth. She again answered immediately and helped to input my school choices. She also went above and beyond to talk through my situation with me. She put me at ease and gave me such great advice. She was calm, friendly and efficient.

Going through the UPK process is really stressful and just knowing if you're doing the right thing as a parent is too. To have someone available on the phone who actually answers, cares and is there to help is a rarity! Beth saved me 2 separate times with both of my kids. I am really grateful to her patience, kindness, availability, and help.”

26/27 UPK update

Action Requested

26/27 Adams County

- 1788 Total
 - 749 Placed
 - 1031 Selected
 - 7 Program Full

Statewide

- 22,657



26/27 UPK update

Provider Advised Next Steps:

- Audit internal 3-year-old rosters immediately
- For any child not placed:
 - **Proactively urge families to complete the application to guarantee the seat, or**
 - If they state it's already completed, coach the family to submit a [Helpdesk ticket](#) or call 303-866-5223 to correct any application COC issues preventing you from placing them.

Why You Might Not See a Student Application:

- Family may not have selected your location as their first-ranked choice and did not understand the ranking was critical to the COC placement
- Family may not have completed the COC selection questions correctly

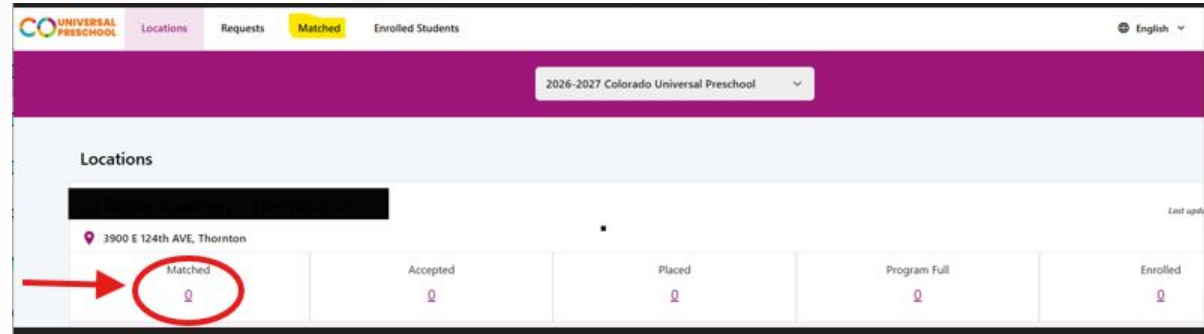
If either step was missed, the student will not place correctly as COC.

Critical Reminder: Lottery Impact:

- All unresolved COC issues must be fixed before the lottery
- Once the lottery runs, COC errors cannot be corrected
- Families with unresolved issues will go through the lottery instead of being protected as COC

How to find your COC students?

- Matched Tab
- Verification for COC families must be done by Feb. 2nd
- Dashboard will show a zero!



The screenshot shows the Colorado Universal Preschool dashboard. The top navigation bar includes tabs for 'Locations', 'Requests', 'Matched', and 'Enrolled Students'. The 'Matched' tab is highlighted in yellow. Below the navigation bar, there is a dropdown menu for the school year '2026-2027 Colorado Universal Preschool'. The main content area is titled 'Locations' and displays a table with columns for 'Matched', 'Accepted', 'Placed', 'Program Full', and 'Enrolled'. The 'Matched' column contains a red circle around the word 'Matched' and a small icon below it. A red arrow points to this circle. Another red arrow points to the 'Matched' tab in the navigation bar.

Matched	Accepted	Placed	Program Full	Enrolled
Matched 🔗	Accepted 🔗	Placed 🔗	Program Full 🔗	Enrolled 🔗

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](#)

Missed Deadline? Have you submitted yet?

Note: If you have already submitted Expenditure Report and Survey, please disregard this alert.

We know we all get busy and administrative tasks can sometimes slip through the cracks. However, CDEC is currently missing a significant number of reports following the **January 16th deadline**.

Have you submitted yours yet? Outstanding reports may risk **delaying your upcoming payments**.

Please take action today:

- **Q1 Expenditure Report:** Log in to **Metrix Enroll** and complete the report on your dashboard.
- **Provider Survey:** Locate the link sent via email from coupkpayments@metrixiq.com.

Reminder: While PDIS/QRIS Profile updates are not due until the end of the school year, we encourage you to continue updating staff credentials as time allows.

For resources specific to required reporting, please see our [Jan. 07th Newsletter](#)

CCDF Funding Freeze

Unfolding

- Jan 31

[CDEC CCDF funding freeze fact sheet](#) (updated)

- New information is highlighted in yellow.

The updates include:

- A Temporary Restraining Order issued on January 9, 2026, pausing implementation of the January 6, 2026 ACF letter through January 23, 2026
- Confirmation that CDEC has received two CCDF disbursements as of January 14, 2026
- Updated information regarding potential funding impacts and timelines if federal reimbursement does not resume

UPK funds are NOT Federal Funds

- UPK payments will not be impacted
- Licensing

[CCC Action Alert](#)

[Colorado Federal Funding Cuts Website](#)

UPDATE:

On January 9, 2026, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) that pauses implementation of the January 6, 2026 letter issued by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for fourteen (14) days from the date of the order, January 23, 2026. This order temporarily prevents additional restrictions directly associated with that letter while the court considers next steps and the parties file for a preliminary injunction. This is a positive development for CDEC and the children, families, and providers we serve, and CDEC will continue working with our federal partners in conducting our usual course of business.

CDEC has received two disbursements through our usual course of business as of January 14, 2026.

UPK “Mega” Rule

- **Universal Preschool Services Definition:** Clarifying the definition to emphasize healthy child development across various domains and include home visitation, potentially linking to Family Resource Centers and licensing regulations.
- **Program Year Definition:** Establishing a clear program year (August through May) and outlining its impact on payments for programs that operate for nine instead of ten months.
- **Income Redeterminations:** Adding language similar to [CDLE's](#) regarding ineligibility for supplemental hours if employment is resigned, detailing qualifying and disqualifying separation reasons.
- **Minimum Teacher/Pupil Program Contact Hours:** Establishing clearer definitions for the minimum scheduled contact hours for part-day (10 hours), half-day (15 hours), and full-day (30 hours) services, and providing corresponding guidance on the calculation of tuition and the imposition of supplemental fees.
- **Tuition Policies and Supplemental Services:** Offers guidance concerning the assessment of tuition for supplemental hours, requiring adherence to all relevant statutes, prohibiting charges for hours already covered by existing funding, mandating proportional tuition fees, and necessitating the transparent display of tuition details within provider profiles.
- **DOB Requirements:** Proposing a solution to align provider Date of Birth (DOB) cutoffs with the district where the provider location resides to reduce confusion and improve eligibility determinations.
- **Enrollment Timing and Proportional Requirements:** Allowing providers to adjust contact hours for children enrolling after the program year start, based on time remaining, and including language around pre-payment for May services.
- **Payments:** Clarifying funding for children attending two providers during the program year, adding pre-payment language for May services, and confirming direct payments to providers, not parents.
- **Definitions:** Providing or enhancing definitions for "Dual Language Learners (DLL)," "Multilingual Learners (MLL)," and "Stacking," in the context of funding.

UPK “Mega” Rule

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Please submit comments using our [Proposed UPK Rule Changes Google form](#) regarding the draft Colorado Universal Preschool rules ([Redline Draft](#) | [Clean Draft](#)) by February 12, 2026.


NEXT STEPS

CDEC will review and consider all public feedback received and will incorporate the recommendations into the draft "UPK Mega Rule," as able. The draft rules are expected to be reviewed by the Rules Advisory Council (RAC) on April 9, 2026, and considered for permanent adoption on May 28, 2026.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED

All rulemaking material received and collected, including written comments, recordings of previously held public meetings, and revised versions of the draft "UPK Mega Rule," will be publicly accessible and stored in the [UPK 'Mega-Rule' Folder](#). Please review the [CDEC Rule Tracker](#), located on the [Rulemaking and Rules Advisory Council's \(RAC\) webpage](#), for more detailed information regarding the rulemaking timeline for these rules. If you have additional questions, please contact CDEC_Rulemaking@state.co.us.

Adams County Conversations - Community Call-In



**Adams County
Conversations:
Community Call-In**

When there's a lot at stake, our community deserves real answers.
Join a live Telephone Town Hall with your Adams County Commissioners to talk through funding, federal issues, social programs, community concerns, and more—all from the convenience of your phone.

Thursday, Jan. 29, 6–7:30 p.m.

Community Call-In
[Register Here](#)

**Join a live telephone town
hall with your Adams
County Commissioners**

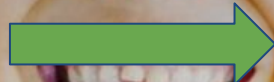
Adams County, Colorado Mapping Project

An Analysis of Universal Pre-K
and Opportunities

May 19, 2025

Year 3 Going Statewide

- [Year 1 Link](#)
- [Year 2 Briefing](#)
- [Year 2 Loom Video](#)
- [Year 2 Link](#)





2026-27 UPK Timelines

Remind your Families they aren't done yet!

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.



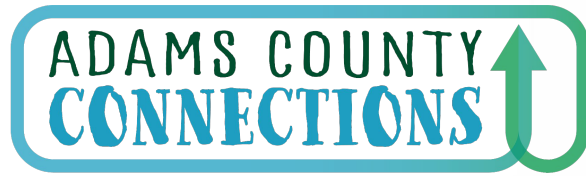
2026-27 UPK Timelines

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.





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](#)