

LATINX EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN LA PLATA COUNTY



For the full report visit goodfoodcollective.org or email childcare@goodfoodcollective.org

The La Plata Food Equity Coalition is enhancing health equity for La Plata County BIPOC, Senior, and Rural Residents through healthy food access and shared community leadership.

In partnership with the Colorado Department of Early Childhood, Early Milestones is leading the Community Innovation and Resilience for Care and Learning Equity (CIRCLE) Initiative. This initiative will provide nearly \$23 million in grants to child care providers and other community, education, or governmental partners pursuing innovative solutions to challenges worsened by the pandemic.

Population Stats

The Hispanic and LatinX population of children under **6 years** increased over the last **10 years** in La Plata County, while the population of young children is decreasing among other ethnicities and in other parts of the state.

In Colorado, the population of all young children decreased **by 5%** over the last 10 years and **by 12%** in La Plata County.

For Hispanic and LatinX young children, the population in Colorado decreased **by 7%**, but **increased in La Plata County by 6%**.

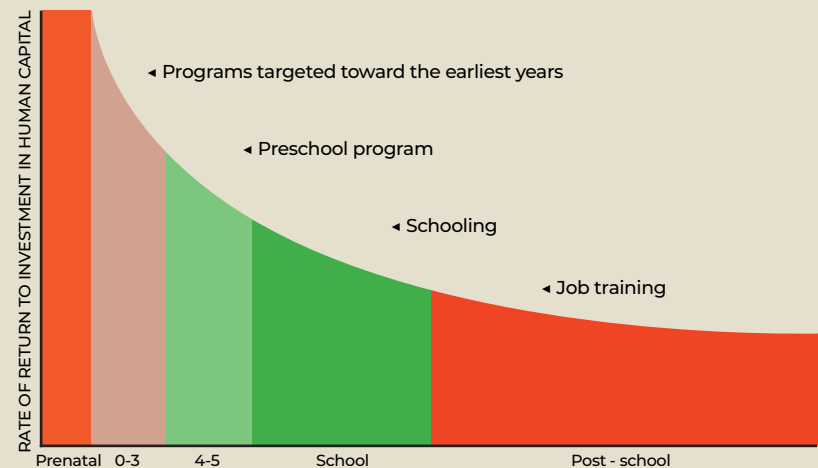
Labor Force and Childcare

Hispanic and LatinX (72%) population groups represent the highest labor participation rates. Mothers participate in the labor force at a higher rate (**82%**) with school age children ages 6-17 compared to mothers with children under 6 years (**62%**).

Individuals who identify as Hispanic and LatinX experience one of the lowest unemployment rates in the county **at 2%**.

From the employer survey, **40%** of employers reported difficulty recruiting and hiring people due to child care issues, and **70%** of employers reported **child care is an important factor in an employee's decision to live and/or work in La Plata County.**

Returns to a Unit Dollar Invested



Heckman, James J. (2008). "Schools, Skills and Synapses," Economic Inquiry, 46(3): 289-324





Quotes from Parents

“We want [cargeivers] to respect and value us and our traditions, we are trying to adapt to our traditions, and it would be beautiful if they also respected our traditions.”

“The ideal is to have bilingual care and provide food that is culturally appropriate, so parents will feel more comfortable and relaxed.”

“I want to feel welcomed. I haven’t experienced that yet but I am hopeful it will happen. It will be good for the children. I know my child will learn the language quickly - they are at a program that doesn’t speak Spanish.”

In La Plata County, families pay an average of **29% of their income** on child care expenses. A family with two children spends around \$21,599 annually, or about \$1,800 per month.

In La Plata County, 2,068 young children have the potential need for care. However, there is only a supply of 1,157 child care slots in the county. The families of 911 children do not have access to care due to the high need and limited capacity, **creating a child care gap** of nearly two in five (44%) children.

State of Early Care and Education

Quick Facts	3,202 Children under 6 Years	66% Percent of children under 6 years in need of child care	1,157 Known spots available for young children in early care and education programs	464 Spots available for young children in high-quality rated programs
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We can work together to deepen our understanding of the community’s need for early care and education, specifically how it relates to our Hispanic and Latinx communities.

Good Food Collective and La Plata Food Equity Coalition encourage you to get involved, share what you learned with others, and read the full report by scanning the QR code.

