

# EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENTS IN BOULDER COUNTY



Hope for the future, help when you need it.

## THE NEED IN BOULDER COUNTY

**CHILDREN IN BOULDER COUNTY  
(UNDER 18 YEARS OLD)<sup>1</sup>**

**62,809**



**POVERTY RATE FOR SINGLE-MOTHER  
HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 5  
IN BOULDER COUNTY<sup>3</sup>**

**36.2%**



For all household types, families with young children experience higher poverty rates than those without

**STUDENTS IN BOULDER COUNTY  
ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH<sup>5</sup>**

**15,317**



That's almost 25% of all students in the Boulder Valley & St. Vrain Valley School Districts

**% HOUSING-COST-BURDENED  
RENTERS IN BOULDER COUNTY<sup>7</sup>**

**59%**



Rent costs 30% or more of household income

**BOULDER COUNTY CHILDREN  
LIVING IN POVERTY<sup>2</sup>**

**8,300**



The county's child poverty rate is currently more than 13%

**BOULDER COUNTY  
MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME<sup>4</sup>**

**\$92,667**



More than 17,000 families have incomes below \$50,000 per year

**AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF PRESCHOOL-  
AGE CARE IN BOULDER COUNTY<sup>6</sup>**

**\$13,210**



That's 41% of median income for Boulder County single mothers

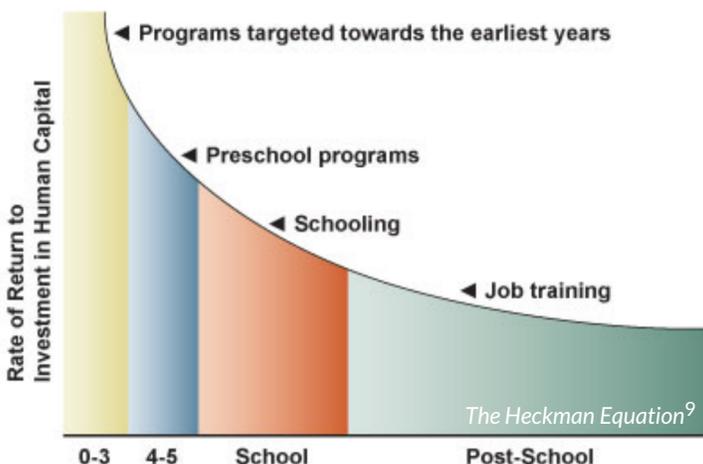
**AVERAGE % OF BUDGET ACCOUNTED  
FOR BY HOUSING & CHILD CARE<sup>8</sup>**

**50%**



For Colorado families with young children

## OUR PHILOSOPHY: INVEST EARLY



The first 5 years of a child's life are the most critical – 90% or more of a child's brain development happens during this time period. Unfortunately, far too many Boulder County families lack the resources needed to make the most of this time.

For BCDHHS, this presents both a challenge and an opportunity. Our goal is to surround families with support and resources, meeting the needs of parents and children together and before they are in crisis. If, together with our community partners, we can co-create safe, stable, and healthy environments, we can provide our children with far greater chances at success in school and later in life. And by maximizing their future well-being, we can generate greater social and economic benefits for our community as a whole.

These upfront investments in our children and their long-term benefits bring us closer to our vision of healthy communities that are more self-sufficient, sustainable, and resilient.

# EXPECTED RETURNS ON JUST A FEW OF OUR CHILD-SPECIFIC INVESTMENTS

## TODAY'S INVESTMENTS

## TOMORROW'S RETURNS



### CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)

CCAP provides subsidized child care to parents who are working, going to school, or job searching.

**\$3.4M**

Direct CCAP Expenditures in 2014

**1309 Kids**

In any given month, we are serving more than 1000 children. As of June 2015, that number is over 1300.



**\$8.60 Return on Every \$1**

Each \$1 invested in early childhood development provides total benefits to society of approximately \$8.60 through better outcomes in education, health, economic productivity, and reduced crime.<sup>10</sup>

In addition to better child outcomes, reliable and quality child care can help parents increase their employment and earnings.

Total returns to society on our 2014 CCAP spending alone can be expected to exceed \$29M over the lifespan of the children served.



### PARENTS AS TEACHERS (HOME VISITS)

PAT works with families with children from prenatal through 5 years of age focusing on parent and child development.

**\$200,000**

Annual budget for PAT program

**388 Visits**

Combined, Boulder County's 56 PAT families (and 74 children) received 388 home visits in the first half of 2015.



**\$5.70 Return on Every \$1**

Each \$1 spent on home visitation programs can yield up to \$5.70 in benefits by providing safer, more stimulating environments for children and reducing risk factors that may limit future success.<sup>11</sup> Benefits accrue over time to the children and parents served and to society at large. For example, avoiding grade repetition or special ed can save taxpayers roughly \$10,000 per child per year.<sup>12</sup>

The total lifetime benefits of our \$200,000 investment could exceed \$1 million. And that's just one year's investments.



### TENANT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE (TBRA)

TBRA provides subsidized housing vouchers to homeless families with children in BVSD or SVVSD. Families pay no more than 30% of their income toward rent and receive intensive case management.

**\$1.1M**

TBRA Investments Since 2012

**179 Kids**

Since the TBRA program's inception in 2012, we've helped provide housing and stability for 179 children and their families.

And we've helped thousands more children and families through our other housing assistance programs.



**Increased Future Earnings**

If received when a child is 13 or younger, housing vouchers can increase future earnings by 15%. And, if used to move to a low-poverty neighborhood, future earnings are 31% higher. In some cases, these programs can pay for themselves over time.<sup>13</sup>

**Healthier Kids**

Children in low-income families receiving subsidized housing are 35% more likely to be classified as a 'well' child compared to those in families on waiting lists for such assistance. They are also significantly less likely to be seriously underweight or experience food insecurity.<sup>14</sup>



### MEDICAID & CHP+ HEALTH COVERAGE

Medicaid provides free health insurance to low-income families & individuals. CHP+ provides low-cost insurance to children & pregnant women whose families make too much to qualify for Medicaid.

**21,182 Young People**

Boulder County Medicaid Clients Under 20

In the first half of 2015, payments to Medicaid providers in Boulder County totaled \$105M.

**2,320 Kids & Mothers**

An additional 2,320 children (0-18) & pregnant women in Boulder County receive low-cost health coverage through the Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+).



**Increased Future Economic Stability**

With respect to education outcomes, Medicaid coverage during childhood increases the likelihood of completing high school as well as the 4-year college completion rate.<sup>15</sup>

Additionally, Medicaid eligibility during childhood can increase future earnings and tax contributions. Women, in particular, see a significant impact – Medicaid eligibility during childhood can boost a woman's cumulative wages by age 28 (and wages at age 28 are a good predictor of future wages).<sup>16</sup>

## SOURCES

1,2,3,4,7 US Census Data

5 CO Dept of Education (2015)

6 Qualistar Colorado (2014)

8 CO Center on Law & Policy (2015)

9 The Heckman Equation Project

10 White House Council of Economic Advisers (2014)

11 RAND Corporation (2005)

12 National Education Association

13 The Effects of Exposure to Better Neighborhoods on Children (2015)

14 Children's HealthWatch (2009)

15 The Effect of Child Health Insurance Access on Schooling (2015)

16 Natl Bureau of Economic Research (2015)