



JEFFCO

Bright Futures Roadmap

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





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Overview of Planning Process

While planning for Jefferson County's future, few things are more important than ensuring the success of young children and families. The Jeffco Bright Futures Roadmap (Roadmap) reflects a shared community vision to best support the county's children, prenatal through age eight, and their families.

The Roadmap was developed over a year-long period from January to December of 2019 by a diverse group of Jeffco leaders and stakeholders. The co-chairs of the initiative include County Commissioner Lesley Dahlkemper; Dr. Jason Glass, Superintendent of Jeffco Public Schools; Dr. Mark Johnson, Executive Director of Jeffco Public Health; and Kristi Pollard, President and CEO of Jeffco Economic Development Corporation. The Roadmap Steering Committee, comprised of parent representatives and leaders in education, health, business, and local government met bimonthly to guide the development of the plan. The Operations Team, a subset of the Steering Committee, met biweekly to provide local context and subject matter expertise.

Data, research on best practices, and parent and professional input informed Roadmap development. The planning process included an analysis of the demographics and well-being of Jeffco's children and families, three public stakeholder meetings, and community listening sessions with English- and Spanish-speaking parents and caregivers in Jeffco. To inform Jeffco's path forward, over 140 parents, residents, professionals, and community stakeholders engaged in the process to incorporate diverse perspectives into the Roadmap. Additionally, members of the Steering Committee attended a site visit to Cincinnati, Ohio, to see best practices in action and heard presentations from Denver and Summit counties to learn from their experiences in cross-sector collaboration on behalf of children and families.



Roadmap Cornerstones and Strategies

Jeffco prospers when children thrive, because they are our future workforce, leaders, and community members. Many young children in Jeffco are not starting off with the opportunity to thrive. Less than half (47%) of Jeffco children enter kindergarten with the cognitive, physical, and social-emotional skills needed to be successful, which means 53% of Jeffco's children would benefit from additional comprehensive supports. The Roadmap promotes collaboration and coordination across the domains of physical health and well-being, early learning and development, and parent support and education to ensure all children can reach their full potential in school and in life.

With the Roadmap Vision and Values as guidance, the Roadmap Steering Committee developed aspirational, long-term goals that reflect community needs and desired outcomes for the future of Jeffco. These goals serve as the Cornerstones of the Roadmap. Then, actionable strategies were developed under each of the four Cornerstones, which describe what the Roadmap aims to accomplish within the next five years.

CORNERSTONE #1



Families in Jefferson County have a variety of high-quality early care and education options that meet their needs and are provided through a mixed-delivery system.

- 1 Develop an implementation plan and secure a dedicated public funding stream for universal preschool and other early care and education initiatives by 2024
- 2 Recruit, retain, and support a qualified early care and education workforce across child care and preschool settings
- 3 Ensure school-district and community-based enrichment programs and activities (e.g. library reading programs, before- and after-school programs, summer camps, child care, etc.) are accessible to all who want to engage across age continuum of prenatal to eight years old

CORNERSTONE #2



Families in Jefferson County are supported in their roles as children's first and most important teachers through an array of home visitation services that meet their diverse needs.

- 1 Develop an implementation plan and explore funding for a universally accessible home visitation system, delivered through a cohesive mixed-delivery model in Jeffco by 2024
- 2 Create coordinated intake and referral system to home visitation in Jeffco, including navigators, accessible via technology and in-person, supported by a referral database, and beginning with a pilot project
- 3 Recruit, retain, and support a qualified home visitation workforce

CORNERSTONE #3



Programs and providers in Jefferson County have access to mental health consultation in order to fully support families' social-emotional well-being.

- 1 Build public awareness of the importance and value of supporting the social-emotional health of young children and their families
- 2 Recruit, retain, and support qualified infant and early childhood mental health consultants
- 3 Assure the availability of mental health consultation for all types of child-serving settings

CORNERSTONE #4



Jefferson County has a robust screening, assessment, and referral system that addresses physical, social-emotional, behavioral, and social determinants of health.

- 1 Create and implement coordinated early childhood development screening, assessment, and referral systems to provide the most appropriate services to each individual child
- 2 Create consumer-facing, cross-agency data sharing technology solutions to improve families' connection to community supports and work more efficiently across agencies
- 3 Create a coordinated early childhood navigation system (processes, infrastructure, staff)

Roadmap Alignment

Jefferson County, Jeffco Public Schools, Jeffco Public Health, Jeffco Economic Development Corporation, and the State of Colorado have all articulated goals that highlight the importance of healthy childhoods to a child's future ability to thrive in school, in work, and in life. The Roadmap reflects the alignment of these goals and strengthens the shared commitment to young children and their families.



Roadmap Vision and Values

The convergence of mutual goals and priorities led to a shared vision for Jeffco's children and families:

To ensure that all Jefferson County families have the support they need to promote their children's health and well-being for sustained success in school and in life, helping to make a bright future for Jefferson County.

At the beginning of the planning process, the Roadmap Steering Committee, with input from over 40 additional community stakeholders, developed a set of shared values to inform the Roadmap and serve as a compass for Jeffco's path forward.



Strong Families, Strong Community

Thriving children and families are a critical part of a thriving community. Working together to nurture families from all backgrounds, abilities, and life circumstances is an important strategy to ensuring a bright future for Jefferson County.



Sustained Commitment and Coordinated Services

To be successful, Jefferson County leaders and community stakeholders must work together, across sectors and settings, and over the long-term to provide comprehensive education, prevention, early intervention, and treatment services.



Equitable, High-Quality Experiences

Quality prenatal care and early childhood experiences, delivered in an equitable manner, develop the social-emotional and cognitive skills all children need to be successful.



Continuous Improvement

Using common metrics for success and data-driven evaluation, we can continue to improve supports and services to ensure Jefferson County is a great place to raise a family.



Supported Adults Across Community

Children will succeed with supported and engaged parents, caregivers, educators, health professionals and other adults. Partners across the community must be aligned and working toward shared goals to ensure adults are successfully supporting children.



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[EARLYMILESTONES.ORG/PROJECT/BRIGHT-FUTURES-ROADMAP](https://earlymilestones.org/project/bright-futures-roadmap)