United Way of Weld County fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community. We are more than fund-raisers. We are hand-raisers. We raise our hands not only to lead the fight, but to reach out to people who need help. And hope.

We win when we Live United. By forging unlikely partnerships. By finding new solutions to old problems. By mobilizing the best resources. And by inspiring individuals to join the fight against our community’s most daunting social crises.

WHY WE FIGHT

The average preschooler spends 33 hours per week in child care. Research shows that young children’s healthy development depends on safe and positive experiences during the first five years of life.

Choosing child care is an important decision that requires balancing parental needs and the developmental requirements and personality of a child. The child care system is surprisingly complex; Child Care Resource and Referral provides a variety of resources to help parents navigate it. What are some of the indicators of high quality child care?

- Low child/teacher ratios
- Small group size
- Staff with higher education and ongoing training
- Prior experience and education of the director
- Low teacher turnover
- Positive teacher/child interactions
- Accreditation or higher than minimum licensing standards
- Age appropriate activities
- Good health and safety practices

WE FIGHT FOR TERRY AND ELLIE

When Terry went back to work after having her daughter, she was nervous to leave Ellie with someone else and was unsure of how to find a child care provider she felt comfortable with. Terry called United Way of Weld County’s Child Care Resource and Referral program asking for help (1-877-338-2273). The call specialist asked her a few questions about what she was looking for, and then provided information for five providers that met all of her criteria. After meeting with three, Terry decided on one who ended up being a perfect match for Terry and Ellie.
RAISE YOUR HAND.  
BE A GAME CHANGER.

HOW WE FIGHT
Child Care Resource and Referral, in partnership with the Colorado Office of Early Childhood, maintains a database of all licensed home and center providers in Colorado.

A trained referral specialist is available to help parents find local child care services that meet their child’s needs. For each family, the specialist provides at least four matching child care providers.

United Way of Weld County connects with every Weld County child care provider annually to update contact information, number of child care openings available and other items. These updates are included in the Child Care Resource and Referral database.

Additionally, the database is available for use as a statistical analysis tool as it includes information about program type, capacity, services, wages and benefits.

JOIN THE FIGHT

■ **Give**
Make a donation to United Way of Weld County to support Child Care Resource and Referral and you could be eligible for a 50% tax credit on your state income tax!

■ **Advocate**
Encourage your family and friends to utilize Child Care Resource and Referral.

■ **Volunteer**
Volunteers are always needed to perform program-related clerical tasks.

Please contact the UWWC Early Care and Education Services team at Impact@UnitedWay-Weld.org or 970-353-4300 for more information or to get involved.

“In when called Child Care Resource and Referral, I was in distress. The person was patient, knowledgeable, and I had hope for a positive outcome from my search. Many thanks!!!”
—Anonymous Caller

In 2017, United Way of Weld County’s Child Care Resource and Referral served **283** families.

In 2017, the information for all **290+** Weld County child care providers was updated.

Become a hand-raiser, a game-changer. Because United we fight, United we win. We have one life. To live better, we must Live United.