



Greetings!

July 1st marked the start of a new fiscal year for IIK, and with this new year, we are excited to share many organizational updates with you.

First, you may have noticed our new email header. Our team has been working alongside Waypoint Collective for the past several months to refresh and update our logo and print collateral. We are proud to share a new visual identity that represents the professionalism, dedication to children, and boldness of Invest in Kids' ongoing work.



Additionally, after gathering thoughtful input from the IIK staff, we have decided to move forward with officially re-opening the office on August 2. We are allowing our employees to determine what is most beneficial to each of them; working a combination of in-person and remotely in collaboration with their peers. We will continue to adapt our schedules over the next few months to figure out our new normal while continuing to serve children and families across our three programs.

And finally, we have had the privilege of adding several new faces to the IIK family; please help us welcome four amazing professionals to the Invest in Kids team:

- Tiffany Gardner - Director of Finance & Operations
- Krista Mortensen - Development Manager
- Kimberly Peña - Program Support Manager, IY
- Julie Fuller - Development Coordinator



IIK and the Department of Early Childhood

Building on its longstanding commitment to serving children and families, Colorado is creating a new unified state Department of Early Childhood.

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) is tasked with approving a plan to transition to the new agency, as well as to guide the state's new universal preschool program. As part of this transition process, the ECLC will engage a wide

range of stakeholders to ensure recommendations are representative of the unique and diverse voices across Colorado.

The ECLC recently established the Transition Advisory Group (TAG). This group will work together to learn from parents/families, members of the early childhood workforce, providers, school districts, human services leaders, Councils, and other stakeholders.

We are proud to share that our own Executive Director, Lisa Hill, has been appointed to serve on Transition Advisory Group. Lisa will be serving as a non-profit representative and work to help bring even more efficient and effective programming to Colorado's young children and families. Congratulations, Lisa!

Save the Date - IIK Webinar September 1st

With so many exciting updates and ongoing milestones to share, Invest in Kids will host a one-hour webinar to provide our partners with an update on year-to-date successes and program developments as we head into the fall. Mark your calendar to login and join us virtually Wednesday, September 1st, and 5:30pm.

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Calendar

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)[®]

The Weld Nurse-Family Partnership program recently hosted a client graduation event honoring all NFP graduates from 2020 and 2021.

Graduates brought their children, caught up with their nurse, participated in crafts, and finished out the event with snacks and pictures with their children in graduation caps.

The team received support from partner agencies United Way of Weld County and SEVA, who supplied all graduates with diapers, wipes, and a Brain Bag filled with age appropriate developmental toys. We are proud of the amazing mothers who persevered over the past 16 months and successfully graduated from NFP.



The Incredible Years (IY)[®]

While changes in school learning structures affected the number of classrooms and parent groups our IY team could support last school year, the team is gearing up to return to the office next week and provide critical social-emotional support to children, parents, and teachers across Colorado.

Pictured here is a Parent Group hosted by Arapahoe Early Childhood Council, which is currently running throughout the summer.

Through a series of 14 weekly Parent Group meetings, we teach parents strategies and skills that promote children's social competence and reduce behavior problems. The parents actively participate in role-playing and practice setting up an incentive system to promote positive behavior. We know that this support is invaluable to parents navigating the many changes children have experienced over the past months, and we look forward to hosting more parenting groups in person in the coming months.

Child First Serving First Families

July 12th was a HUGE milestone for our newest program! It marked the day we began enrolling our first Colorado families into the program. It is nearly 2 years to the day that we began our deep dive into researching and selecting Child First as the latest addition to the IIK menu of programs.

All four pioneering sites from the first Child First cohort have been engaging in extensive training the last two months, and



are thrilled to start working with clients.

Summer Series Dinners

Thanks to everyone who attended our first two Summer Dinner Series events at Attimo Winery and Barolo Grill. We had a blast reconnecting with all of you and hope you enjoyed learning more about how Invest in Kids has been growing and adapting this past year.



Give with Cryptocurrency

Invest in Kids strives to be at the forefront of innovation and best practices, including in our fundraising efforts. Hence our new option to donate with cryptocurrency! We are excited to embrace the technology that allows us to benefit from this new platform to securely accept and exchange cryptocurrency donations. Interested in learning more? Check out our crypto page [here](#).

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