

EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Gilpin & Clear Creek Counties, Colorado

SUMMER 2024



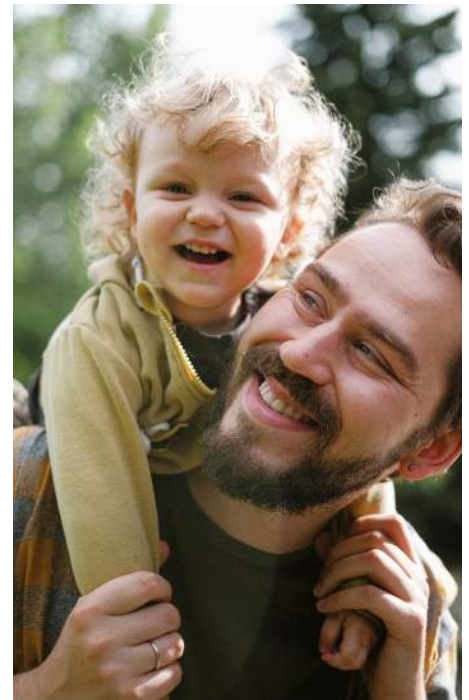
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, a strong public-private partnership of community leaders launched the Bright Futures Roadmap (Roadmap), a county-wide vision of improved outcomes for families with children prenatal to age eight in Jefferson County, Colorado. In 2022, these partners recommitted to the Roadmap and developed Triad Bright Futures to serve as the Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) and coordinate Roadmap efforts for Clear Creek, Gilpin and Jefferson Counties. Our mission is to convene community partners and align strategies and resources across sectors to implement the Bright Futures Roadmap and Universal Preschool Colorado (UPK) in our region.

In 2023, the Triad Bright Futures Mountain Workgroup was formed to support Roadmap efforts in the mountain communities. Gilpin and Clear Creek counties want to increase equitable access to holistic, high-quality, multi-sector programs for all children from prenatal to eight in order to ensure that every child starts life on a level playing field. As part of these efforts, Triad Bright Futures contracted Social Determinants of Health Consulting, LLC between January and June 2024 to review the data available in Gilpin and Clear Creek counties, facilitate a community-based qualitative design process, and provide an overview of the state of early childhood in these two counties.

GOALS

- **Understand the data:** Review existing reports to document baseline measures of early childhood wellbeing, as well as identify priority populations, geographies, or issues that could be improved with better systems and access to resources.
- **Understand families' needs:** Facilitate a community process to define the types of programs, services, and opportunities that all young children in Gilpin and Clear Creek counties should be able to access.
- **Develop solutions and next steps:** Identify community-driven solutions and clear next steps toward actualizing these priorities through additional research, fundraising, or planning.



METHODOLOGY

The following activities were conducted between January and June 2024:

- **Data Review:** A review of available Gilpin and Clear Creek data using six sources: KIDS Count, County Health Rankings, Livability Index, CO Early Care and Education Workforce, Clear Creek County Childcare Needs Assessment, and Report of Child Care Licensing.
- **Community Conversations:** The Triad Bright Futures Mountain Workgroup held two in-person Community Conversation events in March, 2024 at the Clear Creek Recreation Center and the Gilpin Recreation Center. These events asked participants questions related to child care, parenting, pediatric care, community spaces, and living and raising children in each county.
- **Summarized Community Convening Discussions:** We consolidated all of the notes from Triad Bright Futures' two spring community conversations into one summary. Notes were then organized by prompt and county to create themes.
- **Virtual Journey Mapping Session:** A facilitated journey mapping session in April 2024 with 11 parents of young children in Gilpin and Clear Creek counties (and one additional parent submitting comments the following day) using prompts that emerged from the project activities completed by that point. The data captured at this session was coded and summarized.
- **Data Walk Activity:** This solutions-focused event brought participants from both Gilpin and Clear Creek counties together to view the data, provide feedback, and prioritize next steps in the Mountain Workgroup planning processes.
- **Identification of Community-Driven Solutions:** We aggregated findings from the Data Walk session to identify concrete solutions generated by the community.

GILPIN & CLEAR CREEK SHARED PRIORITIES

These are the four data-driven priorities that families, stakeholders, and community members want to focus on for the next one to three years in order to improve the state of the early childhood landscape in Gilpin and Clear Creek counties:

1. Infant and toddler care for children under age four
2. Peer support/parental mental health
3. Enrichment activities for children under the age of five
4. Access to pediatric clinical care

NEXT STEPS & COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

There is a strong sense of urgency among Gilpin and Clear Creek families to take action on both short- and long-term solutions. While working on the most pressing issues around child care, there is an opportunity to take concrete actions to improve enrichment activities and parent/community supports. Below are community-driven ideas and next steps that emerged through the Community Assessment process in each of the four priority areas.

Infant & Toddler Care for Children Under Age 4



1. Support family child care homes to get licensed, starting with those who have already begun the process, and provide ongoing professional development opportunities once licensed.
2. Build on existing child care facilities to support them to achieve high quality, affordable full-day care and aftercare (e.g. Clear Creek Recreation District, school districts, new facilities, etc.)
3. Raise funds to recruit staff and pay them a livable, competitive wage to provide high quality child care for children ages 0-4.

*** Across all of these options, affordability must be taken into account*

Enrichment for Children Under Age 5



1. Enhance library programming in Gilpin and Clear Creek for children ages 0-4 with daily activities. Explore the model used by Jefferson County Libraries.
2. Increase activities at Gilpin and Clear Creek recreation centers by hiring community members as contractors to offer daily classes such as cooking, toddler time, art, music, etc. Explore model used by Evergreen Parks and Recreation District which previously offered preschool programming.
3. Establish recreation center camps for children under 5

NEXT STEPS & COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

Peer Support / Parental Mental Health



1. Offer respite for parents by establishing monthly parents' nights out through an organization that provides contract child care for events.
2. Host weekly/biweekly community events in Clear Creek and Gilpin that have activities for children under the age of five such as bouncy castles, social interaction, balloon making, face painting, children's music, games, etc.
3. Collectively identify a virtual or in-person support group option such as Circle of Security or Incredible Years for those looking for support; promote through partners and social media.
4. Increase family connections to existing mental health clinicians working in the mountain communities through public awareness building and peer support.
5. Create a Parent Ambassador model for parents to be trained in helping other parents to navigate resources, events, pediatric health and mental health resources.

Access to Pediatric Clinical Care



1. Recruit visiting physicians or mobile clinics that come to Gilpin and Clear Creek a couple days/week.
2. Establish partnership with pediatric telehealth providers.
3. Increase awareness about satellite family/pediatric care available through Clinica in Gilpin and the Public Health nurses at the Clear Creek County Health and Wellness Center.



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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this project is to assess needs and identify resource gaps for families with young children living in the mountain communities of Clear Creek and Gilpin counties. The information and data in this needs assessment will be used as the foundation to develop a shared vision and strategy for how early childhood community partners and families can collaborate to provide greater support for young children and their families.

The Bright Futures Roadmap framework guides collective efforts to build, strengthen and maintain a strong system of family support and early childhood resources. This report includes a comprehensive landscape analysis that highlights community strengths, identifies resource gaps, and incorporates extensive input and data from the community. The information will enable Gilpin and Clear Creek communities to create their own Bright Futures Roadmap, one that is specifically tailored to the unique needs of families living in our rural mountain communities. Triad Bright Futures will support the Mountain Workgroup in collective efforts to build, strengthen and maintain a strong system of family support guided by family voice.

METHODOLOGY

From January 2024 to June 2024, the following project activities were conducted: a) desk review; b) two community conversations; c) identification of themes from the community conversations; d) virtual journey mapping session; e) data walk activity; and f) identification of community-driven solutions.

DATA REVIEW

An initial analysis of Clear Creek and Gilpin data using six sources:

1. KIDS Count
2. County Health Rankings
3. Livability Index
4. CO Early Care and Education Workforce
5. Clear Creek Childcare Assessment
6. Report of Child Care Licensing



Social Determinants of Health Consulting, LLC identified key statistics for each county related to the following indicators: poverty; child care capacity; early childhood workforce; mental health access; physical health access; prenatal health behaviors; enrichment; broadband access; environmental supports, and economic supports (Appendix A & Appendix B).

The desk review data was presented to the Mountain Workgroup to review and provide feedback. The Mountain Workgroup noted that both counties are experiencing child care deserts, and that the sudden November 2023 closing of Eagles Nest in Gilpin County further impacted the community, leaving the county with no local infant care. The group also discussed the child care workforce shortages in both counties, which have exacerbated child care issues. Other reflections focused on the differences and similarities between the two counties. While both counties are rural mountain communities, Gilpin is much smaller with a higher poverty rate than Clear Creek, which is spread along the I-70 corridor.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The Triad Bright Futures Mountain Workgroup held two in-person Community Conversation events in March at the Clear Creek Recreation Center and the Gilpin Recreation Center. Participants received gift cards, dinner and free child care at both events. The Mountain Workgroup had resource tables for families at each event.

Ten participants attended the Clear Creek event. Seven Mountain Workgroup partners supported the event with child care, facilitation and note taking. The Clear Creek event was facilitated as a round table discussion where two facilitators asked the participants a series of questions related to their experiences with child care, parenting, pediatric care, community spaces, and living and raising children in the county (Appendix C).

Eleven participants attended the Gilpin event. Six Mountain Workgroup partners supported the event. The Gilpin event was conducted via facilitated small table discussions using the same set of questions that were asked at the Clear Creek event (Appendix C).

Notes from the events were consolidated into a summary document and coded for themes.



VIRTUAL JOURNEY MAPPING SESSIONS

In April, Triad Bright Futures and Social Determinants of Health Consulting, LLC conducted a 75-minute virtual journey mapping session with 11 parents of young children in Gilpin and Clear Creek counties. The following day, an additional parent submitted comments via the online white board. The prompts were developed based on findings from the desk review and community conversations.

An early childhood journey map is a visualization of the experiences that children, families, providers, community members, and other diverse stakeholders encounter when navigating education, health, enrichment, and social support systems from prenatal care through age five. The process not only captures a linear sequence of events, but also the full human experience – the emotions, challenges, strengths, and mindsets that an individual encounters throughout their journey to meet the needs of their young children and family. This information is then aggregated and analyzed to identify themes, pain points, and opportunities to improve programs, services, and systems in the early childhood landscape.

The session included a welcome and overview from Triad Bright Futures; a brief introduction to journey mapping with slide deck; a journey mapping exercise; and an overview of next steps. All participants received gift card incentives for their participation.

The virtual journey mapping session was conducted via Zoom and used an online whiteboard tool, FigJam, to capture comments from parents related to the following topics, which were identified through the community conversations:

- Ages of Child/Children
- Child care
- Parent Support
- Enrichment Activities for 0-4
- Pediatric Medical Care

Participants were asked to submit sticky notes to share their input/comments related to a set of specific prompts for each topic above (Appendix C). Raw data was coded by topic and county and summarized within a report (Appendix D).

DATA WALK

Triad Bright Futures shared findings from the desk review, community conversations, and journey mapping with families in Gilpin and Clear Creek counties at a Data Walk community event June 24, 2024. The presentation included statistics and quotes across the four priorities. The solutions-focused event brought ten parents and caregivers from Gilpin and Clear Creek counties to view the data, provide feedback, and prioritize next steps in the Mountain Workgroup planning processes.

IDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

Triad Bright Futures aggregated findings from the data walk session to identify concrete solutions generated by the community, including Mountain Workgroup members, within each of the four priorities.



LANDSCAPE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD IN GILPIN AND CLEAR CREEK COUNTIES

The following statistics and findings come from the desk review and journey mapping sessions. They collectively describe the state of early childhood systems and programming in Gilpin and Clear Creek counties.

CHILD CARE

COUNTY	DESK REVIEW	JOURNEY MAPPING
Gilpin	As of 2022, there were 269 children under the age of 5, and over 70% of children under 6 have all their parents in the labor force (5% higher than the state average). ¹ However, the community currently has zero licensed capacity to serve infants and toddlers, ² and only 33 seats available for preschoolers, of which only 20 have been filled by UPK. ³	100% of families who participated in the journey mapping session had to use babysitters, family, unlicensed Family, Friend, or Neighbor (FFN) care, or have a parent at home to care for their infants and toddlers because of lack of availability, cost, and extensive commute times to go out of the county.
Clear Creek	As of 2022, there were 467 children under the age of 5, ¹ but the community currently only has licensed capacity to serve 10 infants, 29 toddlers, ² and 100 preschoolers. ³ In 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64 out of 195 families with children under 6 had to use a childcare center outside of Clear Creek County to meet their needs; • 32% of families had to use a relative, friend or neighbor; and • 23% had to arrange work hours with their significant other to receive the care they needed. • However, 74% of families said they would choose care near their house over care near their work.⁴ 	100% of families who participated in the journey mapping session said that infant, toddler, and preschool care is too expensive to access.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

COUNTY	DESK REVIEW	JOURNEY MAPPING
Gilpin	The ratio of mental health providers to county residents is over six times worse than the state average at 1,470:1. ⁵	The average score for participants feeling supported as a parent was 1 out of 5 (1=unsupported; 5=very supported), and they expressed a feeling of exclusion and isolation.
Clear Creek	The ratio of mental health providers to county residents is over 13 times worse than the state average at 3,150:1. ⁵	The average score for participants feeling supported as a parent was 1.5 out of 5 (1=unsupported; 5=very supported), and expressed a lack of opportunities, but strong connections to other parents.

ENRICHMENT

COUNTY	DESK REVIEW	JOURNEY MAPPING
Gilpin	Gilpin has 50% more opportunities for civic involvement than the national average, and nearly five times the cultural, arts, and entertainment institutions than the national average. ^{6,*}	On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being hard; 5 being easy), journey map participants scored Gilpin at 1.7 for ease of accessing enrichment activities for 0-4 year olds.
Clear Creek	Many Clear Creek communities, especially Floyd Hill, Blue Valley, and Pine Valley have significantly more opportunities for civic involvement than the national average, and the county has nearly four times the cultural, arts, and entertainment institutions than the national average. ⁶	On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being hard; 5 being easy), journey map participants scored Clear creek a 1.5 for ease of accessing enrichment activities for 0-4 year olds.

*Indicator, Metric: Cultural, arts, and entertainment institutions: number of movie theaters and entertainment centers within 5 miles and performing arts and sports venues within 15 miles per 10,000 people; higher values are better. Available data captures only cultural institutions with paid staff, not volunteer-run organizations. View definition details and sources for the [Cultural, arts, and entertainment institutions metric here](#).

PEDIATRIC HEALTH ACCESS

COUNTY	DESK REVIEW	JOURNEY MAPPING
Gilpin	The ratio of primary care physicians to residents is nearly three times worse than the state average at 3,120:1. ⁵	5 out of 6 journey map comments mentioned using a pediatrician from the Denver, Golden, or Evergreen area rather than a local option.
Clear Creek	The ratio of primary care physicians to residents is nearly eight times worse than the state average at 9,590:1. ⁵	

The following six topics emerged through the desk review, but did not come up through the community conversations. Therefore, they were not explicitly asked about during the journey mapping, but are still relevant to the context and future priorities.

POVERTY

COUNTY	DESK REVIEW
Gilpin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14.5% of children live in extreme poverty, nearly 3 times the state average of 5.3%.⁷ • 43% of children live in single parent homes, nearly double the state average of 22%.⁸
Clear Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1% of children live in extreme poverty.⁷ • Over 87% of children under 6 have all parents in the labor force, more than 20% higher than the CO state average.⁷

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE

COUNTY	DESK REVIEW
Gilpin	According to the latest available early childhood education (ECE) workforce data, (2019) nearly half of the Gilpin ECE professionals had completed ECE 2.0, 12% higher than the state average. ⁹
Clear Creek	According to the latest early childhood education (ECE) workforce data (2019) the Clear Creek ratio of 0-5 children to ECE professionals was 24:1 compared to the CO state average of 17:1. Additionally, only 19% of ECE professionals had completed ECE 2.0 training compared to 36% statewide. Lastly, staff turnover was concerning with 100% of directors turning over in three years and 100% of assistant teachers turning over every year for 3-5-year-old classrooms. ¹⁰

PRENATAL HEALTH BEHAVIORS

COUNTY	DESK REVIEW
Gilpin	Over 84% of Gilpin pregnant people access prenatal care, 4% higher than the state average. However, over 9% of Gilpin pregnant people smoke which is three times higher than the state average. ¹
Clear Creek	78% of Clear Creek pregnant people access prenatal care, 4% lower than the state average. Clear Creek also has a higher rate of low-birth-weight babies compared to the state average (10.8% compared to 9.9%). ¹

BROADBAND ACCESS

COUNTY	DESK REVIEW
Gilpin	In Gilpin communities such as Rollinsville, only 54% of residents have affordable access to high-speed internet compared to 74% of the national average. Many of the early childhood systems' applications require broadband for enrollment. ⁶
Clear Creek	In Clear Creek communities such as Silver Plume, Georgetown, Downieville, and Empire, only 32% of the residents have affordable access to high-speed internet compared to 74% of the national average. Many of the early childhood systems' applications require broadband for enrollment. ⁶

ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORTS

COUNTY	DESK REVIEW
Clear Creek	Clear Creek County has had 4.73% of their drinking water exposed to violations compared to 0% U.S. national average. This could be because of its proximity to mines but poses health risks to young children such as elevated blood lead or other heavy metal levels. ⁶

ECONOMIC SUPPORTS

COUNTY	DESK REVIEW
Gilpin	15% of children receive TANF which is nearly five times the state average, yet only 16% of children are in WIC, 12% less than the state average. Finally, 25% of households with children are eligible, but not enrolled in the Advanced Premium Tax Credit. ⁶

EARLY CHILDHOOD PRIORITIES FOR GILPIN AND CLEAR CREEK COUNTIES

Gilpin and Clear Creek counties have an opportunity to increase equitable access to holistic, high-quality, multi-sector programs for all children from prenatal to eight. However, this community needs assessment, makes it clear that both communities' greatest needs are for children from prenatal to five. By aggregating the data collected through this project, Triad Bright Futures identified the following four priorities that: a) are common to both counties; b) emerged through qualitative engagement with families; and c) were validated through quantitative data analysis:

1. Infant and toddler care for children under the age of four
2. Peer support/parental mental health
3. Enrichment opportunities for children under the age of five
4. Access to pediatric clinical care

Infant & Toddler Care for Children Under Age 4

Child care, in particular infant and toddler care for children under four, is a significant issue for families in both Gilpin and Clear Creek counties. In the journey mapping session with parents all of the child care-related comments mentioned the mental and financial stress that lack of child care has caused. A few comments highlighted the impact on career advancement (which causes continued financial strain).



Two Gilpin comments mentioned the secondary impact that lack of child care caused: 1) children having to accompany parents to stressful medical events; and 2) an inability to do work on a house because children cannot be present during construction. In addition, out of six Clear Creek comments regarding child care for children under four, three mentioned the high cost of care is prohibitive for them and the business owners. One hundred percent of 11 Gilpin comments mentioned that the lack of infant/toddler care resulted in use of babysitters, family, work scheduling or unlicensed care to fill the need. During the data walk, additional issues surfaced with a strong sense of urgency. For example, families in both Gilpin and Clear Creek said they are open to high quality licensed family child care homes, but for those interested in the licensing process it is taking over a year to complete, and many are still going through the process. Additionally, families emphasized they don't just need child care, they need reliable, year-round, extended day care. Nannies and babysitters are not a solution.



Exemplative Quotes

“We made decisions based on the lack of convenient child care, who works what days/hours, etc.” - Gilpin participant, journey mapping

“We actually changed our timeline of having children – wait until older is five to have a place for them.” - Clear Creek participant, community conversation

“It’s affecting more than the people sitting here – families are leaving – community would be better economically with child care.”- Clear Creek participant, community conversation

“We are constantly just treading water financially and cannot make any significant changes to improve employment due to the necessity of shaping our lives around child care availability and hours. ” - Clear Creek participant, journey mapping



Peer Support / Parental Mental Health

At the journey mapping session, when asked, “In one word, describe what it is like to raise a young child in your community,” one Clear Creek participant mentioned the word “crushing” and a Gilpin participant said “isolating.” Raising a young child is challenging for families in both counties, but for different reasons.



Gilpin families expressed feelings of isolation, lack of peer support, limited resources, cliques, and feeling judged/shamed by other parents. In addition, Gilpin parents also expressed concern about the county's lack of family friendly events, festivals, and opportunities to build community. On the other hand, Clear Creek families felt that while there are very limited affordable opportunities at the community level to engage young children and meet families, they had a strong peer network to rely on. During the data walk, additional needs emerged when families expressed an inability to go out for an evening or build relationships with other families. They articulated a need for parents' nights out and regular ongoing events like music festivals and fairs to create a sense of community. Data walk participants also felt parenting support and mental health opportunities always get pushed to the bottom of the priority list when urgent needs around child care, employment, and day-to-day survival must be addressed first. Parents expressed interest in virtual parenting support groups such as Circle of Security and Incredible Years, offered by Jefferson Center.



“Being a caregiver/parent is difficult and it’s challenging at times to feel like ‘oneself’ navigating parenthood in these current times.” – Gilpin participant, community conversation

“Lots of shaming and comparisons with other parents in the school; hard to have support when there’s no grocery stores in the immediate neighborhood or activities outside of the expensive rec center.” – Gilpin participant, journey mapping

“Co-regulation, family is far away, I have friends but everyone is grinding [away] and at their last straw – we all need a tiny bit of time for self-care.” – Clear Creek participant, community conversation

“The support we get is from other parents and our littles’ community – commiseration through shared pains. Our community resources could be offering more along the lines of daily story times at the library, keeping the rec center open on Sundays, or setting up family movie nights. But in addition to there being no child care there are also VERY limited family-centric activities.” – Clear Creek Participant, journey mapping

Enrichment for Children Under Age 5

Both Clear Creek and Gilpin families unanimously expressed frustrations about the lack of enrichment opportunities for young children, especially those under five and even more limited for infants under 18 months. At the April 23 journey mapping session, families were asked, “What resources or support do you need most for your young child(ren) that are currently challenging to access?”



All Clear Creek comments talked about the need for summer care, before/after care, and enrichment opportunities for 0-5. All Gilpin comments talked about the need for child care, medical care, increased recreation center hours, and enrichment. Participants listed library, recreation center swimming, indoor playground in Evergreen, and toddler gym classes in Nederland as the predominant options, but the times were limited, sometimes travel took longer than the event, and many activities were during the weekday work hours which is challenging for working caregivers.

Exemplative Quotes

“Our community lacks daycare and groups for activities, engagement, connections for growth. Wishing there were more options, especially for kids under five as well as affordability.” - Gilpin participant, community conversation

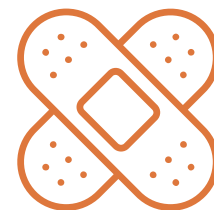
“[Enrichment activities for 0-4] are very difficult to find in this county.” - Gilpin participant, journey mapping

“Preschool great – not enough toddler times – nothing under 18 months.” - Clear Creek participant, community conversation

“Enrichment & care for under 18 months isn’t in place.” - Clear Creek participant, community conversation

Access to Pediatric Clinical Care

Through community conversations, the journey mapping session, and data walk, families shared frustrations about the limited number of pediatricians in their community. Both Clear Creek and Gilpin families mentioned traveling to Denver, Evergreen, and Golden for care since Clinica was the only local option.



Some families noted they had to travel over 45 minutes to find pediatric clinical care. In addition, participants from both counties noted the lack of local specialty care and that they would have to travel to Denver to find clinical care for more “serious” issues. When asked “what resources or support do you need most for your young child(ren) that are currently challenging to access?”, one Gilpin family noted “pediatric services within the county.” During the data walk, the need for pediatric mental health emerged as well, wanting to have mental health consultation or mental health intervention services available. Data walk participants expressed an openness to a visiting pediatrician or telehealth option.

Exemplative Quotes

“[We] travel to Denver West (40 minutes) for a pediatrician.” – Gilpin participant, journey mapping

“Currently we use a pediatrician in Evergreen. Have been happy with them, but it is a bit of a drive. Luckily, we haven’t had any major medical issues outside of normal checkups.” – Gilpin participant, journey mapping

“[We use] a pediatrician in Denver West that we really like and have been going to for a long time, but it’s 45-60 minutes from home.” – Gilpin participant, community conversation

“Wait, there’s pediatric care here?” – Clear Creek participant, community conversation

NEXT STEPS

There is a strong sense of urgency among Gilpin and Clear Creek families to take action on both short- and long-term solutions. While working on the most pressing issues around child care, there is an opportunity to take concrete actions to improve enrichment activities and parent/community support. Below are community-driven solutions and next steps that emerged through the Community Assessment process.

Infant & Toddler Care for Children Under Age 4



1. Support family, friend and neighbor providers (FFN) to get licensed, starting with those who have already begun the process, and provide ongoing professional development opportunities once licensed.
2. Build on existing child care facilities to support them to achieve high quality, affordable full-day and aftercare (e.g. Clear Creek Recreation District, school districts, new facilities, etc.)
3. Raise funds to recruit staff and pay them a livable, competitive wage to provide high quality child care for children ages 0-4.

*** Across all of these options, affordability must be taken into account*

Actionable Next Steps:

- Identify and interview FFN providers to understand where the licensing process is facing challenges. Work with these providers to complete the licensing process.
- Meet with any unlicensed FFN providers to identify professional development needs that would make them an affordable option for families.
- Meet with all potential providers that offer any kind of child care (even if only drop-in) to identify the staffing and funding needed to achieve full day and extended day hours.
- Explore state and private funders supporting programs for early childhood workforce. Identify at least three to submit applications.
- Do a national scan of rural child care models and funding opportunities to develop a long-term sustainability plan.

Enrichment for Children Under Age 5

1. Enhance library programming in Gilpin and Clear Creek counties for children 0–4 with daily activities. Explore the model used by Jefferson County Libraries.
2. Increase activities at Gilpin and Clear Creek recreation centers by hiring community members as contractors to offer daily classes such as cooking, toddler time, art, music, etc. Explore model used by Evergreen Parks and Recreation District which previously offered preschool programming.
3. Establish recreation center camps for children under 5



Actionable Next Steps:

- Meet with Jefferson County Library to understand their programming, funding, and staffing requirements for replication.
- Meet with Evergreen Parks and Recreation District to understand their programming, funding, and staffing requirements for replication.
- Research national models and best practices for community members offering classes for children under four (e.g. Citizen Schools).
- Inventory all existing programs to clarify whether there is a gap in offerings or lack of awareness/information sharing about programs.
- Inventory community members able to contract for daily classes.
- Identify funding sources for enrichment programs.



Peer Support and Mental Health

1. Offer respite for parents by establishing monthly parents' nights out through an organization that provides contract child care for events.
2. Host weekly/biweekly community events in Clear Creek and Gilpin that have activities for children under the age of five such as bouncy castles, social interaction, balloon making, face painting, children's music, games, etc.
3. Collectively identify a virtual or in-person support group option such as Circle of Security or Incredible Years for those looking for support; promote through partners and social media.
4. Increase family connections to existing mental health clinicians working in the mountain communities through public awareness building and peer support.
5. Create a Parent Ambassador model for parents to be trained to help other parents in navigating resources, events, pediatric health and mental health resources.



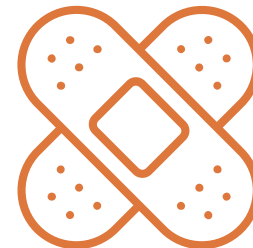
Actionable Next Steps:

- Create a working group to develop a draft schedule and budget for a monthly parents' night out with free child care that can be brought to local funders.
- Create a working group that identifies vendors, prices, and potential schedules for regularly occurring child-friendly events that happen on a weekly basis in Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties. This can be brought to funders and/or potential vendors for in-kind donations of time and talent.
- Research best practices and models for in-person or virtual family support groups.



Access to Pediatric Clinical Care

1. Recruit visiting physicians or mobile clinics that come to Gilpin and Clear Creek counties a couple days/week.
2. Establish partnership with pediatric telehealth providers.
3. Increase awareness about satellite family/pediatric care available through Clinica in Gilpin and the public health nurse available through Clear Creek Human Services.



Actionable Next Steps:

- Conduct national scan of best practices for rural pediatric care, both physical and mental health.
- Interview current providers in Denver, Golden, and Evergreen to identify what is needed to support a mobile clinic or visiting pediatrician to Clear Creek and Gilpin communities.
- Research pediatric telehealth providers to identify their program model, strengths, challenges, and costs.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Triad Bright Futures would like to thank the members of the Mountain Workgroup and the 33 parents/caregivers who participated in the community needs assessment process for their time, collaboration, insights, and dedication. Their exceptional contributions have provided a comprehensive understanding of the most pressing early childhood needs in Gilpin and Clear Creek counties and laid a strong foundation for solutions and actionable steps. We are also deeply grateful to the Colorado Department of Early Childhood and Gary Community Ventures for their financial support of these evaluation efforts in Gilpin and Clear Creek counties.

Lisa Schell, Clear Creek Human Services

Caitlin Morris, Clear Creek Recreation District

Heidi Lupinacci, Clear Creek School District

Mitch Houston, Clear Creek Schools Foundation

Jessica Tribbett, Expanding Early Learning & Parent Participant

Tina Hageman, Jefferson Center

Marcie Synchef, Jefferson Center

Joy Wishtun, Jefferson Center

Dava Hartzo, Georgetown Community School

Lyndsey Denton, Gilpin County – Mountain Kids Schools

Susan Berumen, Gilpin County Commissioner

Jacob Rippy, Gilpin County Recreation Center

Codi Ramsey, Gilpin County Schools

Rachel Hansard, Gilpin County Schools

Brenda Hobgood, Triad Early Childhood Council

Marnie Copeland, Triad Bright Futures

GLOSSARY

Glossary terms come from [Childcare and Early Education Research Connections](#)

Affordability: The degree to which the price of child care is a reasonable or feasible family expense. States maintain different definitions of "affordable" child care, taking various factors into consideration, such as family income, child care Market Rates, and Subsidy acceptance, among others.

After-School Program: Programs serving school age children and older when they are not in school. Sometimes called Out-of-School Time (OST) programs, after school programs may provide a broad range of services and supports such as mentoring, academic support, youth development, arts, sports and other forms of recreation.

Best Practices: A term used to denote the "best" ways of delivering services, supports or information to achieve desired outcomes as determined by research or experience. See related: Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP); Evidence-based Practice.

Child Care Affordability: Refers to the ability for families to find quality Child Care Arrangements that satisfy their preferences, with reasonable effort and at an affordable price.

Child Care Arrangement: Refers to any combination of non-parental child care providers and/or settings that families use for their children, often while family members are at work. Child care arrangements vary widely based on a family's unique needs and circumstances. Arrangements might include: Center-Based Child Care, Family/home-based Child Care, Informal Child Care, full-day Head Start or Pre-Kindergarten programs at local CBOs, Drop-in Child Care, etc. Many families will also utilize After-School Programs and services so that their child care arrangements can accommodate their work schedules.

Child Care Assistance: Any public or private financial assistance intended to lower the cost of child care for families. See related: Child Care Subsidy.

Child Care Availability: Refers to whether Quality child care is accessible and available to families at a reasonable cost and using reasonable effort. See related: Child Care Access.

GLOSSARY (CONT.)

Child Care Provider: An organization or individual that provides early care and education services.

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation: A strategic intervention geared towards building the capacity of early childhood staff, programs, families, and systems to prevent, identify, treat, and reduce the impact of mental health problems among children from birth to age six.

Early Education and Care (ECE): A broad term referring to both child care services and educational/academic programming for young children. Before- and after-school programs, summer camps, and extended learning opportunities typically fall under the umbrella of early education and care.

Early Literacy: Refers to what children know about and are able to do as it relates to communication, language, reading, and writing before they can actually read and write. Children's experiences with conversation, books, print and stories (oral and written) all contribute to their early literacy skills.

Evidence-Based Practice: A practice, regimen or service that is grounded in evidence and can demonstrate that it improves outcomes. Elements of evidence-based practice are standardized, replicable and effective within a given setting and for a particular group of participants. See related: Best Practices.

Family (Parent) Engagement: Refers to an interactive process of relationship-building between early childhood professionals and families that is mutual, respectful, and responsive to the family's language and culture. Engagement in the early years prepares families to support their children's learning throughout their school years and support parent/family-child relationships that are key to healthy Child Development, School Readiness, and well-being. See related: Parent/Family Involvement.

Family Child Care: Child care provided for one or more unrelated children in a provider's home setting. Most states have regulatory guidelines for family child care homes based on the number and ages of children they serve as well as the number of hours their business operates. See related: Home-based Child Care; Kith and Kin Child Care; Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Child Care; Informal Child Care.

GLOSSARY (CONT.)

Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Child Care: Child care provided by relatives, friends, and neighbors in the child's own home or in another home, often in unregulated settings. See related: Kith and Kin Child Care; Informal Child Care.

Head Start: A federal program that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income families. The program is designed to foster stable family relationships, enhance children's physical and emotional well-being and support children's cognitive skills so they are ready to succeed in school. Federal grants are awarded to local public or private agencies, referred to as "grantees" to provide Head Start services. Head Start began in 1965 and is administered by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Home-Based Child Care: Child care provided in a caregiver's home setting. Home-based child care may be regulated or unregulated, paid or unpaid, listed or unlisted. Narrower terms for specific home-based Child Care Arrangements might include Family Child Care, Informal Child Care and Family, Friend and Neighbor Care.

Informal Child Care: A term used to describe child care provided by relatives, friends, and neighbors in the child's own home or in another home, often in unregulated settings. See related: Informal Child Care; Kith and Kin Child Care; Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Care.

Licensed Capacity: Refers to the maximum number of children allowed to be in a licensed or regulated child care program or setting at any one time. Capacity is based upon the number of children for which adequate facilities and teachers/caregivers are provided, in accordance with supervision and space requirements.

Licensed Child Care: Child care programs operated in homes or in facilities that fall within the regulatory system of a state or community and comply with those regulations. Many states have different licensing and regulatory requirements.

GLOSSARY (CONT.)

Parent Involvement: Refers to active parent/family participation in a child's care and education. To increase Parent Involvement, child care providers will typically identify projects, needs, and goals and let parents know how they can contribute. Parental involvement is often measured by metrics related to attendance at school meetings, events and parent-teacher conferences; or by volunteering or serving on a school committee. See related: Family Engagement.

Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K): Programs designed for three and four year olds that focus on School Readiness. Though sometimes used interchangeably with "Preschool" and "Nursery School," Pre-K programs are typically government funded and stipulate compliance with quality and accountability standards that exceed regulatory requirements for other types of early learning settings (e.g., by requiring specific advanced qualifications for teachers). Pre-K programs are commonly operated in conjunction with public school districts, but also exist in various early education settings.

Preschool: Programs that provide early education and care to children before they enter kindergarten, typically from ages 2.5-5 years. Preschools may be publicly or privately operated and may receive public funds.

Quality: The characteristics of learning environments that promote the physical, social, emotional and cognitive development of young children. High quality programs typically exceed state regulatory requirements, utilizing Developmentally Appropriate curricula and prioritizing adequate teacher and administrative qualifications, ongoing Professional Development, and Family Engagement strategies, among others qualities.

Relative Child Care: Child care provided by extended family members either in the child's home or at a relative's home. See related: Informal Child Care; Kith and Kin Care; Family, Friend and Neighbor Child Care (FFN).

School Readiness: A term to describe the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to successfully transition to, and perform well in, the early school years. School readiness is typically determined based on children's developmental status and progress in the following five domains: language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, Approaches to Learning, physical well-being and motor development, and social and emotional development.

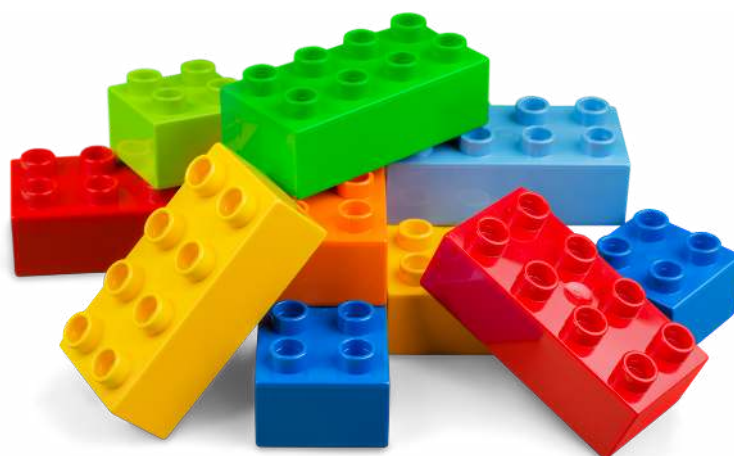
GLOSSARY (CONT.)

Social-Emotional Development: Refers to the development process whereby children learn to identify and understand their own feelings, accurately read and comprehend emotional states in others, manage and express strong emotions in constructive manners, regulate their behavior, develop empathy for others, and establish and maintain relationships.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF): A federally funded grant program, created upon the enactment of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) in 1996, that provides funds to states, territories, and tribes to design and operate programs that help needy families achieve economic security and child and family well-being, including through the provision of child care services. States vary in how they administer CCDF and TANF. TANF replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS).

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK): A movement within the U.S. education system to make access to Prekindergarten available to all children and families within a given jurisdiction, regardless of the child's abilities and family income. UPK services can be offered in a Mixed Delivery System. States vary in what they define as "universal" and in how far they have progressed, or desire to progress, towards implementation.

Unlicensed Child Care: Child care programs that have not been licensed by the state. The term often refers both to Legally/License-Exempt Child Care such as FFN Child Care that can legally operate without a license as well as a program that illegally operates without a license. Unlicensed child care is also referred to as unregulated or non-regulated child care.



APPENDIX A

Data from Gilpin and Clear Creek County

Below are the key data points that emerged after compiling data from six sources: 1) KIDS Count; 2) County Health Rankings; 3) Livability Index; 4) CO Early Care and Education Workforce; 5) Clear Creek Childcare Assessment; and 6) Report of Child Care Licensing

KEY:

Yellow = Challenge

Green = Strength

Child Care and Education

Education and Child Care Capacity and Enrollment

Indicator	Source	Year	Gilpin	Clear Creek
Child Population Under 5	KIDS Count	2022	269	467
Infant capacity	CO Licensing	2024	0	10
Toddler capacity	CO Licensing	2024	0	29
Preschool capacity	CO Licensing	2024	80	74
Preschool and school age capacity	CO Licensing	2024	0	80
Current Preschool Enrollment	BridgeCare	2024	20	38

2019 data from Clear Creek Child Care Assessment

Usage of Licensed Childcare among Clear Creek County Resident Children

INDICATOR	UNDER AGE 3	AGES 3 TO 6	TOTAL UNDER 6
Using childcare center in Clear Creek County	29	18	47
Using public preschool in Clear Creek County	0	84	84
Using childcare center outside Clear Creek County	25	39	64
TOTAL	54	141	195

APPENDIX A

Data from Gilpin and Clear Creek County

What types of child care are Clear Creek County households using?

Indicator	Families with kids under age 3	Families with kids ages 3-6	Total Families with kids under age 6
Child care center	43%	41%	44%
Part day preschool	25%	37%	33%
Relative, friend of neighbor	32%	35%	32%
Nanny or nanny-share	18%	4%	9%
Licensed Family Child Care Home (FCCH)	11%	4%	9%
Stay at home parent	32%	24%	23%
Significant other and I arrange work hours so one of us is with the children	25%	20%	23%

Location Preference

Given the choice, nearly three quarters (74%) of parents would choose care near their house over care near their work.

Over half of respondents (57%) value location over type of provider

Knowledge of CCCAP

Only 18 percent of respondents to the survey were familiar with CCCAP

Of those, a few had used CCCAP in the past and a few had considered it but chose not to apply because they felt they were unlikely to qualify and/or had a provider that did not accept CCCAP.

APPENDIX A

Data from Gilpin and Clear Creek County

2019 Colorado ECE Child Care Workforce Data

Indicator	Gilpin	Clear Creek	Colorado
# ECE professionals working in licensed ECE settings	23	21	
Ratio of 0-5 children to ECE professionals	12:1	24:1	17:1
% ECE professionals with ECE 2.0	48%	19%	36%
ECE professionals with AA or BA	39%	57%	38%
Lead teachers new to the field	0%	11%	16%
Assistant teachers new to the field	25%	60%	20%
One-year turnover rate for directors	N/A	33%	30%
Three-year turnover rates for directors	N/A	100%	50%
One-year turnover rate for lead teachers of 3-5 yos	20%	38%	
Three-year turnover rates for lead teachers of 3-5 yos	75%	50%	
One-year turnover rate for assistant teachers of 3-5 yos	33%	100%	
One-year turnover rate for lead teachers of 0-2 yos	67%	N/A	
Three-year turnover rates for lead teachers of 0-2 vos	67%	N/A	

APPENDIX A

Data from Gilpin and Clear Creek County

MENTAL HEALTH

Indicator	Source	Year	Gilpin	Clear Creek	Colorado
Mental Health Provider Ratio	County Health Rankings	2022	1,470:1	3,150:1	230:1

PEDIATRIC HEALTH

Indicator	Source	Year	Gilpin	Clear Creek	Colorado
Primary Care Physician	County Health Rankings	2020	3,120:1	9,590:1	1,200:1
Low birth weight rates	KIDS Count	2022	9.50%	10.80%	9.90%
Birth to women w/prenatal care	KIDS Count	2022	84.20%	78.10%	81.90%
Birth to women who smoke	KIDS Count	2022	9.30%	N/A	3.10%
Children birth to 18 in CHP+	KIDS Count	2021	3.30%	2.70%	3.80%
Children birth to 18 in Medicaid	KIDS Count	2021	39%	30%	47%
Children eligible, but not enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+	KIDS Count	2019	0%	0%	3.8% & 6.6%

Indicator	Source	Year	Gilpin	Clear Creek	USA
Drinking water quality (% exposed to violations)	Livability Index	2023	0	4.73%	0
# Unhealthy air quality days per year	Livability Index	2023	9.7	5.7	3.9

APPENDIX A

Data from Gilpin and Clear Creek County

ENRICHMENT

Indicator	YR	US	Gilpin			Clear Creek								
			Bikhawk	Central City	Rollins - ville	Floyd Hill	Silver Plume	George -town	Downie- ville	Empire	Blue Valley	Pine Valley	Idaho Spgs	St. Mary's
Opportunity for civic involvement (organizations per 10,000 people)	'23	8	12.6	13.7	11.8	15.7	10.2	10.2	5.3	5.3	12.9	22.3	10.3	11.4
Cultural, arts, and entertainment institutions per 10,000 people	'23	1.9	9.3	11.9	4.4	8.3	2.7	3.2	3.2	3.2	11.9	5.1	13.5	13.8
Live close to park or rec center	'22	For CO 90 %	56%			73%								

Sources: Livability Index, County Health Ratings



APPENDIX A

Data from Gilpin and Clear Creek County

ECONOMIC SUPPORTS

Indicator	Date	U.S.	Gilpin			Clear Creek								
			Blkhawk	Central City	Rollinsville	Floyd Hill	Silver Plume	Georgetown	Downieville	Empire	Blue Valley	Pine Valley	Idaho Springs	St. Mary's
Households without vehicle	'23		2%	2%	5%	0%	4%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%
% Below poverty	'23		3%	4%	9%	4%	8%	8%	4%	8%	4%	3%	10%	4%
Broadband cost and speed	'23	74%	82%	68.30%	54.40%	94.40%	32.20%	32.20%	33.50%	33.50%	92.90%	94.40%	82.70%	92.10%

Source: *Livability Index*

Indicator	Source	Year	Gilpin	Clear Creek	CO
Children in extreme poverty	KIDS Count	2021	14.50%	1%	5.30%
Children under 6 with all parents in labor force	KIDS Count	2021	70.10%	87.50%	64.80%
Children receiving TANF	KIDS Count	2022	15.0%	2.30%	3.40%
Children under 5 in WIC	KIDS Count	2021	15.80%	15.30%	28.50%
Children eligible but not enrolled in Advanced Premium Tax Credit	KIDS Count	2019	25%	13.50%	24.30%
Long commute more than 30 minutes each way	County Health Rankings	2017-21	55%	52%	36%
Severe housing problems	County Health Rankings	2015-19	20%	11%	16%

APPENDIX B

Key Statistics for Gilpin County

Poverty: According to 2021 Kids Count data, Gilpin County has nearly three times the state average of children living in extreme poverty (14.5%) and double the state average of children living in single parent homes (43%).

Child Care Capacity: As of 2022, there were 269 children under the age of 5, but the community currently has zero licensed capacity to serve infants and toddlers and 80 seats available for preschoolers, of which only 20 have been filled by UPK.

Early Childhood Workforce: Although potentially outdated, 2019 early childhood education (ECE) workforce data showed that nearly half of the Gilpin ECE professionals had completed ECE 2.0, 12% higher than the state average.

Mental Health Access: Based on 2020 County Health Rankings, the ratio of mental health providers to county residents is over six times worse than the state average at 1,470:1.

Physical Health Access: Based on 2020 County Health Rankings, the ratio of primary care physicians to residents is nearly three times worse than the state average at 3.120:1

Prenatal Health Behaviors: Over 84% of Gilpin pregnant people access prenatal care, 4% higher than the state average. However, over 9% of Gilpin pregnant people smoke which is three times higher than the state average (2022 KIDS Count).

Enrichment: According to the 2023 Livability index, Gilpin has 50% more opportunities for civic involvement than the national average, and nearly five times the cultural, arts, and entertainment institutions than the national average. These are all assets and resources that can be galvanized to improve early childhood opportunities.

Broadband Access: In Gilpin communities such as Rollinsville, only 54% of residents have affordable access to high-speed internet compared to 74% of the national average (2023 Livability Index). Many of the early childhood systems require broadband for enrollment.

Economic Supports: Despite the high child poverty rates, over 70% of children under six have all their parents in the labor force, which is 5% higher than the state average (2021 KIDS Count). This reinforces the dire need for child care. Additionally, 15% of children are receiving TANF which is nearly five times the state average, yet only 16% of children are in WIC, 12% less than the state average. Finally, 25% of households with children are eligible, but not enrolled in the Advanced Premium Tax Credit.

APPENDIX B

Key Statistics for Clear Creek County

Poverty: According to 2021 Kids Count data, Clear Creek County has only 1% of children living in extreme poverty and over 87% of children under six have all parents in the labor force, more than 20% higher than the Colorado state average.

Child Care Capacity: As of 2022, there were 467 children under the age of 5, but the community currently only has licensed capacity to serve 10 infants, 29 toddlers, and 139 preschoolers. This is nowhere near the level of care families need, especially given the high levels of dual income families with young children. According to a 2019 Clear Creek Child Care Assessment, 64 out of 195 families with children under six had to use a child care center outside of Clear Creek County to meet their needs; 32% of families had to use a relative, friend or neighbor; and 23% had to arrange work hours with their significant other to receive the care they needed. However, 74% of families said they would choose care near their house over care near their work.

Early Childhood Workforce: Although potentially outdated, 2019 early childhood education (ECE) workforce data showed that the Clear Creek ratio of 0–5 children to ECE professionals was 24:1 compared to the CO state average of 17:1. Additionally, only 19% of ECE professionals had completed ECE 2.0 training compared to 36% statewide. Lastly, staff turnover was concerning with 100% of directors turning over in three years and 100% of assistant teachers turning over every year for 3–5-year-old classrooms.

Mental Health Access: Based on 2020 County Health Rankings, the ratio of mental health providers to county residents is over 13 times worse than the state average at 3,150:1.

Physical Health Access: Based on 2020 County Health Rankings, the ratio of primary care physicians to residents is nearly eight times worse than the state average at 9,590:1.



APPENDIX B

Key Statistics for Clear Creek County (cont.)

Prenatal Health Behaviors: 78% of Clear Creek pregnant people access prenatal care, 4% lower than the state average. Clear Creek also has a higher rate of low-birth-weight babies compared to the state average (10.8% compared to 9.9%) (2022 KIDS Count).

Environmental Health: Clear Creek County has had 4.73% of their drinking water exposed to violations compared to 0% U.S. national average. This could be because of its proximity to mines, but poses health risks to young children such as elevated blood lead or other heavy metal levels. (2023 Livability Index).

Enrichment: According to the 2023 Livability index, many Clear Creek communities, especially Floyd Hill, Blue Valley, and Pine Valley have significantly more opportunities for civic involvement than the national average, and the county has nearly four times the cultural, arts, and entertainment institutions than the national average. These are all assets and resources that can be galvanized to improve early childhood opportunities.

Broadband Access: In Clear Creek communities such as Silver Plume, Georgetown, Downieville, and Empire, only 32% of the residents have affordable access to high-speed internet compared to 74% of the national average (2023 Livability Index). Many of the early childhood systems require broadband for enrollment.



APPENDIX C


Prompts for March Community Conversations in Clear Creek County and Gilpin County

- What are your hopes for your child(ren) and family?
- What are some things that are challenging about parenting?
- Are you facing barriers accessing child care? If so, what are they?
- How do you like to or want to receive information about parenting and resources (FB, social media, from people you know, websites, written material, someone to visit with in person)?
- If you've ever had a concern about your child's behavior or development, what did you do about that? Did you do anything or did you not know what to do? Are you still wondering about it?
- How do you access pediatric care? Is it local or do you have to commute out of the county to receive care?
- What community spaces and or organizations do you wish you had the opportunity to access for enrichment activities for your child?
- What do you appreciate about living in Clear Creek County? What would you like to improve?



APPENDIX C

Prompts for April Journey Mapping Session

TOPIC/THEME	PROMPT
Age(s) of Child/Children	Please list the current age(s) of your child/children.
Child Care	Did/do you have childcare for 0-4? If yes, how did you find care for 0-4? If not, why?
	If you have/had care for 0-4, what town/county does your child go to? What type of childcare (center, family child care home, school, family/friend, etc.) Share how you felt about the care and education your child received.
	Describe how 0-4 child care access impacts/impacted you and your family.
Parent Support	On a scale of 1 to 5, how supported do you feel as a parent or caregiver in your community? Please explain. (1=unsupported; 5=very supported)
	We heard that parenting can feel lonely. What is hindering you from feeling connected to a community?
	What resources or support do you need most for your young child(ren) that are currently challenging to access? Why/how are they a challenge?
Enrichment Activities for 0-4 year olds	On a scale of 1 to 5, how easy is it to find enrichment activities for children ages 0-4 in Gilpin and Clear Creek? Please describe your experiences. (1=hard; 5=very easy)
	Please share the types of enrichment activities and locations (town/county) that you bring/brought your child(ren) ages 0-4. Describe your experience.
	Of the current enrichment activities for 0-4 year olds available in Gilpin or Clear Creek, what works well? What does not work well?
Pediatric Medical Care	Based on community conversations, we learned there are limited pediatricians in your community. What strategies do you use to receive care for young children? 

APPENDIX D

Summary of Journey Mapping Findings

On April 23, 2024 Social Determinants of Health Consulting partnered with Triad Bright Futures LCO to conduct a journey mapping session with families of young children from Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties. The information gathered during the session was aggregated and analyzed to identify themes, pain points, and opportunities to improve programs, services, and systems in the early childhood landscape. The Gilpin and Clear Creek session included 11 participants (1 additional participant submitted comments the following day).

Participants

- 5 from Gilpin
- 5 from Clear Creek
- 2 unknown

Ages of children

- < 1: 1
- 1-2: 2
- 2-3: 4
- 3-4: 2
- 5-6: 4
- 6+: 4

In one word, describe what it is like to raise a young child in your community:

- Clear Creek: Crushing, exciting
- Gilpin: Zoo-like, Adventurous, Wonderful, Isolating

Did/do you have child care for 0-4? If yes, how did you find care for 0-4? If not, why?

- Clear Creek: Out of 6 Clear Creek comments, 3 mentioned the high cost of care being prohibitive for themselves and the business owners
- Gilpin: 100% of 11 Gilpin comments mentioned the lack of infant/toddler care resulting in babysitters, family, work scheduling or unlicensed care to fill the need.

If you have/had care for 0-4, what town/county does/did your child go to? What type of care?

- Clear Creek: Clear Creek families mentioned attending centers in Georgetown, Blackhawk, and Lakewood
- Gilpin: Gilpin families mentioned Eagles Nest until it closed, and then family, FCCH, or FFN close by. No mention of going out of county.

APPENDIX D

Summary of Journey Mapping Findings

Describe how the 0-4 child care access impacts/impacted you and your family.

- Clear Creek and Gilpin: All Clear Creek and Gilpin comments touched on the mental and financial stress that lack of child care has caused, as well as the impact on career advancement (which causes continued financial strain).
- Gilpin Only: Two Gilpin comments mentioned the secondary impact that lack of child care causes: 1) children having to accompany parents to stressful medical events; and 2) an inability to do work on a house because children cannot be present during construction.

On a scale of 1 to 5, how supported do you feel as a parent or caregiver in your community? Please explain. (1=unsupported; 5=very supported)

- Clear Creek Average Score: 1.5: All four Clear Creek comments talk about having strong peer support from other commiserating parents, but very limited affordable opportunities at the community level to engage young children and meet families.
- Gilpin Average Score: 1: Six Gilpin comments talked about lack of peer parent/family community, cliques, and feeling judged/shamed by other parents, in addition to the lack of affordable activities. Gilpin also expressed concern about county leadership's lack of family friendly events, festivals, and opportunities to build community.

What resources or support do you need most for your young child(ren) that are currently challenging to access? Why/how are they a challenge?

- Clear Creek: All Clear Creek comments talked about the need for summer care, before/after care, and enrichment opportunities for 0-4.
- Gilpin: All Gilpin comments talked about the need for child care, medical care, and increased rec center hours and enrichment.

On a scale of 1 to 5, how easy is it to find enrichment activities for children ages 0-4 in Gilpin and Clear Creek? Please describe your experiences. (1=hard; 5=very easy)

- Clear Creek Average Score: 1.5: Clear Creek Rec (including swimming), library storytime, and indoor playground in Evergreen
- Gilpin Average Score: 1.7: Clear Creek and Gilpin Rec swimming; gym class in Ned; story time at Gilpin and Ned libraries

Based on community conversations, we learned there are limited pediatricians in your community. What strategies do you use to receive care for young children?

- Clear Creek: Clear Creek comment mentioned keeping Denver pediatrician
- Gilpin: Four of the Gilpin comments mentioned Denver, Evergreen and out of town; one comment mentioned Clinica as a local option