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## **BUELL FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS TO FULLY FUND NEW CHILD CARE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM**

This collaboration seeks to strengthen statewide local child care systems and increase access to quality, affordable early childhood care for families.

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 20, 2025

Denver, CO—The [Buell Foundation](#) has awarded funding to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) in support of the newly launched [Child Care Planning Grant Program](#), marking the first time the program has granted funds to municipalities and counties across Colorado. This collaboration aims to strengthen local child care systems and increase access to quality, affordable early childhood care across the state.

Through an effective advocacy effort led by Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC), the Child Care Planning Grant Program was created through HB 24-1237. This new program provides resources for local governments and community partners to assess child care needs, identify barriers, and develop innovative solutions to expand capacity. Through this initiative, communities can create actionable strategies that address both immediate and long-term child care challenges.

When HB 24-1237 was passed, only \$75,000 was allocated to this important program. The gap between what communities needed to plan effectively and available funding created the conditions for this philanthropic/government partnership. "When funders such as the Buell Foundation align with state partners like DOLA, it creates a multiplier effect for families, businesses, and communities. Strategic investments like this make it possible to plan smarter, invest deeper, and build the sustainable child care infrastructure that Colorado's economy depends on. We invite others to follow Buell's lead and help amplify this impact statewide," stated Alethea Gomez, Colorado Executive Director, EPIC.

"Access to quality child care is foundational to thriving families and strong communities," said Jason Callegari, Director of Initiatives at the Buell Foundation. "Report after report from [northern Colorado](#) to [western Colorado](#) and the [Pikes Peak region](#) continue to highlight the positive impact that investments in child care can have. We are proud to support DOLA in this first-of-its-kind effort to help local communities plan and invest in sustainable child care solutions. We couldn't be more excited to see the results as leaders in Adams County, Custer County, Estes Park and Granby reduce red tape, align community planning objectives and set the stage for a more efficient and effective early childhood system."

"We're very appreciative of the partnership with the Buell Foundation, which supports DOLA's mission to strengthen Colorado communities by empowering local leaders with the tools and data they need," said Andy Hill, Community Office Development Director, Department of Local Affairs.

“These tools allow local governments to take the appropriate steps to plan for child care options, which is especially important in these tough financial times.”

The Buell Foundation’s mission is to support the positive development of children through grants and partnerships that advance early childhood education, health, and family well-being. Funding for the Child Care Planning Grant Program reflects the Foundation’s continued commitment to addressing systemic barriers to child care and promoting equitable opportunities for all Colorado families.

The Department of Local Affairs will administer the grants to eligible local governments and regional partners throughout the state. Funding will support community engagement, planning, and collaboration between public and private stakeholders.

For more information about the Child Care Planning Grant Program, visit <https://cdola.colorado.gov/local-government-childcare-planning-grant-program>.

## **ABOUT THE BUELL FOUNDATION**

*Founded in 1962, the Buell Foundation was born out of the philanthropic interests of Temple Buell, a noted 20th century architect who designed more than 300 buildings in Colorado and the surrounding region. The Buell Foundation partners with communities across Colorado and is currently focused on grantmaking that supports positive early childhood education and development. Over its history, the Buell Foundation has awarded more than \$200 million in grants and has typically contributed more than 60% of those funds to rural and under-resourced communities.*

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