

Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program



POWERED BY:



2026

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Welcome

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WHAT IS BECLP?

The **Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program (BECLP)** is a **transformative leadership fellowship** designed to empower leaders across Colorado who are passionate about shaping not only their own future, but the future of children, families, and communities. This program brings together **influential voices from education, business, public service, health, and community organizations** to strengthen leadership capacity and drive meaningful systems change.

Fellows join a dynamic **peer-learning community** where they collaborate with experts and colleagues from across the state. Together, they **explore cutting-edge leadership practices, tackle complex and persistent challenges, and co-design innovative strategies for impact.**

Through the program, fellows engage in a deeply personalized growth experience that includes **leadership coaching, strengths-based development, and systems change thinking.** Graduates become part of the **Buell Early Childhood Leaders Network**—a powerful community of alumni who continue to learn, collaborate, and lead initiatives that improve outcomes for children and families across Colorado.



WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF BECLP?

The Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program is built around three core goals that strengthen both individual and collective leadership:



Cultivate a statewide fellowship of impact-driven leaders.



Engage in a 9-month leadership journey that unites professionals from diverse sectors to strengthen their skills, advance equity, and spark innovation—personally, within their organizations, and across early childhood systems.

Collaborate to solve real, systemic challenges.



Provide a cross-sector forum where fellows work together to identify local, regional, and statewide challenges and co-create solutions that drive sustainable systems change.

Build leadership capacity for influence and action.



Strengthen fellows' ability to lead confidently within their spheres of control and extend their influence through strategic collaboration, multiple leadership approaches, and systems thinking.

SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP

- Understand professional strengths and areas for growth
- Identify preferred leadership style
- Explore values and motivations for engaging in the early childhood ecosystem
- Recognize how your identities, biases, and privileges influence your actions and the experiences of others

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

- Flex leadership styles to work across differences—including alongside those who have been historically excluded
- Develop authentic relationships that enable others to contribute to a shared vision
- Understand, navigate, and build power and political will to effect change
- Use change management principles and practices to achieve desired outcomes

SYSTEMIC LEADERSHIP

- Understand the history and current state of the early childhood ecosystem—nationally and in Colorado, including policies, program models, key players, and available resources
- Explore root causes of key structural challenges facing the early childhood ecosystem such as workforce, accessibility, quality, affordability, and funding
- Develop advocacy and systems change strategies to address structural challenges and understand when to deploy various strategies to be most effective
- Employ an equity lens to policies and practices to facilitate transformative change

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Inclusivity is a core value of the program. The cohort of 20 individuals will be selected to represent diversity of organization type, industry focus, as well as individual race, ethnicity, and gender. We know that engaging individuals with multiple perspectives enhances the value of the program for all participants. Individuals should apply if they are:

- **Working in, advocating for, or passionate about creating positive change** for young children, families, and communities across Colorado—whether in education, business, government, philanthropy, health, or the nonprofit sector.
- **In a leadership or decision-making role**—formal or informal—with the ability to influence people, policies, or practices within your organization, community, or region.
- **Interested in designing and implementing strategies that drive meaningful, sustainable impact**, both within your own context and across broader systems.
- **Committed to advancing equity and inclusion** by expanding access to opportunities and resources within your organization or community.
- **Eager to collaborate with a diverse network of peers** across the state, reflect on your leadership practice, and strengthen your ability to lead with purpose, empathy, and influence.



WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM ENTAIL?

Over the course of the 9-month program, each fellow is expected to engage in both in-person and virtual sessions:

- 2.5-day in-person opening retreat*
- 2-day in-person midpoint retreat
- 2-day in-person closing retreat
- 9 virtual sessions (2-3 hours)
- Monthly virtual coaching sessions
- Leadership assessment(s)



*Content, accommodations, food, and travel (for those traveling more than 100 miles) are provided by BECLP for all in-person events.

COHORT DATES

Session Format Key:

(IP) In-person
(V) Virtual

March	April	May	June	July
Kick Off (IP) Th, Mar 19, 9am - Sat, Mar 21, 12pm 2.5 days	CO Stand Up for Kids Day (IP) Wed, Apr 8 7:30am-12pm Whole Group (V) Th, Apr 23 12-3pm	Small Group (V) Th, May 7 1-3pm Whole Group (V) Th, May 21 12-3pm	Small Group (V) Th, June 4, 1-3pm Midpoint (IP) Fri, Jun 12 9am - Sat, Jun 13, 3pm 2 days	Whole Group (V) Th, Jul 23 12-3pm
August	September	October	November	
Whole Group (V) Th, Aug 20 12-3pm	Small Group (V) Th, Sept 3 1-3pm	Small Group (V) Th, Oct 8 1-3pm Whole Group (V) Th, Oct 22 12-3pm	Action Showcase (IP) Th, Nov 12 9am - Fri, Nov 13, 3pm (2 days)	

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

We will hold informational webinars on:

- Thursday | November 20, 2025 | 12 - 12:30 PM MST
- Tuesday | December 9, 2025 | 12 - 12:30 PM MST

We will review the program requirements and answer questions. Audio recording of this session will be made available.

NEW: The application deadline has been extended to **January 7, 2026**.
Open for Colorado residents only.

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of BECLP alumni, Buell staff, and other early childhood leaders. Interviews will be held on **January 20 and 21** with a sub-set of the selection committee. Final decisions will be made and communicated to selected fellows by **January 30**.

To apply, please include:

- A completed online application form
- Your resume (two pages max)
- Professional references who can attest to your leadership and growth mindset
- *Statement of Commitment* form signed by both you and your supervisor

Application Form



[BECLP Website](#)

