



WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

LIVING UNITED

PROVIDES

Providers Advancing School Outcomes (PASO) Institute

OPPORTUNITIES

Sofia cares for her neighbors' children along with her own son; as she started caring for more children, Sofia was interested in learning more about how to prepare them for school, as well as how to run her expanding home-based business. Because her English isn't very good, Sofia was too nervous to sign up for a college class, but when she heard about the PASO Institute, a training program specifically for Spanish-only speaking child care providers, she thought she would give it a try. Not only did Sofia learn from PASO and earn her Child Development Associate certificate, she developed a network of friends on whom she can rely.

ABOUT UNITED WAY OF WELD COUNTY

United Way has the vision, experience, relationships, and ability to take on and solve some of Weld County's biggest challenges. Through United Way, together we are building a better Weld County, one where children are reading to learn by the start of fourth grade, youth are working at good jobs by age 25, families have stable housing, older adults are aging well, and people are connecting to the help they need. **Will you join us?**

Reading Great by 8-involved programs help children enter kindergarten ready and read at grade level by the start of fourth grade.



CHALLENGES

In 2016 in Weld County, there were 14,249 children with parents in the workforce that needed child care, yet there were only 6,400 licensed child care slots, meaning the majority of children are in the care of family, friends and neighbors. As seen in the 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores, children of Hispanic origin in Colorado drastically underperform when compared with their Anglo peers – 23% of Hispanic children (and 51% of white children) scored proficient or higher on the reading NAEP.

In 2017, the graduation rate of Hispanic youth in Weld County was 77% whereas for white youth it was 82%. Benefits of family, friend and neighbor (FFN) care include:

- low provider-to-child ratios
- emotional attachment and investment between provider and child
- individualized attention
- cultural congruency
- close relationship between provider and parents
- provide "off" hour and weekend care, supporting parent employment

Studies have shown that based on the quality, intensity, and duration of the program, when we spend **\$1** on early childhood education the return on investment in our community ranges from **\$8 - \$16**.





“Little by little I learned to recognize the abilities children have and how to stimulate their limitations. By providing discipline, love and giving them a stimulating environment for their emotional and physical development, I am helping them prepare themselves for a life full of respect, self-confidence and success.”

– former PASO Institute participant

INVESTMENTS

The Providers Advancing School Outcomes (PASO) Institute is one of the first in Colorado to work specifically with the unlicensed family, friend and neighbor (FFN) child care setting, in this case with Spanish-only speaking providers. Through the program, the providers complete 120 hours of early childhood care and education training, mostly during weekend classes.

The curriculum is based on the Child Development Associate (CDA) certification program. Topics include: child development principles (cognitive, language/literacy, social-emotional, physical/motor), school readiness, child safety, nutrition, learning environment and more.

In addition to the weekend trainings, each participant receives visits from a United Way staff member who serves as a mentor. At these visits, the mentor observes the provider’s interactions with the children, reinforces and models activities taught in recent classes and provides support. Events are held throughout each cohort as well to celebrate the providers’ achievements, bring together providers and the families they care for and celebrate children.

In 2020-2021, United Way of Weld County’s PASO program graduated 52 providers who care for 253 children.

In 2020-2021, 100% of participants showed an increase in the quality of child care provided.

GIVE

Make a donation to United Way of Weld County to support the PASO program. You may be eligible for a 50% state income tax credit!

ADVOCATE

Tell people about the PASO program and the positive impact it has on children, parents and child care providers.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are needed to help with the many events held throughout each PASO Institute cohort.

Please contact the UWWC Community Impact team at Impact@UnitedWay-Weld.org or 970-353-4300 for more information or to get involved.