

Community Need and Resource Assessment for Head Start Programs Serving Boulder County

Prepared for:
Maria Harper, Division Manager
Boulder County Head Start
Boulder County Community Services
and
Amy Ogilvie, Executive Director
Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families

December 6, 2011


STEPHANIE W. GREENBERG, Ph.D.
Research & Evaluation

2999 Tincup Circle, Boulder, Colorado 80305 • voice: 303-499-1404 • fax: 303-499-1550 • e-mail: research@swgreenberg.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Key Findings of the Head Start Community Assessment	3
Study Background	6
Characteristics of Low Income Children and Families in Boulder County	7
Child Poverty	7
Child Homelessness	9
Nutrition and Income Support for Low income Families: WIC, Food Stamps/SNAP, TANF, and National School Lunch Program.....	10
Health Insurance for Low Income Children	13
Characteristics of Head Start and Early Head Start Children and Families in Boulder County	15
Children Enrolled in Head Start and Early Start	15
Head Start and Early Head Start Families.....	16
Changes in Characteristics of Head Start Children and Families in Boulder County	16
How Similar Are Boulder County's Head Start /Early Head Start Children and Families to Boulder County's General Population of Young Children and Families in Poverty?.....	17
Comparison of Need for and Supply of Financially Accessible Early Care and Education.....	18
Potential Need: Estimating the Number of Preschool-Age Children below Poverty in Boulder County	18
Estimated Supply of Financially Accessible Early Care and Education in Boulder County	22
Comparison of Supply of and Potential Need for Financially Accessible Early Care and Education .	24
The Location of Head Start Sites and Low Income Children in Boulder County	28
Needs of Head Start Eligible Families in Boulder County and Community Resources to Address Needs	30
Needs and Priorities Identified by Head Start Families.....	30
Needs of and Community Resources for the General Population of Low Income Families.....	33
Young Children with Disabilities in Boulder County	43
Children with Disabilities in the General Population	43
Children with Disabilities at Head Start	45
Community Resources for Families of Young Children with Disabilities	45
Appendix A:	
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Federal Poverty Guidelines.....	46
Appendix B:	
Children Enrolled in WIC and Federal Free Lunch Program in Three Large Communities in Boulder County	47
Appendix C:	
Head Start Parent Surveys	48
Appendix D:	
Key Informant Interview Topic Guides	51
Appendix E:	
Maps of Head Start Sites, Residence of Children Enrolled in Head Start/Early Head Start, and Residential Densities of Kindergarten Children Enrolled in Free Lunch Program, Boulder Valley School District and St. Vrain Valley School District, 2010-11	54

KEY FINDINGS OF THE HEAD START COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Study Background

A community need and resource assessment for Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children and families in Boulder County was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Human Development Services. The assessment was specific to the Head Start service areas within Boulder County – the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) attendance area, which is served by Boulder County Head Start, and the St. Vrain Valley School District attendance area, which is served by Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families.

Characteristics of Low Income Children and Families in Boulder County

Trends in poverty rates between 2007 and 2010 suggest that current economic conditions continue to drive up the number of poor people, especially children.

- In 2010, the Census Bureau estimated that 16.6% of Boulder County's children under age 18 were below poverty, a total of 10,247, or 1 in every 6 children in the county.
- The 2010 child poverty rate was the highest this decade, more than double the rate of 8.2% in 2000.
- An estimated nearly one in five children under age 5 in Boulder County, 18.2%, were below poverty in 2010, almost double the rate in 2000, when it was 9.5%.
- Nearly two-thirds of Boulder County's homeless population were in households with children under 18 years old on the night of January 24, 2011.
- In the 2009-10 school year, a total of 1,909 students were served in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Program in the county's two school districts.

There have been substantial increases in the rates of households and children receiving benefits.

- The rates of households and children receiving Food Stamps/SNAP and TANF have doubled or more in the past several years.
- In the 2010-11 school year, the percentage of children eligible for free lunches was the highest this decade in both school districts – 15.4% in BVSD and 26.5% in St. Vrain Valley.
- However, there have been increases in the percentage of eligible children that are enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+.

Characteristics of Head Start/Early Head Start Children and Families in Boulder County

Most Head Start families in Boulder County can be characterized as the working poor.

- Between two-thirds and 80% of families in the three Head Start/Early Head Start programs had at least one parent employed.
- Among more than 40% of families, the highest educational level completed by parents was less than a high school diploma/GED.

Comparison of Need for and Supply of Financially Accessible Early Care and Education

In the absence of recent, reliable data on the number of children in poverty from birth to age 2 (Early Head Start age group) or between the ages of 3 and 4 (Head Start age group), it was necessary to estimate this population using data from programs that serve low income children -- WIC and the free lunch program.

- Countywide, there were an estimated 1,237 children aged 3 to 4 below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) and 1,579 below 130% of FPG, the two income thresholds for Head Start eligibility.
 - In the BVSD attendance area, there were an estimated 435 children in that age group below 100% of FPG and 547 below 130% of FPG. About 60% were in Boulder/mountain communities and 40% were in Lafayette/Louisville/Superior.
 - In the St. Vrain Valley attendance area, there were an estimated 802 children in that age group below 100% of FPG and 1,032 below 130% of FPG.

- In St. Vrain Valley, there are an estimated 1,408 children younger than age 3 below 100% of FPG and 1,598 below 130% of FPG.

The supply of early care and education slots affordable to Head Start eligible families was defined as Head Start enrollments in the 2010-11 enrollment year and the estimated number of CCCAP children at the two income thresholds.

- For 3 to 4 year olds countywide, there were an estimated 591 slots at 100% of FPG (248 in BVSD and 343 in St. Vrain Valley) and 688 at 130% of FPG (294 in BVSD and 394 in St. Vrain Valley).
 - In Boulder, there were an estimated 149 slots at 100% of FPG and 180 at 130% of FPG.
 - In Lafayette, there were an estimated 99 and 114 slots at these income thresholds, respectively.

Countywide, the gap between the estimated number of children aged 3 to 4 at each poverty threshold was more than twice as high as the estimated number of slots.

- There were an estimated 1,237 children aged 3 to 4 at 100% of FPG and a supply of 591 slots, leaving a gap of 646.
 - Twenty-nine percent of the gap was in BVSD (187), and 71% was in St. Vrain Valley (459).
 - Within BVSD, Boulder had a gap of 111 and Lafayette, 76.
- At 130% of FPG, there were an estimated 1,579 children in that age group and a supply of 688 slots, a gap of 891.
 - Twenty-eight percent of the gap was in BVSD (253) and 72% was in Longmont (638).
 - Within BVSD, Boulder had a gap of 168 and Lafayette, 85.

The gap between the estimated number of children and the supply of slots was far higher for children under age 3 in St. Vrain Valley than for children aged 3 to 4, at both income levels.

- At 100% of FPG, there were an estimated 1,408 children below age 3 and a supply of 218 slots, more than a six-fold difference between the number of children and of slots and a gap of 1,190.
- At 130% of FPG, there were an estimated 1,598 children and a supply of 266 slots, a gap of 1,332.

The Location of Head Start Sites and Low income Children in Boulder County

Head Start sites are located in areas with high densities of low income children, and most of the children who attended those sites lived close by.

- Maps were created that included the location of Head Start sites and number of children enrolled at each site in the 2010-11 enrollment year, the location of residence of enrolled children, and the residential density of kindergarten children enrolled in the free lunch program.
- When Boulder County Head Start opens its new site in north Boulder, there will be an even better match between the location of children and sites.
- The children who attended Wild Plum sites tended to live in clusters around those sites, although a number lived on the west side of Longmont, where there are no sites.

Quality of Head Start Experience

Head Start programs in Boulder County were highly rated by parents.

- In a questionnaire distributed every spring, nearly all aspects of all three programs received a positive rating by at least 90% of parents in 2011.
- Nearly all items that could be compared between 2007 and 2011 received higher ratings in 2011 than in 2007.

Family Needs

Affordable housing was the most frequent need indicated by Head Start families.

- A questionnaire on family needs and interests distributed at the time of enrollment found that in each of the three programs, the highest percentage of parents indicated an interest in affordable

housing, 26% of Boulder County HS parents, 29% of Wild Plum HS parents, and 56% of Wild Plum EHS parents.

- A relatively high percentage of parents in all three programs also indicated an interest in learning English as a second language and assistance with utility bills.

There was a substantial degree of consensus among key informants about the most pressing needs of the county's lowest income families and the needs that are relatively well met by local resources.

- The needs most commonly indicated by key informants were: employment and sustainable wages; stable, affordable housing; affordable, high quality child care; parent support; transportation; and community-based, affordable mental health services.
- The best met needs were: food, special education and general education, health care, and dental care. There was also believed to be an increasing awareness of and enrollment in benefits programs.

Young Children with Disabilities in Boulder County

- The Child Find programs in both school districts are serving a growing number of children and families with behavior problems.
- There is a need for a greater number of child care providers that can care for children with disabilities.

STUDY BACKGROUND

A community need and resource assessment for Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children and families in Boulder County was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Human Development Services. These requirements stipulate that a community assessment be undertaken every three years and include the following information:

- Demographic characteristics of Head Start/Early Head Start eligible children and families,
- Other early care and education programs that serve Head Start/Early Head Start eligible children and the number served,
- Description of the education, health, nutrition, and social service needs of Head Start/Early Head Start eligible children and their families, as defined by families and agencies in the community that serve their needs,
- Resources in the community to address the needs of Head Start/Early Head Start eligible children and families,
- Estimated number and characteristics of children with disabilities four years old or younger.

The assessment was specific to the Head Start service areas within Boulder County – the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) attendance area, which is served by Boulder County Head Start, and the St. Vrain Valley School District attendance area, which is served by Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families. The portions of both school districts that are outside of Boulder County were not included. The Wild Plum Center has both Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and Boulder County Head Start has sites in two communities. To the extent possible and depending on data availability, information on the number and needs of Head Start eligible children in both school district attendance areas, Early Head Start eligible children in the Wild Plum attendance area, and the two cities in the county with Boulder County Head Start sites were presented. The Head Start 2007 reauthorization bill increased the income threshold to 130% of FPG after children at 100% of FPG are served. For that reason, both income thresholds were used in this report to estimate potential need for, supply of, and gaps in financially accessible early care and education.

CHARACTERISTICS OF LOW INCOME CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN BOULDER COUNTY

CHILD POVERTY

Trends in poverty rates between 2007 and 2010 suggest that current economic conditions continue to drive up the number of poor people, especially children. In 2010, the Census Bureau estimated that 16.6% (+/-4.0%) of Boulder County's children under age 18 were below poverty, a total of 10,247, or 1 in every 6 children in the county (Table 1). The child poverty rate increased by 26% from 2009, when it was 13.2% (+/-4.3%). (However, the difference between 2009 and 2010 was not large enough to be statistically significant.) The 2010 rate was the highest this decade, more than double the rate of 8.2% in 2000. The county's 2010 child poverty rate was higher than the total poverty rate of 14.7% (+/-1.8%) and was nearly as high as the statewide child poverty rate of 17.4% (+/-1.0%). An estimated nearly one in five children under age 5 in Boulder County, 18.2% (+/-4.7%), were below poverty in 2010, almost double the rate in 2000, when it was 9.5%.

Longmont's 2010 child poverty rate, 20.7% (+/-7.0%), was the highest this decade, almost double the 2000 rate of 11.1%, and somewhat higher than the total poverty rate of 16.1% (+/-4.0%). Boulder's child poverty rate, 15.4% (+/-6.6%), was 36% higher than the 2000 rate of 11.3%. The 2010 rate was somewhat lower than the total poverty rate that year of 21.1% (+/-3.1%), probably due to the large number of students and other young adults with low income in Boulder. Lafayette's average child poverty rate was about one in five in both the period from 2005 to 2007 and from 2008 to 2010, about double the total poverty rates in those time periods and more than double the 2000 child poverty rate of 8.6%.¹ It should also be noted that the estimated number and percentage of children in poverty for Boulder, Longmont, and Lafayette have relatively large margins of error due to small sample sizes, and therefore, caution should be exercised when interpreting these data.

¹ Only three-year averages of poverty rates, not single-year estimates, are currently available from the Census Bureau for cities with populations between 20,000 and 65,000 (see note in Table 1).

Table 1. Children and Total Population in Poverty, Colorado, Boulder County, Boulder, Lafayette, and Longmont, 2000, 2005-2010*

	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Colorado							
% Children < 18 in poverty	9.7% (+/-1.5%)**	14.2% (+0.8%)	15.7% (+/-0.8%)	16.3% (+/-0.9%)	15.1% (+/-1.0%)	17.4% (+/-1.0%)	17.4% (+/-1.0%)
% Related children < 5 in poverty	10.8%	17.2% (+/-1.5%)	18.4% (+/-1.5%)	18.8% (+/-1.6%)	18.1% (+/-1.4%)	21.5% (+/-1.6%)	21.6% (+/-1.4%)
% Total population in poverty	8.7%	11.1% (+/-0.4%)	12.0% (+/-0.4%)	12.0% (+/-0.4%)	11.4% (+/-0.5%)	12.9% (+/-0.4%)	13.4% (+/-0.5%)
Boulder County							
# Children < 18 in poverty	5,389	6,861 (+/-1,925)	6,623 (+/-1,517)	7,696 (+/-2,013)	5,664 (+/-1,783)	8,399 (+/-2,765)	10,247 (+/-2,458)
% Children < 18 in poverty	8.2%	11.2% (+/-3.1%)	11.2% (+/-2.5%)	12.6% (+/-3.3%)	9.3% (+/-2.9%)	13.2% (+/-4.3%)	16.6% (+/-4.0%)
% Related children < 5 in poverty	9.5%	15.0% (+/-4.8%)	16.7% (+/-5.1%)	13.7% (+/-5.4%)	16.1% (+/-6.2%)	23.4% (+/-7.7%)	18.2% (+/-4.7%)
% Total population in poverty	9.5%	11.8% (+/-1.7%)	11.5% (+/-1.3%)	12.8% (+/-1.5%)	10.7% (+/-1.4%)	13.9% (+/-1.9%)	14.7% (+/-1.8%)
Boulder							
# Children < 18 in poverty	1,531	1,882 (+/-951)	2,322 (+/-1,105)	1,319 (+/-987)	2,005 (+/-1,232)	1,113 (+/-610)	2,247 (+/-1,052)
% Children < 18 in poverty	11.3%	14.2% (+6.8)	17.0% (+7.5)	11.5% (+8.1)	13.4% (+7.3)	9.0% (+4.9)	15.4% (+6.6)
% Total population in poverty	17.4%	19.6% (+/-3.1%)	21.5% (+/-3.3%)	21.0% (+/-2.9%)	18.6% (+/-3.6%)	23.7% (+/-3.5%)	21.1% (+/-3.1%)
Lafayette							
# Children < 18 in poverty	557	1,472 (+/-696)			1,231 (+/-632)		
% Children < 18 in poverty***	8.6%	22.2% (+/-8.9%)			18.7% (+/-8.8%)		
% Total population in poverty***	7.0%	11.2% (+/-4.2%)			11.0% (+/-4.0%)		
Longmont							
# Children < 18 in poverty	2,199	2,264 (+/-1,004)	3,627 (+/-1,407)	4,171 (+/-1,382)	2,907 (+/-1,585)	4,307 (+/-2,332)	4,500 (+/-1,595)
% Children < 18 in poverty	11.1%	10.9% (+/-4.4%)	16.7% (+/-6.4%)	18.5% (+/-6.4%)	14.0% (+/-7.3%)	17.1% (+/-9.1%)	20.7% (+/-7.0%)
% Total population in poverty	7.8%	9.3% (+/-2.6%)	9.5% (+/-2.7%)	13.5% (+/-3.3%)	10.7% (+/-2.9%)	11.6% (+/-4.4%)	16.1% (+/-4.0%)

* The Census Bureau defined the 2010 Poverty Threshold for a family of two adults and two children under age 18 as \$22,113. The denominator used in the computation of child poverty rates was the population for whom poverty status was known, which is slightly smaller than the total population.

** Margin of error: Childhood Poverty in Colorado, Colorado Children's Campaign, 2008.

*** Data from the American Community Survey are available only for 3-year averages for places between 20,000 - <65,000 in population.

Sources: 2000 (Colorado only): U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census Supplementary Survey, Tables P063, P114; 2000 (Boulder County and cities): U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, Tables P87, PCT52; 2005-2010: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table S1701, Data Profiles: Selected Economic Characteristics. Data for 2001-2004 were not included because sample sizes in those years were too small to yield reliable estimates.

Hispanic children under age 18 in Boulder County were more than three times as likely to be in poverty as were white non-Hispanic children in 2010, 35.6% compared to 10.8 (Table 2). However, the poverty rate of white non-Hispanic children had a higher rate of increase since 2000, when it was 4.8%, than the poverty rate of Hispanic children (22.6% in 2000).

Table 2. Percent of Children < 18 in Poverty by Race/Ethnicity, Boulder County, 2000, 2005 - 2010*

	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
White, non-Hispanic	4.8%	6.7%	5.8%	5.2%	5.6%	6.3%	10.8%
Hispanic, all races	22.6%	33.7%	31.6%	40.6%	20.8%	31.8%	35.6%

* The Census Bureau defined the 2010 Poverty Threshold for a family of two adults and two children under age 18 as \$22,113. The denominator used in the computation of child poverty rates was the population for whom poverty status was known, which is slightly smaller than the total population.

Sources: 2000: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, Tables P159H, P159I; 2005, 2006: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Tables B17001H, B17001I; 2007-2010: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Tables B17020H, B17020I. Data for 2001-2004 were not included because sample sizes in those years were too small to yield reliable estimates.

CHILD HOMELESSNESS

Research has shown that homeless children are more likely to experience physical, developmental, and mental health problems, to be in poor health, to use emergency rooms to access health care, and to go without immunizations than are children with stable housing.²

The Metropolitan Denver Homeless Coalition's most recent point-in-time homelessness survey was conducted on the night of January 24, 2011 in the seven metro counties. Nearly two-thirds (61.1%) of Boulder County's homeless population were in households with children under 18 years old (Table 3). About one-third of the county's homeless population were single individuals, and 6.0% were in couples households with no children. There were no substantial differences in household types between Boulder and Longmont, the two cities in the county for which separate data were available.

Table 3. Household Types among Boulder County's Homeless Population, January 24, 2011

Household type	Boulder County		City of Boulder		City of Longmont	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Single individual	585	32.9%	335	36.7%	221	34.7%
Single parent with children <18	440	24.7%	207	22.6%	176	27.7%
Couple with children <18	647	36.4%	320	35.0%	202	31.8%
Couple with no children <18	107	6.0%	52	5.7%	37	5.8%
Total homeless population	1,773*	100.0%	914	100.0%	636	100.0%

* The total number of homeless people in this table is slightly smaller than the total estimated number of homeless people in Boulder County (1,779), because of missing information in a small number of questionnaires.

Source: Metropolitan Denver Homeless Coalition, *Homelessness in the Denver Metropolitan Area, 2011 Homeless Point-In-Time Study*, <http://mdhi.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/2011-PIT-Report-including-Appendices.pdf>.

² Colorado Children's Campaign, "Social Determinants of Health," April 2011, p.3, <http://www.coloradokids.org/>.

In the 2009-10 school year, a total of 1,909 students were served in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Program in the county's two school districts – 1,218 in St. Vrain Valley and 691 in BVSD (Table 4). Those students comprised 4.6% of St. Vrain Valley's students and 2.4% of BVSD's students, a total of 3.4% in both districts. About an equal number of children were served in the elementary and upper-level grades in BVSD, while in St. Vrain Valley, a higher number were served in the elementary grades than in upper-level grades. It should be noted that the number of children receiving McKinney-Vento services is higher than the estimated number of all homeless people in the county, because the McKinney-Vento count represents all children receiving services in a given school year, while the homeless count is based primarily on completed questionnaires received from homeless people on one night.

Table 4. Number and Percentage of Students Served in McKinney-Vento Program, Boulder County School Districts* and Grade Groups, 2009-10 School Year

	Total		BVSD		St. Vrain Valley S.D.	
	#	% of all students	#	% of all students	#	% of all students
PreK-5 th grade	1,068	4.0%	349	2.6%	719	5.3%
6 th -12 th grade	841	2.9%	342	2.2%	499	3.8%
Total	1,909	3.4%	691	2.4%	1,218	4.6%

* Includes parts of both school districts in other counties.

Source: Colorado Department of Education, Homeless Education, 2009-2010 Colorado Homeless Education Data Collection, www.cde.state.co.us.

NUTRITION AND INCOME SUPPORT FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES: WIC, FOOD STAMPS/SNAP, TANF, AND NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM³

WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)

WIC is a federally-funded supplemental nutrition program for pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children under five years of age who are financially eligible ($\leq 185\%$ of FPG) and "nutritionally at risk." A little more than one in four Boulder County children in that age group, 27.8%, were enrolled in WIC in 2010, as were 35.0% of children statewide (Table 5). After remaining stable between 2002 and 2008, the county rate increased by 11% between 2008 and 2010 and the state rate increased by 17% during that time period.

Table 5. Children Under Age 5 Receiving WIC in Boulder County and Colorado, 2002-2010

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Boulder County	24.3%	35.2%	25.9%	25.8%	25.2%	25.7%	25.0%	26.8%	27.8%
Colorado	25.5%	36.2%	27.8%	27.2%	27.8%	29.1%	30.0%	33.6%	35.0%

Sources: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance, www.cdph.state.co.us; Colorado Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office, <https://dola.colorado.gov/dlg/demog/age.html>. (Population estimates may vary according to the month and year in which they were generated.)

³ See Appendix A for the 2011 Federal Poverty Guideline for each household size.

Food Stamps/SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

Reflecting the current economic climate and with income eligibility at 130% of FPG, there have been substantial increases in the rates of households and children receiving Food Stamps in Boulder County (Table 6). The rate of households receiving Food Stamps increased between 2008 and the first half of 2011, almost doubling from a monthly average of 32.2 per 1,000 households to 63.0. The rate of children receiving Food Stamps doubled between 2008 and 2010, from 59.5 children per 1,000 to 119.1.

Table 6. Households and Children Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP, Boulder County, 2005-2010

Year	Average # Households per Month Receiving Food Stamps		Average # Children per Month Receiving Food Stamps	
	# households	Rate/1,000 households	# Children	Rate/1,000 Children
2005	3,877	34.6	N/A	N/A
2006	3,886	34.3	3,688	58.3
2007	3,359	29.0	3,194	50.2
2008*	3,777	32.2	3,721	59.5
2009*	5,362	45.1	5,599	87.2
2010*	6,629	55.5	7,541	119.1
2011*	7,517	63.0	N/A	N/A

* The 2008 monthly count of children receiving Food Stamps was from January to October. The 2009 monthly count of children receiving Food Stamps was from March to September. The 2010 monthly count of children receiving Food Stamps was from October to December. In 2011, there were only two months of counts of children receiving Food Stamps, so the data were not presented for that year. The 2011 monthly count of households receiving Food Stamps was from January to June.

Sources: Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services; Population and household estimates were from Colorado Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office, <https://dola.colorado.gov>. (Population estimates may vary according to the month and year in which they were generated.). The only exception was the 2010 household estimate, which was from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, Profile of General Population Characteristics: 2010. Since a household count was not available for 2011 as of this writing, the 2010 estimate was used to compute the rate.

TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)

Similar to Food Stamps, the rates of households and children receiving TANF in Boulder County increased substantially between 2008 and the first half of 2011 after declining between 2005 and 2008 (Table 7). In 2008, 1.6 households per 1,000 received TANF, more than doubling to 3.6 in 2011. The rate of children receiving TANF also more than doubled during that period, from 5.8 per 1,000 to 12.2.

Table 7. Households and Children Receiving TANF, Boulder County, 2005-2011

Year	Average # Households per Month Receiving TANF		Average # Children per Month Receiving TANF	
	# households	Rate/1,000 households	# Children	Rate/1,000 Children
2005	355	3.2	N/A	N/A
2006	323	2.9	627	9.9
2007	204	1.8	389	6.1
2008	187	1.6	365	5.8
2009	263	2.2	488	7.6
2010	348	2.9	636	10.1
2011*	431	3.6	782	12.2

* The 2011 monthly count of households and children receiving TANF was from January to June.

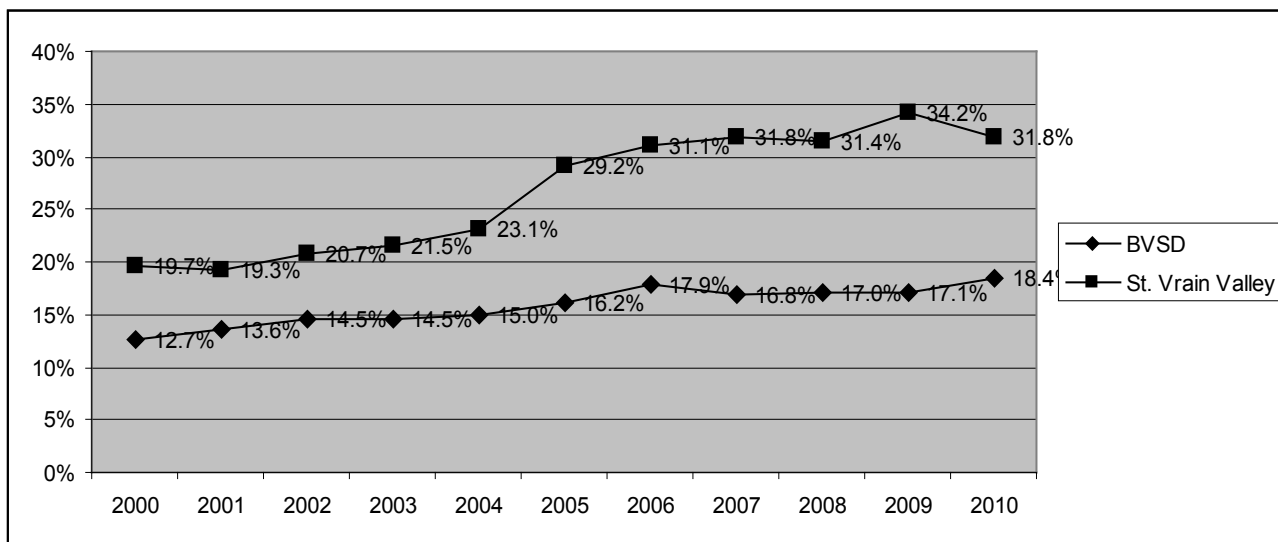
Sources: Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services; Population and household estimates were from Colorado Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office, <https://dola.colorado.gov>. (Population estimates may vary according to the month and year in which they were generated.). The only exception was the 2010 household estimate, which was from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, Profile of General Population Characteristics: 2010. Since a household count was not available for 2011 as of this writing, the 2010 estimate was used to compute the rate.

National School Lunch Program (Free and Reduced Lunch Program)

In October 2010, 18.4% of all students in grades PreK-12 in Boulder Valley School District and 31.8% in St. Vrain Valley School District were eligible for the free/reduced lunch program based on family income ($\leq 185\%$ of FPG) (Figure 1). BVSD's 2010 rate was the highest this decade, and as was St. Vrain's (along with 2007).

In BVSD the percentage of students eligible for free lunches (family income $\leq 130\%$ of FPG) increased by 66% between 2001 and 2010, from 9.3% to 15.4% (Table 8). The percentage of students eligible for reduced lunches (family income $> 130\% - \leq 185\%$ of FPG) was stable since 2001 (3.0% in 2010). In St. Vrain, the percentage of students eligible for free lunches almost doubled between 2001 and 2010, from 13.8% to 26.5%, while remaining about the same for reduced lunches (5.4% in 2010).

Figure 1. Percent of Boulder County Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch Program, 2000 - 2010



* Eligibility for free or reduced school lunches is based on family income, 185% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) for reduced lunches and 130% of FPG for free lunches. The student counts are in October of each school year. The funded headcount was used as the denominator to compute the percentages.

Sources: Boulder Valley (BVSD) and St. Vrain Valley school districts. BVSD's percentages from 2005 on were derived from the district's annual report, Special Programs by Location. Percentages prior to 2005 were computed from data supplied by BVSD's Food Services Division. This information was not available for 2005. A comparison of the two data sources in previous years found that they provide close similar but not identical percentages. St. Vrain's information for all years was computed from information provided by the district's Food Services Division.

Table 8. Percent of Students Eligible for Free Lunch and Reduced Lunch,* Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School Districts, 2001 - 2010

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
BVSD										
Free	9.3%	N/A	10.8%	11.4%	13.7%	14.7%	13.8%	14.1%	13.9%	15.4%
Reduced	2.8%	N/A	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	3.2%	2.9%	2.8%	3.2%	3.0%
St. Vrain Valley										
Free	13.8%	N/A	17.5%	20.0%	24.0%	24.4%	25.7%	24.8%	28.1%	26.5%
Reduced	4.4%	N/A	3.8%	3.6%	4.1%	5.1%	4.9%	4.4%	5.3%	5.4%

* Eligibility for free lunch = 130% of Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG), eligibility for reduced lunch = 185% of FPG. The student counts are in October of each school year and include only schools with lunch programs.

Source: Colorado Department of Education, www.cde.state.co.us.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR LOW INCOME CHILDREN

Medicaid and CHP+ are the two largest publicly funded health insurance programs for low income children in Colorado. CHP+ provides low-cost health insurance for uninsured children under age 19 whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford private insurance.

A total of 11,666 Boulder County children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+ in 2009 (Table 9). According to estimates by the Colorado Health Institute, there were decreases between 2008 and 2009 in the rates of children both statewide and in Boulder County who were eligible for Medicaid or CHP+ but not enrolled. In total, 22.8% children in Boulder County who were eligible for either Medicaid or CHP+ were not enrolled, an estimated 3,436 children. That was a decrease since 2008, when the rate was 28.5%. One in six (16.7%) Boulder County children in 2009 who were eligible for Medicaid were not enrolled (an estimated 1,855 children), a decrease since 2008, when the rate was 21.5%. Thirty-nine percent of children in Boulder County who were eligible for CHP+ were not enrolled (an estimated 1,582 children), which was also lower than the 2008 rate of 44.9%.

Table 9. Children Ages 0 – 18 Who Were Eligible for Medicaid or CHP+ but Not Enrolled, Boulder County and Colorado, 2008 and 2009*

	Boulder County		Colorado	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Total children	64,483	71,102	1,250,997	1,275,957
Medicaid				
Medicaid enrolled	7,336	9,219	216,678	256,845
Medicaid eligible (estimated)	9,346	11,073	271,903	296,395
Medicaid eligible but not enrolled	2,010	1,855	55,225	39,550
% Medicaid eligible but not enrolled	21.5%	16.7%	20.3%	13.3%
CHP+				
CHP+ enrolled	2,189	2,448	59,603	65,558
CHP+ eligible (estimated)	3,971	4,029	108,669	104,445
CHP+ eligible but not enrolled	1,782	1,582	49,066	38,887
% CHP+ eligible but not enrolled	44.9%	39.3%	45.2%	37.2%
Medicaid or CHP+				
Medicaid or CHP+ enrolled	9,526	11,666	276,280	322,404
Medicaid or CHP+ eligible (estimated)	13,318	15,102	380,571	400,841
Medicaid or CHP+ eligible but not enrolled	3,792	3,436	104,291	78,437
% Medicaid or CHP+ eligible but not enrolled	28.5%	22.8%	27.4%	19.6%

* This analysis used the following income thresholds to determine income eligibility. Children ages 0-5 were eligible for Medicaid if their family income was 0-133% of the Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG) and eligible for CHP+ if income was between 133-200% of FPG. Children ages 6-18 were eligible for Medicaid if their family income was between 0-100% of FPG and eligible for CHP+ if income was between 100-200% of FPG. CHP+ eligibility was raised to 205% in March 2008. The Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act of 2009 (HB09-1293) added a new group of low income Colorado children to the CHP+ program beginning May 1, 2010 - children in families up to and including 250% of FPG. It is estimated that 305 children became newly eligible in Boulder County resulting from this expansion of the CHP+ program. Since the data above were collected in 2009 (before the expansion), those 305 children are not included in the numbers above. The estimates included only children who were U.S. citizens or legal residents who had resided in the U.S. for at least five years and met the income eligibility requirements. Both the 2008 and 2009 estimates reflect updated methods of estimating undocumented children and can be compared to each other. However, these estimates cannot be compared to previous Colorado Health Institute (CHI) estimates due to changes in data sources and methods used to compute figures.

Source: Colorado Health Institute, Issue Brief: Colorado Children's Health Insurance Status: 2010 Update, July 2011, http://datacenter.coloradohealthinstitute.org/data_results.jsp?i=262&rt=3&p=2&c=2.

Legislation passed at both the state and federal level since 2008 extended health insurance coverage to a greater number of low income children.⁴ The Colorado Healthcare Affordability Act of 2009 (HB 09-1293) expanded eligibility for CHP+ from 205% of FPG to 250%. This change went into effect

⁴ Colorado Health Institute, *Issue Brief: Colorado Children's Health Insurance Status: 2010 Update*, May 2010, www.coloradohealthinstitute.org.

beginning May 1, 2010 and will be fully implemented over the next several years. National healthcare reform passed in March 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (HR 3590), expanded Medicaid eligibility to children up to 133% of FPG who meet the citizenship eligibility requirements. The estimates in Table 26 were based on eligibility for Medicaid and CHP+ prior to the new legislation and do not include the estimated 305 additional children who became eligible as a result of this legislation.

CHARACTERISTICS OF HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN BOULDER COUNTY

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HEAD START AND EARLY START

Table 10 shows the demographic characteristics of children in the Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs located in Boulder County. Fifty-one percent of Boulder County HS children and no Wild Plum Center HS children received full-day care five days a week. Of the children in part-day care four days a week (49% of Boulder County HS and all of Wild Plum HS), 64 (79%) of Boulder County HS children and 32 (16%) of Wild Plum HS children were enrolled in double sessions in order to receive full-day care. All of the Wild Plum EHS children who were in center-based care were in full-day care.

The majority of children in all three programs were Latino, two-thirds in Boulder County HS, 80% in Wild Plum HS, and three-quarters in Wild Plum EHS. Spanish was the primary language at home for a little over half of children in each of the three programs.

Table 10. Characteristics of Children Enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start in Boulder County, 2010-2011 Enrollment Year

	Boulder County Head Start	Wild Plum Center Head Start	Wild Plum Center Early Head Start
Total funded enrollment	164	198*	76
Total cumulative enrollment	199	217	108
Age (cumulative enrollment)			
Under 1 year	Not applicable	Not applicable	47%
1 year old	Not applicable	Not applicable	36%
2 years old	0%	2%	17%
3 years old	42%	36%	0%
4 years old	58%	62%	Not applicable
Enrollment Option (funded enrollment)			
Center-based 5 days/full-day (6 or more hours)	83 (51%)	0 (0%)	12 (16%)**
Center-based 4 days/part day (< 6 hours)	81 (49%)	198 (100%)	0 (0%)
Double sessions	64	32	0
Home-based	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	64 (84%)
Ethnicity (cumulative enrollment)			
Hispanic/Latino (any race)	67%	80%	75%
Primary Language of Family at Home (cumulative enrollment)			
English	43%	45%	44%
Spanish	53%	54%	56%
Other	4%	<1%	0%

* Included 32 slots funded by the City of Longmont, Boulder County, and St. Vrain Valley School District.

** In center-based child care with which Wild Plum Center has contractual arrangements.

Sources: Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families, Program Information Reports for 2010-11 Enrollment Year.

HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START FAMILIES

Most Head Start families in Boulder County can be characterized as the working poor, since between two-thirds and 80% of families had at least one parent/guardian employed (Table 11). Among more than 40% of families, the highest educational level completed by parent(s)/guardian(s) was less than a high school diploma/GED. Thirty-seven percent of families in Boulder County HS had one or more parents/guardians in job training or school, with less than half that percentage in the two Wild Plum programs. More than half of families were two-parent, with the highest percentage, 63%, in Wild Plum EHS.

Table 11. Characteristics of Families in Head Start and Early Head Start in Boulder County, 2010-2011 Enrollment Year

	Boulder County Head Start	Wild Plum Center Head Start	Wild Plum Center Early Head Start
Total # of families (cumulative)	194	202	92
Two-parent families	52%	57%	63%
One-parent families	48%	43%	37%
Education: highest level completed by parent(s)/guardian(s) was less than high school diploma/GED	46%	44%	42%
Job training/school: at least one parent/guardian*	37%	18%	17%
Employment: at least one parent/guardian employed*	73%	80%	68%

* At the time of enrollment.

Sources: Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families, Program Information Reports for 2010-11 Enrollment Year.

CHANGES IN CHARACTERISTICS OF HEAD START CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN BOULDER COUNTY

Two demographic characteristics of children and families have been reported in the last five community assessments for Boulder County's Head Start programs – percentage of children for whom Spanish was the primary language spoken in the home and of two-parent families.⁵ Between the 1997-98 and 2010-11 enrollment years, both programs had substantial although uneven increases in the percentage of children for whom Spanish was the primary language spoken in the home (Table 12). Boulder County HS increased from 38% to 53% of children, and Wild Plum HS increased from 42% to 54%. There was no regular pattern of change in either program in percentage of two-parent families.

Table 12. Selected Demographic Characteristics of Head Start Children and Families in Boulder County, 1997-98 to 2010-11 Enrollment Years

	1997-98	2001-02	2003-04	2006-07	2010-11
Boulder County Head Start					
% of children, Spanish is primary language at home	38%	44%	37%	55%	53%
% Two-parent families	61%	51%	43%	43%	52%
Wild Plum Center Head Start					
% of children, Spanish is primary language at home	42%	59%	62%	59%	54%
% Two-parent families	52%	62%	58%	54%	57%

Sources: Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families, Program Information Reports.

⁵ Children's race/ethnicity was also reported in all five community assessments, but the federal government changed the way it defined this characteristic after the 2003-04 assessment so that comparisons over time cannot be made. Characteristics of EHS children and families were not included in Table 11, since this program was not included in assessments prior to this year.

HOW SIMILAR ARE BOULDER COUNTY'S HEAD START /EARLY HEAD START CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO BOULDER COUNTY'S GENERAL POPULATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN POVERTY?

Only a few characteristics can be compared between Boulder County's HS/EHS children and families and Boulder County's general population of children and families in poverty because of a lack of comparable data for the two populations. Two characteristics of the general population for which data exist are the percentage of children less than five years old and in poverty that are Hispanic and the percentage of families in poverty with one or more children in that age group that have both parents living in the household. Because reliable estimates of those characteristics are available from the Census Bureau only for Boulder County and not for cities within the county, HS/EHS data were aggregated into county totals for purposes of comparison. Boulder County's HS/EHS children were much more likely to be Hispanic than the county's general population of children under age five in poverty, 74% versus 48% (Table 13). HS/EHS families were somewhat more likely to have both parents in the household than the general population of families in poverty, 56% versus 46%.

Table 13. Head Start/Early Head Start Children and Families and the General Population of Children and Families in Poverty in Boulder County: Selected Demographic Characteristics, 2010

	Head Start/Early Head Start	General Population
Total # of children (cumulative)	524	--
Total # of families (cumulative)	488	--
% Children < 5 years old in poverty who are Hispanic	74%	48%
% Families in poverty with 1 or more children < 5 years old that are 2-parent	56%	46%

Sources: Head Start/Early Head Start: Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families, Program Information Reports for 2010-11 Enrollment Year; General Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, Tables B17020, B17020I, B17010.

COMPARISON OF NEED FOR AND SUPPLY OF FINANCIALLY ACCESSIBLE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

POTENTIAL NEED: ESTIMATING THE NUMBER OF PRESCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN BELOW POVERTY IN BOULDER COUNTY

There are no specific counts of children from birth to age 2 (EHS age group) or between the ages of 3 and 4 (HS age group) at the two HS/EHS income thresholds of 100% and 130% of FPG. As a result, it was necessary to estimate those populations countywide and in the two HS service areas within the county using enrollment data from two of the largest programs that serve low income children in Boulder County -- WIC and the free lunch program.⁶

Estimate of Need Based on WIC Enrollments

WIC serves pregnant, breast feeding and/or postpartum women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are determined to be nutritionally at-risk and income eligible. Income eligibility is defined as 185% of FPG. Applicants are not required to be legal residents of Colorado or the United States in order to enroll in the program but must have proof of identity and residence. There are three WIC clinics in Boulder County – two in the BVSD attendance area (Boulder and Lafayette) and one in the St. Vrain Valley attendance area (Longmont).

A total of 3,301 children were enrolled in WIC in April 2010 -- 2,261 were birth to 2 years old and 1,070 were 3 to 4 years old (Table 14). Sixty percent (59.8%) of children were served at the Longmont clinic, 24.8% at the Boulder clinic, and 15.4% at the Lafayette clinic.

Table 14. WIC-Enrolled Children, by Clinic and Age Group, Boulder County, April 2010*

	Total		Boulder Clinic		Lafayette Clinic		Longmont Clinic	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Birth-2 years old	2,261	67.9%	576	69.6%	341	66.5%	1,344	67.5%
3-4 years old	1,070	32.1%	251	30.4%	172	33.5%	647	32.5%
Total, birth – 5th birthday	3,331		827		513		1,991	
% of total in each clinic	100%		24.8%		15.4%		59.8%	

* Enrolled in April 2010. Income eligibility for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is $\leq 185\%$ of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, State WIC Program.

Information provided by the Colorado State WIC Program on household income and household size of WIC-enrolled children in Boulder County and each WIC clinic in the county was used to calculate the percentage of enrolled children in each age group who were at 100% and 130% of FPG.⁷

⁶ The Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) contains single-year estimates of poverty rates for children below age 5 in Boulder and Longmont and 3-year averages in Lafayette. However, the sampling errors of those estimates are relatively high due to small sample sizes and therefore do not provide sufficiently reliable estimates of the population of Head Start eligible children for the purposes of this needs assessment. Three-year average percentages of related children < age 5 in poverty: Boulder – 17.0% \pm 6.4%, Lafayette – 18.6% \pm 9.9%, Longmont – 26.1% \pm 7.6% (from ACS 2008-10, Table DP03). Also, the ACS estimates for the three communities do not include the surrounding areas, which taken together, comprise the attendance areas of the Boulder County portion of the two school districts and define the service areas of the two Head Start programs in the county.

⁷ It is assumed that most children served at each WIC clinic live in or near the community in which the clinic is located and that the characteristics of the April caseload are similar to annual caseload characteristics.

About 70% of the county's WIC-enrolled children in both age groups were at 100% of FPG, and about 86% were at 130% of FPG (Table 15). These rates were similar regardless of age group or clinic location, except for the Lafayette clinic, which had a somewhat higher percentage at 100% of poverty than did the other clinics.

Table 15. WIC-Enrolled Children by Age Group, Poverty Level, and Clinic Location, Boulder County, April 2010

Clinic Location	Birth – 2 years old		3-4 years old	
	<100% of FPG	<130% of FPG	<100% of FPG	<130% of FPG
Boulder County				
Total children	2,261		1,070	
# < Federal Poverty Guideline	1610	1,960	764	924
% < Federal Poverty Guideline	71.2%	86.7%	71.4%	86.4%
Boulder Clinic				
Total children	576		251	
# < Federal Poverty Guideline	420	506	184	212
% < Federal Poverty Guideline	72.9%	87.8%	73.3%	84.5%
Lafayette Clinic				
Total children	341		172	
# < Federal Poverty Guideline	265	307	138	156
% < Federal Poverty Guideline	77.7%	90.0%	80.2%	90.7%
Longmont Clinic				
Total children	1,344		647	
# < Federal Poverty Guideline	925	1,147	442	556
% < Federal Poverty Guideline	68.8%	85.3%	68.3%	85.9%

Source: The data used to make the calculations were provided by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, State WIC Program.

WIC enrollments alone do not provide a complete picture of the number of children in the county who are eligible for Head Start since not all eligible families enroll in the program. One study found that many, and in some cases, most families who are eligible for benefits programs do not receive them, because of limited program funding, lack of awareness of what is available, complex application procedures, etc.⁸ As shown in Table 16, about one-third of the county's Head Start/Early Start children were not enrolled in WIC at the time of HS/EHS enrollment – one-quarter of Boulder County HS children, 45% of Wild Plum HS children, and one-third of Wild Plum EHS children.

In order to estimate the total number of children who were eligible for Head Start in the county and three cities in the county and for Early Head Start in Longmont, it was necessary to estimate the number of children who were both *not* enrolled in WIC *and* below FPG (either 100% or 130%) and add that number to the number of WIC-enrolled children below each FPG level. For the purposes of estimation, it was assumed that the percentage of children in HS/EHS that were enrolled in WIC at the time of entry into the program was comparable to the percentage of all children in the same age group and income level that were enrolled in WIC, in other words, that HS/EHS children at the time of entry are representative of the general population of children in the same age group and income level in Boulder County. The percentage of WIC-enrollment among HS/EHS children was divided into the total number of each location's WIC-enrolled children at/below FPG to provide an estimate of the total number of children at each poverty level (100% or 130% of FPG).

⁸ R. Albelda and H. Boushey, *Bridging the Gaps: A Picture of How Work Supports "Work" in Ten States*, Center for Economic and Policy Research and Center for Social Policy of University of Massachusetts-Boston, October 10, 2007.

Table 16 shows that an estimated 1,237 children aged 3 and 4 countywide were below 100% of FPG, and an estimated 1,511 were below 130% of FPG. At both income levels, about two-thirds were in Longmont, 20% were in Boulder, and a little under 15% were in Lafayette. In Longmont, an estimated 1,408 children birth to age 2 were below 100% of FPG, and an estimated 1,798 were below 130% of FPG.

Table 16. Estimated Number of Children in Two Poverty Levels and Age Groups, Based on WIC Enrollment, Boulder County and Cities, April 2010

Location**	Birth – 2 years old		3-4 years old	
	≤100% of FPG*	≤130% of FPG*	≤100% of FPG*	≤130% of FPG*
Boulder County				
% of Head Start children enrolled in WIC	Not applicable	Not applicable	64.1% (248/387)	64.2% (260/405)
# in WIC < Federal Poverty Guideline (from Table 15)	--	--	764	924
Estimated # of children < Federal Poverty Guideline***	--	--	1,237	1,511
Boulder/Lafayette combined				
% of Head Start children enrolled in WIC**	Not applicable	Not applicable	74.2% (135/182)	73.9% (147/199)
# in WIC < Federal Poverty Guideline (from Table 15)	--	--	322	368
Estimated # of children < Federal Poverty Guideline***	--	--	435	498
Boulder				
% of Head Start children enrolled in WIC**	Not applicable	Not applicable	70.8% (75/106)	70.6% (84/119)
# in WIC < Federal Poverty Guideline (from Table 15)	--	--	184	212
Estimated # of children < Federal Poverty Guideline***	--	--	260	300
Lafayette				
% of Head Start children enrolled in WIC**	Not applicable	Not applicable	78.9% (60/76)	78.8% (63/80)
# in WIC < Federal Poverty Guideline (from Table 15)	--	--	138	156
Estimated # of children < Federal Poverty Guideline***	--	--	175	198
Longmont				
% of Early Head Start/Head Start children enrolled in WIC**	65.7% (67/102)	63.8% (67/105)	55.1% (113/205)	54.9% (113/206)
# in WIC < Federal Poverty Guideline (from Table 15)	925	1,147	442	556
Estimated # of children < Federal Poverty Guideline***	1,408	1,798	802	1,013

* All but 17 of the 199 children enrolled at Boulder County Start in 2010-11 were at 100% of FPG, and all were at 130% of FPG. All but 12 of the 217 children enrolled at Wild Plum Head Start were at 100% of FPG. One of the 12 was between 100% and 130% of FPG. All but 6 of the 108 children enrolled at Wild Plum Early Head Start were at 100% of FPG. Three were between 100% and 130% of FPG.

** Location of Head Start site. Most children live in the city in which the site they attend is located. See maps in Appendix E.

*** These are likely to be underestimates of all unduplicated enrollments for 2010 for each income level and age group, since they are based on WIC enrollments in April 2010.

Sources: Estimates were based on information from Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Early Head Start/Head Start in the 2010/11 Program Year and from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, State WIC Program, April 2010.

Estimate of Need Based on Enrollments in the Free Lunch Program

Enrollments in the federal free lunch program, available to students with incomes up to 130% of FPG, provided another means of estimating the population of young children at this income level. This information could not be used to estimate the number of children with incomes up to 100% of FPG.

Approximately 17% (16.7%) of BVSD (not including Broomfield County) and 32.5% of St. Vrain Valley (not including Weld County) elementary students were eligible for free lunches (Table 17). Multiplying this number in each district by the number enrolled in kindergarten provided an estimate of the number of kindergarten children eligible for free lunches. Assuming that nearly all kindergartners are 5 years old in October of each year, when school districts report free/reduced lunch counts to the Colorado Department of Education, this number can be multiplied by 2 to estimate the number of 3- and 4-year olds at 130% of FPG. (See note in Table 17.) BVSD had an estimated 596 children aged 3 and 4 years old and Longmont had an estimated 1,050 children in this age group, for a county total of 1,646 children aged 3 and 4 with incomes at 130% of FPG. Within BVSD, Boulder accounted for two-thirds of the district's children in this age group and income level, and Lafayette accounted for one-third.

Table 17. Estimated Number of Children Birth-Age 2 and Aged 3-4 ≤ 130% of Poverty in Boulder County, Based on Eligibility for Federal Free Lunch Program, by School District and Community, October 2010*

	Total Boulder Valley School District	Boulder***	Lafayette****	Total St. Vrain Valley School District
% of elementary students eligible for free lunch**	16.7%	19.4%	13.1%	32.5%
# enrolled in kindergarten**	1,784	1,023	761	1,616
Estimated # kindergarten students eligible for free lunch	298	198	100	525
Estimated # birth-2 year olds at 130% of Federal Poverty Guideline^	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	1,397
Estimated # 3 – 4 year olds at 130% of Federal Poverty Guideline^	596	396	200	1,050
Total Boulder County estimated # 3 – 4 year olds at 130% of Federal Poverty Guideline	1,646			

* Income eligibility for the federal free lunch program is ≤ 130% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

** Includes K-8 schools. Does not include schools located in the portion of each school district outside of Boulder County.

*** Includes elementary schools in BVSD's mountain communities.

**** Includes elementary schools in Louisville and Superior.

^ Population estimates for Boulder County from the 2010 Census indicate that the number of 3- and 4-year olds combined (6,946) equaled approximately twice the number of 5-year olds (7,180). The estimated number of kindergarten students eligible for free lunch was therefore multiplied by 2 to estimate the number of eligible 3- and 4-year olds. Census estimates show that the number of children below age 1, age 1, and age 2 (9,553) was 88.7% of three times the number of 5-year olds (10,770). The estimated number of kindergarten students eligible for free lunch was therefore multiplied by 3 and the resulting number was multiplied by 88.7% to estimate the number of eligible children aged 2 and under.

Sources: Boulder Valley School District, 2010-2011 Special Programs by Location report; St. Vrain Valley School District, Nutrition Services report; Colorado Department of Education, 2010 Pupil Membership by School and Grade; U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census, Table QT-P2.

Comparison of Two Estimates of Need

The two methods of estimating the number of children in the two age groups with incomes at 130% of FPG yielded similar results, given that they were based on different programs serving different age groups (Table 18).

Table 18. Comparison of Two Methods of Estimating Population Birth-Age 2 and Aged 3-4 ≤ 130% Poverty in Boulder County, 2010

Location	Birth – 2 years old		3-4 years old	
	WIC	Free Lunch	WIC	Free Lunch
BVSD*	Not applicable	Not applicable	498	596
St. Vrain Valley*	1,798	1,397	1,013	1,050
Total Boulder County	--	--	1,511	1,646

* Inside Boulder County.

Sources: Tables 16 and 17.

ESTIMATED SUPPLY OF FINANCIALLY ACCESSIBLE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION IN BOULDER COUNTY

In addition to Head Start, the two major sources of early care and education for low income children are the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program and the Colorado Preschool Program.

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)

CCCAP provides a subsidy to licensed child care providers for children aged 6 weeks up to 13 whose families are receiving TANF or are low income with parents engaged in work or work-related activities. Families are responsible for a co-payment based on their income. Income eligibility for the low income program in Boulder County is 185% of FPG. Children enrolled in CCCAP must be U.S. citizens or legal residents.

Of the 1,776 children enrolled in CCCAP in State Fiscal Year 2009-10, 474 were below age 3 and 507 were aged 3 and 4 (Table 19). Eighty-three percent of children below age 5 were in the Low Income program and 17% were in the TANF program.

Table 19. Children in Enrolled in CCCAP, by Age, Boulder County, State Fiscal Year 2009-10*

	Low Income		TANF/CO Works		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
< 3 years old	384	25.4%	90	33.7%	474	26.7%
3-< 5 years old	434	28.8%	73	27.3%	507	28.5%
Total, all ages	1,509		267		1,776	

* Total number of unduplicated children enrolled in CCCAP in SFY 2009-10. Does not include Child Welfare Child Care.

Source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care, Annual Program Information for Report Period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

The number of children below age 3 and aged 3 to 4 at each income level (100% and 130% of FPG) was estimated using information from Colorado CCCAP on:

- The number of families in the Low Income program at the two income thresholds
- The average number of children per family in the Low Income program
- The number of children in the TANF program

Countywide, there were an estimated 253 CCCAP children aged 3-4 at 100% of FPG and 335 at 130% of FPG (Table 20). There were a similar number of children below age 3 at each income level.

Table 20. Estimated Number of CCCAP-Enrolled Children, Birth-Age 2 and Aged 3-4, at 100% and 130% of Federal Poverty Guideline, Boulder County and Cities, State Fiscal Year 2009-10

Boulder County				
# CCCAP-enrolled children < 185% of FPG*	< Age 3: 416		Aged 3-4: 445	
	<100% of FPG	<130% of FPG	<100% of FPG	<130% of FPG
Estimated # of all CCCAP children at Federal Poverty Guideline**	907	1,199	907	1,199
Estimated % of all CCCAP children at Federal Poverty Guideline**	56.9%	75.2%	56.9%	75.2%
Estimated # children at Federal Poverty Guideline**	237	313	253	335
Boulder/Mountains				
% of Boulder County CCCAP children***	24.5%			
Estimated # CCCAP children at Federal Poverty Guideline****	58	77	62	82
Lafayette/Louisville/Superior				
% of Boulder County CCCAP children***	14.2%			
Estimated # CCCAP children at Federal Poverty Guideline****	34	44	36	48
St. Vrain Valley School District				
% of Boulder County CCCAP children***	61.5%			
Estimated # CCCAP children at Federal Poverty Guideline****	146	192	156	206

* Total number of unduplicated children enrolled in the Low Income and TANF/Colorado Works CCCAP programs in Boulder County <185% of FPG, SFY 2009-10. Boulder County's income threshold for CCCAP eligibility was reduced from 225% of FPG to 185% of FPG in June 2010, at the end of SFY 2009-10. As a result, 12.3% of families enrolled in SFY 2009-10 had income at/above 185% of FPG and 87.7% had income below 185% of FPG. In order to estimate the total number of CCCAP children below 185% of FPG (the current income threshold), the total number of children was multiplied by 87.7%. For example, there were a total of 474 children < age 3 enrolled in CCCAP. For the purposes of this table, 474 was multiplied by 87.7% in order to estimate the number of children below 185% of FPG, an estimated 416.

** Computation procedures:

1) The number of children of all ages < 130% of FPG was estimated by multiplying the number of Boulder County CCCAP families in the Low Income Program whose income was <130% of FPG (from the Annual CCCAP Report) by the average number of children per family in the Low Income CCCAP program, 1.58 (from the same report) and adding the number of children in the TANF/CCCAP Program. The resulting number was divided by the total estimated number of CCCAP children < 185% of FPG to estimate the percent of CCCAP children <130% of FPG. This percentage was multiplied by the number of CCCAP children in each of the two age groups to estimate the number of children in these age groups < 130% of FPG.

2) The number of children < 100% of FPG in each of the two age groups was estimated in the same way as the number of children in each age group < 130% of FPG.

*** The percentage of Boulder County's CCCAP children in each of the three cities and surrounding areas was not available as of this writing. As a result, these percentages were estimated using the average of the percentages <130% of FPG in each of the three WIC clinics of all Boulder County WIC children <130% of FPG (Table 14) and the estimated percentage of kindergarten children eligible for the free lunch program (income eligibility = <130% of FPG) in Boulder/mountain schools, Lafayette/Louisville/Superior schools, and St. Vrain Valley School District (Table 17). The percentages in each of the three communities were very similar in WIC and the free lunch program, had the same income threshold, and covered the attendance area within Boulder County of each school district. See table in Appendix B.

**** Computed by multiplying the estimated percentage of Boulder County CCCAP children living in each community by the estimated countywide number of children in each age group at each income threshold.

Sources: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care, Annual Program Information for Report Period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010; Tables 14 and 17.

Colorado Preschool Program (CPP)

CPP is funded by the Colorado Department of Education to pay for 10 hours per week (2.5 hours a day, four days a week) of preschool for high-risk children. High risk is defined by 10 risk factors, one of which is eligibility for the free/reduced lunch program (<185% of FPG). Nearly all CPP children in BVSD, St. Vrain Valley, and statewide are eligible for free/reduced lunch.⁹ Four year olds are required to have only one risk factor. Some three year olds may be eligible for CPP and are required to have three risk factors. Nineteen BVSD elementary schools and eight community-based programs in the BVSD attendance area accept CPP children. Almost all St. Vrain Valley elementary schools and five community sites in the attendance area accept CPP children, including Wild Plum Center. Thirty-two CPP slots in two classrooms at one of the Wild Plum sites are used for children who are Head Start eligible but not enrolled in Head Start because of insufficient slots.

In the 2010-11 school year, BVSD had 334 CPP preschool slots, and St. Vrain Valley had 300, a total of 634 countywide (Table 21).

Table 21. Colorado Preschool Program Allocated Slots,* by School District, Boulder County, 2010-11 School Year

School District	#
BVSD	334
St. Vrain Valley	300
Total Boulder County	634

* Preschool allocations only; does not include kindergarten allocations.

Source: Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Preschool Program Allocations, www.cde.state.co.us.

CPP preschool slots were not included in the estimate of supply in the following section, because there was no information with which to estimate the number of children below 100% and 130% of FPG.

Scholarships and Sliding-Scale Fees

Although many of the county's preschools and child care centers offer scholarships or sliding-scale fees, the number offering those arrangements is not a good indicator of the supply of slots that are affordable for Head Start eligible families, since even a reduced fee is likely to be too high for families below poverty and few providers have the resources to offer full scholarships. In addition, the number of slots that a provider offers on a scholarship or sliding-scale fee basis may be highly variable over time.

COMPARISON OF SUPPLY OF AND POTENTIAL NEED FOR FINANCIALLY ACCESSIBLE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

The supply of ECE slots that are available to Head Start eligible families was defined by:

- Head Start/Early Head Start funded enrollment
- Estimated number of CCCAP children in the two age groups, < 3 years old (Wild Plum attendance area only) and 3-4 years old, who were at each of the two income thresholds – 100% and 130% of FPG

The potential need for financially accessible ECE was defined as the estimated number of children in the two age groups that were at 100% or 130% of FPG, based on enrollment in:

- WIC
- Free Lunch Program

⁹ In the 2009-10 school year, 83.0% of CPP children statewide were eligible for free/reduced lunch (Colorado Department of Education, *Colorado Preschool Program, Working Together, 2011 Legislative Report*, p. 3, http://www.cde.state.co.us/cpp/download/CPDocs/2011_CPP_Legislative_Report.pdf).

Children Aged 3 to 4

Countywide, the gap between the estimated number of children aged 3 to 4 at 100% of FPG was more than twice as high as the estimated slots – an estimated 1,237 children in that age group and income level and a supply of 591 slots, leaving a gap of 646 (Table 22). Twenty-nine percent of the gap was in BVSD (187 of 646), and 71% was in St. Vrain Valley (459 of 646). Within BVSD, Boulder accounted for 59% of the unmet need (111 of 187) and Lafayette for 41% (76 of 187) (Table 23). In both cities, the estimated number of children was nearly twice the number of slots.

The gap between the estimated number of children aged 3 to 4 at 130% of FPG was also more than twice as high as the estimated slots – an estimated 1,579 children in that age group and income level and a supply of 688 slots, a gap of 891 (Table 22). Twenty-eight percent of the gap was in BVSD (253 of 891), and 72% was in Longmont (638 of 891). Within BVSD, Boulder accounted for 66% of the unmet need (168 of 253) and Lafayette for 34% (85 of 253) (Table 23). However, these estimates may overstate the gap between need and supply, since they do not reflect families that at this income level are able to afford to pay for ECE with sliding-scale fees or scholarships.

Table 22. Supply of and Potential Need for Financially Accessible Early Care and Education: Children Aged 3 to 4, by School District, 2010

	Boulder Valley School District*		St. Vrain Valley School District*		Boulder County	
SUPPLY	100% of FPG	130% of FPG	100% of FPG	130% of FPG	100% of FPG	130% of FPG
Funded enrollment in Head Start**	150	164	187	188	337	352
Estimated # of CCCAP children aged 3-4 at Federal Poverty Guideline	98	130	156	206	254	336
Total estimated supply (Head Start + CCCAP)	248	294	343	394	591	688
POTENTIAL NEED	100% of FPG	130% of FPG	100% of FPG	130% of FPG	100% of FPG	130% of FPG
Estimated # of children aged 3-4 at Federal Poverty Guideline, based on WIC enrollments	435	498	802	1,013	1,237	1,511
Estimated # of children aged 3-4 at Federal Poverty Guideline, based on estimated # kindergarten students eligible for free lunch	Not available	596	Not available	1,050	Not available	1,646
Average estimate of children aged 3-4 at Federal Poverty Guideline	435	547	802	1,032	1,237	1,579
ESTIMATED UNMET NEED	187	253	459	638	646	891

* Boulder County portion only.

** The number of Head Start funded enrollments was reduced by the estimated number of children above 100% of FPG and above 130% of FPG, based proportionately on the percentage of Head Start cumulative enrollments above 100% of FPG and above 130% of FPG. See note in Table 16.

Table 23. Supply of and Potential Need for Financially Accessible Early Care and Education: Children Aged 3 to 4, Boulder and Lafayette, 2010

	Boulder		Lafayette	
SUPPLY				
	100% of FPG	130% of FPG	100% of FPG	130% of FPG
Funded enrollment in Head Start	87	98	63	66
Estimated # of CCCAP children aged 3-4 at Federal Poverty Guideline	62	82	36	48
Total estimated supply	149	180	99	114
POTENTIAL NEED				
	100% of FPG	130% of FPG	100% of FPG	130% of FPG
Estimated # of children aged 3-4 at Federal Poverty Guideline, based on WIC enrollments	260	300	175	198
Estimated # of children aged 3-4 at Federal Poverty Guideline, based on estimated # kindergarten students eligible for free lunch	Not available	396	Not available	200
Average estimate children aged 3-4 at Federal Poverty Guideline	260	348	175	199
ESTIMATED UNMET NEED	111	168	76	85

* The number of Head Start funded enrollments was reduced by the estimated number of children above 100% of poverty and above 130% of poverty, based proportionately on the percentage of Head Start cumulative enrollments above 100% of poverty and above 130% of poverty. See note in Table 16.

Children Under Age 3

The gap between the estimated number of children and the supply of slots was far higher for children under age 3 in St. Vrain Valley than for children aged 3 to 4, at both income levels. There were an estimated 1,408 children in that age group at 100% of FPG and a supply of 218 slots, more than a six-fold difference between the number of children and of slots and a gap of 1,190 (Table 24). At 130% of FPG, there were an estimated 1,598 children and a supply of 266 slots, a gap of 1,332. Given the higher rate of child poverty in Longmont than in the other two cities in Boulder County and the general difficulty in finding licensed care for infants and toddlers, the size of this gap is not surprising.¹⁰

Table 24. Supply of and Potential Need for Financially Accessible Early Care and Education: Children Younger than Age 3, St. Vrain Valley School District, 2010

SUPPLY		
	100% of FPG	130% of FPG
Funded enrollment in Early Head Start*	72	74
Estimated # of CCCAP children < age 3 at Federal Poverty Guideline	146	192
Total estimated supply	218	266
POTENTIAL NEED		
	100% of FPG	130% of FPG
Estimated # of children < age 3 at Federal Poverty Guideline, based on WIC enrollments	1,408	1,798
Estimated # of children < age 3 at Federal Poverty Guideline, based on estimated # kindergarten students eligible for free lunch	Not available	1,397
Average estimate children < age 3 at Federal Poverty Guideline	1,408	1,598
ESTIMATED UNMET NEED	1,190	1,332

* The number of Early Head Start funded enrollments was reduced by the estimated number of children above 100% of poverty and above 130% of poverty, based proportionately on the percent of Early Head Start cumulative enrollments above 100% of poverty and above 130% of poverty. See note in Table 16.

Estimation Caveats

The main caveat that should be kept in mind when interpreting these results is that the estimates of potential need and slots were based on enrollments in WIC, the free lunch program, Head Start/Early Head Start, and CCCAP. Not all families who are income-eligible for those programs enroll in them. Under-enrollment in WIC and free lunch would result in an underestimate of the gap between potential need and slots. In particular, it seems likely that families with questionable legal status may be reluctant to enroll in these programs because of fear of discovery, even though the free lunch program does not require enrolled children to be U.S. citizens or legal residents. In addition, slots in unlicensed care were not included in the analysis.

¹⁰ Amy Nash and Stephanie Greenberg, *Early Care and Education Needs Assessment for Boulder County, 2009, Supplemental Analysis*, Prepared for The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County, August 2009.

THE LOCATION OF HEAD START SITES AND LOW INCOME CHILDREN IN BOULDER COUNTY

In order to arrive at a more detailed understanding of the geography of unmet need for Head Start services in Boulder County, the following information was mapped:

- Location of Head Start sites and number of children enrolled at each site in the 2010-11 enrollment year
- Location of residence of enrolled children
- Residential density of kindergarten children enrolled in the free lunch program

Kindergarten children enrolled in the free lunch program were mapped to show where the highest densities of young, low income children are located.

Separate maps were created for Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center Head Start/Early Head Start and appear in Appendix E. The maps were created by the Boulder County Information Technology Department using information provided by both Head Start programs and the school districts.

Boulder County Head Start Sites

Boulder County Head Start has four sites – two in Boulder and two in Lafayette. Martin Park in south Boulder is the largest site, with 71 children enrolled in 2010-11. Martin Park is located near several areas south of Pearl Street with high densities of children enrolled in the free lunch program. However, many of the children who attended this site lived in central or north Boulder, closer to the Woodlands site.

Woodlands, located in north Boulder, is the second smallest site, with 30 children enrolled in 2010-11. Most of the children who attended this site lived in the general area of the site, as did many children who attended the Martin Park site. It is in the middle of a number of large areas with high densities of children enrolled in free lunch. The high concentration of Head Start children and low income kindergarten children, combined with the relatively small number of slots at Woodlands, suggests a need to increase the number of Head Start slots in north Boulder. That will occur when a new site opens in a location northeast of Woodlands that will be part of a larger early childhood center. After that site is established, the Martin Park site will close.

The Simpson and Sanchez sites in Lafayette are located close to one another. The Simpson site, with 51 children enrolled in 2010-11, is the second largest site. Sanchez is the smallest site, with 17 children. Both sites are located in or near large areas with high densities of low income children. The children who attended these sites lived in a cluster around each site, although a number of Simpson's children lived in low income areas southwest of the site.

Wild Plum Center Sites

The Wild Plum Center has four sites in Longmont. Two of the largest sites are in central Longmont, the Meeker Center with 66 children enrolled in 2010-11 and First United Methodist Church (FUMC) with 49 children. Both sites are in the middle of a very large area with high densities of kindergarten children enrolled in the free lunch program. Most of the children enrolled at Meeker lived close to the site. Many children enrolled at FUMC lived close to that site, although a large number lived west and northwest of the site in other areas with high densities of low income kindergarten children. There are no Head Start sites in that area, which is west of Main Street. The Powell site, with 49 children, is north of Meeker and FUMC. Most children who attended that site lived in a cluster around the site. Casa de la Esperanza, located at the south end of Longmont, is the smallest site, with 31 children. It is located in a residential community owned by the Boulder County Housing Authority that is dedicated to meeting the needs of agricultural workers. Casa de la Esperanza is in a large area with a high density of low income

kindergarten children, and a large number of children who attended that site lived at the site or close by to the northwest.

The maps indicate that Boulder County's Head Start sites are located in areas with high densities of low income children, and most of the children who attended those sites lived close by. When Boulder County Head Start opens its new site in north Boulder, there will be an even better match between the location of children and sites. The children who attended Wild Plum sites tended to live in clusters around those sites, although a number lived on the west side of Longmont, where there are no sites.

NEEDS OF HEAD START ELIGIBLE FAMILIES IN BOULDER COUNTY AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO ADDRESS NEEDS

The needs and priorities of low income families in Boulder County were identified through surveys of Head Start parents, Head Start Program Information Reports, and key informant interviews.

NEEDS AND PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY HEAD START FAMILIES

Information on the needs and priorities of Head Start/Early Head Start families was obtained through two parent surveys administered in each program, one at the time of enrollment and one in the spring of each year. (See Appendix C for both surveys.)

Quality of Head Start Experience

The Family Questionnaire asked parents to rate the quality of various aspects of the program, such as contact and communication with Head Start staff, educational experience, meals, etc. The questionnaire is distributed annually in the spring. In 2011, the survey response rate for Boulder County Head Start was 30% (49 completed of 164 distributed), for Wild Plum Head Start, 87% (172 completed of 198 distributed), and for Wild Plum Early Head Start (home-based only), 30% (19 completed of 64 distributed).

Nearly all of the items received a positive (“yes”) response by at least 90% of parents in all three programs, and nearly all items that could be compared between 2007 and 2011 received higher ratings in 2011 than in 2007 (Table 25). The lowest rated 2011 item in all three programs was, the child receiving services he/she needed -- 71% in Boulder County Head Start, 68% Wild Plum Head Start, and 71% in Wild Plum Early Head Start. In addition, the percentage of parents that said “yes” to that question was lower in 2011 than in 2007 in both Head Start programs. The other items that were lower rated in 2011 than in 2007 were, being informed of schedule changes by the bus driver at Boulder County Head Start (from 94% in 2007 to 75% in 2011 of parents whose child rode the bus) and parent participated in home visits and completed a Family Partnership Agreement at Wild Plum Head Start (from 97% in 2007 to 88% in 2011).

Table 25. Parents' Quality Assessment of Head Start/Early Head Start in Boulder County, Spring 2007 and 2011

% Responding "yes"*	Boulder County Head Start		Wild Plum Center Head Start		Wild Plum Center Early Head Start (home based)	
	2007	2011	2007	2011	2007	2011
Contact with Head Start staff						
Participated in home visits/conferences with teacher	84%	100%	86%	95%	n/a	100%
Teacher helped me plan more activities for child	89%	100%	89%	97%	n/a	100%
Participated in home visits/completed FP Agreement	63%	83%	97%	88%	n/a	100%
Feel comfortable contacting HS about services	92%	100%	99%	96%	n/a	95%
Quality of educational experience						
Impressed by quality of education	**	98%	80%	92%	n/a	95%
Caring, nurturing environment	**	100%	78%	100%	n/a	95%
HS experience helped child feel good about self	**	100%	79%	100%	n/a	95%
Communication with Head Start						
Given information about my child's learning/behavior	**	100%	80%	98%	n/a	100%
Feel comfortable going into classroom anytime	**	98%	81%	99%	n/a	--
Teacher keeps me informed about activities/events	**	96%	78%	98%	n/a	100%
HS listens to parents/uses some parent ideas	**	98%	71%	98%	n/a	--
Home visits/conferences with teacher are helpful	**	98%	81%	99%	n/a	100%
Parent meetings/other functions are helpful	**	96%	79%	99%	n/a	94%
Meals						
Receive HS monthly meal menus	**	96%	80%	99%	n/a	--
Like meals/snacks child received	**	98%	79%	99%	n/a	--
Accessing community services						
HS staff helped access community resources	**	96%	69%	89%	n/a	94%
Child received services he/she needed	82%	71%	74%	68%	n/a	71%
Head Start transportation						
Child rides bus	28%	32%	49%	53%	n/a	--
Bus driver keeps me informed about changes in schedule	94%	75%	98%	100%	n/a	--
Services and activities (Wild Plum Early Head Start only)						
Child/other family member participated in counseling services	--	--	--	--	n/a	50%
Counseling was helpful	--	--	--	--	n/a	100%
Child/other family member received health services from Wild Plum health staff	--	--	--	--	n/a	56%
Health services were helpful	--	--	--	--	n/a	89%
Child and I participated in play groups	--	--	--	--	n/a	71%
Play groups were fun and educational	--	--	--	--	n/a	100%

n/a: Not available.

-- Question not asked.

* Of those who responded to the question.

** Response choices for these questions in the 2007 questionnaire were not the same as in the 2011 questionnaire.

Source: Head Start Family Questionnaire, administered by Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center, Spring 2007 and 2011.

Parenting Interests

The Family Interest Survey asked parents to indicate from a list of parenting topics those that were of interest for trainings, meetings, and/or referral to community resources. The survey was distributed at the time of enrollment in the 2010-11 year.

In the two Head Start programs, the most frequently indicated parenting interest was helping the child with reading, and in Wild Plum Head Start, parenting strategies (Table 26). The least frequent in both programs was the father's role in parenting. In Wild Plum Early Head Start, the most frequent parenting interests were helping the child with reading, fitness, parenting strategies, and healthy meals. Among the three programs, higher percentages of EHS parents and lower percentages of Wild Plum HS parents indicated interest in parenting topics.

Table 26. Parenting Topics, Head Start and Early Head Start in Boulder County, 2010-11 Enrollment Year

Topics	Boulder County Head Start (190 responses)	Wild Plum Center Head Start (195 responses)	Wild Plum Center Early Head Start (32 responses)
Helping child with reading/writing/Becoming family of readers	78%	57%	84%
Kindergarten: School choices, how to prepare	65%	34%	--
Child development	66%	38%	75%
Fitness, outdoor family activities	66%	46%	84%
Healthy family meals, snacks	67%	46%	81%
Parenting strategies/Strengthening skills	65%	51%	84%
Dad's role in parenting	38%	18%	0%
CPR/1 st aid	--	46%	72%
Pedestrian safety	--	22%	--

-- Question not asked.

Source: Head Start Family Interest Survey, administered by Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center at time of enrollment.

Family Needs

The Family Interest Survey also asked parents to indicate from a list of family needs those that they needed help with from the Family Services Coordinator. The list was divided into housing, financial, general assistance, adult education, and family support systems. Each of the main areas was divided into a list of specific topics. In each of the three programs, the highest percentage of parents indicated an interest in affordable housing, 26% of Boulder County HS parents, 29% of Wild Plum HS parents, and 56% of Wild Plum EHS parents (Table 27). A relatively high percentage of parents in all three programs also indicated an interest in learning English as a second language (ESL) and assistance with utility bills. After affordable housing, the most frequent interests among Wild Plum EHS parents were transportation/car seats and basic computer skills (41% each), employment/job training (38%), ESL (34%), emergency food/clothing/shelter (31%), assistance with utility bills (28%), and first time home buying program and managing/saving money (25% each). The most frequent interests among Wild Plum HS parents after affordable housing were basic computer skills (21%), ESL (20%), and assistance with utility bills (19%). Boulder County HS parents indicated that their most frequent interests after affordable housing were ESL (23%), assistance with utility bills and child care options (22% each), and employment/job training (21%).

Table 27. Areas of Family Services Interest, Head Start and Early Head Start in Boulder County, 2010-11 Enrollment Year

Areas	Boulder County Head Start (190 responses)	Wild Plum Center Head Start (195 responses)	Wild Plum Center Early Head Start (32 responses)
Housing			
Affordable housing	26%	29%	56%
Weatherizing	14%	10%	19%
Landlord/tenant mediation	4%	1%	3%
First time home buying program	13%	17%	25%
Financial			
Managing/saving money	17%	15%	25%
Utility assistance/Help with heating bills	22%	19%	28%
Employment programs/Job training	21%	10%	38%
Emergency food, clothing, shelter	0%	16%	31%
General Assistance			
Child care options	22	13	19
Becoming a U.S. citizen	5	7	13
Health care	10	6	3
Legal assistance	8	10	9
Transportation/Car seats	--	13	41
Adult Education			
Thinking about college	14	10	19
Preparing for GED	16	9	6
Improving basic reading and writing skills	8	10	16
Learning English as second language (ESL)	23	20	34
Basic computer skills	--	21	41
Family Support Systems			
Alcohol and drug awareness/education	2	3	3
Domestic violence	2	2	0
Family/individual counseling	13	7	6
Parenting time (child custody)	0	--	--
Child abuse/Neglect/Sexual abuse	--	2	0
Emotional and behavioral disorders/Anger management	--	5	16
Child support enforcement	4	--	--
Single parents support group	5	--	--

-- Question not asked.

Source: Head Start Family Interest Survey, administered by Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center at time of enrollment.

NEEDS OF AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR THE GENERAL POPULATION OF LOW INCOME FAMILIES

Information on the needs of low income families in Boulder County was obtained from key informant interviews and Head Start Program Information Reports (PIRs).

Staff of nine community agencies and programs that serve low income families throughout the county were interviewed by telephone regarding the needs of their clients. The topic guide for these interviews can be found in Appendix C. These agencies/programs included:

- Aspen Family Services (administers Boulder County CCCAP)
- Boulder County Housing and Human Services Self-Sufficiency and Community Support Division
- Boulder County Public Health Family Health Division
- Boulder County WIC
- Boulder Valley School District Colorado Preschool Program (CPP)
- St. Vrain Valley School District CPP

- Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFAA)
- Sister Carmen Community Center
- OUR Center

There was a substantial degree of consensus among the key informants about the most pressing needs of the county's lowest income families:

- Employment and sustainable wages
- Stable, affordable housing
- Affordable, high quality child care
- Parent support
- Transportation
- Community-based, affordable mental health services

These needs are closely interrelated. Jobs with sustainable wages and stable, affordable housing provide the essential underpinnings for achieving family stability. Affordable, high quality child care enables parents to seek and retain employment. Transportation is required for many families to maintain often complicated work and child care schedules. Parent support and community-based mental health services are important factors in helping to maintain family stability, including employment.

A number of key informants also agreed on the needs of low income families that are relatively well met:

- Food through Foods Stamps/SNAP, free/reduced lunch program, Community Food Share, and food banks
- Special education and general education services provided by the two school districts
- Health care through the community clinics
- Dental care through Dental Aid
- Increasing awareness of and enrollment in benefits programs through Boulder County Housing and Human Services outreach efforts

Virtually all Head Start/Early Head Start families in Boulder County had received at least one service to address a wide range of needs in the past year (Table 28).

Table 28. Head Start/Early Head Start Families Receiving Family Services, Boulder County, 2010-11 Enrollment Year (cumulative families)

Boulder County Head Start	Wild Plum Center Head Start	Wild Plum Center Early Head Start
92%	100%	100%

Sources: Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families, Program Information Reports for 2010-11 Enrollment Year.

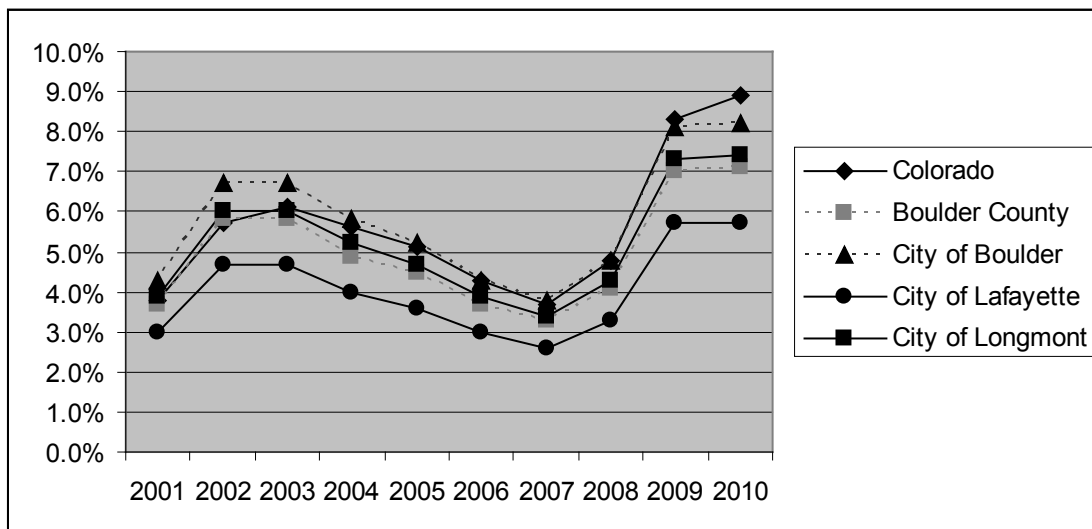
Employment and Sustainable Wages

Community Trends

Despite signs of economic growth, the county's unemployment rate, like the state's, remained stubbornly high through 2010 at 7.1%, after reaching a low point this decade of 3.3% in 2007 (Figure 2). Substantial increases between 2007 and 2008 and even more so between 2008 and 2009 resulted in the unemployment rate more than doubling in both the county and state between 2007 and 2009.

The three cities in the county for which unemployment rates are available – Boulder, Lafayette, and Longmont – showed similar trends as the county and state between 2001 and 2010. Throughout the decade, Boulder had the highest unemployment rates of the three (8.2% in 2010), followed by Longmont (7.4% in 2010), with Lafayette having the lowest rates (5.7% in 2010).

Figure 2. Unemployment Rates, Colorado, Boulder County, and Boulder County Cities Above 25,000 Population, 2001-2010



Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/lau/>. Unemployment rates were not seasonally adjusted.

While year-to-year increases in the county's and cities' unemployment rates have slowed and the county's unemployment rate remained below the statewide rate throughout the decade, substantial net job growth will have to take place in order to reduce unemployment. In addition, what is not reflected in the unemployment rate are reductions in hours, job seekers accepting employment with lower wages and less good benefits than they had previously, and those who have become discouraged and ceased looking for employment.

Head Start Families

Many Boulder County families in which one or more adults have jobs earn too little to pay for basic living expenses without public or private assistance. As shown in Table 11 (p.16), between two-thirds and 80% of Head Start/Early Head Start families had at least one parent employed yet almost all earned under 100% of FPG. Achieving financial self-sufficiency in Boulder County requires substantially higher income than the FPG income levels. The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado shows the gap between the FPG and the income needed for self-sufficiency in counties throughout the state. In contrast to the FPG, the Self-Sufficiency Standard takes into account the number of adults and children in the household, the children's ages, a comprehensive set of living expenses for each family type, and cost-of-living differences among counties. As a result, there is an income range for each household size of two or more, depending on the household size and composition. In Boulder County, there is a wide

gap between the FPG for each household size and the income range needed for families of the same size to meet basic needs (Table 29).

Table 29. 2011 Colorado Self-Sufficiency Standard* for Boulder County and 2011 Federal Poverty Guidelines by Household Size**

	Household size			
	One	Two	Three	Four
Self-Sufficiency Standards, Boulder County	\$24,527	Adult + Preschooler: \$50,483	\$43,416-\$67,500	\$67,924-\$89,474
Federal Poverty Guidelines, U.S.	\$10,890	\$14,710	\$18,530	\$22,350

* The Colorado Self-Sufficiency Standard is a measure of the income needed for families to meet basic needs without public or private assistance. The incomes needed for financial self-sufficiency are presented for selected family types, and for families of three or four, as ranges for selected family types since the amount needed is dependent on the number of adults and the number and ages of children in the household. The incomes for families of two or more do not represent all family types. The self-sufficiency income for a two-person family is currently available for only one family type.

** The Federal Poverty Guidelines are computed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to determine income eligibility for programs such as Head Start, Food Stamps/SNAP, the School Lunch Program, etc. The Poverty Thresholds, computed by the Census Bureau, are similar to but not the same as the Poverty Guidelines and are used for purposes of statistical classification of individuals and families.

Sources: Diana M. Pearce, Ph.D., *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado 2011*, prepared for the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, October 2011; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2011 HHS Poverty Guidelines, hhs.gov/poverty/10Poverty.shtml.

Among Head Start/Early Head Start parents, the most frequently received services related to employment and financial sustainability in the past year were emergency/crisis intervention at all three programs, ESL training at Boulder County HS, and adult education at Wild Plum EHS (Table 30).

Table 30. Families Receiving Services Related to Employment and Financial Sustainability, Head Start and Early Head Start in Boulder County, 2010-11 Enrollment Year (cumulative families)

Service	Boulder County Head Start	Wild Plum Center Head Start	Wild Plum Center Early Head Start
Emergency/crisis intervention (food, clothing, shelter)	28%	14%	12%
ESL training	21%	4%	0%
Adult education (GED, college selection, etc.)	9%	9%	13%
Job training	5%	1%	10%
Child support assistance	4%	1%	5%

Sources: Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families, Program Information Reports for 2010-11 Enrollment Year.

Several services were indicated as areas of interest by relatively high percentages of families in the Family Interest Survey (Table 27, p.33) but those services had been received by much lower percentages of families:

- Emergency/crisis intervention at Wild Plum EHS: 31% interested, 12% received
- ESL training at Wild Plum HS: 20% interested, 4% received
- ESL training at Wild Plum EHS: 34% interested, 0% received
- Adult education at Boulder County HS: 16% interested in preparing for GED, 14% interested in college, 9% received adult education
- Job training: 21% of Boulder County HS interested, 5% received; 10% of Wild Plum HS interested, 1% received; 38% of Wild Plum EHS interested, 10% received

Community Resources

Boulder County has a large number of public and nonprofit agencies that provide emergency food, housing, and clothing (EFAA, Sister Carmen, OUR Center, food banks, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters), administer benefits programs for low income families (Boulder County Housing and Human Services, City of Boulder Housing and Human Services, City of Longmont Housing and Human Services, Boulder County Public Health (WIC), Aspen Family Services (CCCAP)), and provide employment and training services (Work Force Boulder County). The Personal Investment Enterprise Program, an initiative started by Foothills United Way in 2008, supports programs in Boulder and Broomfield Counties that teach financial management skills, promote job skills education, and help individuals and families work toward financial independence. In addition, both school districts have ESL and adult education programs, and several nonprofit agencies offer ESL and other support services for Latino families.

However, many agencies have reported dramatic increases in the number of people seeking help, especially those seeking help for the first time as a result of current economic conditions. In addition to the impact of the national recession on Boulder County, the problem of financial sustainability in the county is also systemic, resulting primarily from insufficient affordable housing.

Affordable Housing

Community Trends

The high cost of housing in Boulder County may cause families to reduce expenditures on food and other necessities and/or to live with relatives or friends to avoid homelessness. The increasing cost of utilities is an additional housing burden.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) established an upper limit of 30% of gross adjusted income for housing affordability. Households paying 30% or more of their income for mortgage or rent payments and utilities are deemed “cost-burdened”. In 2010, six in 10 (60.9%) Boulder County renter households paid 30% or more of their monthly income for housing costs, somewhat higher than the statewide rate of 52.2% (Table 31). The county’s rate of cost-burdened renters increased by 33% between 2000, when the percentage was 45.7%, and 2010. Boulder had consistently higher rates of renter cost burden than Longmont throughout the decade, 63.1% and 57.0%, respectively, in 2010.

Table 31. Monthly Housing Costs At or Above 30% of Household Income, Renter-Occupied Households, Colorado, Boulder County, City of Boulder, and City of Longmont, 2000 and 2005- 2010

	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Colorado	40.9%	49.7%	50.4%	49.2%	50.1%	52.5%	52.2%
Boulder County	45.7%	61.0%	53.5%	54.3%	54.0%	60.5%	60.9%
City of Boulder	54.4%	69.2%	61.5%	59.3%	65.0%	68.0%	63.1%
City of Longmont	43.9%	59.3%	46.0%	47.4%	47.8%	55.6%	57.0%

* Denominator is defined as total renter-occupied housing units. Numerator is defined as housing cost including utilities at 30% or more of gross monthly household income.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, Table QT-H13; U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2010: American Community Survey, Selected Housing Characteristics.

Head Start Families

The Family Interest Survey showed that in each of the three HS/EHS programs, affordable housing was the most frequently indicated need, by 26% of Boulder County HS parents, 29% of Wild Plum HS parents, and 56% of Wild Plum EHS parents (Table 27, p.33). A relatively high percentage of parents in all three programs also indicated an interest in assistance with utility bills, about one in five in each of the HS programs and 28% in Wild Plum EHS. Twenty-two percent of Boulder County HS families received housing services, as did 15% of Wild Plum HS families, and 29% Wild Plum EHS families (Table 32).

Table 32. Families Receiving Housing Assistance Services,* Head Start and Early Head Start in Boulder County, 2010-11 Enrollment Year (cumulative families)

Boulder County Head Start	Wild Plum Center Head Start	Wild Plum Center Early Head Start
22%	15%	29%

* Includes subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.

Sources: Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families, Program Information Reports for 2010-11 Enrollment Year.

Community Resources

HUD's Section 8 voucher program is the largest source of affordable rental housing in Boulder County. There are also agencies that provide assistance to help pay rent and utilities on a short-term, emergency basis for families at risk of eviction (Boulder County Housing and Human Services Self-Sufficiency and Community Support Division's Housing Crisis Prevention Program, EFAA, OUR Center, Sister Carmen). Stable, affordable housing is a key factor in achieving family sustainability and remains in short supply.

Affordable, High Quality Child Care

Community Trends and Resources

Along with Head Start/Early Head Start and CPP, CCCAP is a key resource for early care and education specifically for low income families in Boulder County, although the income threshold is higher for CCCAP eligibility than for Head Start, adults must be in an approved work or school activity and be able to document their income, and children must be U.S. citizens or legal residents.

Several state and county CCCAP regulations have gone into effect since 2010 that reduced the number of eligible families. In June 2010, income eligibility in Boulder County was reduced from 225% of FPG to 185% due to an increase in the number of families being served and budget cuts. In addition, the length of CCCAP benefits for students was reduced from 48 months to 24 months. A county regulation went into effect at about the same time that required documentation of cooperation with child support enforcement. Boulder County Ballot Initiative 1A, which was passed in November 2010 and implemented in January 2011, increased human services funding over a five-year period to backfill reductions in state funding. So far, 1A has been used primarily to expand CCCAP funding for families at 185% of FPG.

As of September 6, 2011, there were 187 licensed CCCAP providers in Boulder County, a 33% decrease since February 2009 (Table 33). These numbers, however, do not necessarily reflect a change in the number of families enrolled in CCCAP.

Table 33. CCCAP Child Care and Early Education Providers for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers, Boulder County, 2009-2011

Type of provider	February 2009	June 30, 2010	Sept. 6, 2011	% Difference 2009-2011
Child care centers	108	94	72	-33%
Family child care homes	78	63	74	-5%
Preschools	5	4	9	+80%
School-age sites	88	73	32	-64%
Total	279	234	187	-33%

Sources: 2009-2010: Aspen Family Services, Lafayette, CO; 2011: Qualistar.org.

Two subsidy programs administered by the City of Boulder Department of Housing and Human Services seek to increase the availability of child care to low income families. CLIFF serves families in Boulder that do not qualify for CCCAP because their income is over 185% of FPG (but below 300% of FPG) or they do not meet residency or child support enforcement requirements. GAP, which is available to families that reside in Boulder or Longmont that have been approved for CCCAP enrollment, provides a subsidy to providers to close or narrow the gap between the CCCAP subsidy and the provider's fee when the latter is higher than the average market rate.¹¹

Both school districts have preschool programs. St. Vrain Valley has preschools in all elementary schools and designated community sites. BVSD has preschools in 19 of 34 schools with elementary grades. In October 2010, St. Vrain Valley had 1,197 preschool students and BVSD had 605.¹² BVSD is expanding its preschool program with funding that voters approved through Ballot Initiative 3A in November 2010. In both school districts, preschool is half-day for up to 4 days a week. A half-day is about 2-1/2 hours, making it necessary for working parents to make other child care arrangements for the remaining hours.

Despite these local resources, the key informants identified a number of child care needs that are especially problematic for families in poverty:

- Access to full-day care
- Evening and weekend care for parents who have nontraditional work hours
- Infant care
- Ineligibility for CCCAP due to citizenship/legal residency requirements for children, need to document income and cooperation with child support enforcement and to meet work/school requirements
- GAP is not available in Boulder County communities other than Boulder and Longmont and CLIFF is not available in communities other than Boulder

Parent Support

Key informants identified a number of needs related to parent support:

- Financial literacy and budgeting
- Parenting skills
- Awareness of benefits for which their child or family may be eligible
- Awareness of community-based services
- Involvement in their child's education

¹¹ City of Boulder, Child Care Subsidy and Referrals Program (CCSR): GAP, http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3759&Itemid=1915.

¹² Colorado Department of Education, 2010 Pupil Membership by School and Grade, www.cde.state.co.us.

The growing number of families that are facing long-term unemployment for the first time are often not aware of benefits and services for which they may be eligible. Some Latino parents, because of limited English ability, limited education, and/or fear of discovery if they are in this country illegally, may be reluctant to access services, to communicate with their child's teacher, or to interact with the school in other ways. A limited number of staff at local agencies that are both bi-lingual and bi-cultural may also be a barrier to Latino families in accessing services.

Head Start Families

Responses to the Parent Interest Survey indicated interest in a number of parenting topics in all three HS/EHS programs, among the most frequent of which were helping the child with reading and parenting strategies (Table 26, p.33). Table 34 shows the percentage of HS/EHS parents that received family services related to parent support. By far the most frequent at Boulder County HS was health education, which 85% of parents received. That was also the most frequent parenting-related service at Wild Plum EHS, received by 98% of parents, followed by parenting education, by 79%. Parenting education was the most frequent parent service at Wild Plum HS, received by 70% of parents.

Table 34. Families Receiving Services Related to Parent Support, Head Start and Early Head Start in Boulder County, 2010-11 Enrollment Year (cumulative families)

Service	Boulder County Head Start	Wild Plum Center Head Start	Wild Plum Center Early Head Start
Child abuse/neglect services	3%	1%	3%
Domestic violence services	5%	<1%	2%
Parenting education	6%	70%	79%
Health education	85%	34%	98%
Assistance to families of incarcerated individuals	7%	4%	7%
Marriage education services	0%	3%	7%

Sources: Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families, Program Information Reports for 2010-11 Enrollment Year.

Community Resources

In addition to Head Start's family services, Boulder County has a number of programs that provide various kinds of parent support. Boulder County Public Health's WIC and Nurse-Family Partnership Program serve low income families that are eligible. Community parenting centers provide sliding-scale fees for their programs. Public Health's Community Infant Program works with families at risk for child abuse/neglect, and for teen parents, GENESIS and the school district teen parenting programs offer parent support services. There are also agencies that provide support to the county's Latino families.

Both school districts have developed family support programs. Family Resource Schools, a partnership between BVSD and the City of Boulder serving five BVSD elementary schools, seeks to improve the educational achievement of elementary school students by improving family self-sufficiency and family functioning and increasing parent involvement in the child's education. BVSD's Family Literacy Program provides parent education, parenting classes, home visits, and parent-child involvement activities for low income families with high literacy needs. The school district has also started a Community Liaison program for families of children attending BVSD preschools, to identify family needs and promote relationship building between families and schools. St. Vrain Valley has an Adult Education Program for basic literacy and math skills, ESL, and GED preparation, and about half the participants are parents.¹³ The district also offers parenting programs.

¹³ St. Vrain Valley School District, Adult Education, <http://www.stvrain.k12.co.us/schools/ae/>.

Although Boulder County has many parent support resources, without data on the prevalence of parent support needs and agency capacity to meet those needs, there is no way to assess the match between needs and resources.

Transportation

Low income parents often experience transportation problems because they cannot afford to buy, maintain, or fuel a car, do not have a driver's license because of their immigration status, cannot afford to live close to where they work, or do not have public transportation close to home, work, and child care. EFAA, Sister Carmen, and OUR Center provide RTD bus tokens and Sister Carmen also offers gasoline vouchers. However, programs may not have enough tokens and vouchers for daily use for all families that need them. In addition, having to ride the bus from home to child care to work and back again, particularly if the child is in two part-day programs, may make it impossible to work. At present, there are no large-scale transportation assistance programs for the general population of low income families in Boulder County.

Community-Based, Affordable Mental Health Services

Head Start Children and Families

On-site mental health professionals consulted with staff about the behavior or mental health of 18% of Boulder County HS children, 11% of Wild Plum HS children, and 13% of Wild Plum EHS children in 2010-11 (Table 35). Mental health staff consulted with parents about the behavior/mental health of over half of Wild Plum HS children, but much smaller percentages of children in the other two programs. Of the small number of children in Wild Plum HS and EHS that were referred for outside mental health services (4% and 3%, respectively), all received those services, as did 80% of Boulder County HS children who were referred for outside services (5%).

Table 35. Children Receiving Head Start Mental Health Services, Head Start and Early Head Start in Boulder County, 2010-11 Enrollment Year (cumulative children)

Service	Boulder County Head Start	Wild Plum Center Head Start	Wild Plum Center Early Head Start
On-site mental health professional consulted with staff about child's behavior/mental health	18%	11%	13%
On-site mental health professional consulted with parents about child's behavior/mental health	16%	53%	12%
Mental health professional referred child for MH services outside of Head Start	5%	4%	3%
Of those referred, % received MH services	80%	100%	100%

Sources: Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families, Program Information Reports for 2010-11 Enrollment Year.

Four in 10 Wild Plum EHS families received mental health services in the past year, as did 16% of Wild Plum HS families and 7% of Boulder County HS families (Table 36).

Table 36. Families Receiving Services Related to Mental Health, Head Start and Early Head Start in Boulder County, 2010-11 Enrollment Year (cumulative families)

Boulder County Head Start	Wild Plum Center Head Start	Wild Plum Center Early Head Start
7%	16%	41%

Sources: Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families, Program Information Reports for 2010-11 Enrollment Year.

Community Resources

Boulder County has a number of mental health resources for young children and their families. All of St. Vrain Valley's schools with elementary grades have counselors or psychologists on site, although only a small number of BVSD schools with elementary grades have on-site counselors. Kid Connects, a program of Mental Health Partners (MHP), offers weekly on-site mental health consultation at child care centers and family child care homes for staff, parents, and children, child care provider staff trainings, and a "warm line" for brief mental health consultation with parents and child care providers regarding challenging or concerning behaviors of children from birth through age five. In addition, MHP has counselors at the five Family Resource Schools elementary schools in Boulder to provide individual and family treatment, crisis intervention, assessment and referral, and consultation with students, parents, teachers, and other school staff. A partnership between MHP, Foothills Behavioral Health Partners, and the three community health care clinics provides access to short- and long-term mental health services at the clinics. Whether these resources are adequate to meet the mental health needs of the county's low income families would require an in-depth assessment.

YOUNG CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN BOULDER COUNTY

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN THE GENERAL POPULATION

The Child Find program in each of Boulder County's school districts provides screening, evaluation, placement, and referrals for children from birth up to age 3 through Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and for children aged 3 up to 5 through Part B of IDEA.¹⁴ A total of 405 children were evaluated and found eligible for Part C services in the 2010-11 school year, 202 in St. Vrain Valley and 203 in BVSD (Table 37). A total of 435 children were eligible for Part B services, 223 in St. Vrain Valley and 212 in BVSD. Overall, nearly 85% of children who were evaluated were found eligible for services. By far the most common Part B placement categories were Speech/Language Impairment and Preschooler with a Disability, which together accounted for at least 90% of children in both school districts. About one-third of evaluated children were Hispanic, except for children evaluated for Part C in BVSD. The percentage of children in age groups cannot be compared between the two school districts since the districts categorize children according to different criteria.

¹⁴ Child Find does not provide services other than screening and evaluation for children from birth up to age 3. Imagine! contracts and pays for services for children in that age group who qualify for Part C.

Table 37. Children Evaluated and Placed by Child Find, Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley School Districts, 2010-11*

	Part C (birth-<age 3)		Part B (ages 3-< 5)	
	BVSD	St. Vrain	BVSD	St. Vrain
Total evaluated	245	252	240	272
Qualified for placement	203	202	212	223
Did not qualify for placement	42	50	28	51
Categories of Children Placed				
Developmentally Delayed (Part C, only)	99.0%	97.3%		
Categorically Eligible (Part C, only)	1.0%	2.7%		
Significant Limited Intellectual Capacity			0.0%	0.0%
Emotional Disability			0.0%	0.0%
Specific Learning Disabilities			0.9%	0.0%
Hearing Disability			0.5%	0.7%
Vision Disability			0.0%	0.0%
Physical Disability			2.4%	7.4%
Speech/Language Impairment			45.8%	57.2%
Deaf/Blind			0.0%	0.0%
Multiple Disability			0.0%	0.0%
Preschooler with a Disability			49.5%	32.7%
Autism Disability			1.9%	2.0%
Traumatic Brain Injury			0.0%	0.0%
Ethnicity of Evaluated Children				
% Hispanic	21.6%	37.2%	33.8%	37.9%
Ages of Evaluated Children**				
Birth-1	33.1%	12.9%		
1-2	49.8%	26.7%		
2-3	17.1%	40.1%		
3-4	Not applicable	20.3%	76.7%	44.7%
4-5			23.3%	31.2%
5+			Not applicable	24.1%

*Data include portions of both school districts that are outside of Boulder County.

** BVSD categorizes children into age groups according to their age on September 30th of each year. St. Vrain Valley School District categorizes children into age groups according to their age at the time of evaluation.

Sources: Boulder Valley School District and St. Vrain Valley School District Child Find programs.

The BVSD Director of Early Childhood Education and the Child Find Coordinator indicated that while the number of children evaluated for Part C and Part B services and served in Part B has been stable during the past two or three years, there has been a decrease compared to six or seven years ago in the total number of children evaluated and in the number of Latino children. The staff also noted that there has been an increase in homeless children and in children with behavior problems, at least some of whom had been asked to leave their preschool or child care program.

The St. Vrain Valley Child Find Coordinator also indicated that the program has served about the same number of children in the past several years, but that starting about a year ago, the number of Latino children increased. She attributed that increase to a growing number of referrals from agencies serving a large number of Latino children, such as Head Start, OUR Center, and Salud clinic. Child Find has also seen an increased number of both children and families with behavior problems. The coordinator indicated that there was a need for a greater number of appropriate child care providers for children with disabilities. Beginning in the 2012-13 school year, most children receiving Part B services will receive services within the school district and will attend district preschools or Head Start. Because the district has expanded its services for children with IEPs, it can now meet needs for early intervention

among most children with disabilities, providing a wide range of services, including social/emotional, speech/language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, etc. Child Find will continue to refer families to outside services in rare instances when the child's needs cannot be met within the district.

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AT HEAD START

Twenty-seven children at Boulder County HS, 19 children at Wild Plum HS, and 8 children at Wild Plum EHS had an identified disability, accounting for 14%, 9%, and 7%, respectively of all enrollments in 2010-11 (Table 38). The most common disabilities among Boulder County HS children were non-categorical/general developmental delays and speech/language impairments. Speech/language impairments was the most common disability at Wild Plum HS. The prevalence of each disability at the two HS programs was almost identical to the prevalence of disabilities among children served in Part B at the school districts in which these HS programs are located (Table 37, p.44). All HS/EHS children with an identified disability received services.

Table 38. Children with Disabilities in Head Start and Early Head Start in Boulder County, 2010-11 Enrollment Year (% of cumulative enrollment)

Diagnosed primary disability	Boulder County Head Start	Wild Plum Center Head Start	Wild Plum Center Early Head Start
Health impairment	0%	0%	Not applicable
Emotional/behavioral disorder	0%	37%	Not applicable
Speech/language impairments	44%	57%	Not applicable
Mental retardation	0%	0%	Not applicable
Hearing impairment	0%	0%	Not applicable
Orthopedic impairment	0%	0%	Not applicable
Visual impairment, including blindness	0%	5%	Not applicable
Learning disabilities	0%	0%	Not applicable
Autism	0%	0%	Not applicable
Traumatic brain injury	0%	0%	Not applicable
Non-categorical/developmental delay	56%	0%	Not applicable
Multiple disabilities	0%	0%	Not applicable
Total	27	19	8
% of cumulative enrollment with IEP	14%	9%	7%
% who received special education/related services	100%	100%	100%

Sources: Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families, Program Information Reports for 2010-11 Enrollment Year.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The Children with Special Needs (CSN) Program at Boulder County Public Health assists families of children with special health care needs from birth through age 20 by providing information, making referrals to community resources, and offering specialized nursing services for newborns. The program's comprehensive list of community resources can be found at: <http://www.bouldercounty.org/find/library/family/csnresourcesph.pdf>.

APPENDIX A

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

2011 HHS Federal Poverty Guidelines	
Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$10,890
2	\$14,710
3	\$18,530
4	\$22,350
5	\$26,170
6	\$29,990
7	\$33,810
8	\$37,630
For each additional person, add:	\$3,820

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

APPENDIX B

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN WIC* AND FEDERAL FREE LUNCH PROGRAM IN THREE LARGE COMMUNITIES IN BOULDER COUNTY

Location	WIC (April 2010)	Free Lunch (October 2010)	Average (unweighted)
Boulder**	24.9%	24.1%	24.5%
Lafayette***	16.1%	12.2%	14.2%
Longmont****	59.1%	63.8%	61.5%
Boulder County^	100%	100%	100%

* Only enrolled children <130% of FPG. WIC eligibility is 185% of FPG.

** Includes mountain communities.

*** Includes Louisville and Superior.

**** Includes surrounding areas in Boulder County portion of St. Vrain Valley School District.

^ Percents add to more than 100% due to rounding.

APPENDIX C

HEAD START PARENT SURVEYS

There were some differences in the questionnaires used by Boulder County Head Start and Wild Plum Head Start and Early Head Start. The following questionnaires are presented as examples of the Family Interest and Family questionnaires.

Family Interest Survey

Child's name _____ Your name _____

In building on your family's strengths, how can Head Start help you reach your goals? Our program will provide the information through trainings, meetings and connecting you to community resources. Please check the topics that interest you.

- _____ Helping my 3-5 year old with reading and writing activities/Becoming a family of readers
- _____ Kindergarten: What are my school choices and how to prepare
- _____ Child development: What to expect from my preschooler? How does my child learn?
- _____ Fitness and outdoor family activities
- _____ Healthy meals and snacks for the whole family
- _____ Parenting strategies / Strengthening parenting skills
- _____ Dad's, (father figure), role in parenting
- _____ Other topics that interest you _____

Our Family Services Coordinator will schedule a home visit with you to help access resources through a Family Partnership Agreement for your family. Please check the areas you are interested in.

Emergency needs: _____ Food _____ Clothing _____ Housing/Safety

Housing:

- _____ Affordable Housing
- _____ Weatherizing your home
- _____ Landlord/Tenant mediation
- _____ First time home buying program

Financial:

- _____ Managing and saving money
- _____ Utility Assistance/Help with heating bills
- _____ Employment programs/Job training

General Assistance:

- _____ Child care options
- _____ Becoming a U.S. citizen
- _____ Health care needs
- _____ Legal Assistance

Adult Education:

- _____ Thinking about college
- _____ Preparing for the GED
- _____ Improving my basic reading and writing skills
- _____ Learning English as a second language

Family Support Systems:

- _____ Alcohol and drug awareness and education
- _____ Domestic violence
- _____ Family and individual counseling
- _____ Parenting time (child custody)
- _____ Child Support Enforcement
- _____ Single Parents Support group

Other: _____

***All information is confidential**

Family Questionnaire

Please help us improve our program by completing the following questionnaire.

Please circle “Yes or “No” for each of the following:

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. I have participated in home visits and conferences with my child's teacher. | Yes | No |
| 2. My child's teacher helped me plan more activities for my child. | Yes | No |
| 3. I have participated in Home visits with [.....] and completed a Family Partnership Agreement. | Yes | No |
| 4. I feel comfortable contacting Head Start regarding additional Family Services. | Yes | No |
| 5. I am impressed by the quality of my child's education at Head Start. | Yes | No |
| 6. I feel my child is part of a caring, nurturing environment at Head Start. | Yes | No |
| 7. This Head Start experience has helped my child feel good about him/herself. | Yes | No |
| 8. I am given information about my child's learning and behavior in the classroom. | Yes | No |
| 9. I feel comfortable going into my child's classroom anytime. | Yes | No |
| 10. My child's teacher keeps me informed about classroom activities and school events in a timely manner. | Yes | No |
| 11. I think Head Start listens to parents and uses some of their ideas in the classroom. | Yes | No |
| 12. I find home visits or conferences with my child's teacher to be helpful and informative. | Yes | No |
| 13. The parent meetings and other functions that I attended are helpful and informative. | Yes | No |
| 14. I receive copies of monthly meal menus for the program. | Yes | No |
| 15. I like the meals and snacks my child received during school. | Yes | No |
| 16. Head Start staff helped me access resources in the community. | Yes | No |
| 17. My child received the services (such as speech therapy, physical therapy, etc.) that he/she needed. | Yes | No |
| 18. My child rides the bus. | Yes | No |
| 19. The bus driver keeps me informed in a timely manner about any changes in the pick up/drop off schedule. | Yes | No |

Please use the back to tell us what your preferences are on any improvements, ideas, or changes you may wish to make. If you would like to be contacted regarding this evaluation, please fill out the information below.

APPENDIX D

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW TOPIC GUIDES

**HEAD START COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
TOPIC GUIDE FOR INTERVIEWS WITH COMMUNITY AGENCIES**

Agency _____

Date _____

Staff Name _____

Phone # _____

1. What are the most pressing unmet needs of Boulder County's lowest income families with young children?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

For each of the needs listed in #1:

2. Does this need differ among different communities in Boulder County? How?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. Has this need changed in the past several years since the beginning of the recession?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

4. What resources are available in Boulder County to address this need?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

5. Of all the needs you have mentioned, which are the best met by services currently available?

6. What are the least met?

ASPEN FAMILY SERVICES

Staff Name _____

Date _____

Phone Number _____

1. What are the most common problems, other than cost, that low income families in Boulder County experience in looking for early care and education?

2. Do these needs differ in different communities in Boulder County?

3. What unique problems, if any, do immigrant families face in looking for early care, other than language?

4. What child care needs are not being met by CCCAP?

APPENDIX E

MAPS OF HEAD START SITES, RESIDENCE OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START, AND RESIDENTIAL DENSITIES OF KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN ENROLLED IN FREE LUNCH PROGRAM, BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ST. VRAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT, 2010-11