

PUEBLO'S POTENTIAL

***HOW FREE CHILD
CARE BREAKS
DOWN BARRIERS,
AND WHAT
EXPANDING IT
COULD MEAN FOR
COLORADO FAMILIES***



CHILD CARE COSTS TOO MUCH

Child care shouldn't be a barrier to work. But for many Coloradans who earn low incomes, unaffordable child care costs for them to choose between working and taking care of their kids.

This barrier is especially pronounced for families with young children who live in Pueblo—many of whom earn lower incomes and have lower levels of employment than parents in other parts of Colorado.





- **Parents are more likely to work, earn thousands of dollars more, and are less likely to live in poverty when they have access to free or affordable child care.**
- **A working parent in Pueblo needs to earn far more than the average wage in order to make it worth their while to pay for the average hourly cost of child care.**
- **CFI's research found that both single- and two-parent households experience increases in incomes and hours worked.**

**CFI'S ANALYSIS SHOWED
EXPANDING CHILD
CARE WOULD BOOST
PUEBLO'S ECONOMY
\$35.5 MILLION
ECONOMIC
IMPACT**

- The economic boost of more parents having access to child care would create as many as 200 jobs in Pueblo County.
- Free or affordable child care would reduce the poverty rate for single-parent households from 46% to 32%. Two-parent households would see their poverty rate fall from 16% to 10%.
- Some of the jobs that pay the lowest wages—like housekeepers and desk clerks—are overwhelmingly filled by women.



CFI's research is only the latest example of studies showing how free or affordable child care benefit families.

As policymakers look for ways to help workers, families, and the state's economy bounce back from the pandemic, they should seriously consider expanding access to free child care.