



@NACoTWEETS
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2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

ADAMS COUNTY

==== **COLORADO** =====

2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

ADAMS COUNTY COLORADO

Counties for Kids: Celebrating County Leadership in Prenatal-to-Three

1:45 – 3:00PM | Cottonwood 4/5

WiFi Network: Celerium4Counties

Passcode: Networkdefender!



2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

ADAMS COUNTY COLORADO



HON. MARY JO MCGUIRE

*Commissioner
Ramsey County, Minn.*

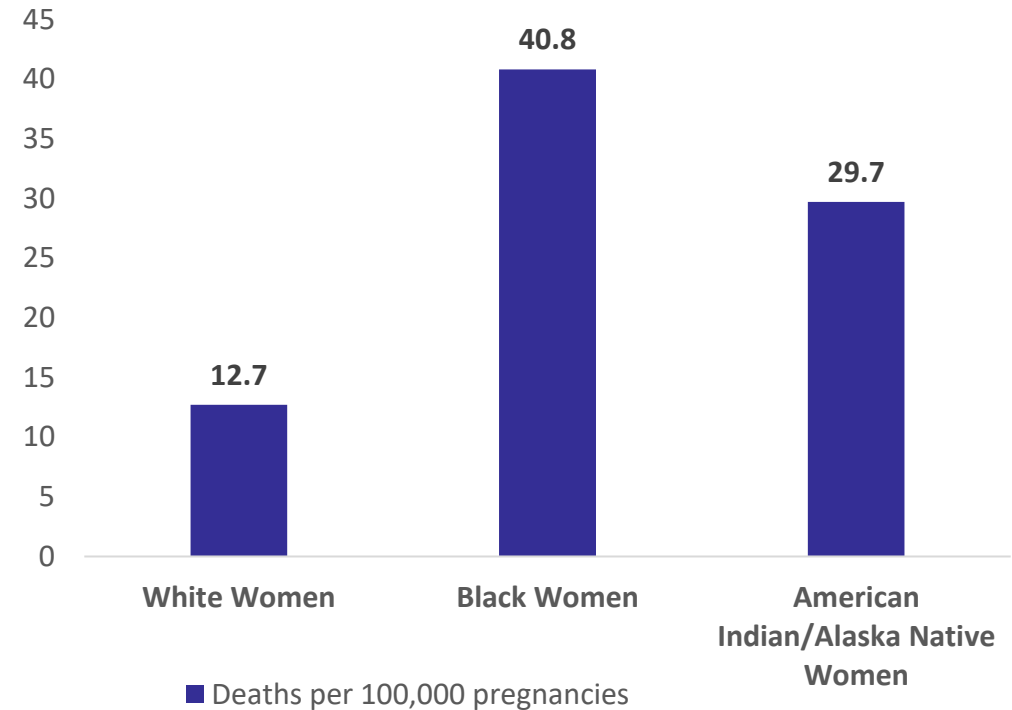
*Second Vice President
NACo*



ADAMS COUNTY COLORADO

- Over **70 percent** of counties had a child poverty rate that exceeded the national average in 2019.
- The infant/toddler child care crisis costs working parents, employers and taxpayers **\$57 billion** annually in lost earnings, productivity and revenue.
- In 2020, the maternal mortality rate was **23.8 deaths** per 100,000 pregnancies.
- During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly **40 percent** of households with young children reported difficulties paying for utilities, food and housing.

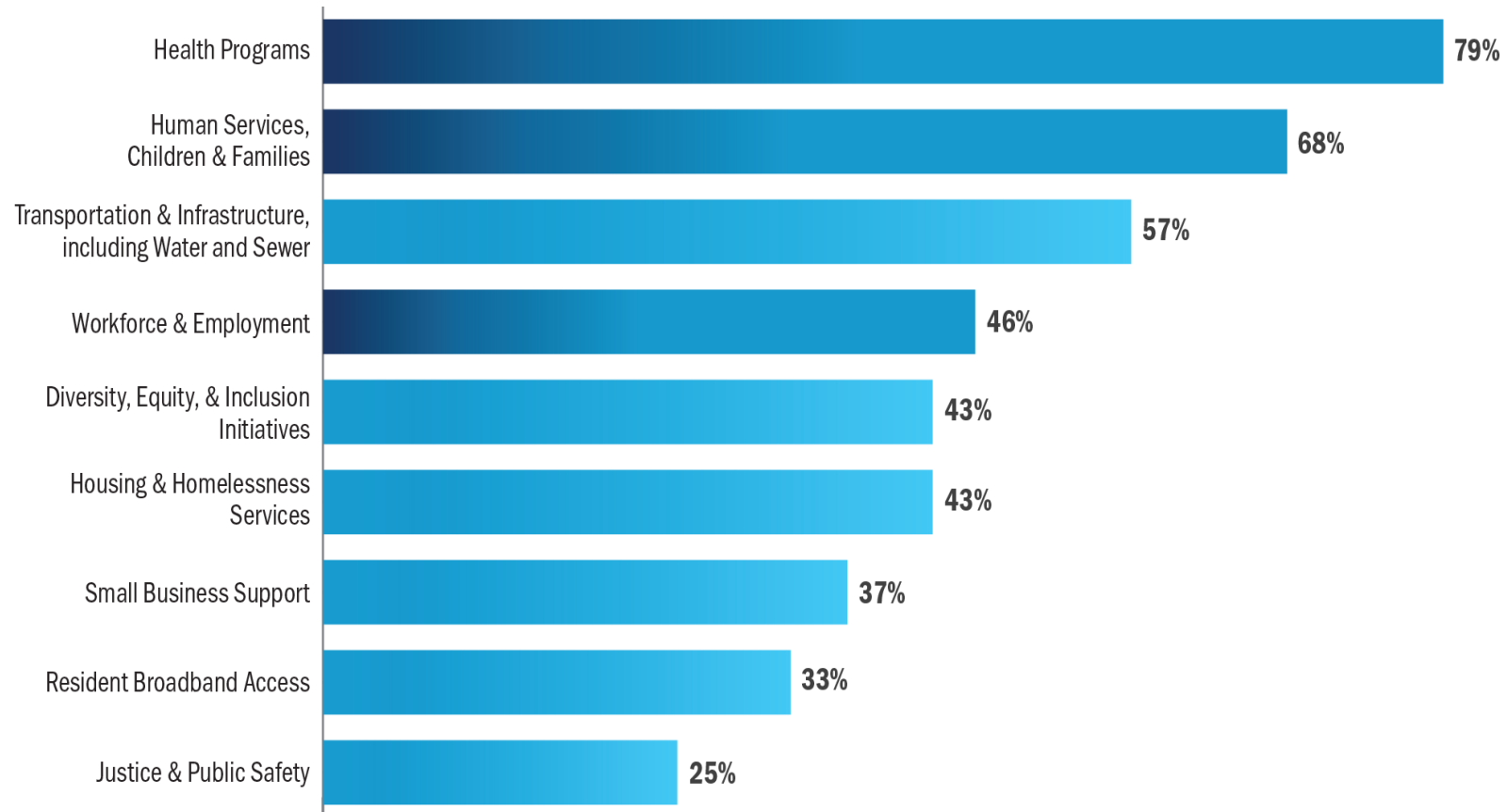
U.S. Maternal Mortality Rate, 2020



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Counties are prioritizing children and families through key investments:



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**HON. SONYA
FISCHER**

*Commissioner
Clackamas County, Ore.*



**HON. BRENDA
HOWERTON**

*Commissioner
Durham County, N.C.*




**HON. JEANNE
MCQUEENEY**

*Commissioner
Eagle County, Colo.*

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The National Collaborative for Infants & Toddlers



THE ABCs OF PRENATAL-TO-THREE FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS

The daily decisions that counties make not only shape community conditions but often set a trajectory for success for their youngest residents. When infants are born healthy into safe and nurturing environments with parents who are well-supported, a whole community can benefit from improved social, economic and health outcomes.

County officials play a key role in helping young children to grow, learn and thrive - often in partnership with parents. This resource, "The ABCs of Prenatal-to-Three for County Officials," offers policymakers a range of ideas for prioritizing investments that set young children up for success.

While there is no set process for advancing a prenatal-to-three agenda, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Research Foundation (NACoRF) has learned from counties across the nation about some of the most effective strategies. No matter where you are in your journey, NACoRF can support you by providing relevant information and connecting you to best practices and local leaders who have made meaningful strides.

QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY LEADERS TO CONSIDER

- **Is there strong leadership for infants and toddlers in your county?** One way county boards can demonstrate bi-partisan community support for their youngest residents is through a public statement of support.
- **Does your county have an active early childhood stakeholder group?** Connecting to or convening a diverse stakeholder team can build broad-based community support and cultivate champions for young children. Counties may establish a new or identify an existing group that is committed to shared vision and developing a strategic plan of action for children from prenatal to age three. To further support their cross-sector stakeholder group, counties may explore opportunities for establishing a dedicated early childhood system coordinator to strategically drive initiatives in the community.
- **Does your county have a shared vision for improving school readiness that includes infants and toddlers?** Often, planning for school readiness begins at birth. School readiness begins at birth. Leaders can work with the full continuum of a child's development by facilitating the integration of prenatal to three stakeholders and priorities within broader conversations around school readiness.

Prenatal-to-Three County Leader Toolkit

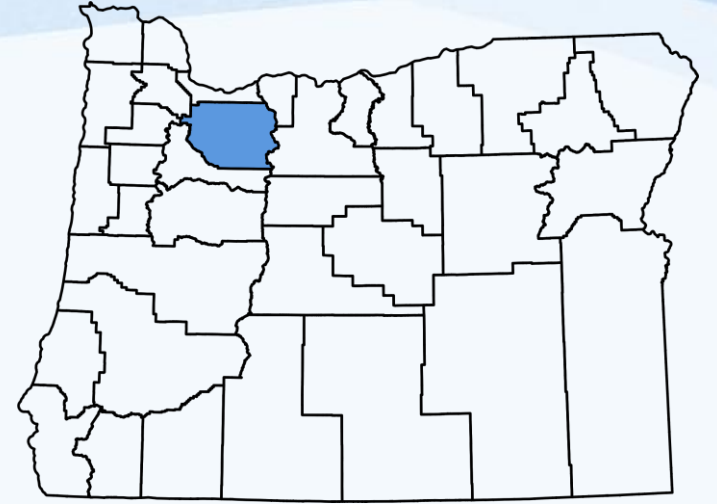


Counties Getting Started: A Prenatal-to-Three Guidebook



Clackamas County, Oregon

- Oregon's 3rd most populous county
- Population approximately 421,000
 - Estimated # of children 0-5 years old: 27,219
- Diverse regions: Urban, Suburban, Rural and Frontier



Commissioner Sonya Fischer
sonyafischer@Clackamas.us

Early Learning Hub of Clackamas County



- Centralized structure, housed within the County is unique in the State of Oregon
- Leadership role in providing services to children and families
- Collaborate efforts of community stakeholders to design and implement aligned systems
- Prenatal to six to ensure children are ready for kindergarten



Child Care for All

*Working together for Universal
Child Care*

*Our Vision is that all
families in Clackamas
County will have access to
quality, affordable child
care that meets their
unique needs.*



Access to Childcare

0-2 year olds that have access to childcare:

23% in the nation

14% in the State of Oregon

13% in Clackamas County

Child Care Deserts

Areas where less than 33.3% of children are able to access child care

- Clackamas County needs:
 - 11,000 Child Care Slots
 - 6,589 Qualified Staff
- 51% of US families live in a Child Care Desert
- 3/5 Rural areas in the US are child care deserts



Child Care for All Partners



Thank you for being here today!



Grown in Durham

Durham County's Investments in Early Childhood

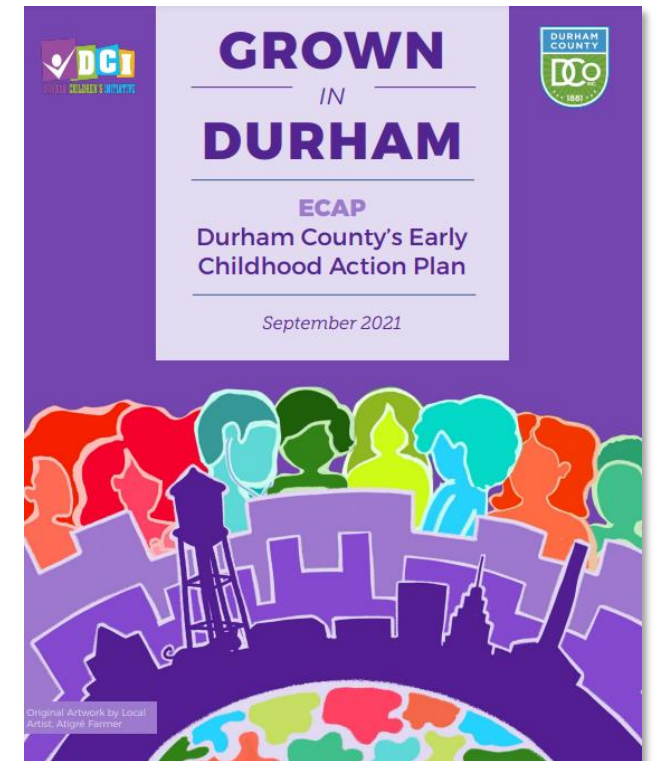


*Original art by local
artist Atigré Farmer*

***Counties for Kids Workshop
July 22, 2022***

History of Durham County Early Childhood Investment and Support

- Pre-K
- Early Literacy and Family Support
- Community collaboration and planning



Durham PreK

- In 2015, the County, City, and School Board passed a resolution in support of universal access to Pre-Kindergarten and other appropriate strategies to improve early literacy in Durham County
- In 2016, Durham County and the other elected bodies convened a taskforce to study universal pre-k
- That taskforce completed a [report with recommendations](#) and a [supply and demand study](#) to inform the pilot and implementation of a universal pre-k beginning in 2018 in Durham using braided funding
- Durham County now invests over 6 million per year in Durham PreK, our universal pre-k program, and over 1,500 children are served
- Goals of the program include increasing quality, teacher pay, and access; plans to offer wrap-care are underway and expansion to serve 3-year-olds is a part of the plan

Early Literacy and Family Support

- In addition to Pre-K, Durham County invests in two early literacy initiatives in our community:
 - Reach Out and Read, which uses books to promote conversation and early literacy in the pediatric well-child visit
 - Book Harvest, which makes community spaces like laundromats book rich and provides families with children 0-5 with books and information about early literacy through their Book Babies program
- We provide funding to our local Diaper Bank for diapers and formula, as well as in a community-based doula program that provides essential families supplies and culturally-affirming postpartum support and parent education

Early Literacy and Family Support

- In addition to these investments in community-based supports, Durham County also supports families directly through our County-run Welcome Baby parent support program, maternal health clinic, child care subsidy, and library story hours
- Our Welcome Baby program at Cooperative Extension serves over 1,200 families with wrap-around support like diapers, formula, cribs, car seats, and parent education
- During COVID, and because of issues related to financial impacts and maternal isolation, Welcome Baby served significantly more families and quickly pivoted to serve them in social-distanced ways, creating drive-through and virtual options for all of their programming

Community collaboration and planning

- In 2016, Durham County co-chaired a taskforce to develop a report called [State of Durham County's Young Children](#) that provided data-informed recommendations about strengthen outcomes for young children
- Born out of this report, two community collaboratives formed, both of which are staffed or co-chaired by Durham County
 - Born in Durham, Healthy for Life is focused on addressing disparities in maternal and infant health
 - Durham ACEs and Resilience Taskforce is focused on policy and practice change to prevent and mitigate ACEs and promote resilience

Community collaboration and planning

- In 2020, pre-pandemic, Durham County funded the development of an [Early Childhood Action Plan](#) for Durham
 - Deep collaboration across 150 partners and parents, informed by the perspectives of an additional 1500 parents
 - Resulted in 21 recommendations and 58 strategies to improve early childhood systems and ensure that young children and their families can thrive
 - Leveraged the plan to raise over \$1.5 million so far for pediatric-focused early relational health efforts and child care advocacy around subsidy and teacher pay

Examples of Strategies and Parent Voices in the ECAP

Anti-Racism & Power Sharing

Strategy 1.2: Channel funding to support families and children to community-rooted organizations.

“There are currently overlooked people/orgs who are actually most fit to lead because of their lived experience and connection to community. Remove the traditional checkboxes that create barriers to people being tapped for leadership and pay.” – **Community-rooted leader**

Early Childhood Workforce

Strategy 2.1: Pay early childhood educators more.

“Being a teacher is not easy and on top of that it's barely enough to live from, but people do this every day and I would want my child to be learning from someone who can afford to live and not have worries while at work.” – **Durham parent**

Sustainable Early Care & Education System

Strategy 18.3: Make infant and toddler child care more affordable and easy to access.

“How can you get a job if you have no childcare? The social worker told me she found me daycare but that I have 2 weeks to find a job...but how if I have no childcare?” – **Durham parent**

Family Friendly Workplaces

Strategy 7.1: Bring together Durham businesses, families, early childhood experts, and others to figure out how to make more Durham workplaces "family-friendly."

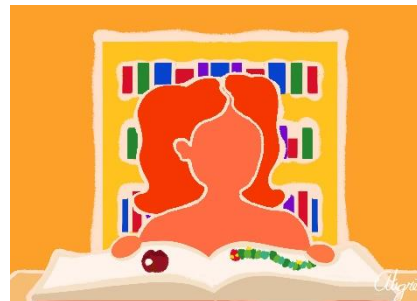
“PAID PARENTAL LEAVE FOR BOTH PARTNERS FOR 6 MONTHS.” - **Durham parent**

Community collaboration and planning

- The ECAP has evolved into an initiative called Grown in Durham, overseen by a representative steering committee focused on parent leadership
- The County funds the “backbone” staffing role for implementation of the plan; it is a private-public partnership and the County’s Early Childhood Coordinator provides support and guidance
- The Grown in Durham Steering Committee has identified these 5 priorities for fundraising and action in the next year:
 - Welcoming spaces that use peer support to connect parents with resources
 - Guaranteed income pilot/cash assistance to families with young children
 - Child care campaign and advocacy for increased investment and teacher pay
 - Education about culturally-affirming and inclusive approaches to child care
 - Child social-emotional health at school and at home

Leveraging ARPA Funding

- The process to allocate ARPA funding is underway in our community
- Based on Commissioner priorities and staff input, these are some of the PN-3 priorities we are considering for ARPA funding:
 - Expanding child care subsidy and scholarship dollars
 - Supporting Durham PreK with a transportation study and an evaluation plan
 - Providing financial support and technical assistance to child care providers hardest hit by the pandemic
 - Investing in community-based Black maternal health supports
 - Investing in community-based approaches to improving social emotional health of children and their families



THANK YOU



*Original art by local
artist Atigré Farmer*

Eagle County, Colorado



Who we are

55,000 residents

World class skiing

Affluent first and second home owners

Tourist destination

38% eligible for free/reduced lunch

32% learning English as a second language

Cost of child care = 17-30% of income

4,300 children 0-5

48% with no child care space



Key Messages

Safe, quality and accessible child care is essential for children to grow, parents to work and our economy to function.

Investing in safe, quality child care and early education programs will help parents & children thrive in Eagle County.

Child care is part of the necessary infrastructure for our county.

Child care is the work that makes all other work possible.

The single most effective investment we can make is in new parents and our youngest children.

Advocate for and Support Legislation

Colorado Senate Bill 19-063
Infant and Family Child Care Action Plan:
A strategic action plan to address infant and family child care home shortages in Colorado.



SB20-126 HOA bill

HB21-1222 Regulation of Family
Child Care Homes

HB22-1006 Child Care Center
Property Tax Exemption

Funding Support

- Increased Child Care Tuition Assistance
- Recruitment and Retention programs
- Salary Supplements
- Rental Assistance
- Staff Bonuses
- Quality grants
- Coaching support
- Professional development
- Utilizing TANF reserves

\$1.5 Million annually

1% of annual budget

Jeanne McQueeney

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970-471-0635

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Get involved!

- Visit www.countiesforkids.org to:
 - Join us for a future [PN-3 County Leaders Academy](#)
 - Sign up for or share the virtual [PN-3 Peer Learning Network](#)
 - Write a [letter to the editor](#) sharing your county's efforts
- Email Arabella at aplutaehlers@naco.org to learn more!



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES



ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

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JULY 21-24, 2022

