



Immediate Action Needed: Release Federal Funding to Colorado Children and Families

January 14, 2026

Assistant Secretary Alex J. Adams
Secretary Robert F. Kennedy
Senator Michael Bennett
Senator John Hickenlooper
Representative Diana DeGette
Representative Joe Neguse

Representative Jeff Hurd
Representative Lauren Boebert
Representative Jeff Crank
Representative Jason Crow
Representative Brittany Pettersen
Representative Gabe Evans

Dear Assistant Secretary, Secretary, and Congressional Leaders,

This week, the federal department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) froze tens of millions of dollars in funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), and the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). These freezes were imposed based on unsubstantiated accusations of fraud. **The decision to freeze funding places tens of thousands of Colorado children in jeopardy by denying them life-saving services.**

In Colorado, over 47,000 children receive TANF basic cash assistance that helps their families access necessities like food, clothing, and diapers. Freezing TANF funds will devastate families' ability to meet their children's basic needs and prevent families from moving toward economic stability. Children who receive TANF basic cash assistance are living in extreme poverty – making less than \$15,000 per year.

Child care funding freezes will deny over 27,000 children in our state access to high-quality learning and care experiences that prepare them for social and academic success. They will also prevent parents from fulfilling work requirements for TANF and Medicaid.

Child care funding freezes also threaten our state's entire child care ecosystem. Without CCCAP funding, many providers who rely on these monies will be forced to close their doors. In a state where 51% of families live in child care deserts, and where we lose \$3.1 billion annually in potential tax revenue due to parents who forego employment due to a lack of child care, the effects of this freeze will further devastate our provider network, and the families they serve, now and for years to come.

Colorado has some of the strongest anti-fraud protections in the country. Preventing our children and families from accessing basic needs and care based on unfounded accusations is unnecessarily cruel.

We call on HHS and ACF to immediately rescind this action and restore stability to these vital programs that help families meet their basic needs and create pathways out of poverty. We call on Colorado's members of Congress to urge the Administration to immediately release these critical funds.

Organizational Sign-Ons:

Abbey Schneider, LLC	Five Plus Five, LLC
Active Louisville Kids	Florence Crittenton
Adams County Connections	Healthier Colorado
Adams County Health Department	Healthy Child Care Colorado
AdvocacyDenver	Hiatt Farms Montessori School
All Families Deserve a Chance	Horizons in Learning
Alaya Preschool	Housing Authority of the City of Pueblo
American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter	Illuminate Colorado
Angel Hugs Early Learning LLC	Intentional Inquiry
The Arc - Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin Counties	Jefferson County Child Care Association
The Arc Arapahoe, Douglas & Elbert Counties	Jewish Family Service of Colorado
The Arc of Aurora	Lil People Learning Center
Association for Community Living	Maiker Housing Partners
Bear Valley Mutual Aid	Mile High Early Learning
The Beehive	Montessori Academy of Colorado
Bell Policy Center	Morgan County Department of Human Services
Belleview Christian School	Mountain Shadows Montessori
Blue Sage Impact	Mountaintop Childcare Inc.
Boulder Day Nursery	Mountain Montessori
Boulder Montessori School	National Association of Social Workers Colorado Chapter
Boulder Waldorf Kindergarten	Nebula Early Childhood Collaborative
Bright Futures	New Horizon Academy
Caring for Colorado	Otis School District R-3
Catholic Charities	Parent Possible
Chaffee County Early Childhood Council	Parker Early Learning Academy
Child Care KinderCare	Pierson for Colorado
Children's Playland	Playful Hearts ChildCare

Children's Hospital Colorado
Clayton Early Learning
Coaching Potentials
Colorado Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children
Colorado Association of Family & Children's Agencies
Fostering Colorado
Colorado Association of Family Child Care
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Fiscal Institute
The Colorado Health Foundation
Colorado Poverty Law Project
Colorado PTA
Colorado Teen Parent Collaborative
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
Colorado Succeeds
Council for Professional Recognition
David & Laura Merage Foundation
Denver Cooperative Preschool
The Denver Foundation
Early Childhood Council of Larimer County
Early Childhood Creative
Early Childhood Education Association of Colorado
Early Childhood Education Management System at CSU
Pueblo Child Care
The Early Childhood Partnerships of Adams County
Early Childhood Wellness Place
Early Connections Learning Centers
Early Learning Ventures
Polly's Preschool, LLC
Prowers County Department of Human Services
Rainbow School and Day Care Center, Inc.
Renaissance Children's Center
Rocky Mountain Children's Discovery Center
Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council
Rose Community Foundation
Sapien Grant Consulting
Small Business Majority
Snow Lion Preschool
SPARK Learning Lab Colorado
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning
Stand for Children Colorado
Thrive Pediatric Therapy
TLC Learning Centers
Townbell
Tri-Murphy Health
Triad Bright Futures
United Way of Larimer County
University of Colorado Denver
Warren Village
Westminster Public Schools
Willow Collective Foundation
The Women's Foundation of Colorado
YMCA of Northern Colorado
YMCA of Pueblo
YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region
YMCA of the Rockies
YMCA of Colorado

Early Milestones Colorado

Young Peoples Learning Center

East Side Child Care Center

Elephant Circle

Ellicott Preschool

Emily A Howell Calligraphy

Empowering Communities Globally

Fairview Montessori School

The Family Center/La Familia

Family Development Center

Individual Sign-Ons:

Abbie Marksbury

Hope Hartman

Paul Melinkovich

Abigail Nieuwstraten

House Majority Leader Monica Duran, HD-23

Pauline Tapia

Addie Boston

Jacob Mark

Peggy Johnston

Adriana Rodriguez

Jamaria Webb

Priscilla Patti

Adrienne Adams

Jamita Horton

Rachael Byrd

Alaina Whitney

Jane Lapan

Rachelle Hennigan

Alex Kahn

Janet Tanner

Raul Olivas

Alexandra Morgan

Jasmin Ramirez

Rebecca Townsend

Amara Blaha

Jean Townsend

Renee Colton

Amy French-Troy

Jen Teeuwen

Robin Noble

Amy Long

Jenn Finders

Ronna Davis

Amy Thrasher

Jennifer Zachman

Rose Auferio

Angela Ervin

Jody Ejnes

Rosemary Rodriguez

Anne Slothower

Jordan Stopak-Behr

Representative Chad Clifford, HD-37

Anneke Kakebeen

Judith Alexander Davey

Representative Eliza Hamrick, HD-61

April Hamilton

Julie Kennedy

Representative Karen McCormick, HD-11

Ariel Goldman

Katherine Casillas

Representative Lindsay Gilchrist, HD-8

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Aspen Rawson	Kara Schneider	Representative Lorena Garcia, HD-35
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Cami Harris	Kimberly Hirst	Senator Matt Ball, SD-31
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Carol Bensen	Kristen Cellini	Spencer McGinnis
Caroline Turner	Kristin Kurbjun	Senator Cathy Kipp, SD- 14
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Catherine Glowacki	Laura Pickford	Senator Julie Gonzales, SD-34
Chantel Gomez	Lauren Leary	Senator Katie Wallace, SD-17
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Cindy Gutierrez	Maggy Deschane	Susan Dunn
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Cynthia Brown	Maria Erlandson	Tessa Currie
Dani Duncan	Maria Aucoin	Thomas Briggs
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Deborah Fox	Mark Nathanson	Tina Purcell

Diane Huber	Mark Sass	Tina Mosley
Dominique Simon	Mary Bowman	Tina Craig
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Elizabeth Allen	Michelle Hobson	Viviana Soria
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Emma Young	Misty Gonzales	Yael Cohen
Erin Autrey	Myranda Monheiser	Zac Dockins
Erin Gager	Nichole McDonald	Zoe Rochman
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Frank Fielden	Orvilette Echols	
Franny MeLampy	Paige Stewart	
Gary Weaver	Pamela Hamer	
Genevieve Kelly	Patricia Ayite	
Hannah Wurster	Patricia Hernandez	
Hattie Peterson	Patty Kenworthy	
Heather Blanco		
Hilary Rice		