

1 - July 26, 2022 BOCC Special Meeting, Work Session agenda

2 - Resolution Declaring Continuation of Emergency in GC_Sylvester Gulch Fire

3 - CO Parks & Wildlife Presentation

4 - Early Childhood Strategic Results

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING NOTICE

DATE: Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Page 1 of 1

PLACE: Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Gunnison County Courthouse
200 E. Virginia Avenue; Gunnison, CO 81230
(REMOTE OPTION BELOW)

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING:

- 8:30 am
- Call to Order

 - Resolution; Declaring the Continuation of an Emergency in Gunnison County, Colorado, Due to the Sylvester Gulch Fire (Also Known as the Coal Seam Fire)

 - Adjourn

GUNNISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION:

- 8:35 am
- Call to Order

 - Colorado Parks and Wildlife Presentation; Gunnison County Wildlife Migration Corridors and Critical Habitat
- 9:20
- Early Childhood Strategic Results

 - Adjourn

Please Note: Packet materials for the above discussions will be available on the Gunnison County website at <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/meetings> prior to the meeting.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82753657556?pwd=MjNDbTZHTFNRVdDemZjdC91aVBIZz09>

Meeting ID: 827 5365 7556

Passcode: 471302

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,82753657556#,,,,*471302# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,82753657556#,,,,*471302# US (Houston)

*NOTE: This agenda is subject to change, including the addition of items up to 24 hours in advance or the deletion of items at any time. All times are approximate. The County Manager and Deputy County Manager's reports may include administrative items not listed. Regular Meetings, Public Hearings, and Special Meetings are recorded and **ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM**. Work Sessions are not recorded and formal action cannot be taken. For further information, contact the County Administration office at 641-0248. If special accommodations are necessary per ADA, contact 641-0248 or TTY 641-3061 prior to the meeting.*

AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Resolution; Declaring the Continuation of an Emerg

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins:

Term Ends:

Grant Contract #:

Summary:

Resolution replacing the Declaration of Emergency announced by Matthew Birnie on July 21, 2022.

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Donita Bishop

Submitter's Email Address: DBishop@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Legally sufficient. ASFR 7.22.22

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\asanfilippo-rosser

Discharge Date: 7/22/2022

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes No

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reveiwed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirmie

Discharge Date: 7/22/2022

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Worksession

Time Allotted: 5

Agenda Date: 7/26/2022

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-_____**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CONTINUATION OF AN EMERGENCY
IN GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO DUE TO THE SYLVESTER GULCH FIRE
(ALSO KNOWN AS THE COAL SEAM FIRE)**

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2022, the County Manager, pursuant to Gunnison County Resolution 2020-11 and applicable law, declared an emergency due to the continued hazards surrounding the Sylvester Gulch Fire (previously called the Somerset Coal Seam Fire);

WHEREAS, the Sylvester Gulch Fire continues to burn in steep, rugged terrain, with a multitude of hazards for firefighters on the ground which limits the ability of crews to directly suppress the fire from the ground, resulting in a complex, long-duration wildfire event;

WHEREAS, the Sylvester Gulch Fire continues to potentially impact operations at the West Elk Mine, Hwy 133, and the residents of Somerset;

WHEREAS, the Ragged Mountain Fire Protection District declared the Sylvester Gulch Fire a disaster and delegated the authority of the fire to the Gunnison County Sheriff;

WHEREAS, the magnitude and complexity of the incident and the response needed continues to exceed both the technical and monetary capabilities of the County;

WHEREAS, due at least in part to the foregoing, the Board of County Commissioners has confirmed to a reasonable degree the continued existence of such emergency;

WHEREAS, due at least in part to the foregoing, the public health, safety and welfare of Gunnison County citizens and the public at large in Gunnison County remains in danger;

WHEREAS, due at least in part to the foregoing, persons and/or property are or will be damaged unless continued efforts are undertaken to reduce the threat to life and/or property; and

WHEREAS, there remains an emergency present which necessitates continuation of the use of emergency powers granted by C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709, Local Disaster Emergencies, and Board of County Commissioners, Gunnison County, Colorado, Resolution No. 2020-11.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED:

That it is hereby declared that there continues to be a disaster emergency due to the following conditions:

- a. The complex, hazardous, and long-duration nature of the Sylvester Gulch Fire;

- b. The potential impacts to the West Elk Mine operations, Hwy 133, and the residents of Somerset from the Sylvester Gulch Fire; and
- c. The magnitude and complexity of the response to the Sylvester Gulch Fire has exceeded the technical and monetary capabilities of Gunnison County.

Dated this _____ day of July, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
THE COUNTY OF GUNNISON, COLORADO

By _____
Jonathan Houck, Chairperson

By _____
Elizabeth Smith, Commissioner

By _____
Roland Mason, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Deputy County Clerk

AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Colorado Parks and Wildlife Presentation; Gunnison County Wildlife Migration Corridors and Critical Habitat

Action Requested: Discussion

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins:

Term Ends:

Grant Contract #:

Summary:

CPW presentation on recent research on wildlife migration corridors and critical habitat in Gunnison County

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Cathie Pagano

Submitter's Email Address: cpagano@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes No

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirmie

Discharge Date: 5/20/2022

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Worksession

Time Allotted: 45

Agenda Date: 7/26/2022

AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: Early Childhood Strategic Results

Action Requested: Discussion

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins:

Term Ends:

Grant Contract #:

Summary:

For your review, a presentation set for discussion at the 7/26 BOCC work session

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Melanie Bollig

Submitter's Email Address: mbollig@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes No

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbollig

Discharge Date: 7/22/2022

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Worksession

Time Allotted: 1 hr

Agenda Date: 7/26/2022



Early Childhood Gunnison County

Joni Reynolds,
Assistant County Manager,
Health, Human, Safety and Juvenile Services

Lana Athey,
HHS Early Childhood Council Coordinator

Margaret Wacker,
HHS Community Health Manager



Strategic Plan

C. PROMOTE PROSPEROUS, COLLABORATIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Strategic Results

1. **By December 31, 2024, Gunnison County will facilitate efforts in the valley to stabilize and increase early childhood education, child care and pre-K slots by:**
 - a) Developing a strategic community plan to maximize current capacity at all licensed providers and expand capacity for infant and toddler care.
 - b) Developing a Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) plan for universal preschool implementation.
 - c) Outreach, education and support services to increase licensed home providers.

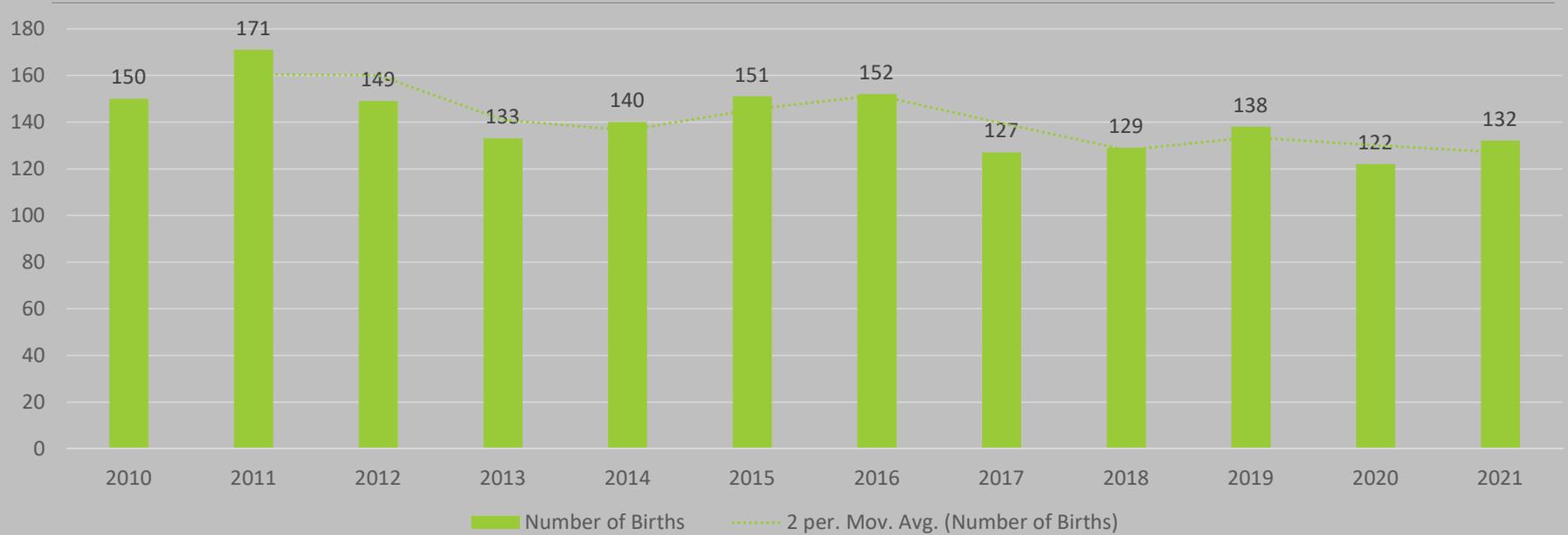


Thank you for your investments



Value of Quality Early Child Care is immeasurable

Number of Births/Year in Gunnison County 2010-2021



Children Under 5 in Gunnison County Census Data

2018 Young Child Population, under 5	2019 Young Child Population, under 5	2020 Young Child Population, under 5	2021 Young Child Population, under 5
808	793	774	766

Children Under 6 with all parents in the labor force in Gunnison County Source: Kids Count Data Center

Location	Data Type	2006 - 2010	2007 - 2011	2008 - 2012	2009 - 2013	2010 - 2014	2011 - 2015	2012 - 2016	2013 - 2017	2014 - 2018	2015 - 2019
Gunnison	Number	467	523	775	783	787	759	783	696	731	647
	Percent	53.2%	58.1%	75.8%	71.9%	82.8%	79.7%	83.4%	79.1%	78.7%	72.9%

Based on current enrollment numbers for 2021 it is estimated that only 52% of children 5 and under are currently accessing care.

Population Growth in Gunnison County

Overall, the number of students in the district is increasing at a rate of about 2 percent annually.

Since the 2014-2015 school year, district-wide, **elementary student enrollment has been declining at an annual average of -0.3 percent.**

Middle- and high-school enrollment has been increasing at 2.2 percent.

***This is an indicator that young families are having to leave the area – while new families are moving into the area with older children.**

Source: Gunnison County Behavioral Health Needs Assessment

2021 Enrollment Numbers vs. Licensed Capacity

*Licensed capacity is typically higher than what a quality rated center can accommodate due to smaller teacher/child ratios with high quality ratings

	Enrollment 2021	Licensed Capacity
Lake RE1J	75	84
Little Red	63	40
Paradise Place: (waitlist due to staff shortage)	38	54
Wonderland	21	67
Stepping Stones	64	76
Tenderfoot	98	147
Watch Me Grow Home Child Care- Gunnison	6	6
Songbird Schoolhouse Home Child Care - Gunnison	12	12
C. S. Home Child Care – Gunnison	6	6
Creative Corner – Home Child Care Gunnison	6	6
J.T. Home Child Care- Gunnison	9	9
TOTAL	398	507

Waiting Lists

Wonderland - 32 infants, 10 toddler, 17 prek

Stepping Stones Children's Center – 12 infants, 3 preschool 3-5 years old

Little Red Schoolhouse – 10 infants/toddlers, 8 preschool 3-5 years old

Watch Me Grow Home Child Care – 5 Infants

Songbird Schoolhouse – 12 Families

J.T. Home Provider- 12 families

Tenderfoot - Infants 28, Toddlers 30, Preschool 31

CCCAP Waiting List – 15 families and 21 children

Average time on waiting list is 6 months to 1 year

Many families are putting their family on the waiting list in the first trimester

Many families are on multiple program waiting lists

Finding childcare for my kiddos when they were little was one of the **most stressful** things about having kids in this valley. We were on all the **waiting lists**. When my daughter was 8 weeks old and I had to go back to work there were no spots open for her. Finding quality care for infants was by far the most **challenging** for us.”

-Parent Survey Response 2015

Responses from Parents in the County regarding access to care

Can't afford childcare while not working and **can't find other work** when we don't have childcare.

-Parent Survey Response 2020

We **don't** always **trust** the person we leave our kids with, but it is out of **necessity** that we take our babies/children to a person to watch them.”

-2018 Parent Focus Group

We have chosen for me to stay home and raise our kids. In doing so, we are a **single income family** and have **limited housing options** due to cost to rent or buy. If I were to go to work, so much of my paycheck would be for childcare that it wouldn't be worth it.”

-Parent Survey Response 2019

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE

TURNOVER RATES

IN GUNNISON COUNTY CENTER DIRECTORS REPORT AN AVERAGE TURNOVER RATE OF **35%** FROM FEBRUARY 2021 TO MARCH 2022.

ALL CENTER DIRECTORS HAVE REPORTED DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITING AND RETAINING STAFF.



LOW WAGES



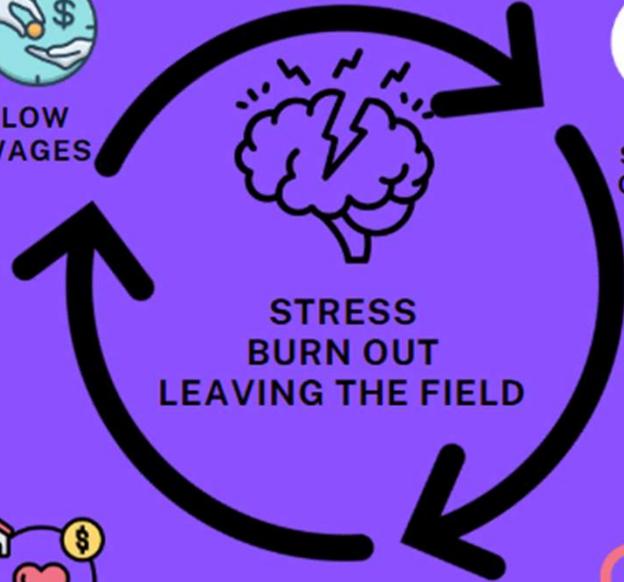
SHORT STAFFED CENTERS



LACK OF BENEFITS



FEELING UNDER APPRECIATED



STRESS
BURN OUT
LEAVING THE FIELD

COMPENSATION

Director \$38,938
Lead Teacher \$29,099
Assistant Teacher \$23,275
Home Provider \$28,163
Average for 40+ hours/week
2017 EC Workforce Survey
SW Colorado

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE) PROFESSIONALS WORKING IN LICENSED CENTERS OR HOMES IN 2019

78 IN GUNNISON

Child care and ECE centers experience turnover at a rate of about 30 percent per year, **four** times higher than the turnover rate of elementary school teachers. (Bell Policy Center, 2021)

In Gunnison County the highest rates of turnover are experienced in center-based programs. Our school district program experiences the lowest rate of turnover.



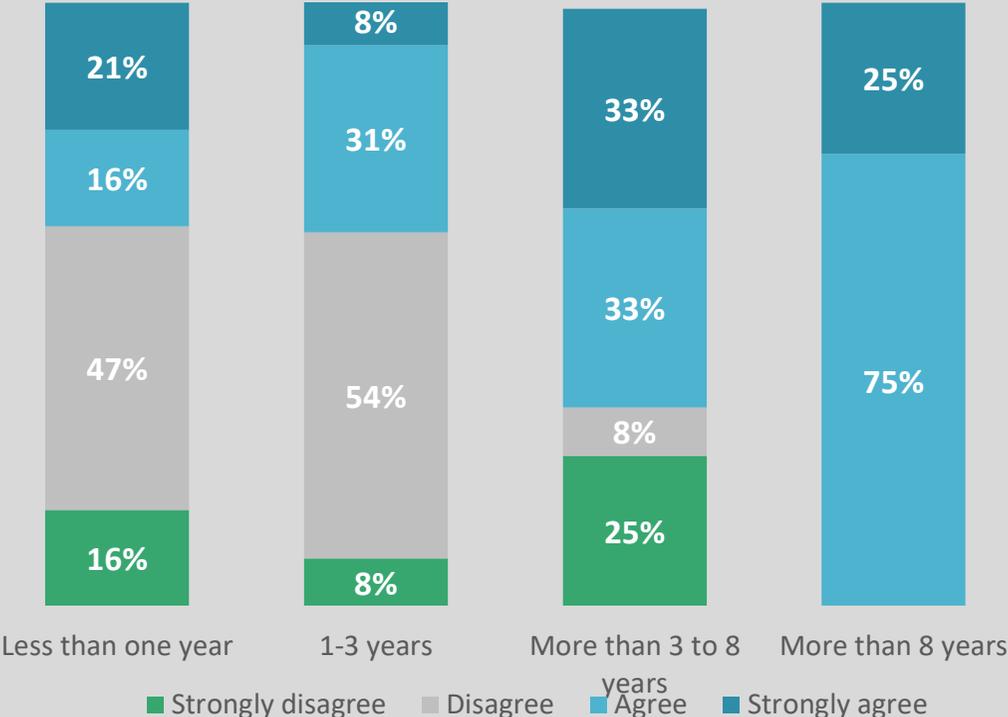
Early Childhood Workforce Survey

October 2021

subgroup samples



I intend to stay in the field for at least the next 5 years



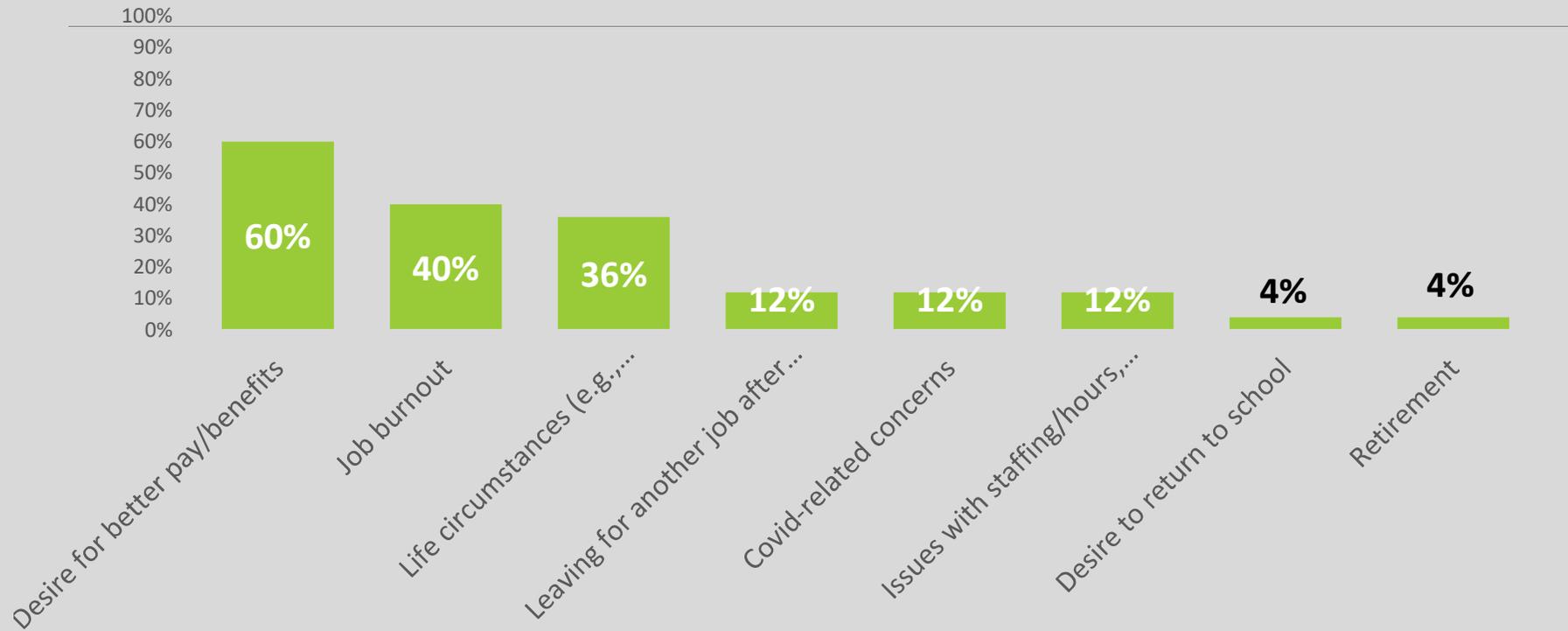
Most common reason for considering leaving:

- Less than one year: Desire for a better paying job
- 1-3 years: Desire for a better paying job
- 3-8 years: No common reason
- More than 8 years: Job burnout





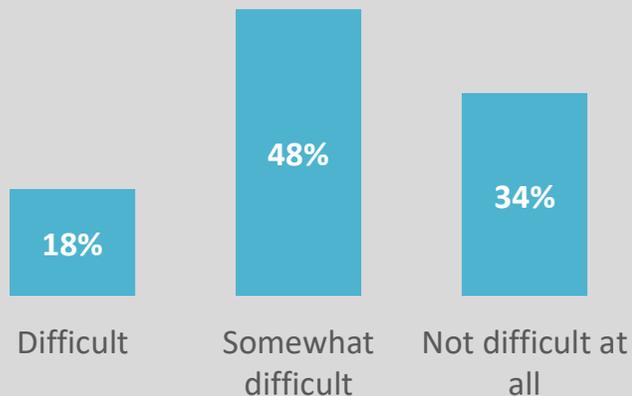
Reasons for considering leaving



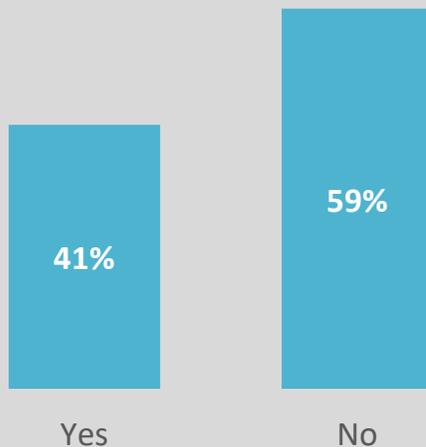


Educators noted some financial difficulty

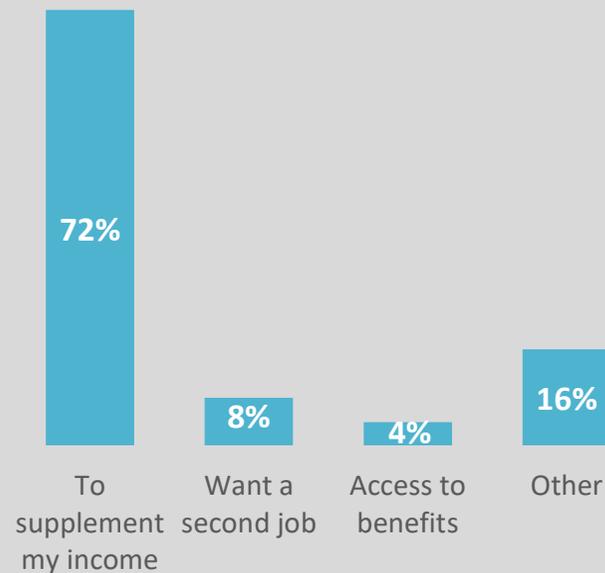
In the past year, how difficult has it been for your family to meet monthly payments on bills?



Do you have more than one job (beyond your ECE job)?



[If yes], Why do you have more than one job?





What else would you like to share about your experiences as an early childhood educator?

Common frustrations

- **Lack of appreciation from the broader community (6)**
 - I love my job. I wish there was more recognition for the hard work and more access to supplies for our classrooms.
 - ECE is one of my passions and I wish the community would realize that we are preschool teachers and are just as important as K-12 teachers and deserve the “perks” they get (e.g., competitive pay, benefits, respect).
- **Resource constraints (5)**
 - Early education across the valley is really understaffed, which can make the job more stressful.
 - It’s very hard with a short-staffed environment; you not only feel like you’re letting the child down when sick but your team.



What else would you like to share about your experiences as an early childhood educator?

Common positive feedback

- **Sense of fulfillment (7)**

- This is an incredibly fulfilling job and I know I am doing work that will help to change the world.
- I had one child come back and thank me for her first year of her life. She is now a doctor. I was only a child care worker, and I never thought I would see her again, and I had a great impact in her life.

Our Role as a Council

34 Early Childhood Councils (ECC) in Colorado

According to state legislation (HB 07-1062), Early Childhood Councils were established

“for the purpose of developing and ultimately implementing a comprehensive system of early childhood services to ensure the school readiness of children five years of age or younger in the community.”

Mandatory Stakeholders

- Early care and education – (Tenderfoot, Lake, Wonderland, Stepping Stones, Paradise Place, Little Red, 5 home providers, FFN Caregivers)
- Family support and parent education services – (Nurse Family Partnership and Family Advocacy and Support Team)
- Health care – (Public Health, local pediatricians, early intervention)
- Local government – (HHS*, BOCC)
- Parent of a child five (5) years of age or younger (CPP Parents and any others interested in joining the Council)
- Mental health care – (Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants – Lucia)
- Resource and referral agency (Health and Human Services, Hilltop)

The Gunnison County Library, Lighthouse Pregnancy Center, Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project, Gunnison Chamber of Commerce, Gunnison County CSU Extension office, and Western Colorado University all work closely with the Council on different initiatives.

***HHS staff coordinate and facilitate ECC**

Focus Areas

Early Learning

- Increase access to learning experiences and environments that are high quality, developmentally appropriate and affordable.

Family Support and Parent Education

- Family knowledge and capacity support children's healthy development and learning

Health and Well-Being

- Parents will have increased access to quality child health and mental health services and programs through early identification, consultation, and treatment.

-The Gunnison Hinsdale Early Childhood Council (GHECC) will be going through a Strategic Planning process in the later months of 2022 to update and enhance our strategic plan for 2023-2026.

Local Initiatives to Address Early Childhood Workforce Issues

Sick Leave Funding – August 2020 to April 2022

The GHECC has supported **72 teachers** with paid sick leave
from August 2020-April 2022

There is a \$1,000 cap/teacher per year

TOTAL COST OF PROGRAM SO FAR: \$32,546.72

Funding for this program was provided by the Community Foundation of the
Gunnison Valley and The Early Childhood Workforce Innovation Grant –
(Grant ending 8.30.2022)

The Council has secured additional funding from the City of Gunnison and
Town of Crested Butte for the later months of 2022.

Early Childhood Educator EC Credential Stipend Program

Application will open again in November 2022 All EC educators in Gunnison County Stipend program that provides a modest award to early childhood educators based on their Early Childhood Credential Level

In December of 2021

A total of \$13,100 was awarded to 49 Teachers

- **8 teachers received a \$100 Stipend**
- **13 teachers received a \$200 stipend**
- **15 teachers received a \$300 stipend**
- **13 teachers received a \$400 stipend**

Another application will be released in November 2022 – with award amounts doubled for those applying for the second year in a row



Efforts to Highlight and Celebrate the Workforce

Early Childhood Video Series Highlighting the Local Workforce

Early Childhood Appreciation Window at Treads and Threads

Early Childhood Educator Series in Gunnison Times 2021

Wellness focused sessions at the annual Nurturing the Young Child Conference

Rating Celebrations with Sites

Initiatives in other Counties to Support the Early Childhood Workforce & Families

San Miguel County

- Lift EC Program – EC teachers can receive an annual stipend between \$2500 and \$6500 depending on their EC credential level.
- Scholarships for ECE education courses
- Tuition Assistance for families – no income limit for eligibility
- Funded through a .75 mill levy generating \$600,000 annually (2018) *has most likely increased based on current assessed value of homes in San Miguel
- Child population Under 5: **457**
 - (Kids Count Data Center)

Summit County

- Teacher Stipends – annual stipends between \$800 and \$1500 depending on their position (lead teacher, assistant teacher, family child care home, etc.)
- Scholarships for ECE Courses
- Town of Breckenridge – tuition assistance program
- Funded through Mill levy – 1.5 million annually
- Child population Under 5: **1,551**
 - (Kids Count Data Center)

Gunnison County Support

Strategic plan focus on Early Childhood

- Historical support for both Stepping Stones and Tenderfoot Child Development Center for building financing and Board level participation
- Allocation of COVID 19 Protect Our Neighbor funding to childcare providers in 2020
- Direct support for creation of new Wonderland School in partnership with GVH for new enrollment slots for infants and toddlers in quality early childhood education
- Annual support for HHS leadership/staffing and administrative/grant management support to lead, coordinate and facilitate the Early Childhood Council (ECC), Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) and other Early Childhood initiatives
- HHS as the newly State designated Regional Coordinating Agency for pre-K programs

Other Local Funding

2021 Funding

City of Gunnison \$13,000

Town of Crested Butte \$4,000

2022 Funding

City of Gunnison \$25,000

Town of Crested Butte \$22,000

We ask that Gunnison County **elevate** families – specifically families with **young children** in policy decisions around housing and other supportive services.

The Council hopes that Gunnison County can be a community that families can easily raise their children in from **infancy to adulthood**.

Future Policy Opportunity

Identify and implement a new dedicated funding source to support initiatives that have a positive impact on the early childhood system:

Specifically initiatives that support:

early childhood workforce

AND family's ability to access to early childhood education

Discussion
