

Ask Your Candidate: What About **Child Care**?



Colorado families are stuck in a system where quality child care is either impossible to find, impossible to afford, or both. No parent should have to choose between their job and their child's future.

Colorado has a real chance to build something better — a unified early childhood system that actually works for families. **But it takes candidates willing to make child care a priority.**

THE NUMBERS

13%

Only enough licensed child care slots for **1 in 8 infants** in Colorado

123%

Of income families in poverty must spend to **afford infant care**

~14K

Families on **waitlists or enrollment freezes** for child care subsidies

WHAT IS COLORADO GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

KEY PRIORITIES

- **Affordability** — child care costs are crushing families and forcing parents out of the workforce
- **A system families can actually use** — enrollment, subsidies, and services need to be simple, clear, and connected
- **Infant and toddler care** — the most expensive, least available, and most critical window for brain development
- **Subsidies like CCCAP** — hard-won programs that need protection and investment, not cuts
- **Workforce** — early childhood educators are underpaid; the pipeline is broken
- **Equity across ZIP codes** — rural and underserved communities need equal access

ASK YOUR CANDIDATE

- ✓ What steps will you take to address child care affordability and expand access for low-income families?
- ✓ How will you simplify the early childhood system so families can easily find and access the care they need?
- ✓ What role do you see the state playing in expanding infant and toddler care?
- ✓ How will you protect and grow funding for child care subsidies like CCCAP?
- ✓ What is your position on investing in the early childhood workforce?
- ✓ How will you ensure equitable access for families across rural and urban communities?

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