

# Colorado Essentials for Childhood

Safe, Stable, & Nurturing Relationships and Environments



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# The Challenge

- Child maltreatment (CM) is a significant public health problem in Colorado with long term effects on physical and mental health.
- Children who experience adverse events, such as CM, are at increased risk for health problems later in life, such as depression, substance abuse, obesity and chronic diseases.<sup>[1]</sup>
- In 2010, 11,720 children were victims of abuse or neglect in Colorado, a rate of 9.5 per 1,000 children. Of these children, 82.6 percent were neglected, 13.0 percent were physically abused, and 9.7 percent were sexually abused.<sup>[2]</sup>
- This represents an increase of 7.9 percent from the number of victims in 2006.<sup>[3]</sup> In 2010, 27 children in Colorado died from abuse or neglect.<sup>[4]</sup>
- Four-fifths (80.3%) of perpetrators were parents, 6.1 percent were relatives other than parents, and 4.2 percent were unmarried partners of parents.<sub>1</sub>

# Risk Factors

- Parents' lack of understanding of children's needs, child development and parenting skills
- Parents' history of child maltreatment in family of origin
- Substance abuse and/or mental health issues including depression in the family
- Parental characteristics such as young age, low education, single parenthood, large number of dependent children, and low income
- Nonbiological, transient caregivers in the home (e.g., mother's male partner)
- Parental thoughts and emotions that tend to support or justify maltreatment behaviors

# Protective Factors

- Nurturing parenting skills
- Stable family relationships
- Household rules and child monitoring
- Parental employment
- Adequate housing
- Access to health care and social services
- Caring adults outside the family who can serve as role models or mentors

# Call to Action

- In order to promote positive outcomes for children at the most critical phase of development we must support the families and support systems that provide care for them.

# What is *Essentials for Childhood*?

- Funding from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Essentials for Childhood framework is CDC's strategy for preventing adverse childhood experiences and child maltreatment
- Focus is on promoting **safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments**
- 5-year project
- Colorado is one of five states to be awarded funding to develop model approach



# What are elements of *Essentials for Childhood*?

- **Safe:** Free from fear and secure from physical or psychological harm within a social and physical environment
- **Stable:** Predictability and consistency in social, emotional, and physical environment
- **Nurturing:** A parent or caregiver is available and able to sensitively and consistently respond to and meet the needs of their child
- **Relationships:** Teachers, employers, mentors, friends, parents, peers...
- **Environments:** Home, school, work, and community

<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/efc-01-03-2013-a.pdf>



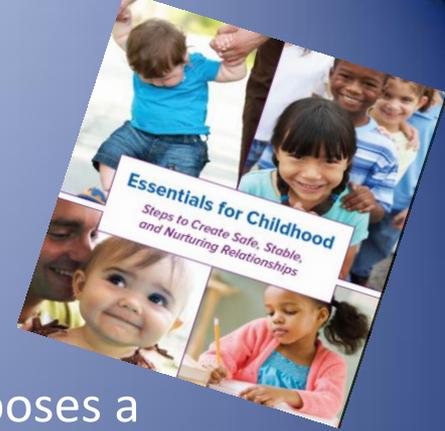
# Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments Outside the Home

Safe, stable, nurturing relationships can also be established in social environments that children encounter outside of the home and extended to relationships with caregivers other than the parents of the child.

Providing safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments outside the home (e.g., high quality child care) might have the potential for buffering the lack of these in the home.

Safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are important for adults as well.





- **Essentials for Childhood – Steps to Create Safe, Stable, and Nurturing Relationships and Environments** document: Proposes a process and strategies that communities can consider to promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for children and families.

*[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/essentials](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childmaltreatment/essentials)*

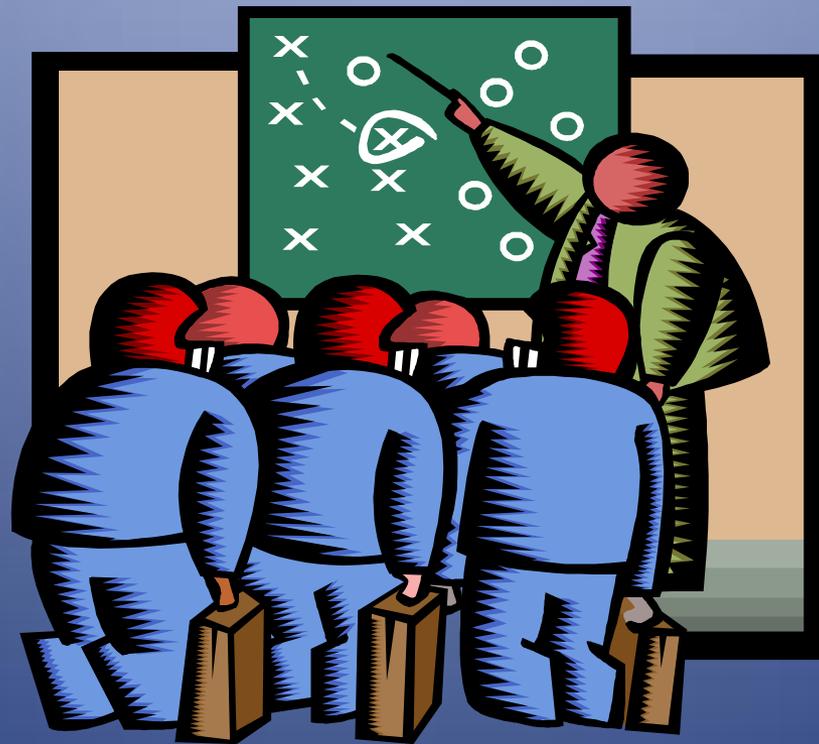
- **Actions for promoting Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments are suggested in four goal areas:**
  - Raise Awareness and Commitment to Support Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments and Prevent Child Maltreatment
  - Use Data to Inform Action
  - Create the Context for Healthy Children and Families through Norms Change and Programs
  - Create the Context for Healthy Children and Families through Policies

# Increasing Effectiveness Through:

## Strategic work in all 4 goal areas

Raise Awareness  
and  
Commitment

Use Data



Create the  
Context through:

Norms Change  
And Programs

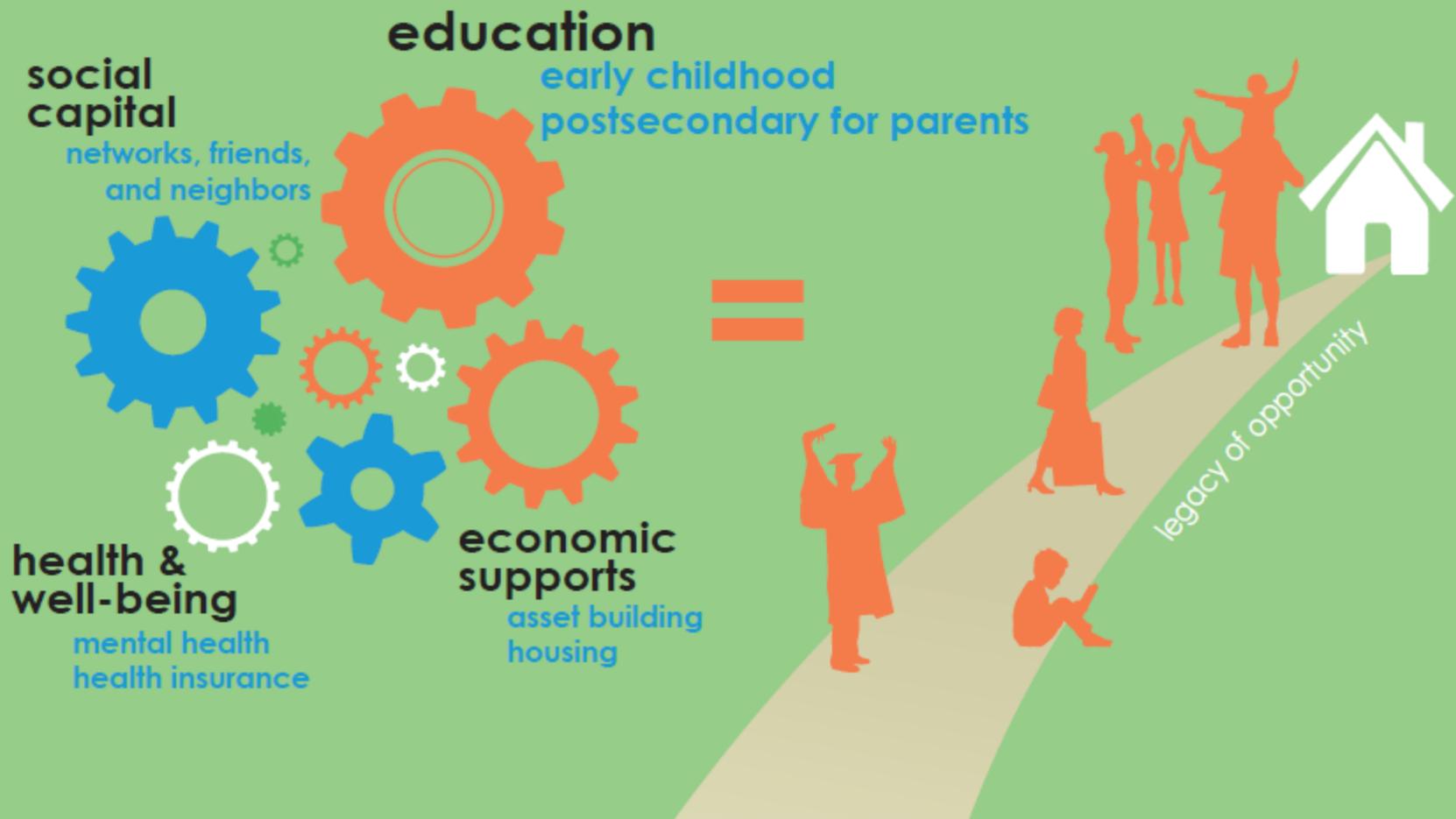
Policies

# What makes EfC different?

- Two-generation approach
- Large scale social impact
- Purpose is not to create a new program
- Perspective change – changing the way we do business



# Two-generation approaches put the **WHOLE FAMILY** on a path to economic security.



Adapted from:  
web: [ascend.aspeninstitute.org](http://ascend.aspeninstitute.org)

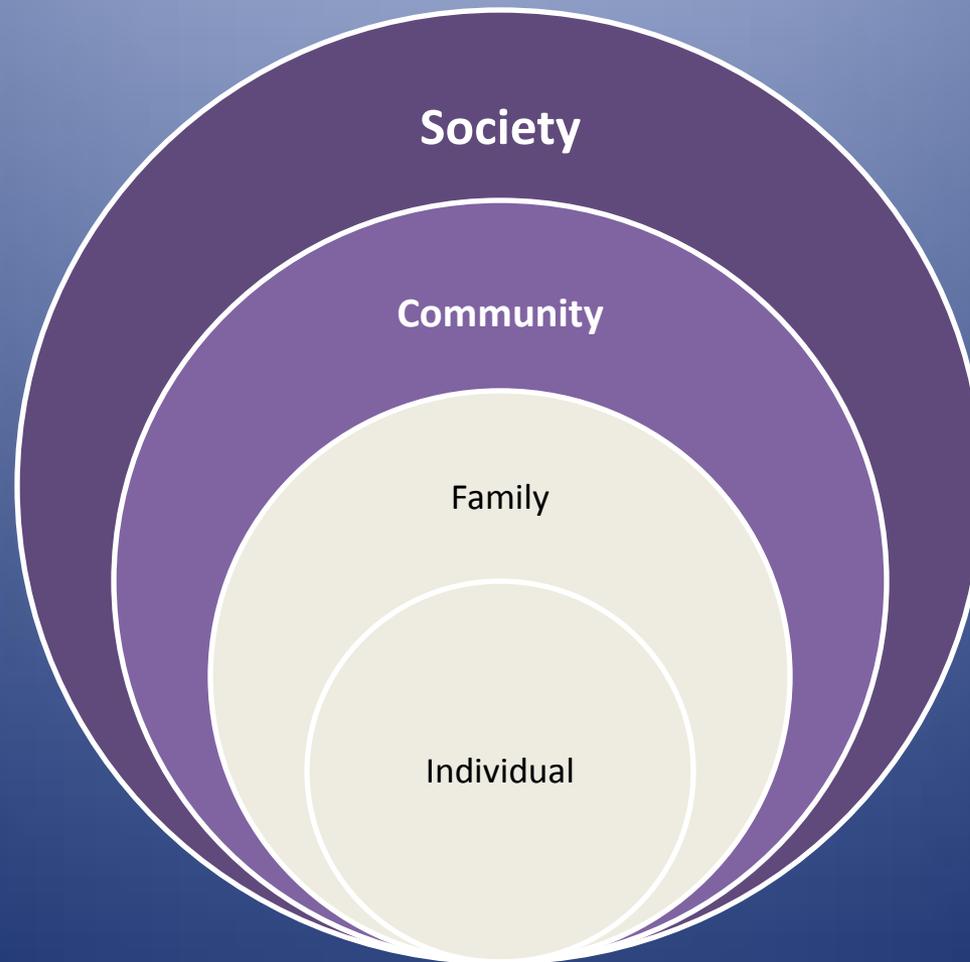
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# What makes EfC different?

Change at the Society and Community levels:

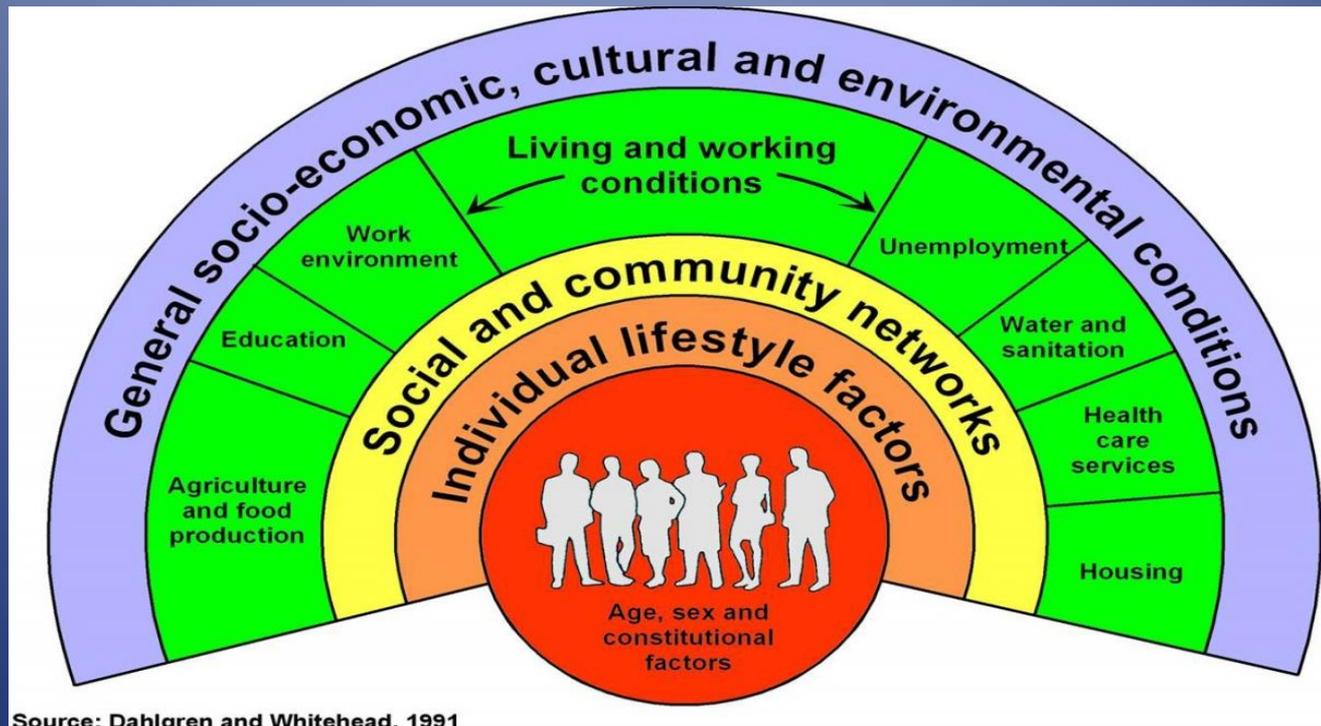
1. Policy
2. Systems
3. Norms



# Essentials for Childhood Focus

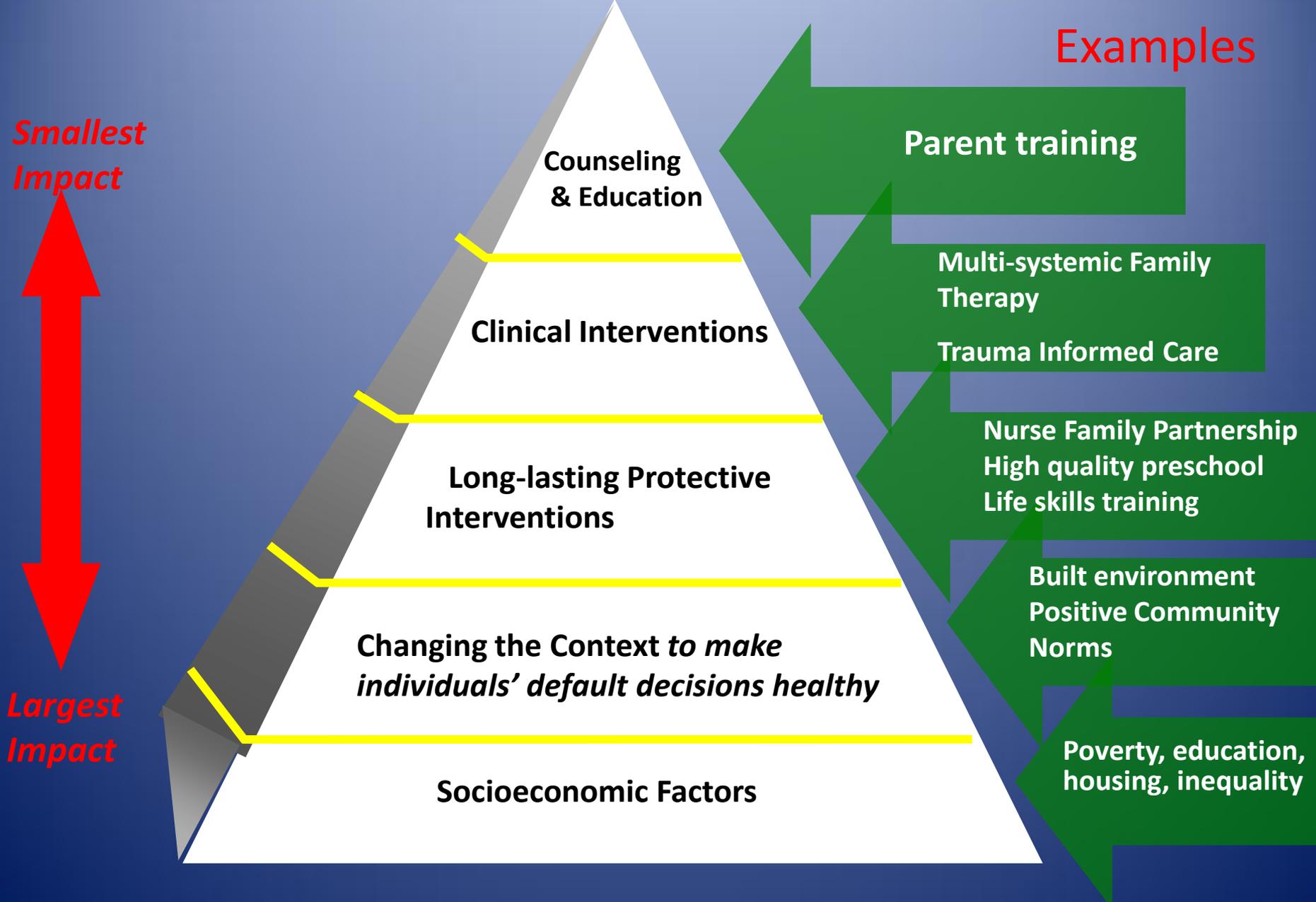
Change targeted in the blue, green, and yellow areas:

1. Policy
2. Systems
3. Norms



Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

# Health Impact & Violence Prevention



# Increasing effectiveness...

Moving from Isolated impact...



Countless nonprofit, business, and government organizations each work to address social problems independently

# ...Increasing effectiveness

## ...to Collective impact

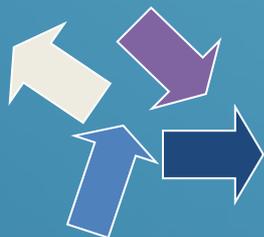


"If you want to go quickly, go alone. But if you want to go far, go together." – African proverb

# Complex Problems Require a Different Type of Approach

- Funders select **individual grantees**, organizations compete
- **Evaluation** attempts to **isolate** a particular organization's impact
- Large scale change is assumed to depend on **scaling organizations**
- Sectors are disconnected
- All working toward the **same goal** and **measuring the same things**
- **Cross-sector alignment** with **government, nonprofit, philanthropic** and **corporate** sectors as **partners**
- **Organizations** actively **coordinating** their action and sharing lessons learned

## Isolated Impact



## Collective Impact



***Collective Impact recognizes that no single organization is responsible for a major social problem, so no single organization can cure it***

# Collective Impact Team

- Collective impact: Approach to complex social issues
- Team focused on finding innovative solutions
- Strengths-based
- Diverse team

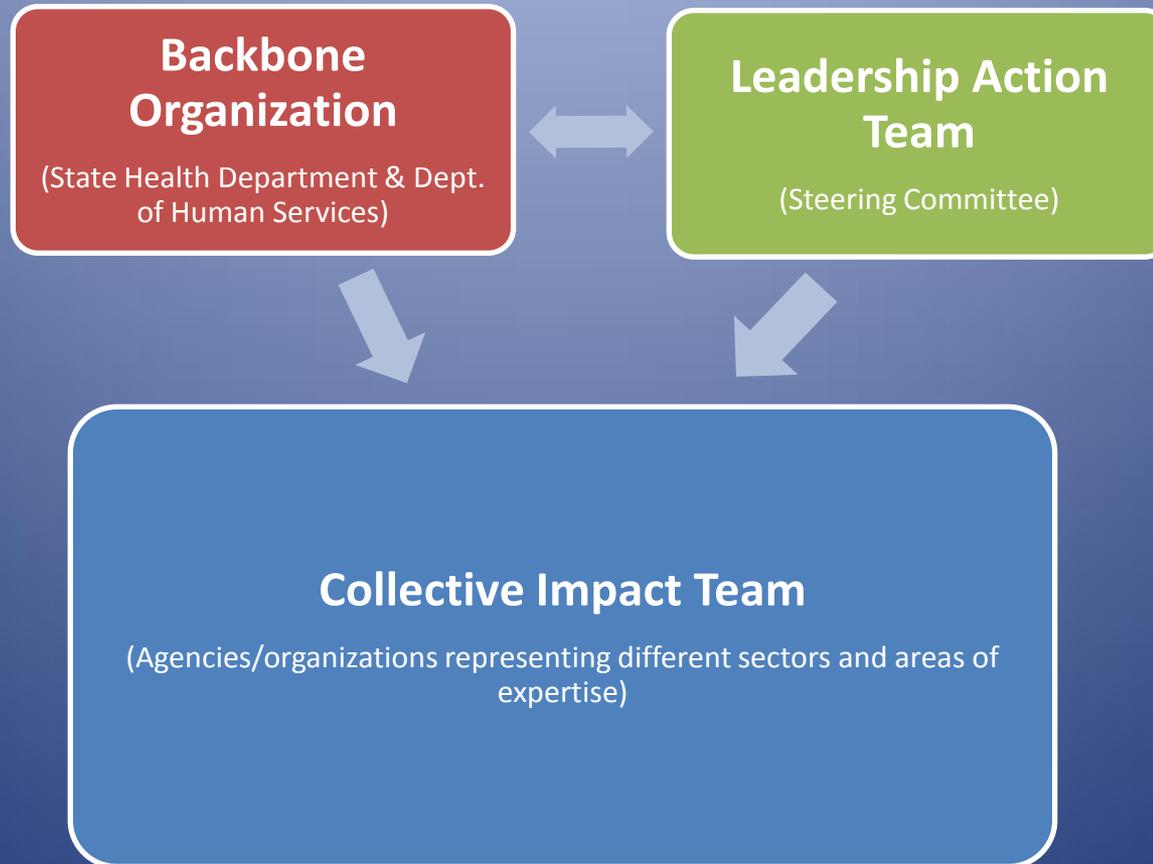


# Collective Impact Team

- Shared agenda created by the team
- EVERYONE has a role to play:
  - Business
  - Education
  - Faith-based
  - Policy
  - Community advocacy
  - Family leaders
  - Healthcare
  - Non-profit
  - Human services
  - Public health
  - Media



# Collective Impact Structure



## To Support Progress On the Common Agenda, Backbone Organizations Engage in Six Important Activities

**Guide Vision and Strategy**

**Support Aligned Activities**

**Establish Shared Measurement Practices**

**Build Public Will**

**Advance Policy**

**Mobilize Funding**

*Backbones must balance the tension between coordinating and maintaining accountability, while staying behind the scenes to establish collective ownership*

# Achieving Large-Scale Change through Collective Impact Involves Five Key Elements

## Common Agenda

- **Common understanding** of the problem
- **Shared vision** for change

## Shared Measurement

- **Collecting data** and **measuring results**
- Focus on **performance management**
- **Shared accountability**

## Mutually Reinforcing Activities

- **Differentiated approaches**
- Willingness to **adapt individual activities**
- **Coordination** through joint plan of action

## Continuous Communication

- **Consistent** and **open communication**
- Focus on **building trust**

## Backbone Support

- Separate organization(s) with **staff**
- Resources and skills to **convene** and **coordinate** participating organizations

# What are Essentials for Childhood Goals?

1. Raise awareness and commitment to promote SSNRE's
2. Use data to inform actions
3. Create the context for healthy children and families through norms change and programs
4. Create the context for healthy children and families through policy development / promotion



# Strategic Plan

**Vision-** Colorado EfC envisions a future where children and families thrive in places where they live, learn, work and play.

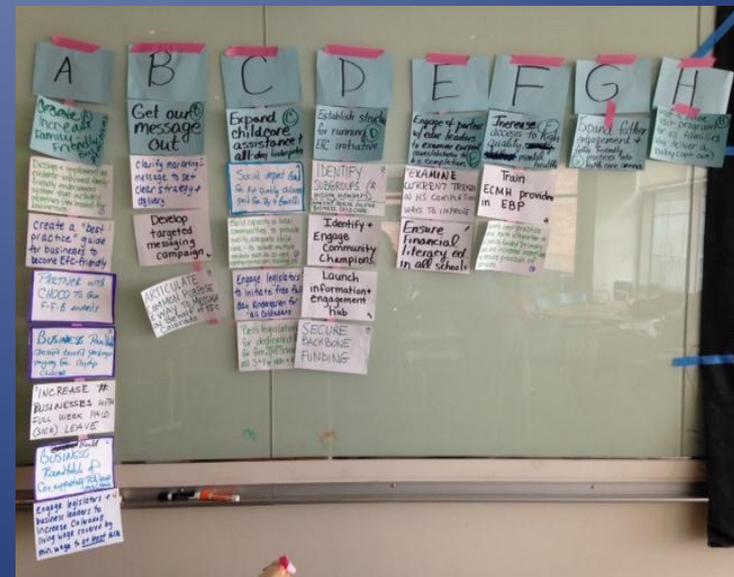
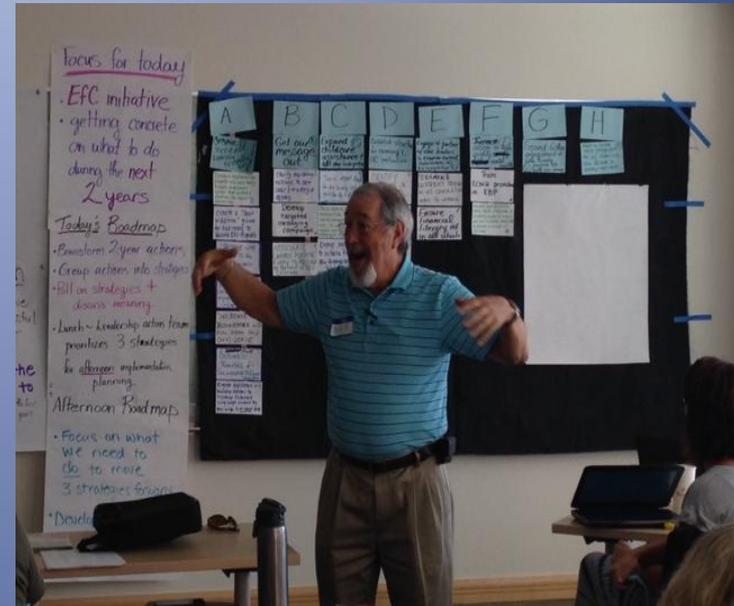
***Building safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments:***

- Requires a two-generation approach, targeting resources to children, mothers, fathers and caregivers.
- Is the responsibility of all sectors in a community, including the business sector and policy makers.
- Requires that resources and opportunities be seamlessly integrated from conception to career.
- Requires changing social norms to value families, support and empower mothers and fathers, and honor the strengths found in different cultures
- Begins with the inclusion of the family voice in decision making.

# Common Agenda

## *Advance policy and community approaches to:*

- Increase family-friendly business practices across Colorado
- Increase access to childcare and afterschool care
- Increase access to preschool and full-day kindergarten
- Improve social and emotional health of mothers, fathers, caregivers and children



# Increase Family Friendly Business Practices Community Level Strategies

- Implement and/or fortify existing evidence-informed, family-friendly endorsement system that includes incentives for businesses.
- Further develop and support business roundtables of companies in support of family-friendly practices and policies (including existing business roundtable).

# Increase Family Friendly Business Practices

## Societal Level Strategies

- Engage legislators and business leaders to support tax incentives for businesses that meet family-friendly criteria.
- Engage legislators and business leaders to increase Colorado's living wage covered by minimum wage.
- Engage legislators and business leaders to increase parents' abilities to take paid leave to care for children.

# Increase Access to Childcare and Afterschool Care

## Community Level Strategies

- Support communities to provide accessible, affordable, quality licensed childcare.
- Support communities to provide accessible, affordable, quality family, friend, and neighbor care (FFN) and informal childcare.
- Increase coordination and support of K-6 after school programs involving schools, city services, and community based organizations and parents.

# Increase Access to Childcare and Afterschool Care

## Societal Level Strategies

- Engage investors in socially motivated investments that enhance access to childcare and after school care (Social impact bonds).
- Engage legislators, schools, and community decision makers and philanthropy in determining strategies to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of childcare and after school programs.
- Engage organizations, legislators and community decision makers in developing strategies to ensure high quality family, friend, and neighbor care.

# Increase Access to Preschool and Full-day Kindergarten

## Community Level Strategies

- Support school districts and communities to provide accessible, affordable, quality preschool.
- Support school districts and communities to provide full-day kindergarten.

# Increase Access to Preschool and Full-day Kindergarten

## Societal Level Strategies

- Engage policy makers in long-term financially sustainable funding for free full day preschool.
- Engage policy makers in long-term financially sustainable funding for free full day kindergarten.

# Improve Social/Emotional Health of Mothers, Fathers, Caregivers and Children Community Level Strategies

- Expand community-based efforts to increase population based health strategies addressing the social and emotional health of adult caregivers, including education, screening, referral and access.
- Expand community-based efforts to increase access to social and emotional health screening, referral and treatment for children.

# Improve Social/Emotional Health of Mothers, Fathers, Caregivers and Children Societal Level Strategies

- Support policy, administrative, and regulatory changes needed to increase best practice behavioral health integration in all primary care and increase incentives to ensure provision of services.
- Address social norms around social/emotional wellness for children and parents (help seeking, parenting expectations, health development).

# Alignment

- Project Launch
- State Innovation Model Grant
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems

# How Do I get Involved?

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