

2025 Mid-Session Webinar

Community Briefing

March 13, 2025



Our Issues



K-12 Education

Early Childhood

Health

Economic Security

Halfway Through the Legislative Session



- Difficult budget situation-CO facing \$1.2B in budget cuts.
- Shifting federal landscape
- **499 Bills Introduced**
 - 199 Senate Bills
 - 300 House Bills
 - 91 signed by/sent to Governor

K-12 Education



Implementing the New School Funding Formula



**\$250
MILLION**

in additional
funds will
go toward
rural schools
each year



**\$380
MILLION**

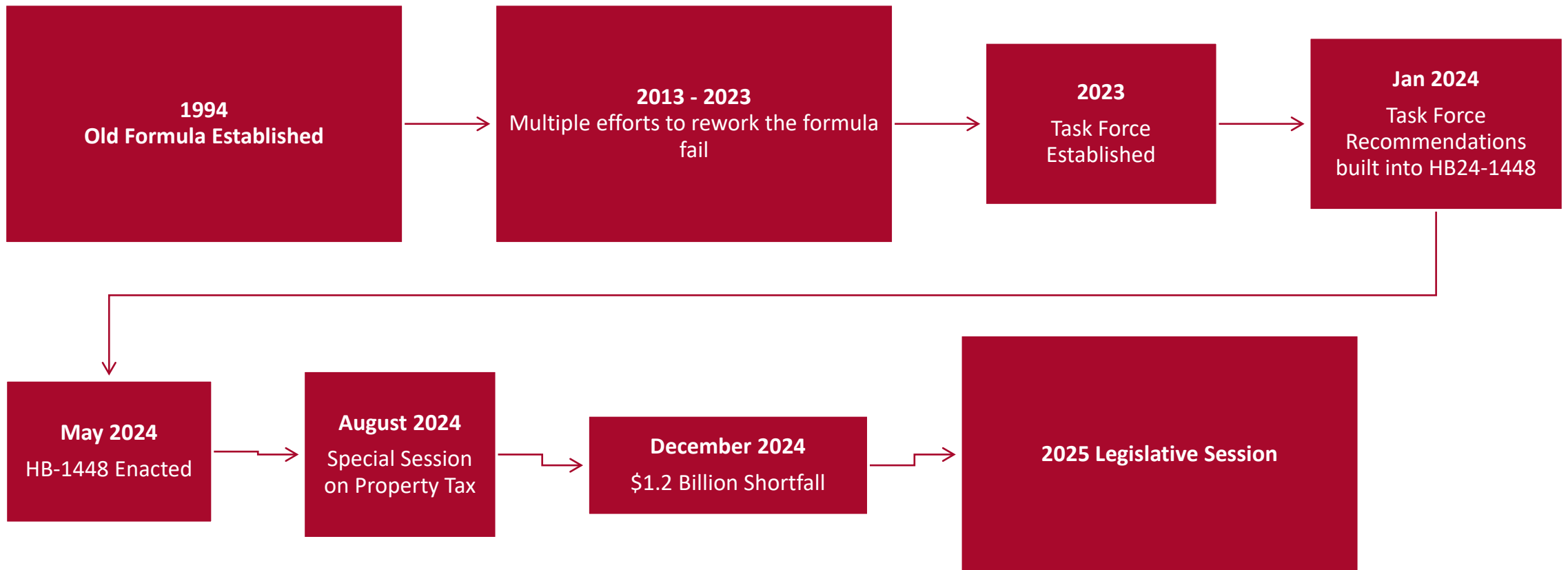
in additional
funds will
support
multilingual
learners and
learners who
are at-risk
each year



**\$280
MILLION**

in additional
funds will
support learners
receiving
special education
services
each year

Finding Balance in the State Budget



The Emerging Solution



- **Implementing 10% of the formula** this year, instead of 18%
- Redistributing up to \$80 million in grants
- **Updating enrollment averaging**, perhaps over time
- Making difficult cuts to programs to reduce strain on the General Fund and the State Education Fund

Accurately Measure and Support Student Needs



- **Prioritize hungry students** with Healthy School Meals for All
 - **HB25-1274** passed House Education and Finance. *If enacted, this bill will help the state cover HSMA.*
- Finalize a new way to **count students living in poverty**
 - *Codifying data sharing agreements between the Department of Education & the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing.*

Enhance Positive School Climates



- The **Positive School Climates Act (2022)** requires CDE to analyze and report data on student experiences in school.
 - The Act's first report was missing key data on school use of restraint and seclusion.
 - **HB25-1248**: *Clarifies how schools collect and report this key data.*
- **Cell phones in schools bill (HB25-1135)** requires all school districts to adopt a policy limiting cell phones in classrooms.
- **Mental health programs in schools** are underway and serving students, but funding is still at risk and further implementation is needed.

Additional K-12 Legislation



- **HB25-1278:** Public Education Accountability Improvements
- **HB25-1192:** Financial Literacy Graduation requirement and FAFSA completion



Early Childhood



Universal Preschool Is Working for Families



43,479 4-year-olds participated in UPK during the 2023-24 school year



Over 18,000
low-income children served



2,000 Providers
About 50% community-based



Average \$6,000
annual savings for families

Ensure Sustained Success for UPK



- Governor's proposed **\$11.1M increase for UPK**
 - JBC decision pending the March Revenue Forecast
- **Continued Support for Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs) and the Provider Rate Increase**
- **Opposing legislation that would damage mixed delivery and family choice**
 - SB25-119: Modifications to CDEC/UPK failed in committee



Improvements to Child Care Assistance



- **\$10 million proposed General Fund increase for CCCAP**
- JBC allocated an additional \$10 million *federal* Child Care and Development Grant Funding to CCCAP instead of the proposed increase of General Fund.
 - *Colorado will need a significant increased investment of General Fund for CCCAP in following years.*
- Prioritizing CCCAP funding is crucial and should not compete with Universal Preschool resources—**both are vital to supporting Colorado's children and working families.**

Supporting Child Care Affordability



Two bills to support **child care affordability for families:**

- **SB25-004:** Child Care Waitlist Fees
- **HB25-1011:** Child care purchased by private equity



Supporting Child Care Accessibility



- Supporting **child care accessibility**:
 - **HB25-1296**: Tax Expenditure Adjustment
 - Child Care Contribution Tax Credit extension
- Access to **essential wraparound health support**:
 - **SB25-017**: Measures to Support Early Childhood Health

Protect Services & Ensure Accountability

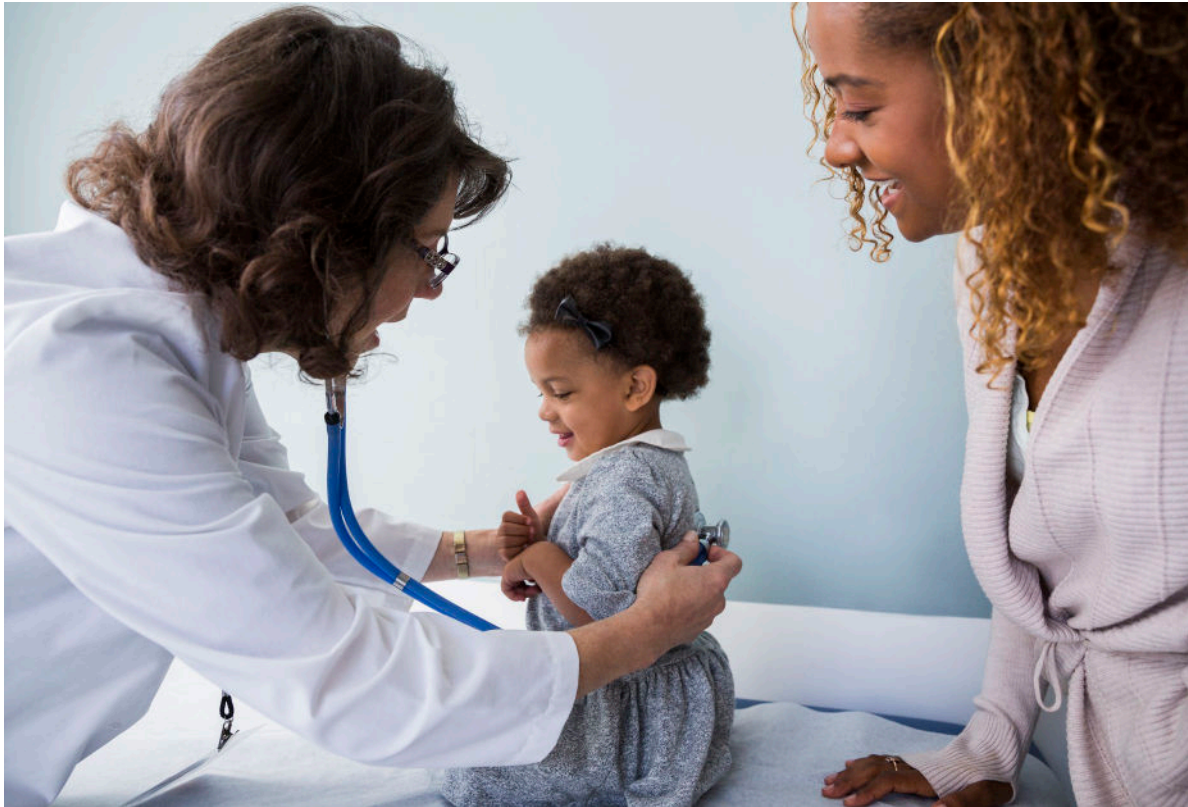


- **Early Intervention:** Advocate for an effective funding fix in FY25-26 and beyond that mitigates any negative impacts on children and families.
 - *Short-term funding fix pending*
- **Leverage Third-Party Evaluations & Rule Re-Writes:** Guide meaningful reviews of CDEC, UPK, and CCCAP.
 - Children's Campaign named to steering committee for CDEC review and CCCAP rule re-write

Health



Protecting Health Coverage in the State Budget

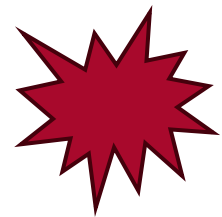


- ✓ **Continuous Eligibility for kids 0-3**
- ✓ **CHP+ Coverage**
- ✓ **Cover All Coloradans**

Cover All Coloradans Update



11,000 more children are now enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+ health coverage regardless of their documentation status.



Sign up for our Action Alert!



Increasing and Protecting Access to Health Care



- Sustaining OmniSalud and reinsurance with an increased health insurance fee
 - **HB25-1297** ensures undocumented Coloradans have access to the proper health insurance coverage - *House Health and Human Services next Tuesday, March 18*
- Increasing funding for safety net clinics
 - **HB25-1174** proposes increases to the Primary Care fund in the aftermath of the Medicaid unwind - *Passed out of the House Health and Human Services Committee*

Improving Youth Mental Health



- Creating affordability in mental health coverage
 - **HB25-1002:** *Passed and headed to the Governor's desk!*
- Ensuring a safe social media experience for Colorado kids
 - **HB25-1287:** Establishes requirements for social media companies to protect kids including increased parental controls – *House Health & Human Services next Wednesday*
 - **SB25-86:** Increases transparency and accountability for social media companies to protect kids while online – *Passed out of committee yesterday!*



Economic Security



Measure the Impact of the TANF Program



HB25-1279 will improve data in the TANF program to:

- Understand how funds are spent and the outcomes of that spending
- Assess the impact of recent policy changes
- Maximize spending to decrease extreme child poverty

Avoid Harmful Cuts to Families



- Colorado should not make changes to the TANF program without comprehensive data.
- *Ill-informed changes could mean cuts to cash assistance or rolling back other TANF policies that directly support families.*

Modernize Tony Grampas Program



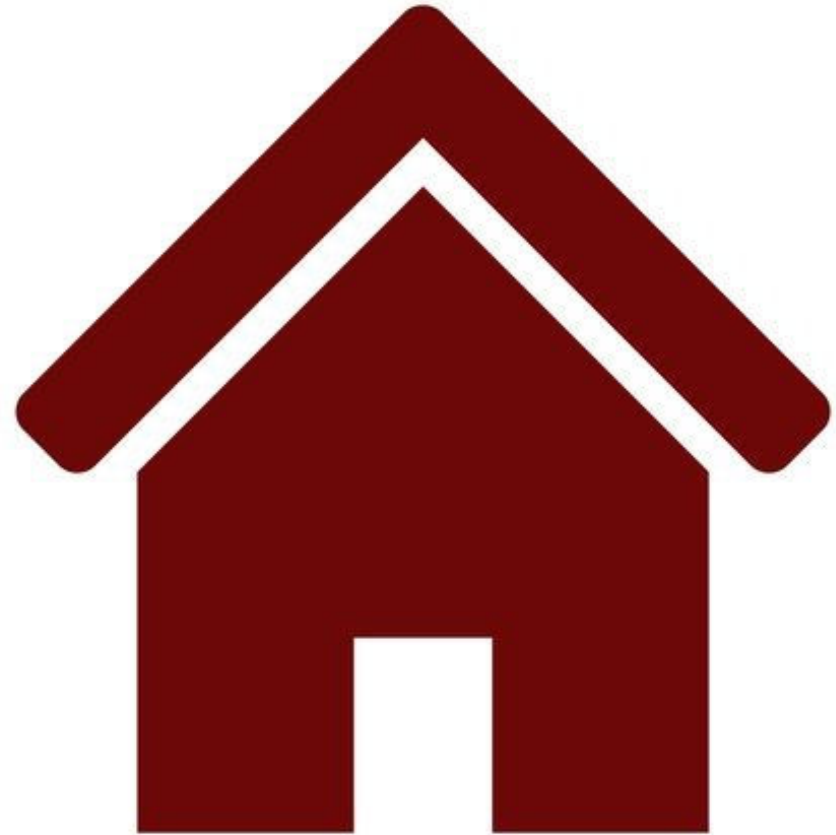
SB25-197 updates the 31-year old TGYS program:

- Increases access for small organizations
- Updates the roles of TGYS board and staff
- Streamlines program requirements and processes

Keep Families Housed



- **HB25-1032** facilitates a holistic approach to addressing homelessness.
- **Eviction Legal Defense Fund** provides access to critical legal supports for renters facing eviction.



Questions?



Annual Lobby Day at the Capitol



14th Annual *Speak Up for Kids Day* with Clayton Early Learning

Wednesday, April 2

- History Colorado & then to the Capitol to advocate with legislators!

Boost your advocacy skills and speak up for kids during the 2025 session and beyond!



Register Here!



Upcoming Policy Webinars



Register Here!

- **End-of-Session Update**

- Thursday, May 8
- 10-11 AM
- Online, via Zoom



Annual KIDS COUNT in Colorado! Release



Annual KIDS COUNT in Colorado! Release event

Wednesday, May 28

- In-Person: 8:30-10:30 AM
 - The Colorado Health Foundation
- Virtual: 9:00-10:00 AM
 - Zoom

**Learn more about the updated
data points for 2025!**

Learn More!



COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN

★ ★ ★ 40 YEARS OF LIGHTING THE WAY ★ ★ ★



Take a look back at the
Children's Campaign's
impact, and a look forward
at what's to come.

VIP Reception
4:00-5:30pm

General Event Begins
5:30-10pm

September 24, 2025

Hangar Club Denver

7600 E 1st Pl, Denver,
CO 80230

40th Anniversary
Video

Paddle Raise

Other great
surprises

For more information or details, please reach out to
Shawna Mounsey, VP of Development, at shawna@coloradokids.org.
To purchase tickets and sponsorships, or for additional information,
visit <https://www.coloradokids.org/40th-anniversary>.

**COLORADO
CHILDREN'S
CAMPAIGN** 
FOR EVERY KID. FOR 40 YEARS.

Sign Up for KidsFlash



Sign up for our newsletter here!

**Stay up-to-date with
the latest on child
well-being and what's
happening at the
capitol!**



Thank you!

Heather Tritten, President & CEO

Heather@coloradokids.org

