



Community Learning Report: Jefferson County

January 2021



EARLY MILESTONES
COLORADO

earlymilestones.org/launch-together

About the Initiative

LAUNCH Together is a unique partnership between Early Milestones, eight Colorado-based foundations, the Butler Institute for Families, and communities throughout the state. The initiative is designed to improve social-emotional and developmental outcomes for Colorado's young children and families, support system-level collaboration, and reduce mental health disparities among vulnerable populations.

For more information about the history and implementation of LAUNCH Together in Colorado, visit earlymilestones.org/launch-together.



About the Community

Jefferson County (Jeffco), widely known as the “Gateway to the Rockies,” has a strong history of collaborating to address the challenges of its most vulnerable populations. Among these challenges is a need to raise awareness about infant and early childhood social-emotional health, particularly in the birth to age three range, and access to affordable community-based mental health services. Partners throughout Jeffco are building a coordinated system of community-based mental health and family support services focused on Jeffco's youngest children and their caregivers.

To learn more about LAUNCH Together Jefferson County, please contact Jennifer Anton, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Jefferson County Public Health: janton@jeffco.us.

LAUNCH Together Jeffco Partners

Developmental Disabilities Resource Center
Jefferson Center
Jefferson County Human Services
Jefferson County Public Health
Jefferson County Public Schools

Lakewood Head Start
Stride Community Health Centers
TRIAD Early Childhood Council
Jefferson County Libraries
Colorado Community Health Alliance

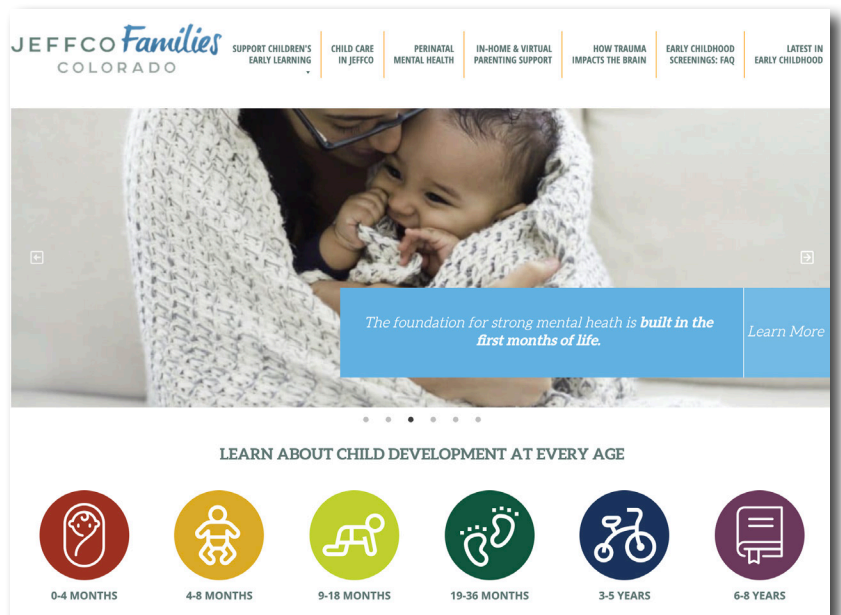
Community in Action

Local ECMH leaders coordinated community systems and enhanced services across all five LAUNCH strategies to better serve children and families. This brief highlights work in the family strengthening and enhanced home visitation strategies under the efforts of LAUNCH Together Jeffco partners (the Community).

JeffcoFamiliesColorado.org

The Community was working toward collaborative promotion of the newly launched Jeffco Families Colorado website in early 2020. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Community revised its marketing and content plans to be responsive to the emerging needs of parents, caregivers, and providers. This included website resources for children's growth and development, such as "How to Talk to Kids about Coronavirus," "Stay at Home, Play at Home—Resources for Home Learning," and "Transitioning Back to School."

Other content offered information for emergency child care, peer-to-peer support, and medical care during the pandemic. Since launching at the end of 2019, the website has enjoyed nearly 10,000 unique pageviews.



Connecting Families to Home Visiting

The Community piloted a bilingual Family Navigator (the Navigator) to serve as a central point of intake, referral, and loop closure for a network of 12 home visitation programs. The pilot expanded upon the work of the Jeffco Home Visitation Collaborative, a network of program leads working toward improved communication, care coordination, and service delivery. For ease and efficiency, the Navigator is integrated into the Jeffco Families Colorado website.

The Jeffco Centralized Home Visitation Intake and Referral program was designed with input from providers, referring partners, and families with young children. The program emphasizes workflow and loop closure protocol, making the Navigator accessible to the Spanish-speaking community, and strategies to strengthen engagement with diverse Jeffco families.

Local Lessons



RELATIONSHIPS ARE CRUCIAL.

It takes time to develop the trust and understanding for effective collaboration throughout the community.



FLEXIBLE AND REPRESENTATIVE LEADERSHIP DRIVES IMPLEMENTATION.

Partners must be willing to self-reflect, accept external feedback, and be open to transforming organizational processes in the service of shared goals.



PAYMENT REFORM IS NECESSARY.

Until changes to public funding models (i.e., Medicaid) are made, efforts toward collaborative prevention and health promotion strategies will turn to philanthropic sources. As these sources are unreliable as long-term options, public funding allocations for early childhood mental health programs are needed to promote sustainability across the sector.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MUST BE CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE.

Service providers need to demonstrate an authentic commitment to continuously listen, reflect, and honor cultural differences.

Next Steps

Leaders from Jeffco's school district, local government, and community-based providers convened in 2019 to develop a strategic plan for supporting Jeffco's young children and families. The resulting Jeffco Bright Futures Roadmap (the Roadmap) focuses on increasing access to quality early learning, promoting early childhood mental health consultation, expanding home visitation supports, and coordinating screening and referral data to improve collaboration and care. Jeffco is poised to build upon the successes of LAUNCH Together and the Roadmap in delivering high-quality services to children and families.



Initiative Funders



The Colorado Health Foundation™

