EXPANDING QUALITY IN INFANT AND TODDLER CARE

providing trainings to improve the quality of child care

Community Need
In 2013 there were 12,814 children under six in Weld County with both parents in the labor force, and just 5,956 licensed child care slots (currently only 259 of those slots are for infants, and 475 are for toddlers). The vast majority of young children in Weld County do not have access to licensed child care. By increasing the number of licensed child care providers, we can help ensure that children are cared for in high quality environments where they can thrive.

Expanding Quality in Infant and Toddler Care is a free training for professionals working in early childhood care and education. The training covers information including infant and toddler brain development, responsive caregiving, language and literacy, and more.

Meeting the Need
The Expanding Quality in Infant and Toddler Care (EQiT) training is a 48-hour curriculum, and is offered twice per year. The curricula covers information including infant and toddler brain development, responsive caregiving, emotional development, motor development, language and literacy, understanding and respecting culture, inclusion/special needs, safe and healthy environments, positive guidance, and more. Participants may enroll through United Way of Weld County (UWWC) for certification, and/or through Aims Community College to earn college credit. Tuition grants are often available. Upon completion of the training, participants will meet the state education requirements for Infant/Toddler Nursery Supervisor, Infant/Toddler Home License, 3 under 2 Family Child Care License, Large Family Child Care License, or Experienced Provider Family Child Care License.

Program History
The Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Human Services initiated this program by providing funding to Early Childhood Councils across the state for these trainings under the Child Care Development Block Grant. In the 2015-2016 school year, 42 child care professionals attended EQiT classes.

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United Way of Weld County
UnitedWay-Weld.org | 970-353-4300

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**How to Get Involved**

**Give:** Make a donation to United Way of Weld County to support Expanding Quality in Infant and Toddler Care and you may be eligible for a 50% tax credit on your state income tax!

**Advocate:** Consider serving on the Promises for Children Early Care and Education Services and School Readiness Committee.

**Volunteer:** There are numerous events throughout the year at which volunteers are needed for clerical and logistical tasks.

Please contact Judith Baptiste at 970-353-4300 or jbaptiste@unitedway-weld.org for more information or to get involved.

**Evaluation & Results**

The Colorado Department of Education maintains data for all participants.

**Goal 1:** There will be more licensed child care slots for infants and toddlers in Weld County.

**Goal 2:** The licensed slots available to infants and toddlers in Weld County will be of a high quality.

**Goal 3:** More children in Weld County will be developmentally ready to enter kindergarten.

**About United Way of Weld County**

“Since 1999, the Weld County EQIT team has provided instruction and coaching for over 500 family child care providers, center-based staff, and other infant & toddler caregivers. Participants in these user-friendly trainings grow professionally, appreciate the interactive curriculum, and receive individualized support through coaching.”

– Weld County EQIT Training Team