



COLORADO
Office of Early Childhood
Department of Human Services

Colorado Office of Early Childhood

Colorado Counties, Inc. New Commissioner Orientation
January 11, 2017



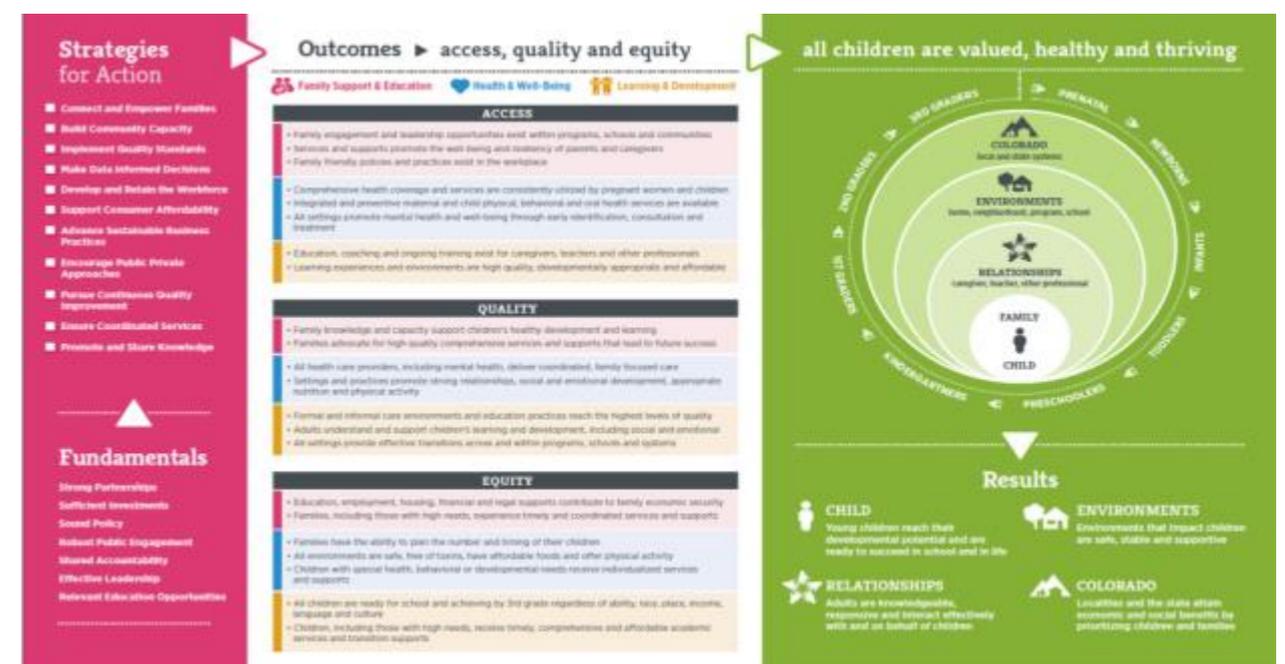
Purpose, Structure and Goals

Purpose

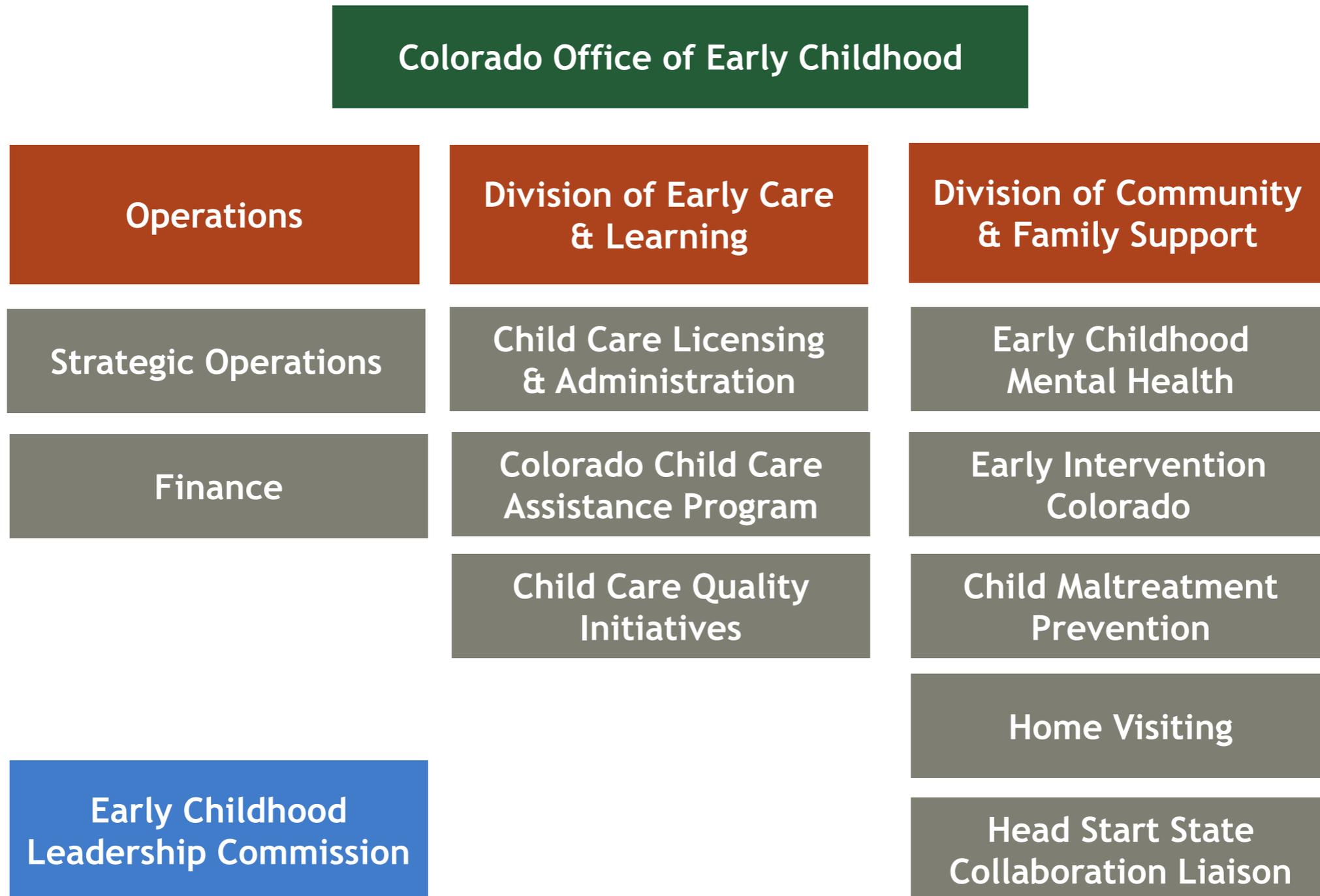
The Office of Early Childhood provides **collaborative leadership to align resources** for children, families, and early childhood professionals to best prepare Coloradoans for future success, through **access to coordinated and quality early childhood programs and family supports**.

Utilize a **two-generation approach** to support both children and their parents/caregivers.

Aligned with the goals set forth in the **Early Childhood Colorado Framework** to ensure all children are valued, healthy and thriving.



Structure



Importance of Quality Early Childhood Programs

- The **first five years** set the foundation of brain architecture
- **1 in 4** children in Colorado enter kindergarten unprepared to keep pace with their peers
- Quality early childhood programs
 - help to break the cycle of poverty
 - allow children to achieve higher levels of education
 - reduce rates of incarceration
 - reduce the need for future services

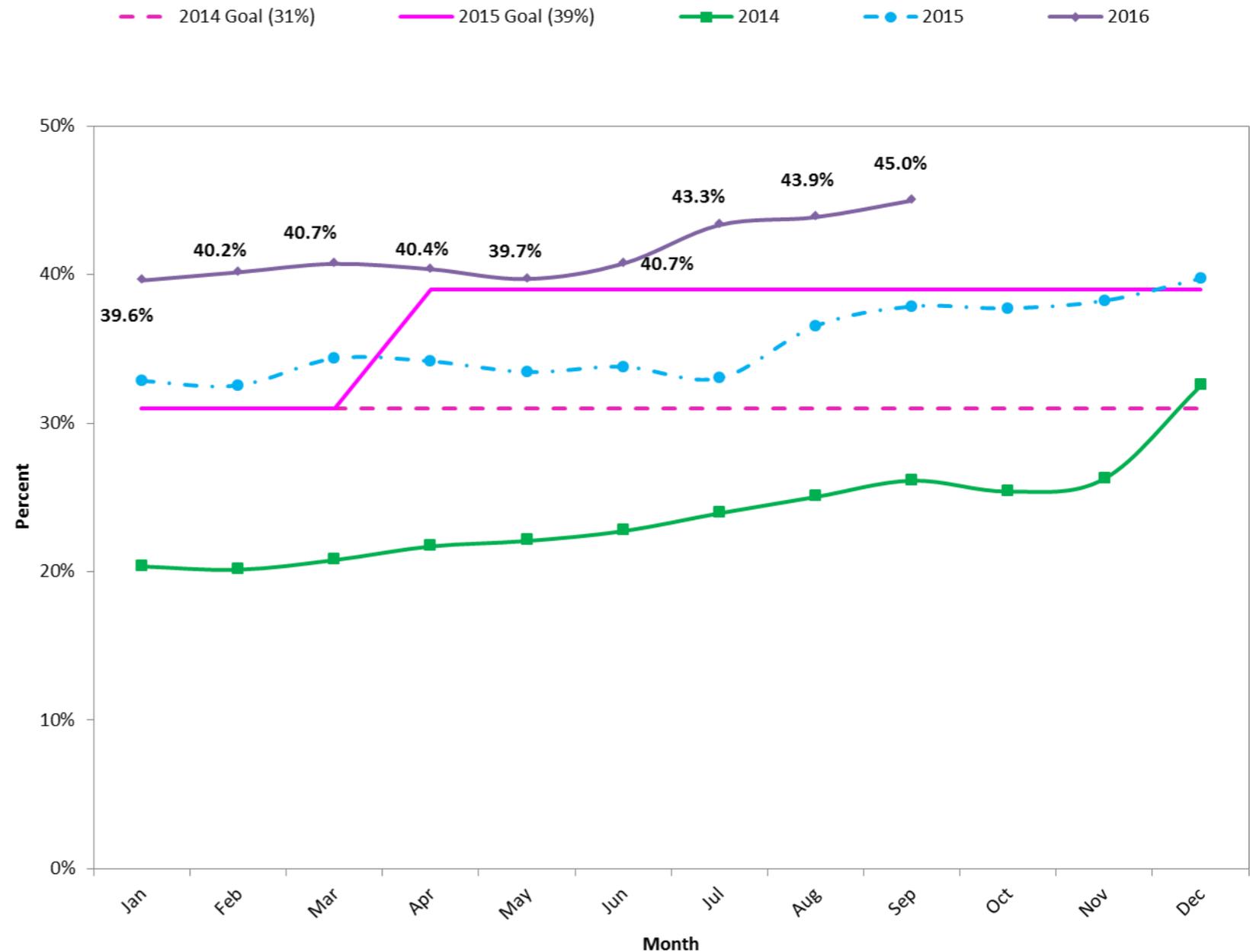


Wildly Important Goal SFY 2015-2016

Maximize Quality in Subsidized Care

❖ **Numerator:** Total number of children, under five years old, who utilized CCCAP at a child care facility with a current quality rating greater than Level Two at least once during the given month

❖ **Denominator:** Total number of children, under five years old, who utilized CCCAP at a child care facility at least once in the given month



Wildly Important Goals SFY 2016-2017

Increase access to high quality early care and learning programs for all families, despite income level.

- By June 30, 2017, the Office of Early Childhood will increase the percentage of Colorado communities with access to slots for Colorado Child Care Assistance Program subsidies in a high quality facility (Colorado Shines Levels 3-5) from 25.4% to 33.0%

Support statewide efforts to prevent child maltreatment.

- The Office of Early Childhood is releasing Colorado's first statewide child maltreatment prevention strategic agenda.
- By June 30, 2017, at least 15 communities will have finalized a local maltreatment plan prevention plan to guide their future child abuse and neglect prevention efforts.

State-Supervised, County Administered Programs

Promoting Safe & Stable Families

A federal program to:

- prevent child maltreatment among families at risk through the provision of supportive family services
- assure children's safety within the home and preserve intact families in which children have been maltreated, when the family's problems can be addressed effectively
- address the problems of families whose children have been placed in foster care so that reunification may occur in a safe and stable manner
- support adoptive families by providing support services as necessary to that they can make a lifetime commitment to their children

Promoting Safe & Stable Families

An updated Request for Application was released to counties on December 29. Responses are due January 31, 2017.

\$2,560,000 total to be awarded to approximately 24 sites

Four funding Categories

- Family Support
- Family Preservation
- Time-Limited Reunification
- Adoption Promotion and Support Services



Early Care & Learning Program Administration

Division of Early Care and Learning

Child Care and Development Fund

CO Child Care Assistance Program

Child Care Licensing & Administration

Child Care Quality Initiatives

County Departments of Human/Social Services

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program

Early Childhood Councils

Child Care Quality Initiatives

Child Care & Development Fund Administration

- **The Division of Early Care and Learning is the state administrator of Colorado's Child Care and Development Fund block grant**
- Funding supports statewide child care licensing, subsidy and quality improvement activities
- Administration is guided by the federally-verified State Plan

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Administration

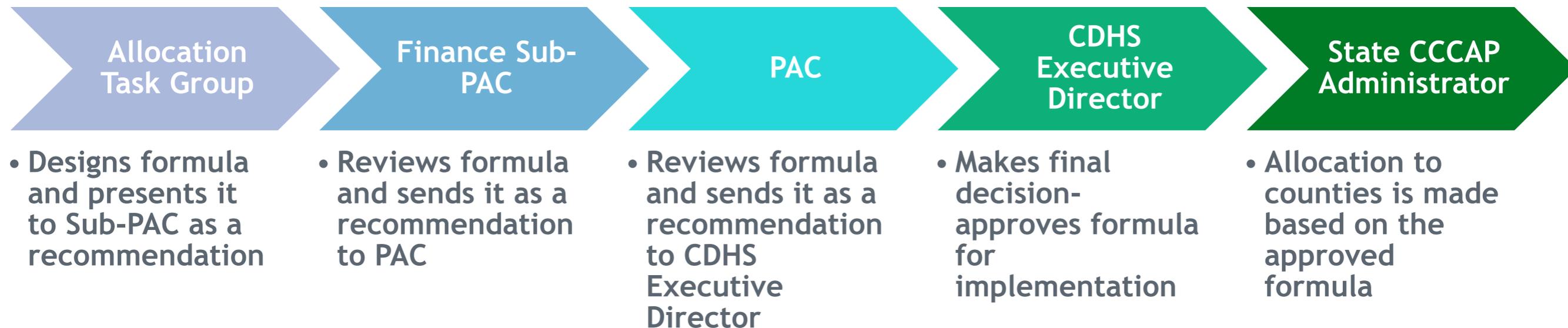
- **County Departments of Human/Social Services administer the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program**
- County responsibilities include:
 - determining and re-determining eligibility
 - determining the parents' portion of the cost of care
 - engaging in fiscal agreements with providers
 - providing referrals and education to families about other county benefits or early childhood programs
 - setting entry and exit levels in their county within the allowable percentages of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPL)
 - maintaining wait lists for eligible families when needed
 - meeting all applicable federal and state rules and regulations

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program Administration

- **Direct service** is defined as providing eligible households with access to high quality, affordable child care that supports healthy child development and school readiness while promoting household self-sufficiency and informed child care choices.
 - Recipients can use subsidies to defray the cost of care in the child's home, another family's home or a child care center while they engage in eligible activities such as employment, searching for employment or education/workforce training.
- CCCAP is funded by a mixture of federal, state, and county dollars and parent fees

CCCAP Allocation

- The Allocation Task Group currently has **12 voting members**, 9 from counties and 3 from the state
- The Allocation Task Group is a **public meeting**, however there can be only one voting member per county



CCCAP Allocation

- The current allocation formula seeks an **equitable distribution of direct service dollars among counties**
- **The total county allocation for SFY 2016-17 is \$88,393,240**
- Counties are responsible for any over-expenditures of their CCCAP allocation.
- Colorado spent 99.7% of the allocation in SFY 2015-16 and is on track to expend the full allocation in SFY 2016-17.

Quality Initiatives Administration

- **Early Childhood Councils are designated in state statute as the local entity responsible for supporting the implementation of quality initiatives**
- Quality initiatives are funded by a mixture of federal and state dollars, including the federal Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant
- As of December 2016, 15% of the 4,298 eligible early childhood programs are rated high quality (Colorado Shines Levels 3-5)



**COLORADO
SHINES**
START EARLY
START STRONG
QUALITY EARLY LEARNING

PROGRAM QUALITY RATING



Early Childhood Councils

- **Early Childhood Councils are formed with the involvement and consent of county commissioners**
- Serve to create a seamless system of early childhood services representing collaboration among various public and private stakeholders for the effective delivery of early childhood services in the area of:
 - Early care and education
 - Family support
 - Mental health
 - Health
- These services support children eight years of age or younger and their parents in a manner that is responsive to local needs and conditions.

Local Agency Funding for SFY 2016-17

| Early Childhood Council | County | Other Local Agency |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Early Childhood Systems Building</p> <p>Infant Toddler Quality & Availability Program (ITQA)</p> <p>School Readiness Quality Improvement Program</p> <p>Targeted Quality Improvement Program</p> | <p>Colorado Child Care Assistance Program</p> <p>Infant Toddler Quality & Availability Program (ITQA)</p> | <p>Child Care Resource & Referral Program</p> |
| <p>\$7,684,733</p> | <p>\$79,719,179</p> | <p>\$662,835</p> |

Questions?

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