



SUMMIT COUNTY UTAH

Early Childhood Needs Assessment

July 22, 2021

Developed by Sorenson Impact Center
for the Early Childhood Alliance



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This work represents a collaboration with the Early Childhood Alliance (ECA), which “engages, educates, and supports members, children, parents, and the community-at-large to prioritize accessible, excellent and equitable outcomes for children in the Wasatch Back from the prenatal stage through age three.” SIC thanks Kristen Schulz, coordinator of the ECA, for her leadership and support in compiling this report. The report greatly benefited from the partnership of multiple private and public agencies, including Summit County Health Department and Economic Development Department, People’s Health Clinic, Holy Cross Ministries, PC Tots, the Christian Center, and Park City School District.

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Executive Summary

Evidence shows that a child’s brain develops faster from birth to age three than at any later period in life, building the foundation for future learning, behavior, and health. Federal, state, and local leaders are capitalizing on this knowledge and there is much conversation regarding investments in young children. When communities revamp systems to reduce stress and better support adults and families, outcomes for the children around those adults will improve.¹

Early childhood programs, resources, and services are administered by a mix of state agencies, county and city-level governments, and private entities. This fragmentation can impact families’ ability to effectively navigate the system and address the needs of their children, particularly for families with limited social capital or who face language barriers. A community “system map” is included in this report to identify programs, resources, services, and providers in the county.

This report details needs and gaps in services for young children (primarily ages zero to four) and their families in Summit County, Utah through four interconnected domains: Family Health, Early Care and Learning, Social Connections and Family Support, and Economic Supports. A comprehensive analysis of the resources and needs is detailed in each section of the report.

Family Health

- Nonprofit providers struggle to hire and retain staff due to the high cost of living and market pay for highly-qualified health care professionals, impacting capacity.
- Interviewees consistently mentioned the need for additional mental health counselors, and especially those who speak Spanish.
- HCM estimates eight additional PAT home visitors could better meet the full needs in the community, with an estimated additional annual cost of \$760,000
- Parents of children with special needs lack respite care options in the county, and state waiting lists for certain services are years long.

Early Care and Learning

- Supply of child care is inadequate. Licensed capacity is just 49% of estimated need.
- Child Care is prohibitively expensive for many families, and very few families receive state or local subsidies to offset the cost of care.
- Low pay and lack of benefits for educators make attracting and retaining a highly-qualified early childhood workforce difficult.
- Additional community buy-in, particularly among employers, is needed to fully address and advocate for the child care crisis.

¹ *Building Adult Capabilities to Improve Child Outcomes*. Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. (2020, November 20). <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/building-adult-capabilities-to-improve-child-outcomes-a-theory-of-change/>

Social Connections and Family Support

- Summit County is a tight knit community and families often learn about services through word of mouth or informal provider referrals.
- There is a lack of services and resources provided in Spanish, creating information gaps and long wait times.
- Providing centralized access to programs and services, via community navigators or a brick-and-mortar community center, could greatly benefit the community.
- To further the county's focus on equity, intentionally elevating parent voices in the early childhood space could allow for ownership of the system among those it serves.

Economic Supports

- There are no educational attainment nor career advancement programs specifically for Summit County parents.
- The high cost of housing in Summit County, mentioned as a challenge for families in the majority of interviews conducted, creates barriers to families' economic stability.
- Financial and basic need supports available to families are limited to national welfare programs with strict eligibility criteria and local nonprofits.
- Financial assistance to families to offset the cost of housing and other basic needs would greatly benefit families.

While the focus was on the needs of children ages 0-4 and the programs, resources, and services that address those needs, it is abundantly clear that the larger issue of poverty and families' economic security is inextricably foundational to children's healthy development and early learning.

Interviewees consistently identified common needs among families with young children, including housing, transportation, child care, mental health services, and basic needs.

Navigators, who help families connect with services and tackle language and bureaucratic challenges, were frequently mentioned as an impactful means to address inequities and family needs.

Providers and community leaders recognized the need for more Spanish language services and providers in health care, child care, connection and referral roles.

As early childhood services involve multiple agencies and service sectors, a cross-sector family support hub, intentionally addressing transportation barriers, could add considerable value to the county.

The Early Childhood Alliance (ECA) plays a key role in the community, and is in a strong position to increase community buy-in, build strategic relationships, and continue to advocate for strong early childhood services.

Introduction

Childhood is a time of rapid growth and learning, making the beginning years of life a critical time for brain development. Research demonstrates that a strong foundation increases the likelihood of positive life outcomes, making early investments in children pay off more than any other time in their lives. High-quality early childhood programs are known to lower special education costs, lower incarceration rates, reduce welfare dependency, and increase high school graduation rates.

During the first few years of life, over 1 million new neural connections are formed per second.²

Unfortunately, children’s experiences and outcomes differ based on family income, location, and demographics, and the ongoing Covid pandemic has only exacerbated such inequalities. Research indicates that chronic, unrelenting stress (known as toxic stress) from extreme poverty, abuse and neglect, or maternal depression during early childhood seriously impedes healthy brain development.³ Creating supportive programs and resources early on to mitigate such experiences is essential to ensuring healthy development and promoting life-long benefits to children, their families, and the community at large.

Investments that support early childhood development can have a 13 percent rate of return.⁴

The Early Childhood Alliance and the Park City Community Foundation approached the Sorenson Impact Center in late 2020 to explore the early childhood system landscape in Summit County, Utah, and identify areas where the greatest gaps exist between available resources in the community, and families’ needs to support the healthy development of their young children. The State, through it’s Governor’s Early Childhood Commission and Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council, recently finalized a statewide birth-age five [Needs Assessment](#) and [Strategic Plan](#). This report strives to align to, and be informed by, these recent state planning documents. In completing a community-level assessment, stakeholders in Summit County can gain a better understanding of the families they serve, and how to best support their needs.

² Center on the Developing Child (2007). *The Science of Early Childhood Development* (InBrief). Retrieved from <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-science-of-eed/>

³ Center on the Developing Child (2007). *The Science of Early Childhood Development* (InBrief). Retrieved from <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-science-of-eed/>

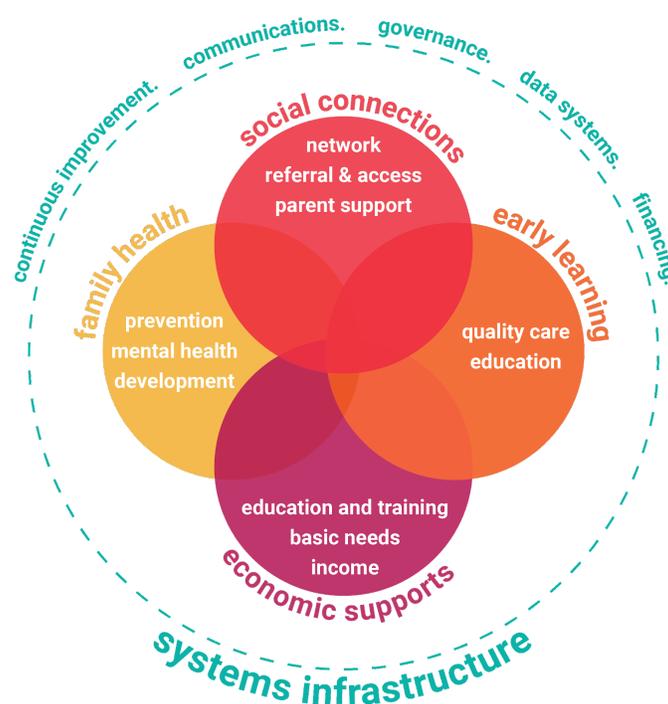
⁴ Garcia, Jorge Luis and Heckman, James J. and Ermini Leaf, Duncan and Prados, Maria, The Life-Cycle Benefits of an Influential Early Childhood Program (December 19, 2016). CESR-Schaeffer Working Paper No. 2016-18. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2884880> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2884880>

Community-Level Early Childhood Systems

The last decade has seen great forward momentum in early childhood system building. System-building is a dynamic, ongoing process of “developing the structures, behaviors, and connections that make all the components of an early childhood system operate as a whole to promote shared results for children and families.”⁵ A well-functioning early childhood system includes a comprehensive system of programs, resources, and services, as well as the infrastructure to enable the best outcomes for those it serves. While state early childhood systems serve a coordinating and leadership role, community-level systems are best equipped to meet the needs of families living in those communities.

To illustrate the comprehensive system of supports needed to ensure children and families’ success, communities can utilize the following framework, based in research and practice, that envisions the interconnected nature of four domains important to holistic child development. In addition, community leaders know that each family’s situation is unique and young children’s well-being cannot be separated from their family’s circumstances. The four domains, which together create integrated, family-centric early childhood systems, are presented as distinct for the sake of clarity. However, many programs and services intersect across multiple domains.

Community Systems of Success Framework⁶



⁵ Build Initiative, Comprehensive Early Childhood System-Building: A Tool to Inform Discussions on Collaborative, Cross-Sector Planning (December 2013).

⁶ Developed by the Sorenson Impact Center and Dr. Joan Lombardi.

Domain 1: Family Health

Family Health captures a range of initiatives concerning the health and development of children and families, including healthcare access, preventive health care, mental health supports, developmental screenings, and home visiting. Given the importance of healthy brain development in a child's first few years, creating a system of medical professionals and informed parents can ensure children have a strong foundation from the start.⁷

Domain 2: Early Care & Learning

Early Care & Learning focuses on the accessibility, affordability, and quality of child care and preschool services available to families in the community. A key component of this is the compensation and professional development for early childhood educators. These supports are critical, as research has shown that providing access to high-quality early care has significant, long-term benefits to the health and development of our youngest generation.⁸

Domain 3: Social Connections & Family Support

Social Connections addresses the importance of family integration into community networks, with a focus on social groups, parenting classes, parent leadership, referral systems, and child welfare. Community involvement can empower families in addition to connecting them to critical knowledge and resources to better support and keep their children safe.⁹

Domain 4: Economic Support

Economic Support addresses direct financial support, educational attainment, and career training for parents and caregivers. By providing pathways for greater economic stability for the adults in a child's life, they are more likely to successfully support the child's development.¹⁰

⁷ "Strengthening Families: Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development," Center for the Study of Social Policy, accessed December 15, 2020. <https://cssp.org/resource/sf-knowledge-of-parenting-and-child-development/>

⁸ CAP Early Childhood Team, "Early Childhood Education in the States: A Toolkit for State Policymakers" (Center for American Progress, October 2019). <https://www.thencit.org/sites/default/files/2020-01/State%20Policymaker%20Toolkit-GOV.pdf>

⁹ Jamie Colvard and Julie Cohen, "Cross-System Collaboration to Better Support Babies in New Jersey: Providing Families with a Single Point of Entry for Accessing Services," ZERO TO THREE, January 8, 2019. <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2598-cross-system-collaboration-to-better-support-babies-in-new-jersey-providing-families-with-a-single-point-of-entry-for-accessing-services>

¹⁰ 2016-2018 Biennial Report to the Nebraska Legislature" (Sixpence Early Learning Fund, January 2019). <https://www.thencit.org/resources/2016-2018-biennial-report-to-the-nebraska-legislature>

Study Design

The Sorenson Impact Center engaged in a mixed-methods analysis by including both quantitative and qualitative data. We reviewed administrative data from public sources including the US Census Bureau, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, Utah’s Indicator-Based Information System for Public Health (IBIS), Utah State Board of Education, Utah Department of Workforce Services, Utah Department of Health, and the Summit County Department of Economic Development to present the demographic context and program and service disparities within Summit County. We also conducted semi-structured interviews with 11 community leaders and organizations to enrich the quantitative data, with a focus on the programs, resources, and supports available or needed by children and families. When available, organizations provided aggregate program-level data and insight on trends in the data. Interviews provided insight to the perceived needs and barriers to support of Summit County residents as well as the effectiveness of existing programming in addressing those needs. It is important to note that this study is not representative of the entire population, but instead provides key insights. Within the scope of the study, SIC worked with several recommended service providers or those with knowledge of the community to capture the most commonly-mentioned needs and gaps. There are many additional service providers and leaders in the community that would add valuable ideas and information.

Table 1: Selected State and Summit County Reports and Needs Assessments

| Report Name | Year | Overview |
|---|------|--|
| Summit County Report of Mental Health | 2016 | Reports survey findings regarding community mental health services, care, and awareness. |
| 2019 Community Health Assessment | 2019 | Summit County assessment of community health status based on traditional public health indicators. |
| Community Needs Assessment | 2019 | Report by Community Action Services & Food Bank, covering Summit, Wasatch, and Utah Counties. |
| Social Equity Initiative | 2019 | Completed by Park City Community Foundation. |
| Utah Preschool Development Grant B-5 Needs Assessment | 2019 | Needs assessment of Utah’s early childhood care and education system for children ages 0-5. |
| Utah Preschool Development Grant B-5 Strategic Plan | 2019 | Strategic planning roadmap for Utah’s early childhood care and education system for children ages 0-5. |
| Childcare Access in Utah | 2020 | State-level analysis of availability and access for Utah’s child care system. |
| Early Childhood Mental Health in Utah | 2020 | Overview of Utah’s early childhood mental health system for children ages 0-8. |
| Utah 2021 Child Care Market Rate Study | 2021 | Reports market rates for licensed providers; provides cost analyses and reports on fees. |

Summit County Early Childhood System Map

Similar to most communities, early childhood programs, resources, and services are administered by a mix of state agencies, county and city-level government entities, and private entities. This fragmentation of services can impact families' ability to effectively navigate the system and address the needs of their young children, particularly for families with limited social capital or who face language barriers.

To better coordinate and align services, first it is necessary to identify who and what composes the system. The Summit County Early Childhood System Map is organized according to the domain of each program, service, or resource, in alignment with the framework presented previously. Within each domain, programs, services, and resources are clustered according to needs addressed (i.e., within the Health domain, resources for Maternal Care are clustered).

Each identified support includes both the program name and the operating entity, which illustrates the multitude of distinct programs, services, and resources provided by different actors working with the 0-4 age group. While interviewees felt the small size of the community made referrals straightforward, very few understood themselves to be part of a larger, interconnected early childhood system. The System Map, a comprehensive early childhood landscape scan, will allow actors to foster connections and establish common understandings, ultimately resulting in a more coordinated, supported early childhood system experience for children and families.

Summit County Early Childhood System Map

(Program) | (Operating Entity)

 Denotes governmental agency

HEALTH

MATERNAL CARE

[Women's Health and Prenatal Care](#) | *The People's Health Clinic*

[Women's Health Services](#) | *Summit County Health Dept.* 

[Nutrition Counseling & Breastfeeding Support \(WIC\)](#) | *Summit County Health Dept.* 

[Baby Your Baby](#) | *Summit County Health Dept.* 

[Community Health Workers; Prenatal Classes](#) | *Holy Cross Ministries*

CHILD-FOCUSED CARE & SAFETY

[Pediatric and Children's Vision Program](#) | *People's Health Clinic*

[Immunizations](#) | *Summit County Health Dept.* 

[Injury Prevention](#) | *Safe Kids USA partnered with Summit County Dept. of Health* 

[Vision Program](#) | *Hope Alliance*

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

[Baby Watch Early Intervention](#) | *Summit County Health Dept.* 

[Developmental Screenings](#) | *Help Me Grow*

[Niños Especiales Familias Fuertes](#) | *State/Local partnership*

[Parents as Teachers Home Visiting](#) | *Holy Cross Ministries*

[Utah Act Early](#) | *State/Local partnership* 

[Welcome Baby Home Visiting](#) | *People's Health Clinic & Summit Pediatrics*

MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

[Resource and Provider Database, Toolkit, and Resource Guide](#) | *CONNECT Summit County*

[Mental Health Advocacy, Access, and Education](#) | *Summit County Mental Wellness Alliance*

[Counseling](#) | *Christian Center of Park City, Holy Cross Ministries, Jewish Family Services, People's Health Clinic, UU - HMHI Behavioral Health Clinic*

[Children's Therapy Room](#) | *Christian Center of Park City*

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

GOVERNMENTAL CASH ASSISTANCE

[Family Employment Program](#) | *Department of Workforce Services* 

[Child Care Subsidies](#) | *Department of Workforce Services - Office of Child Care,*  *Holy Cross Ministries, PC Tots*

[Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\)](#) | *Department of Workforce Services* 

[Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\) Family Housing](#) | *Department of Workforce Services, locally: Community Action Services and Food Bank*

BASIC NEEDS & EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

[WIC \(Park City, Kamas, and Coalville\)](#) | *Summit County Health Dept.* 

[SNAP](#) | *Department of Workforce Services* 

[National School Lunch Program](#) | *Park City School District, North Summit School District, South Summit School District* 

[EATS Park City](#) | *Partnered with Christian Center of Park City*

[Food Pantries](#) | *Christian Center of Park City, Community Action Services and Food Bank, Heber Valley Center Stage, Jewish Family Services, St Mary of Assumption Catholic Church*

[Park City Affordable Housing](#) | *Park City*

[Housing Help](#) | *Mountainlands Community Housing Trust*

[Emergency Assistance](#) | *Christian Center of Park City, Jewish Family Services*

[Gabriel Project](#) | *St Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church*

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS & FAMILY SUPPORT

CONNECTION & REFERRAL

[Help Me Grow Utah](#) | *United Way of Utah County 211* | *United Ways of Utah*

[Community Resource Directory](#) | *Early Childhood Alliance Promotor/a Program* | *Holy Cross Ministries*

[Case Managers / Basic Needs Assistance \(BNA\) Navigators](#) | *Holy Cross Ministries*

PARENTING EDUCATION

[Strong Parents, Strong Kids](#) | *Summit County Health Dept.* 

[Parenting the Love & Logic Way](#) | *Utah State University (USU)*

[Parent Resource Center](#) | *Uplift Families*

[Reading Program](#) | *Summit County Library*

[Storytimes & Programs](#) | *Park City Library*

NEW PARENT SUPPORT

[Mothers of Preschoolers \(Park City MOPS\)](#) | *Mountain Life Church*

[NewBEE Mama, Apres Birth Speaker Series, Hive Hikes, Nourishing New Mamas](#) | *Hive Family Collective*

[Newborn Education Class and New Parent Class](#) | *Wasatch Pediatrics - Summit*

[Park City Postpartum Support Group](#) | *The Healing Group*

[Perinatal, Pregnancy, and Postpartum Support](#) | *Postpartum Support International*

[Yoga and Education Classes, Doula Services](#) | *Omazing Birth*

LEGAL SUPPORT & SAFETY

[Camp Safety](#) | *County Attorney's Office*

[Immigrant Legal Clinic](#) | *Christian Center*

[Legal Immigration Program](#) | *Holy Cross Ministries*

[Summit County Children's Justice Center](#) | *Community For Children's Justice*

[Counseling, Domestic Violence Support Group, Prevention & Awareness, Safe Housing, Victim Advocacy](#) | *Peace House*

[Child Abuse Services](#) | *Children's Justice Center*

[Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services](#) | *Peace House*

EARLY CARE & LEARNING

EARLY LITERACY

[Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#) | *Early Childhood Alliance*

[Reading Program](#) | *Summit County Library*

[Storytimes and Programs](#) | *Park City Library*

[UPSTART](#) | *State of Utah* 

CHILD CARE

[Licensed Center-based Child Care](#) | *11 centers in Summit Co.*

[Licensed Family-based Child Care](#) | *7 centers in Summit Co.*

[Hourly Center License](#) | *2 centers in Summit County*

[License-exempt Child Care](#) | *3 centers in Summit Co.*

[Care About Childcare](#) | *Utah Valley University*

[Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care](#)

PRESCHOOL

[Public School Preschool \(3 & 4 y/o\)](#) | *Park City School District*

[Special Education Preschool](#) | *Park City School District, North Summit School District, South Summit School District* 

[Parent/Infant Program](#) | *Park City School District, North Summit School District, South Summit School District* 

For state-level early childhood system programs and agencies, see the [Preschool Development Grant, B-5 Early Childhood System Map](#).

Early Childhood Services and Support in Summit County

Summit County contains beautiful outdoor spaces, a mix of urban and rural lifestyles, and relatively low poverty rates and adverse health indicators. People see the wealth in the community, but may not recognize the true needs of many families in the area. With its growth and recognition as a world-class ski and outdoor recreation destination area, the county is facing an extreme affordable housing situation. It is especially difficult for those in sales, service, and other support occupations, which have seen large growth in the county over the last two decades, to afford basic needs.

Housing and transportation are issues affecting all four early childhood domain areas in Summit County. Interviewees from Summit County Economic Development, nonprofit child care, and agencies supporting basic needs of county residents all noted that the high cost of housing contributes to a lack of workforce for employers and difficulty in meeting basic needs for families. The high cost of housing also reduces families' budgets for other expenses, such as child care and medical care, creating long waitlists at the People's Health Clinic that serves uninsured residents, and child care centers such as PC Tots and Holy Cross Ministries that offer subsidies. Additionally, because of the high cost of living in Park City, many workers are forced to move further away from their job and from support services. These families and children in need face additional transportation barriers to accessing services.

In 2019, Park City Community Foundation conducted a Social Equity Community Survey, identifying affordable and safe child care and access to healthcare as two of five major challenges facing the Summit County community. Latino/Hispanic survey respondents identified affordable and safe childcare as an equity issue at higher rates than did White survey respondents (12% and 9%, respectively). In addition, Latino/Hispanic respondents identified affordable and safe childcare as a top social challenge at higher rates (11% compared to 5%, respectively).¹¹

¹¹ "Social Equity Challenges Facing Park City." Park City Community Foundation, April 2019. <https://parkcitycf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019.04.24-Social-Equity-Report.pdf>

Community Strengths

While this report provides a snapshot of needs and gaps for the early childhood community to inform strategy and action, it also identifies areas of strength in the community. There are great assets and examples of what is working well in Summit County. Interviews consistently surfaced positive attributes about the community, which can enable opportunities to address the challenges.

Philanthropic Community.

There is a lot of wealth in the community, as well as generosity. Leaders and system stakeholders recognize the support of many people who commit time and money to improve the community.

Trust among Providers and Community.

Providers mentioned the good work that had been accomplished to build trust over the years, particularly with the Latinx and undocumented communities. People in the community know they can access certain services and resources. Providers consistently mentioned that word of mouth is a key component of outreach and their ability to reach individuals in need.

Advocacy for Marginalized Communities.

Community members value equity and being inclusive. Many providers ensure resources and information are in Spanish and English, and the clients they serve see the organizations advocating for them.

Small Community Enables Referrals.

Park City and the larger community of Summit County are relatively small, in that providers in the early childhood and social service space enjoy personal connections and the ability to call upon each other to meet the needs of clients.

The following sections of this report outline each domain of the Systems of Success framework in detail, identifying major programs, services, and resources in Summit County, administrative and programmatic data to help demonstrate needs and gaps in the domain, and key takeaways and common themes that community stakeholders and interviewees consistently mentioned.



Opportunities

Interviews with early childhood stakeholders in Summit County provided important context for quantitative data and insight into solutions to address the county's most pressing needs. While the themes expressed in those interviews are woven throughout the report's four early childhood domains, many of them are also interdisciplinary. Those themes are listed here as opportunities to advance early childhood and family support in Summit County.

Build relationships with families.

Interviewees expressed the need to not only build awareness of the available programs with families, but also to build trust with families. Families often refer family and friends to services, making word of mouth an important mechanism for providers. Programs often use social media sites like Facebook to publicize their services. Additionally, families of undocumented or mixed status are often hesitant to seek out services for fear of retribution based on their status. Communicating with families in ways that are accessible to them by taking into consideration language and literacy capacity, will build trust and spread awareness of available resources with compassion for families' fears.

Wraparound services for families.

Families' early childhood needs are part of a larger set of circumstances that enable them to thrive. Recognizing the holistic needs of families by prioritizing programming that addresses multiple issues allows for greater impact with less stress and time investment from families. For example, McPolin Elementary utilizes a place-based services model to reduce barriers to service access by hosting vision, hearing, food, dental, and parenting supports at the school. This allows for multiple economic supports to be addressed for families, which leads to greater positive outcomes for early childhood.

Provider support and connection.

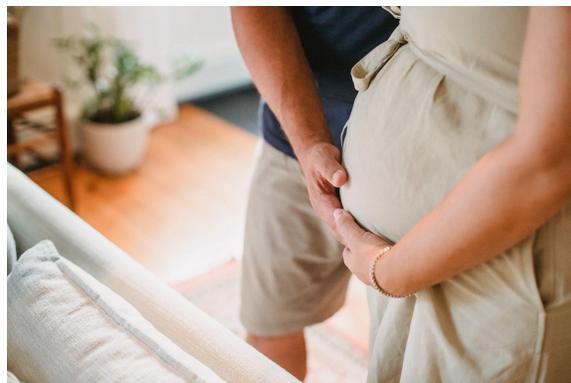
The early childhood care and education providers face complicated grant and reporting structures as well as staffing issues. Providing support for providers in the form of consulting, regulation guidance, and networking opportunities between providers creates avenues for sharing knowledge and creating community for providers and staff. Additionally, staffing issues related to wages and benefits permeate sectors beyond early childhood care and education, including health care. Funding that would allow for increasing the number of staff and/or the wages of current staff would increase and stabilize capacity and reduce turnover.

Engage with leaders outside of early childhood.

There is opportunity to engage “nontraditional” early childhood champions, such as city and county managers and others who are responsible for implementing policy. There is also opportunity to engage with the business community, as addressing early childhood issues can positively impact employees’ ability to work and productively engage in the economy. When these community leaders are brought together with early childhood leaders, cross-sector decisions can be made with a more holistic view of community needs and realities than within individual sectors.

Build community support for more public funding.

The coronavirus pandemic exacerbated an already tenuous funding and staffing landscape for programs serving children and families. Stark disparities were highlighted for issues such as child care and people’s ability to work. By capitalizing on the recognition of the importance of early care and learning, and strong advocacy and messaging of the return on investment for the greater community, Summit County could accelerate funding for a number of early childhood needs such as system infrastructure and child care subsidies.



Early Childhood System Infrastructure

While this report focuses on the programs, resources, and services within the four outlined domains, it is also important for a community to address system-level infrastructure and support. This creates alignment, coordination, and collaboration among distinct providers to enable greater ease of access and more comprehensive support for children and families. Appendix A further discusses the topics of Governance, Data Sharing, Strategic Relationships and Community Buy-in, Parent Voice/Engagement, and Funding.

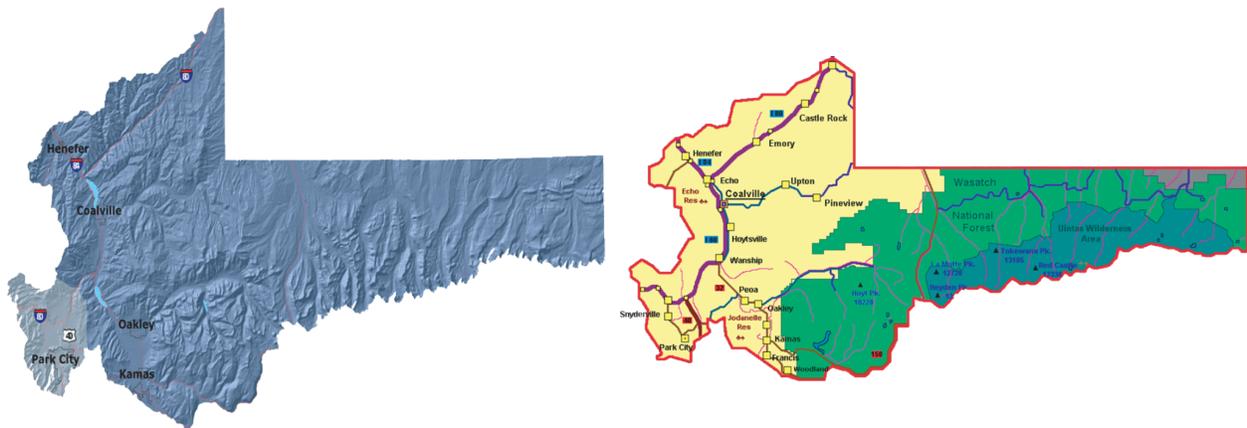
Strong system infrastructure, collaboration, and communication is especially important in Summit County given the distribution of the population and services. The majority of services for young children and families are located on the western side of the county, specifically in Park City. To maximize the reach of programs and benefit to families served, especially those residing in eastern Summit County, an interconnected early childhood system is crucial.

Several entities in the county serve as key connectors for families through multi-support and case management models. The Early Childhood Alliance plays a key connection role among providers and stakeholders in Summit County, and should continue to designate a coordinator and foster relationships and outreach in the community. They are well positioned to lead on infrastructure issues such as data sharing, funding strategies, and parent engagement. See **Appendix A** for additional discussion on key elements of infrastructure and examples of communities with exemplary practices.

Summit County Overview

Summit County is located in the northeast region of Utah, east of Salt Lake City and the Wasatch Mountain Range, along the “Wasatch Back.” The county’s 2020 population is estimated at 41,970,¹² and is concentrated in the Park City and the Snyderville Basin areas, which comprise the booming resort and ski areas on the western edge of the county. The eastern county contains small, rural towns, national forest, and wilderness areas. While the western part of the county is relatively small geographically, 61 percent of the population resides there, with the additional 39 percent residing to the east of Park City.¹³

Figure 1. Summit County, Utah



Source: Summit County Planning and Zoning. <https://www.summitcounty.org/307/Planning-Zoning> (left)
Source: Discover Utah Counties. <https://discoverutahcounties.weebly.com/summit-county.html> (right)

Economy

Summit County is home to three world class ski resorts and many restaurants and hotels. Despite a high median household income of \$103,000 (\$40,100 above the national average),¹⁴ the county’s existence as a resort community creates a demand for low-wage jobs in the service and tourism sector. The top five industries in 2020 were Accommodation and Food Services, Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, Retail Trade, Government, and Construction.¹⁵ Because of the high cost of living in Park City, workers commute into the city from the eastern side of the county or other surrounding areas.

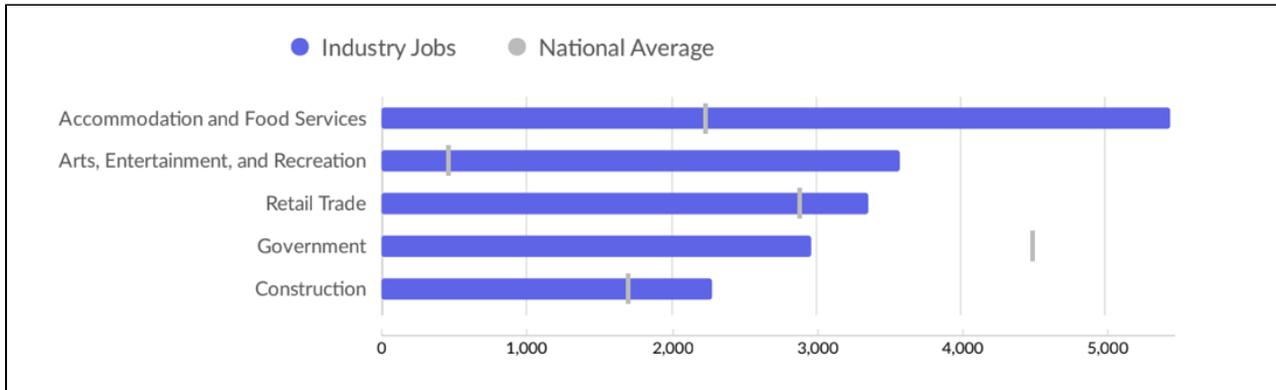
¹² Harris, Emily. “State and County Population Estimates for Utah: 2020.” Gardner Policy Institute, December 2020. <https://gardner.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/State-County-PopEst-Dec2020.pdf?x71849>

¹³ “2019 Community Health Assessment.” Summit County Health Department, 2019. https://summitcountyhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/CHA-2019-v_7.pdf

¹⁴ Data from Jeff Jones, Summit County Economic Development Department, June 2021. “Economic Overview Summit County.” EMSI data source.

¹⁵ Ibid.

Figure 2: Top Summit County Industries, 2020



Source: Jeff Jones, Summit County Department of Economic Development, 2021. EMSI Data.

Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment has a direct impact on income, regardless of whether or not an individual is working full or part time.¹⁶ In Summit County, 34 percent of residents possess a Bachelor's Degree (13.9% above the national average), and 5.2 percent hold an Associate's Degree (3.4% below the national average).¹⁷

Figure 3: Summit County educational attainment, 2020



Source: Summit County Department of Economic Development, 2021

Population and Demographics

Summit County's population has increased 4.8 percent since 2016, growing by 1,919 people. Total population growth can occur from natural increase and/or positive net migration. From 2019 to 2020, the county experienced one of the slower percent changes in population.

¹⁶ Douglas-Hall, Ayana, and Michelle Chau. "Parents' Low Education Leads to Low Income, Despite Full-Time Employment." NCCP, November 2007. <https://www.nccp.org/publication/parents-low-education-leads-to-low-income-despite-full-time-employment/>

¹⁷ Data from Jeff Jones, Summit County Economic Development Department, June 2021. "Economic Overview Summit County." EMSI data source.

Although Summit County experienced a small total population increase from 2019 to 2020, Summit was one of eight counties that experienced net out-migration in 2020.¹⁸

Table 2: Total Population Estimates, 2016-2020

| 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 40,051 | 40,771 | 41,285 | 41,823 | 41,970 |

Source: Gardner Policy Institute Population Estimates.

<https://gardner.utah.edu/demographics/state-and-county-level-population-estimates/>

There are several different methodologies for defining urban and rural areas. Summit County is categorized as a rural county by the Utah Department of Health, having between 6 and 99 people living per square mile on average.¹⁹ The State Tax Commission identifies Summit County as a county of the third class, having a population between 31,000 and 125,000. Alternatively, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) uses metropolitan and micropolitan classifications, where Summit County is encompassed within the Heber Micropolitan Statistical Area.²⁰ Each of these definitions categorizes the entire county as the same definition, which doesn't account for the variation within the county: the small western area being densely populated compared to the rural or unpopulated east side of the county.

Summit County's population is relatively older among counties, with a median age of 39.5, compared to the statewide median age of 30.8. Census Bureau estimates indicate for households in Summit County with their own children present:

- 16% of have only children under 6 yrs old
- 65% have children from 6-17 years of age, and
- 19% have both children under 6 and 6-17 yrs.²¹

Children Ages 0-4

Although Utah has one of the highest fertility rates in the nation, national and Utah births have declined annually since 2008.²² Summit County children ages 0-4 represent 5 percent of the county's population, which is relatively low compared to many other counties in the state. Statewide, children ages 0-5 represent 10 percent of Utah's population. In Summit County, 87 percent of children under 6 yrs old live with two parents.²³

¹⁸ Harris, Emily. "State and County Population Estimates for Utah: 2020." Gardner Policy Institute, December 2020. <https://gardner.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/State-County-PopEst-Dec2020.pdf?x71849>

¹⁹ "County Classifications Map," Utah Department of Health, Office of Primary Care & Rural Health. <https://ruralhealth.health.utah.gov/portal/county-classifications-map/>

²⁰ <https://www.kpcw.org/post/2019-census-data-places-summit-county-heber-micropolitan-area#stream/0>

²¹ 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Households and Families, Table S1101.

²² Harris, Emily. "State and County Population Estimates for Utah: 2020." Gardner Policy Institute, December 2020. <https://gardner.utah.edu/wp-content/uploads/State-County-PopEst-Dec2020.pdf?x71849>

²³ 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Age and Nativity of Own Children, Table B05009.

Table 3: Single Year Population Estimates, Ages 0-4

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Age 0 | 421 | 427 | 407 | 380 | 404 |
| Age 1 | 437 | 422 | 428 | 407 | 372 |
| Age 2 | 403 | 441 | 426 | 432 | 402 |
| Age 3 | 413 | 410 | 447 | 432 | 429 |
| Age 4 | 438 | 421 | 417 | 455 | 431 |
| Total, 0-4 | 2,112 | 2,121 | 2,125 | 2,106 | 2,038 |

Source: Gardner Policy Institute, Population Estimates

* Provisional 2020 SYAS estimates provided by Gardner Policy Institute to Sorenson Impact Center May 18, 2021; estimates will be updated in August 2021 with additional data release from US Census Bureau.

Race and Ethnicity

The majority of children in Summit County are White, with the Hispanic/Latino population comprising the largest minority ethnic group.

Table 4: Race of Children Under 5 Yrs

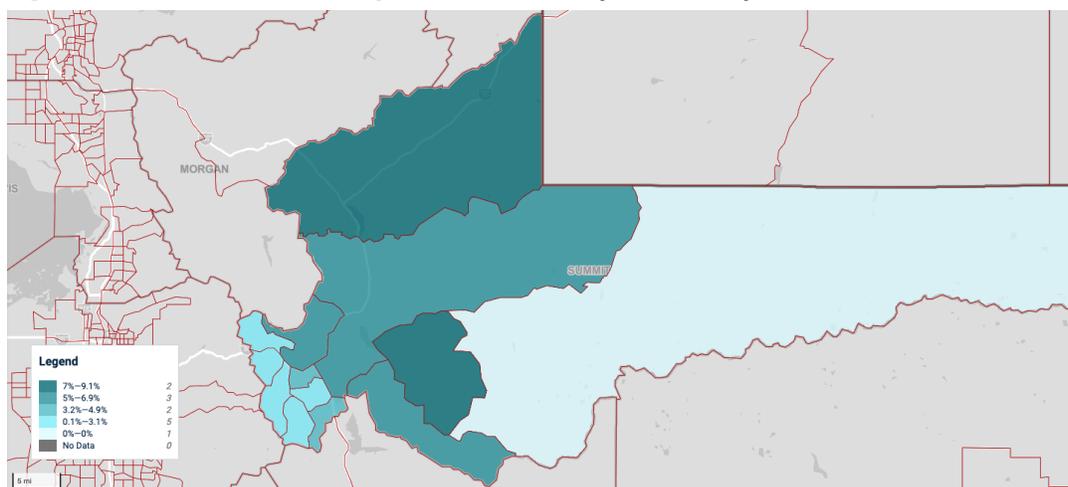
| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Asian | 1.2% |
| Black or African American | 1.2% |

Table 5: Ethnicity of Children Under 5 Yrs

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Hispanic or Latino | 15% |
| Not Hispanic or Latino | 85% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Tables B01001 A-G: Sex by Age (Racial Iterations) and B01001 H-I: Sex by Age (Ethnicity Iterations)

Figure 4. Percent of Total Population Under 5 years old by Census Tract, 2019

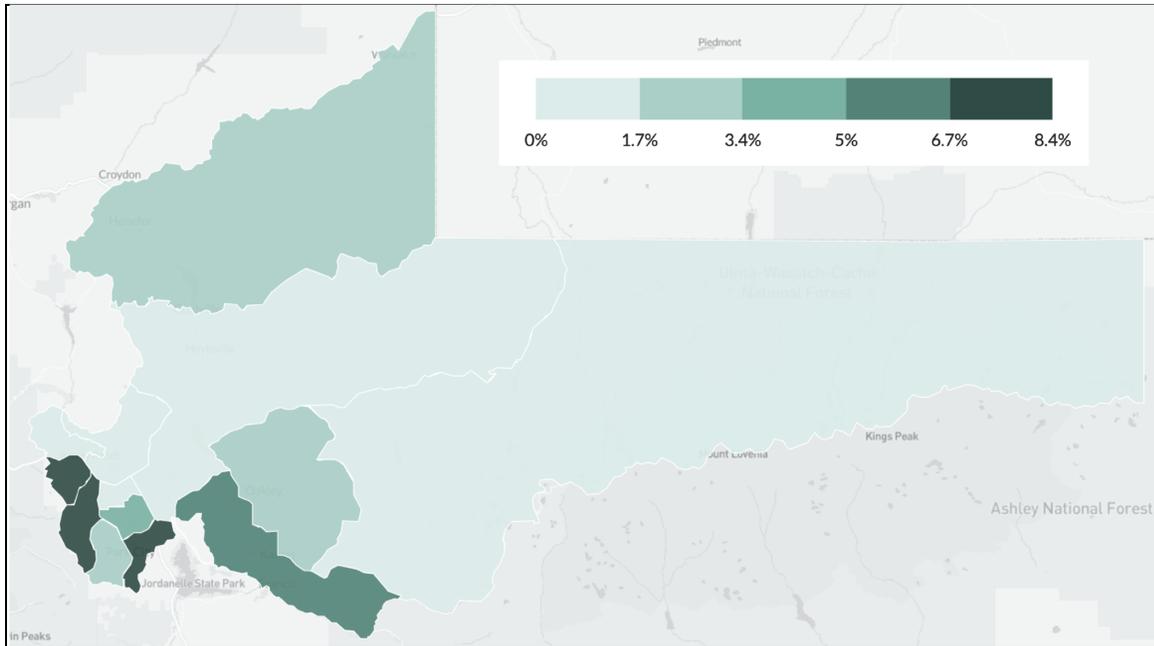


Source: ACS 2019 5-year estimates, Table IDS0101

Poverty

Living in poverty has negative impacts on childhood health and development, placing children at greater risk of poor health as well as emotional, cognitive, social, and behavior challenges.²⁴ As of 2019, the percentage of children under age 18 living in poverty in Summit County was 5.6 percent, lower than the state rate of 9.6 percent.²⁵

Figure 5: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families by Family Type by Presence of Related Children Under 18 Years by Age of Related Children, by Census Tract



Source: ACS 2019 5-year, TableID B17010

Table 6: Percent of Summit County population under six years and Federal Poverty Levels

| | (2014-2018) |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Under 50% of FPL | 1% |
| Under 100% of FPL | 5% |
| Under 185% of FPL | 16% |
| Under 200% of FPL | 18% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Table B17024: Age by Ratio of Income to Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months

²⁴ Oshikawa, H., Aber, J. L., & Beardslee, W. R. (2012). The effects of poverty on the mental, emotional, and behavioral health of children and youth: implications for prevention . American Psychologist, 67(4), 272.

²⁵ <https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/indicator/view/ChldPov.Cnty.html>

Nationwide, people of color are more likely to experience poverty. Gaps in equity will affect the youngest children in the community, and many times set a trajectory for a widening gap over time as equities are left unaddressed. Of the children under five years of age in Summit County living in poverty, 10 percent are Hispanic or Latino, twice the rate of those who are not Hispanic or Latino.²⁶ This is despite the fact that the total population under five years old is predominantly not Hispanic or Latino, indicating a disproportionate share of minority children experience poverty.

Free and Reduced-Price Lunch

Schools receive federal dollars to subsidize meals to school-aged children who meet income eligibility requirements. Oftentimes these statistics serve as a proxy indicator for poverty, as eligibility is based on the federal poverty level (FPL) (130% FPL for free lunch and 185% FPL for reduced-price lunch).²⁷

Table 7: Summit County Free and Reduced Price Lunch Enrollment

| Summit County Elementary Schools | Enrollment in 2020 | % Receiving FRPL in 2020 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| South Summit Elementary | 523 | 20% |
| North Summit Elementary | 380 | 27% |
| Jeremy Ranch Elementary | 562 | 10-19%* |
| McPolin Elementary | 445 | 34% |
| Parley’s Park Elementary | 585 | 10-19%* |
| Trailside Elementary | 424 | 10-19%* |

Source: <https://www.schools.utah.gov/data/reports?mid=1424&tid=2>, 2020 October Survey

*Exact number not reported by School Food Authority (SFA)

²⁶ U.S. Census Bureau (2014-2018). American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Table B17001 H-I: Poverty Status by Sex by Age (Ethnicity Iterations).

²⁷ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/income-eligibility-guidelines>

Family Health

Parents are a child’s primary caregiver and first teacher, and their ability to perform these roles is largely determined by their own health and safety. High quality, affordable family health care is an essential first step to strong child, family, and community outcomes. These services include preventive care, prenatal care, developmental screenings, mental health, and services tailored to children with special needs.

Key Findings and Opportunities

- Nonprofit providers struggle to hire and retain staff due to the high cost of living and market pay for highly-qualified health care professionals, impacting capacity.
- Interviewees consistently mentioned the need for additional mental health counselors, and especially those who speak Spanish.
- For new mothers, more perinatal mental health resources and services would benefit both the mother and child’s wellbeing
- HCM estimates eight additional PAT home visitors could better meet the full needs in the community, with an estimated additional annual cost of \$760,000
- Summit County does not have a full-time nonprofit dental care provider to serve uninsured or underinsured residents.
- Parents of children with special needs lack respite care options in the county, and state waiting lists for certain services are years long.

By the Numbers

- ❖ **1 health clinic serves uninsured individuals and families.**
- ❖ **23% of pregnant women did not receive prenatal care in 2019.**²⁸
- ❖ **5% of children under 6 are uninsured.**²⁹

Family health providers in Summit County have worked to strengthen the healthcare resources and supports available. The People’s Health Clinic provides critical services for uninsured and underinsured residents. They, along with other nonprofit leaders, have also intentionally worked to improve the mental health counseling availability. The Summit County Health Department also runs a robust Early Intervention program to serve children with developmental delays or disabilities. Co-locating the Summit County Health Department, WIC, Early Intervention, and People’s Health Clinic, along with Peace House and Wasatch Pediatrics within walking distance, makes it easy for families to access a multitude of services.

However, there are also opportunities for Summit County to build on their strengths and further improve the family health system. While the mental health resources have increased, many interviewees highlighted the need for more counselors, especially Spanish-speaking counselors.

²⁸ <https://www.utahchildren.org/files/18/Kid-s-Count-Data-Center/73/Summit-County-2020.pdf>

²⁹ 2019 ACS 5-year estimate, Children Characteristics Table S0901.

Additionally, new mothers could benefit from the addition of specifically perinatal mental health services. The high cost of living in Summit County restricts the pool of candidates for social service providers, making it difficult to recruit highly-qualified healthcare workers. Home visiting services, which provide health and developmental benefits to both mothers and children, currently lack capacity to meet the full need in the county. A lack of respite care in the area also places additional strain on the families, particularly those with children with special needs.

Healthcare Access & Insurance

Access to healthcare early in life is critical to achieving health outcomes later in life. Utah continues to lag behind the rest of the nation with regard to the percentage of children who still lack health insurance.



Evidence suggests that parents who lack access to employer-sponsored health insurance may not seek health insurance coverage through public options such as Medicaid, even if their children are likely eligible. Immigrant and refugee families experience additional language and cultural barriers when trying to access healthcare.³¹ In 2019, Summit Health District had the highest uninsured rate for all people (17%), among all the local health districts.³²

Table 8: Births in Summit County, by Medicaid Usage

| Year | Children Born in Summit County | Children Born to Families Using Medicaid | |
|------|--------------------------------|--|---------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 2016 | 439 | 84 | 19.1% |
| 2017 | 420 | 78 | 18.6% |
| 2018 | 405 | 71 | 17.5% |
| 2019 | 393 | 52 | 13.2% |

Source: IBIS Health Indicators,

<https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/query/selection/birth/BirthSelection.html>

³⁰ 2019 ACS 5-year estimate, Children Characteristics, Table S0901.

³¹ "Closing Gaps in Health Care." AHIP, March 5, 2019. <https://www.ahip.org/closing-gaps-in-health-care/>

³² IBIS Health Indicators. https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/indicator/view/HlthIns.LHD_AA.html

Preventive Care

Healthcare access provides the foundation for children to receive preventive care, including wellness visits, dental services, immunizations, vision screenings, and hearing screenings. Children who are insured but whose parents are uninsured are more likely to experience an insurance coverage gap, have no usual source of care, have unmet healthcare needs, and have never received a preventive counseling service.³³ These preventive care visits provide critical opportunities to identify potential physical, mental, and developmental health issues early, and prevent much more expensive emergency room visits.

The Summit County Health Department provides certain preventive services, including immunizations and child passenger safety seat inspections. The Hope Alliance is a non-profit entity providing vision care and eyeglasses, partnering with other service providers such as PC Tots and Holy Cross Ministries to provide children and families with free screenings and referrals. The People’s Health Clinic is the only clinic in Summit County that provides preventive, prenatal, vision, and primary care to uninsured and underinsured individuals. People’s Health Clinic does not provide dental or mental health services, instead referring individuals in need of those services to various partners in the county, including HMHI Behavioral Health, Jewish Family Services, Christian Center of Park City, and Holy Cross Ministries for mental health counseling.

Table 9: People’s Health Clinic Actual and Projected Services, 2018-2021

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 (projected) |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|
| OB/Prenatal Care | 792 | 825 | 842 | 995 |
| Outside Referrals | 1,282 | 1,484 | 1,562 | 1,800 |
| Referrals for Mental Health | 70 | 14 | 206 | 362 |

Source: Email correspondence from Beth Armstrong, CEO of People’s Health Clinic. Received June 8, 2021.

*Patients may be duplicated if they received more than one of the types of care or referral listed above.

The gap in available care and unmet needs is in part attributable to a lack of staffing in provider agencies. For instance, People’s Health Clinic shares an APRN with Jewish Family Services, Peace House, and the Christian Center of Park City. Summit County is designated as a mental health care provider shortage area, as is every county in the state.³⁴ People’s Health Clinic, who regularly refer patients for dental care, stated the need for a full-time nonprofit dental care provider in Summit County.

³³ Jennifer E. DeVoe, MD, Carrie J. Tillotson, MPH and Lorraine S. Wallace, PhD, “Children’s Receipt of Health Care Services and Family Health Insurance Patterns” *Annals of Family Medicine*, September 2009: 406-413. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19752468/>

³⁴ “Utah Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission Annual Report.” Utah Welfare Reform Commission, 2020. <https://jobs.utah.gov/edo/intergenerational/igp20.pdf>

Immunizations are also a key preventive care strategy for the health of children of all ages. The 2019 Community Health Assessment conducted by Summit County Health Department collected over 800 survey responses from people who live or work in Summit County, including 24 Spanish-speaking responses.³⁵ Their survey analysis reports 3,239 Immunization encounters in 2020.

Healthy People Leading Health Indicators set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services included a **target of 90% immunization rate for early childhood (19-35 months) in 2020. Summit County was within 2% of this target for 2020.**

Immunize Utah, a state-run program through the Department of Health, enrolls facilities in the Utah Statewide Immunization Information System (USIIS). As the data in Table 10 show, exemption rates are on the rise in some facilities, particularly in licensed child care facilities. The 2019 Community Health Assessment conducted by Summit County Health Department also notes that exemption rates for kindergarteners have increased in the past five years in Summit County due to the belief in herd immunity as protection for their child.

Table 10: Summit County kindergarten school entry adequately immunized, by LEA and child care center, 2016-2019³⁶

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Park City | 88.6% immunized 8.1% exempted | 87.1% immunized 10.1% exempted | 87.5% immunized 8.3% exempted | 84.1% immunized 11.4% exempted |
| North Summit | 92.0% immunized 6.7% exempted | 93.9% immunized 4.6% exempted | 91.7% immunized 3.6% exempted | 91.9% immunized 3.2% exempted |
| South Summit | 93.1% immunized 3.8% exempted | 89.4% immunized 2.8% exempted | 85.2% immunized 9.8% exempted | 84.2% immunized 5.9% exempted |
| Charter schools | n/a | n/a | 81.0% immunized 19.0% exempted | 77.1% immunized 17.1% exempted |
| Private schools | n/a | n/a | 62.5% immunized 37.5% exempted | 83.3% immunized 16.7% exempted |
| Licensed child care facilities | 94.0% immunized 4.9% exempted | 96.6% immunized 3.4% exempted | 89.7% immunized 6.7% exempted | 89.7% immunized 6.7% exempted |

Source: Utah Department of Health Immunizations Program, school immunization and exemption data are collected from agencies and school districts through electronic reporting

³⁵ "2019 Community Health Assessment." Summit County Health Department, 2019. https://summitcountyhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/CHA-2019-v_7.pdf

³⁶ "2017 through 2019 Immunization Coverage Reports." Utah Department of Health Division of Disease Control and Prevention Immunization Program, March 2018. <https://immunize.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/PreviousReports/2017CoverageReport.pdf>

Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is an important source of care, education, and support for expecting mothers. However, marginalized groups such as people of color, low-income individuals, and linguistic minorities face both structural barriers (e.g., high cost, poor transportation, lack of childcare) and individual barriers (e.g., lack of trust, lack of social support) that make them less likely to access care. Little or no prenatal care increases the likelihood of negative outcomes such as preterm births, low birth weights, and infant and maternal mortality.³⁷

1 in 4 Women in Summit County do not receive prenatal care³⁸

People's Health Clinic is the only health clinic that provides prenatal care and education to uninsured pregnant women. At 35 weeks pregnant, uninsured women are able then to participate in emergency Medicaid allowing them to give birth at a hospital with health insurance. At the time of data collection for this report, People's Health Clinic had a four-week waiting period for prenatal and OB/GYN care, and again expects the demand for those services to increase in 2021 (see Table 9).

The Summit County Department of Health also offers numerous pre- and post-natal services to women and their families. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program provides prenatal and postnatal nutrition counseling and hosts Baby Your Baby, which includes a toll-free hotline for expecting and new mothers. Baby Your Baby also provides financial support for expecting mothers that cannot cover the costs of their prenatal care as a form of Prenatal Medicaid. There are several nonprofit and local agencies providing prenatal care and education in Summit County, a summary of which can be found in Table 13. Despite these services, the low birth weight rate was 8.4 percent in 2019 in Summit County compared to the state average of 7.5 percent.³⁹

³⁷ Cristina Novoa, "Ensuring Health Births Through Prenatal Support" Center for American Progress (31 Jan 2020).

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2020/01/31/479930/ensuring-healthy-births-prenatal-support/>

³⁸ "Measures of Child Well-Being in Utah 2019 County Data Page." Voices for Utah Children, 2019.

https://www.utahchildren.org/images/pdfs-doc/2019/Summit_County_Finished.pdf

³⁹ IBIS Health Indicators. <https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/query/result/birth/BirthWtLowCnty/BirthWt.html>

Table 11: Preterm births in Summit County, 2015-2019

| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-------|------|------|-------|------|
| 10.2% | 8.9% | 9.1% | 11.9% | 8.4% |

Source: IBIS Health Indicators

<https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/query/result/birth/PretermCnty/Preterm.html>

Table 12: Low birth weight infants in Summit County, 2015-2019

| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|-------|------|
| 8.6% | 7.3% | 9.0% | 10.1% | 9.4% |

Source: IBIS Health Indicators

<https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisph-view/query/result/birth/BirthWtLowCnty/BirthWt.html>

Table 13: Prenatal care, education, and support in Summit County

| Operating Entity | Program and Services Offered |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| St Mary of Assumption Catholic Church | Gabriel's Project: provides maternity and baby clothing, diapers and other baby items, counseling and referral assistance for expecting mothers. |
| Holy Cross Ministries | Promotora Program: community health navigators help individuals access health care services, including prenatal classes and care. |
| Christian Center of Park City | Basic Needs Assistance (BNA) Navigators: work to help individuals and families access health care services. |
| Mountain Life Church | Mothers of Preschools (MOPs): hosts monthly meetings for mothers with speakers centered on a specific parenting topic. |
| Postpartum Support International Utah | Free phone and email support provided by mothers who have experienced and healed from emotional health complications around pregnancy, postpartum, infertility, miscarriage and loss. |

Other communities have successfully improved prenatal outcomes by establishing culturally-sensitive doula programs. For example, the HealthConnect One [Community-Based Doula Program](#), which began in Chicago, IL, provides intensive peer-to-peer support by trained doulas; they attribute their success to the fact that doulas come from the communities they serve and can bridge cultural and linguistic gaps between clients and health providers.

Developmental Screenings

Screenings provide critical information about a child’s development, and early diagnosis of delays can improve a child’s relative outcomes in cognitive development, language skills, and motor skills. One of the most common screeners is the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), which the State Department of Health tracks for participating organizations through the Utah Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) via their Enterprise account. Data for the total screening count in Summit County can be seen below, although this is not a universal capture; case in point, the drop in total screenings across years can be largely attributed to a single program no longer reporting their screenings in the system. This highlights the importance of common data collection and reporting in order to understand the community-level need.

Table 14: Total Screening Count for participating Summit County providers by Interval & Result, 2018-2020

| Interval | Result | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----------|------------|------|------|------|
| 4-12 mo | Above | 6 | 6 | 14 |
| | Monitoring | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| | Below | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 14-24 mo | Above | 10 | 3 | 5 |
| | Monitoring | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| | Below | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| 30-36 mo | Above | 13 | 12 | 3 |
| | Monitoring | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| | Below | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 42-48 mo | Above | 12 | 6 | 5 |
| | Monitoring | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| | Below | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | | 68 | 48 | 41 |

Source: Email from Stephen Matherly, Utah Department of Health. June 21, 2021.

Help Me Grow Utah, an information and referral helpline specifically for children and families, also utilizes the ASQ to promote healthy development in early childhood. In 2020, Help Me Grow administered 39 ASQ screenings, 9 ASQ-SE (social-emotional) screenings, and 2 M-CHAT (autism) screenings for Summit County children.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Provided to SIC by Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance, 2021.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC, is funded by the USDA and administered at three county health department sites in Summit County: Park City, Kamas, and Coalville. WIC provides low-income women and young children with access to nutrition education, counseling, nutritious food, and help with finding health care and community resources. WIC participation is linked to lower incidences of premature birth and infant death and a greater likelihood of receiving prenatal care, as well as improved diet and nutrition outcomes for children.⁴¹ For a family of four to be eligible for WIC in fiscal year 2022, their monthly income cannot exceed 185% of the FPL, or about \$49,000 per year.⁴²

Summit County has seen a downward trend in WIC participation, which is also occurring throughout the state and nationally.

Table 15: Unduplicated WIC participation in Summit County, by participant group

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Women | 115 | 154 | 119 | 112 |
| Infants | 105 | 192 | 141 | 118 |
| Children | 252 | 250 | 211 | 185 |
| Total | 651 | 596 | 471 | 415 |

Source: Provided by Jennifer Morrill, Summit County Health Department WIC Program. June 2021.

Leaders report misinformation circulating that can dissuade families from seeking WIC, even though its use does not impact immigration or citizenship situations, as people may fear.⁴³

There are likely additional families in the county who would qualify for WIC services. Despite outreach efforts, families may not be aware of services. Program administrators also report that the program can be cumbersome for families, compared to other food support programs, which don't require in-person visits. Some potential clients may also fear negative outcomes related to their immigration status. These issues speak to the importance of an interconnected system of referrals and trust building among clients and community partners. During the height of the Covid pandemic, federal regulations were changed to allow WIC staff to serve families virtually. Staff reported that this aided families who struggle with transportation, and may have helped with fears around immigration status as well.

⁴¹ "About WIC - How WIC Helps," Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/about-wic-how-wic-helps>

⁴² USDA. WIC Policy Memorandum #2021-5. March 15, 2021.

<https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/WIC-Policy-Memo-2021-5-IEG.pdf#page=>

⁴³ Communicated to SIC by Summit County Health Department WIC.

Home Visiting

Home visiting connects parents with trained providers, such as nurses or development specialists, who regularly visit families in their home beginning when the mother is pregnant. Home visitors usually focus on topics such as infant health, parent-child attachment, and child development; they also can provide information and referrals to other community resources. By providing parents with information and resources, they are empowered to make informed choices and access services that support their child's development.⁴⁴ In Summit County, there are no home visiting programs that receive public funding from the State Office of Home Visiting.⁴⁵

Parents as Teachers

Holy Cross Ministries (HCM) administers the Parents as Teacher Program, an evidence-based home visiting model serving families prenatal through kindergarten, with four primary goals: increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parent practices; provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues; prevent child abuse and neglect; and increase children's school readiness and success. HCM employs two home visitors, allowing them to serve 43 families (43 mothers and 43 children), while maintaining the model requirements of maximum caseloads.

In a recent analysis, HCM estimated the additional demand in the community that could be served by additional home visitors. Using recent birth rates and estimating the percentage of qualifying families who might enroll, HCM estimates that **eight additional home visitors** could be utilized to better meet community needs. With additional supervisory support and non-staff expenses, the estimated total cost to expand the PAT program would be roughly \$760,000 annually.

\$760,000

estimated annual cost to expand the PAT program

Welcome Baby

Welcome Baby is a volunteer-based home visiting program for families with children age birth to three years, with no additional eligibility requirements. Volunteers make monthly visits and follow a curriculum that focuses on developmental milestones, healthy habits, and literacy. The program provides a book to every child in the household, and home visitors can bring clothing, diapers, wipes, formula, and other items as needed.

⁴⁴ "Strengthening Families," CSSP; "Home Visiting Family Support Programs" PEW Charitable Trust, 5 January 2015. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2014/02/03/home-visiting-family-support-programs>

⁴⁵ See Utah Department of Health, Office of Home Visiting. Available at <http://homevisiting.utah.gov/locations/>

United Way of Northern Utah received a state grant to expand the Welcome Baby program for the next three years. They are working with the Early Childhood Alliance to place **two Welcome Baby AmeriCorps Home Visitation Coordinators in Summit County**: one full-time coordinator at the People’s Health Clinic (beginning July 2021), and one part-time coordinator at Summit Pediatrics (start date pending). These AmeriCorps members train and manage up to eight volunteer home visitors, each of whom visit up to four families per month, enabling support for up to 32 families. The Early Childhood Alliance will cover the costs of laptops and mileage reimbursement for the AmeriCorps positions, and is further facilitating coordination and alignment with HCM’s Parents as Teachers program to ensure that the programs complement and support each other.

Home visiting offers many benefits to families, with different programs utilizing varied approaches. Supporting multiple home visiting programs not only increases the overall capacity but also allows for more tailored service provision. Other common programs that have been highly successful in other communities include the [Nurse-Family Partnership](#), [DULCE](#), and [Family Connects](#).

Mental Health

Maternal mental health is considered a top early health indicator. Depression and anxiety during pregnancy affect not only the mother, but contribute to preterm births, low birthweight, and shorter breastfeeding length.⁴⁶ Although all women are at risk of developing mental health issues during pregnancy and postpartum, social indicators such as poverty, domestic abuse, and high exposure to stress tend to exacerbate the risk of maternal depression and anxiety.⁴⁷ There is currently no publicly available tracking of perinatal mental health in Summit County.

1 in 3 Women in Utah experience depression or anxiety after giving birth⁴⁸

Considering mental health more broadly, interviewees were fairly positive about the availability of care in Summit County. Many organizations in Summit offer counseling services, including the Christian Center, Jewish Family Services, Holy Cross Ministries, and the People’s Health Clinic. Furthermore, to address the mental health needs of children 0-10, the Christian Center

⁴⁶ “Maternal Mental Health in Utah.” PRAMS, January 2021.

<https://mihp.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/Maternal-Mental-Health-Utah-PRAMS-2016-2019.pdf>

⁴⁷ “Maternal Mental Health.” World Health Organization.

<https://www.who.int/teams/mental-health-and-substance-use/maternal-mental-health>

⁴⁸ “Maternal Mental Health in Utah.” PRAMS, January 2021.

<https://mihp.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/Maternal-Mental-Health-Utah-PRAMS-2016-2019.pdf>

provides a child therapy room and employs play therapy to reach the younger population. For victims of domestic violence at Peace House, a partnership with the People’s Health Clinic and Holy Cross Ministries, allows them to discreetly access medical services and counseling.

In addition to counseling, various mental health crisis hotlines and peer groups are available for Summit County residents. State and county crisis hotlines are available 24/7, or individuals can use the Safe UT app to text and talk to training crisis counselors. Additionally, CONNECT Peer Navigators help individuals facing a mental health crisis get connected to the most relevant resources. For those looking for more regular support, medical management, substance abuse recovery, and grief and suicide support groups are available.

The Christian Center saw a 36 percent increase in mental health and wellness sessions overall and a 49 percent increase specifically in child sessions from 2019 to 2020.⁴⁹

The Summit County Health Department saw a 180 percent increase in crisis care in 2020.

With many mental health providers in the field, community advocacy organizations such as the Summit County Mental Wellness Alliance and CONNECT Summit County promote community awareness of mental health and provide information detailing the various services available to those in need. Despite the choice of providers available, the capacity of mental health services is limited, particularly Spanish-speaking providers.

Table 16: Christian Center Counseling and Wellness Visits over Time

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Child Sessions (0-12 yo) | 74 | 107 | 219 |
| Adolescent Sessions (13-17 yo) | 368 | 658 | 779 |
| Family Sessions | 37 | 38 | 60 |

Source: Provided by Catherine Kirchheimer, Christian Center of Park City. June 2021.

The need for more counselors was repeatedly mentioned by interviewees. The Christian Center has in the past three years intentionally hired more child therapists, and the People’s Health Clinic recently increased their capacity from 4 to 40 mental health staff when they partnered

⁴⁹ <https://www.ccofpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ccpc-annual-report-03-21.pdf>; Email from Catherine Kirchheimer at CCPC, June 22, 2021.

with a new provider.⁵⁰ As mentioned in the Preventive Care section, lack of staff is a barrier to meeting care needs in Summit County. The Early Intervention program shares a mental health provider with South and North Summit School Districts, receiving only one-third of the therapists time. At the Christian Center, the therapists who work predominantly with children and adolescents experience 4-6 week wait times.

Interviewees recognized a large gap in availability for mental health services offered in Spanish. The Summit County Health Department reported a 6-week waiting period for Spanish services, and the People's Health Clinic reported only two Spanish-speaking counselors in the entire county.⁵¹ There is also a gap in community awareness, especially among Spanish speaking individuals. In a recent CONNECT survey of Summit County residents, 85% did not know where to access mental health resources (this increased to 91% for Spanish-speaking respondents).⁵²

Children with Special Needs

To provide support to children with developmental delays or disabilities, the Summit County Health Department manages the Early Intervention program for children ages 0-3. Referrals for this program can be made by any community member, but most often come from NICU staff and pediatricians. To determine eligibility for services, children are given both a developmental screening (BDI) and a social-emotional screening (MEISR), then if eligible, families and Early Intervention staff work together to craft an Individualized Family Service Plan. As reported in the 2019 Community Health Assessment conducted by the Summit County Health Department, Early Intervention completes more than 2,100 visits to families each year, serves more than 230 children in Wasatch and Summit Counties, and writes an average of 100 Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) each year.⁵³ See Table 17 for Early Intervention data profiles for FFY2016-2018.

Respite services are child care for children with special needs to provide parents with temporary rest or relief; this restorative time for caregivers allows them to better support their children in the long term. While there is no respite care in Summit County, providers such as the [Utah Association of Family Support Centers](#) and [Kids on the Move](#) have successfully established multiple locations in nearby counties.

⁵⁰ Interview with Beth Armstrong, Executive Director of the People's Health Clinic.

⁵¹ <https://www.ccofpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ccpc-annual-report-03-21.pdf>; interview with Beth Armstrong, Executive Director, People's Health Clinic.

⁵² <https://www.ccofpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ccpc-annual-report-03-21.pdf>

⁵³ "2019 Community Health Assessment." Summit County Health Department, 2019.

Table 17: Early Intervention data profile for FFY2016-FFY2018

| | FFY2016* | FFY2017 | FFY2018 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Number of children with an IFSP** | 64 | 55 | 68 |
| Number of infants and toddlers served in the FFY | 261 | 283 | 296 |
| Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs compared to national data. Summit County / (Utah state target) | 2.30% / (2.30%) | 4.09% / (2.30%) | 2.39% / (2.35%) |

Source: Utah Department of Health, Baby Watch Early Intervention Program [2018](#) profile. 2016 and 2017 profile received via email from Gregg Reed, Utah Department of Health on June 24 and 25, 2021.

*FFY runs July 1 of the stated year through June 30 of the subsequent year. **IFSP stands for Individualized Family Service Plan. ***FFY2019 data will be available in August 2021.



Early Care & Learning

Extensive research has demonstrated that early experiences lay the foundation for a child's ability to succeed across multiple areas of development. Early and targeted interventions can produce long-term gains for both individuals and society. Formal early learning programs, such as high-quality preschool and child care, provide a complement to the informal learning that takes place in the home. Because learning begins long before a child enters a formal educational environment, disparities begin early, particularly for children living in poverty. For example, research has demonstrated that the number of words a young child knows is starkly different based on socio-economic status and resources available.⁵⁴

Key Findings and Opportunities

- The supply of regulated child care is inadequate. Licensed capacity is just 49% of estimated need.
- Child Care is prohibitively expensive for many families, and very few families receive state or local subsidies to offset the cost of care.
- Summit County has no Early Head Start or Head Start programs, which promote school readiness for children from low-income families, encourage parent involvement, and link children and families to other services in the community.
- Low pay and lack of benefits for educators make attracting and retaining a highly-qualified early childhood workforce difficult. Wage supplements and other supports for early childhood educators could help providers close this gap.
- Community members should continue to advocate for more families to receive state child care subsidies, as almost no families in Summit County utilize this benefit.
- Additional community buy-in, particularly among employers, is needed to fully address and advocate for the child care crisis.

By the Numbers

- ❖ **79% of mothers with children under 6 are in the workforce⁵⁵**
- ❖ **66% of children under 6 (1,786 children) are estimated to have a child care need⁵⁶**
- ❖ **Licensed child care center and family homes have a licensed capacity for 871 children**
- ❖ **Average cost of center based child care is \$1,408 in Summit County⁵⁷**

⁵⁴ "Beyond the word gap: Word gap by age." Zero to Three, 2015. <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/series/beyond-the-word-gap>

⁵⁵ U.S. Census Bureau (2014-2018). American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Table B23003: Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years by Age of Own Children Under 18 Years by Employment Status for Females 20 to 64 Years.

⁵⁶ "Child Care Access in Utah." Utah Department of Workforce Services, March 2020. <https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/ccaccess.pdf>

⁵⁷ Analysis by Early Childhood Alliance, provided to SIC. <https://careaboutchildcare.utah.gov/parent/prices.aspx>

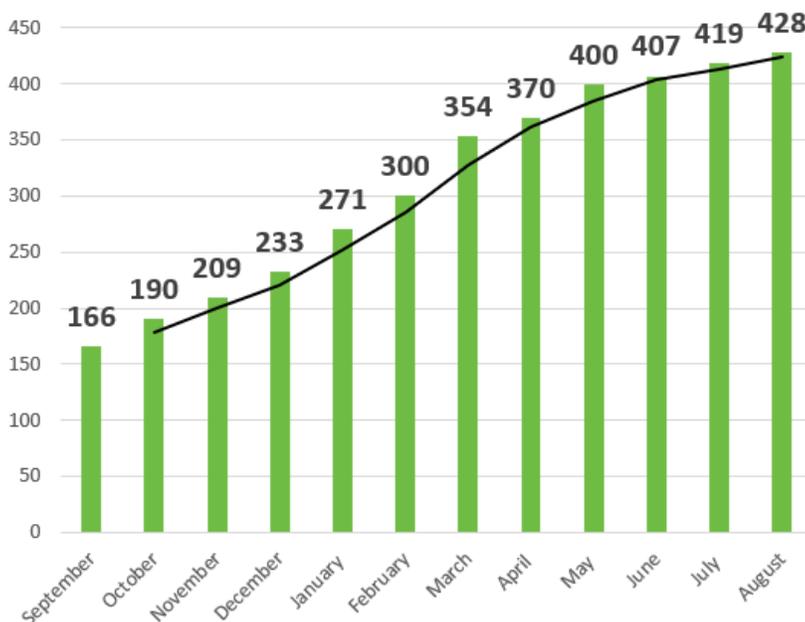
Early childhood education programs such as PC Tots, Holy Cross Ministries, and Park City School District preschool provide low-income families with opportunity to access affordable, quality early learning experiences. These programs have proactively engaged families and particularly the Latinx community, establishing trust and benefited from word of mouth referrals to reach additional families. McPolin Elementary provides several wraparound services, including dental, vision, and hearing screening services, food, and parent education classes.

Yet, the capacity at these programs does not meet the full need, and there are waiting lists at programs serving low-income families. Licensed child care providers and preschools struggle to attract and retain staff, largely due to the low wages. Additionally, interviewees mentioned the even more limited options for children with special needs as a growing need in the community.

Early Literacy

Reading to infants and toddlers is critical to their language and cognitive development, contributes to kindergarten readiness, and establishes lifelong literacy skills.⁵⁸ In Summit County, the Early Childhood Alliance is the local affiliate for the **Dolly Parton Imagination Library**, an international program which gifts books to young children. Registered children across five zip codes receive free books by mail each month, reaching approximately 425 children in Summit County.⁵⁹

Figure 6. Dolly Parton Imagination Library Books Mailed, 2020-2021



Source: Email from Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance to Sorenson Impact Center, July 2021

⁵⁸ https://cchp.ucsf.edu/sites/g/files/tkssra181/f/buildbabyinten081803_adr.pdf

⁵⁹ Email from Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance to Sorenson Impact Center.

Additionally, Summit County library branches and the Park City Library both offer free storytime programs to encourage reading from a young age. Summit County families also have access to UPSTART, a state-funded, home-based technology school readiness software targeted to four year olds. All Utah children are eligible to participate in the program, but priority is given to low-income families and families who are not native English speakers. Qualifying families may receive a laptop and home Internet access during the time they are in the program.

Child Care

Access

In the US, over half of families with children live in a childcare desert; families with limited time, transportation, or information are at a further disadvantage.⁶⁰ In Utah, child care is regulated by the Utah Department of Health, Child Care Licensing. Both child care centers and home-based child care providers must meet standards and rules, ensuring a minimum level of health and safety requirements. A child care license or certificate is required if a person is caring for more than four children who are not related to the provider, and for more than four hours per day.⁶¹

In a recent Child Care Access report from the DWS, Office of Child Care, Summit County was shown to have the third highest rate of children under six with a child care need.

Table 18. Counties with the Highest Unmet Child Care Needs in Utah

| County | Children Under 6 with Child Care Need (Estimated Number) | Children Under 6 with Child Care Need (Estimated Rate) |
|---------|--|--|
| Grand | 465 | 74% |
| Wasatch | 1,904 | 69% |
| Summit | 1,786 | 66% |
| Wayne | 114 | 66% |
| Kane | 331 | 62% |

Source: "Child Care Access in Utah." Utah Department of Workforce Services, March 2020.

<https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/ccaccess.pdf>

⁶⁰ CAP Early Childhood Team; Kristina Haynie et al., "Picking Up the Pieces: Building a Better Child Care System Post COVID-19" (Child Care Aware of America, 2020); Natalie Renew and Karen Tylek, "Child Care Was Broken before Covid. Now It's Worse: How We Got Here and How to Fix It," Capita, 2020, <https://www.capita.org/how-to-fix-child-care>; Rasheed Malik et al., "The Coronavirus Will Make Child Care Deserts Worse and Exacerbate Inequality," Center for American Progress, accessed December 15, 2020, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2020/06/22/486433/coronavirus-will-make-child-care-deserts-worse-exacerbate-inequality/>

⁶¹ <https://childcarelicensing.utah.gov/>

Families try to meet these needs through a variety of ways, including licensed or regulated care, adjusting work schedules if possible, or relying on family, friends, or neighbors. As of June 2021, there were 11 licensed child care centers and 7 licensed family child care providers in Summit County.⁶² Combined, these 18 child care providers have a licensed capacity for 871 children, well below the estimated need. Licensed capacity does not always equate with actual capacity. Some providers reported not being able to provide their full licensed capacity because of staffing shortages. Additionally, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the two centers associated with Vail Ski Resort did not operate during the 2021 winter season, and the Deer Valley Child Care only operates at its full capacity during ski season.

Table 19: Licensed Center Child Care Providers, Summit County

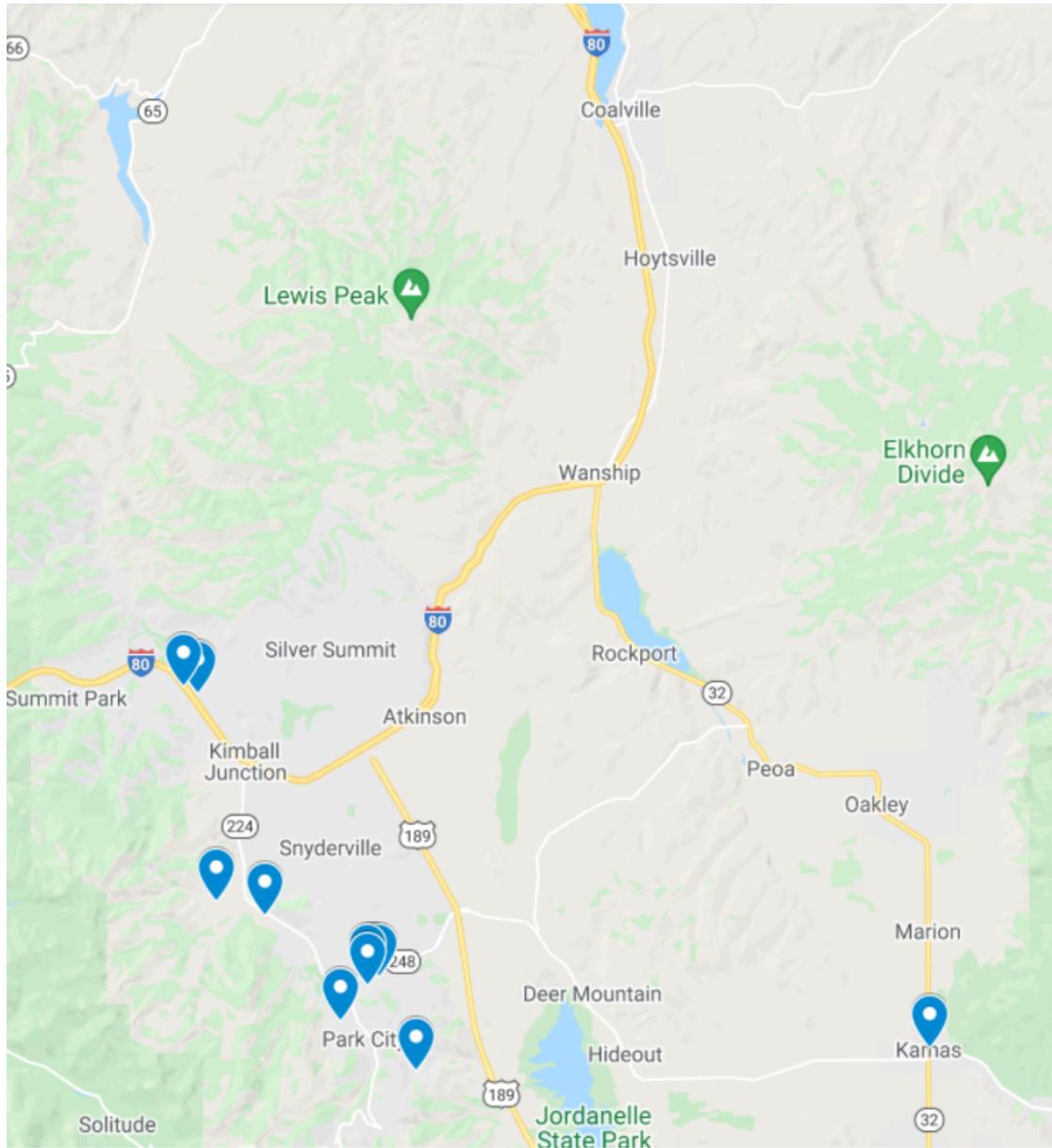
| Name | Location | Licensed Capacity | Hours | Ages Licensed to Serve |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Alpine Adventurers Academy | Park City | 88 | M-F 7:30 am - 6:00 pm | 0-12 yr |
| Alpine Adventurers Academy II | Park City | 53 | M-F 7:00am - 6:00pm | 0-12 yr |
| AristoCats Children's Academy | Kamas | 68 | M-F 7:30am-5:30pm | 0-12 yr |
| Creekside Kids | Park City | 76 | M-F 8:00am - 5:30pm | 0-12 yr |
| Deer Valley Child Care | Park City | 143 | M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm | 2 mo - 4 yr |
| Holy Cross Ministries | Park City | 23 | M-Th 7:45am - 3:00pm | 0-3 yr |
| Little Adventures Center @ Canyons | Park City | 72 | M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm | 0-12 yr |
| PC Tots | Park City | 96 | M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm | 0-5 yr |
| PC Tots Too | Park City | 34 | M-F 8:00am-5:00pm | 0-2 yr |
| Park City Kids Camp | Park City | 83 | M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm | 5-12 yr |
| The PEEK Program by Creekside Kids | Park City | 45 | M-F 8:00am - 5:30pm | 0-12 yr |

Source: Utah State Department of Health, Child Care Licensing; and Care About Childcare

As illustrated in Figure 7, the vast majority of licensed centers are located in the more populated areas of the county, Park City and the Snyderville Basin, with no licensed centers in the Coalville to Wanship area. In contrast, Figure 8 shows the majority of licensed family child care providers are located in the less populated and rural areas of Coalville and Kamas, with very little available in Park City.

⁶² Utah Department of Health, Child Care Licensing, Find a Facility. <https://ccl.utah.gov/ccl/#/facilities>

Figure 7. Licensed Center Child Care Providers, Summit County



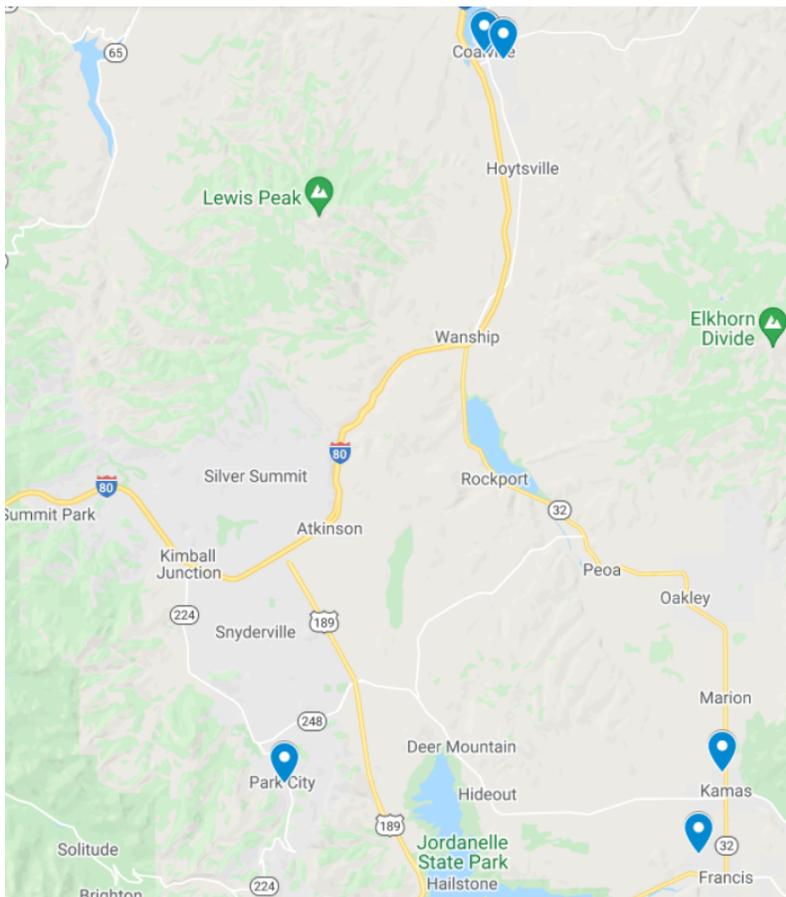
Source: Utah State Department of Health, Child Care Licensing; and Care About Childcare

Table 20: Licensed Family Child Care Providers Summit County

| Name | Location | Licensed Capacity | Hours | Ages Licensed to Serve |
|--|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Erica Evans, Evans Daycare (B) | Kamas | 8 | M-F 7:30am-5:30pm | 0-4 yr |
| Keri Evans, Evans Daycare | Kamas | 16 | M-F 7:00am - 5:00pm | 0-12 yr |
| Stepping Stone Academy (Casey Geisdorf Miller) | Kamas | 16 | M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm | 0-4 yr |
| Peck's Play School (Marianne Peck) | Francis | 16 | M-F 7:15am - 5:30pm | 18 mo - 11 yr |
| Keziah Rieker | Coalville | 8 | M-F 7:00am - 5:00pm | 2-12 yr |
| Tammy's Childcare (Tammy Rieker) | Coalville | 16 | M-F 7:00am - 5:00pm | 0-12 yr |
| In The Pines Nature Preschool (Jessica Rothfels) | Park City | 10 | T, Th, F 8:30am - 5:30pm | 0-5 yr |

Source: Utah State Department of Health, Child Care Licensing; and Care About Childcare

Figure 8: Licensed Family Child Care Providers Summit County



Source: Utah State Department of Health, Child Care Licensing; and Care About Childcare

There are several other types of child care providers recognized by the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS) that do not fall under the regulatory definition of licensed centers or family homes. Some of these categories include hourly centers, out-of-school time providers, and certain school-based providers.

Table 21: Other regulated or license-exempt child care providers in Summit County

| Name | Location | Care Type | Licensed Capacity | Hours | Ages Licensed to Serve |
|---|-----------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kids Cabin Prospector | Park City | Hourly Center | 19 | M-F 8:00am - 5:00 pm | 0-12 yr |
| Kids Cabin | Park City | Hourly Center | 16 | M-F 8:00am - 5:00 pm | 0-12 yr |
| Westgate Resort Kids' Club | Park City | Hourly Center | 21 | W-Su 8:00am - 4:00pm | 3-10 yr |
| Park City Recreation Summer Day Camp | Park City | Out of School Time Program | 78 | M-F 8-5:45 10 weeks | 6-12 yr |
| Wildstar | Kamas | Out of School Time Program | 17 | M-Su 9:00am - 5:00pm | 0-12 yr |
| Little Miners Montessori | Park City | Exempt Center, Background Checks by CCL | 80 | M-F 8:30am - 5:30pm | 0-12 yr |
| Soaring Wings Montessori School | Park City | Exempt Center, Background Checks by CCL | 120 | M-F 8:00am - 4:00pm | 0-12 yr |
| Park City School District Child Care Center | Park City | Exempt Center, No Background Checks | 86 | M-F 7:00am - 5:00pm | 6 wks - 10 yr |
| Weilenmann Enrichment Corporation | Park City | Exempt Center, No Background Checks | 10 | M-F 8:00am - 4:00pm | |
| YMCA of Northern Utah - Park City | Park City | Exempt School Age Program, No Background Checks | 40 | M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm | |

Source: Utah State Department of Health, Child Care Licensing, and Care About Childcare

Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care Outside the Formal Licensing System

Families in Summit County, particularly those in low-wage jobs, face the difficult task of finding affordable child care. Certainly, **there are many families using home-based child care providers who are not participating in the state licensing system.** These are often run by women whose immigration status and their own lack of affordable options for their children have led them to this option. They provide an important option to low-wage workers, yet cannot access support, professional development, and funding through state agencies. In addition, they earn low wages themselves, and face typical challenges as other home-based child care providers.⁶³ As leaders in Summit County and the state work to address child care issues, it is important to consider this vital resource in the community, and find ways to address quality and support issues for these families and providers as well.

Leaders have an opportunity to learn from this vital asset to the community, convene in a safe place, seek their input, and understand how to best meet their needs.

Cost

Even when childcare providers are accessible and have availability, the cost is often prohibitively expensive for families.⁶⁴ Subsidies can help mitigate the cost, but often have strict eligibility requirements, complicated applications with sensitive information, and are relatively unknown among the community.⁶⁵

Interviewees identified affordable childcare as one of the largest barriers in the county. The average monthly cost for home-based childcare is \$692, and \$1,408 for center-based child care, with variation depending on the age of the child.⁶⁶ Additionally, a recent market rate study by the Utah Office of Child Care revealed regional price differences in child care. Specifically, the nonmetropolitan portion (19 counties including Summit County) had consistently higher than average monthly market rates for licensed center-based care for children ages 0-5.⁶⁷

Furthermore, there is no publicly funding childcare for children under 3 years old. Many other communities in Utah have at least one Head Start or Early Head Start Provider.

Some subsidies for income-qualified families are available through specific programs such as PC Tots and Holy Cross Ministries, and through DWS Office of Child Care. However, the DWS child care subsidy is grossly underutilized, due in part to strict eligibility restrictions excluding mixed-status families. In 2020, only 9 children under 3 years old in Summit County were

⁶³ Based on listening sessions that advocacy groups and trusted community leaders conducted in the Park City area in 2019, and communicated to SIC.

⁶⁴ CAP Early Childhood Team, "Early Childhood Education in the States."

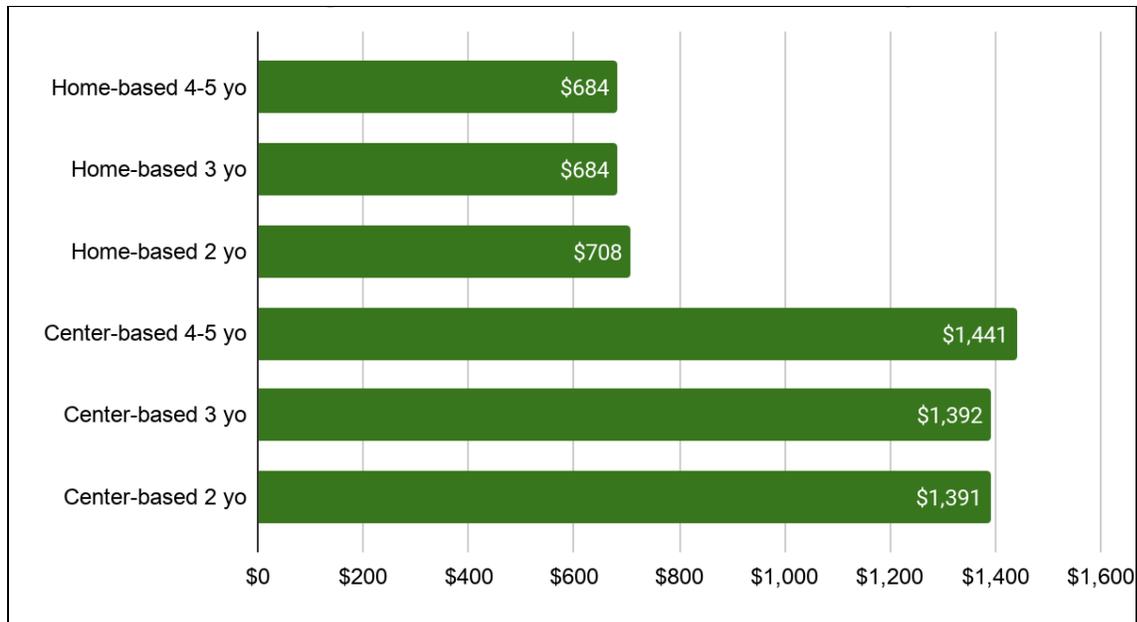
⁶⁵ Rebecca Ullrich, Stephanie Schmit, and Ruth Cosse, "Inequitable Access to Child Care Subsidies" (CLASP, April 2019). https://www.clasp.org/sites/default/files/publications/2019/04/2019_inequitableaccess.pdf.

⁶⁶ Analysis by Early Childhood Alliance, February 2021, provided to SIC.

⁶⁷ Catherine Ruetschlin & Yazgi Genc, "Utah 2021 Child Care Market Rate Study" May 2021. <https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/occmrket.pdf>

accessing this benefit.⁶⁸ While most providers in the county accept state subsidies, they struggle with the burden of navigating regulation changes, timing, and paperwork requirements.

Figure 9: Average Child Care Costs, Summit County



Source: Early Childhood Alliance analysis, <https://careaboutchildcare.utah.gov/parent/prices.aspx>

Implementing a program such as Miami-Dade County’s [Thrive by Five](#) reduces costs for families. Funded through property taxes, it distributes funding to providers with high-quality programs based on low-income students served (regardless of public subsidies eligibility) as well as scholarships for students above the public childcare subsidy cut off (150% FPL) but below 300% FPL.⁶⁹ Similarly, [Kids First](#) in Aspen, CO offers financial aid, funded through a citywide sales tax, to subsidize working families with children in licensed child care programs. They provide an online calculator to help families determine their eligibility and offer the application in both Spanish and English for increased accessibility.

Quality

Quality is determined through metrics such as licensing and accreditation, child-to-staff ratios, health and safety indicators, family partnerships and community involvement, and individualization of services.⁷⁰ Utah, like many states, has implemented Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) to ensure quality within local child care settings.⁷¹ The Utah QRIS

⁶⁸ Email from Ann Stockham Mejia, DWS Child Care Program Manager to Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance Coordinator, July 23, 2020.

⁶⁹ <https://www.thencit.org/see-whats-working/case-study-using-evidence-to-improve-infant-and-toddler-child-care>

⁷⁰ “Defining and Measuring Quality: An In-Depth Study of Five Child Care Quality Rating and Improvement Systems.” Mathematica Policy Research, August 2011. <https://qrisnetwork.org/sites/default/files/resources/gscobb/2011-09-28%2014%3A01/Report.pdf>

⁷¹ CAP Early Childhood Team, “Early Childhood Education in the States.”

system, Care About Childcare, is not fully implemented and ratings are not universally available to determine the number of high-quality providers in Summit County.⁷² Care About Childcare at Utah Valley University also provides early childhood educators with additional opportunities, through professional development and education, to enhance the quality of their services.

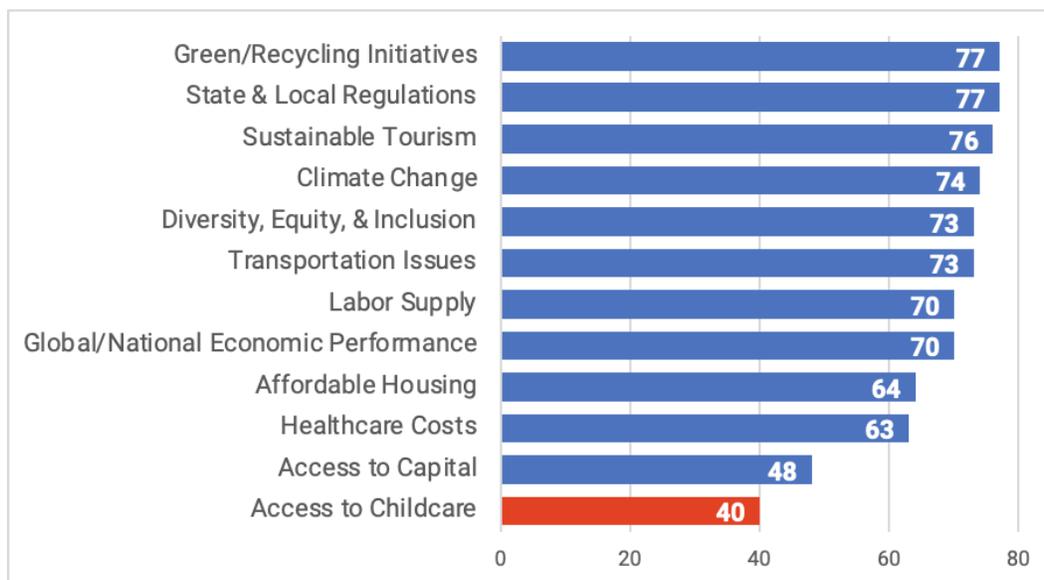
A skilled and effective workforce of educators is central to a high quality childcare experience.⁷³ Interviewees emphasized that workforce recruitment issues in Summit County, due to the high cost of living and low compensation, hindered their ability to offer high quality early care. While one provider, the PCSD preschool programs, spoke of their staff as overqualified, most providers struggle to find qualified staff at all, as graduates in the early childhood field are falling. Recruiting challenges also limit the capacity of children served.

PC Tots is operating at 65 percent capacity due to lack of staff.

Community/Business Support

In a 2021 survey by the Park City Chamber of Commerce, 177 businesses were asked how important a variety of issues were to their business. It was found that 40% of businesses surveyed reported that “access to child care” is important or very important to them.⁷⁴ However, access to childcare was the lowest ranked concern overall, as detailed in Figure 10.

Figure 10: Park City Chamber of Commerce Survey Results (2021)



Source: Park City Chamber of Commerce Survey, 2021

⁷² <https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/cachelp/onepager.pdf>

⁷³ Rebecca Ullrich, Katie Hamm, and Rachel Herzfeldt-Kamprath, “Underpaid and Unequal,” Center for American Progress, August 26, 2016, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2016/08/26/141738/underpaid-and-unequal/>; Simon Workman and Rebecca Ullrich, “Quality 101: Identifying the Core Components of a High-Quality Early Childhood Program,” Center for American Progress, February 13, 2017.

⁷⁴ Email between Kristen Schultz, Early Childhood Alliance and Jennifer Wesselhoff, Park City Chamber of Commerce, June 2021.

Early Childhood Educator Compensation

Despite the high cost of childcare, early care educators in the United States are poorly compensated for their work. These educators experience food insecurity, postponement of medical treatment, and mental health issues due to financial instability. Childcare educators cannot be expected to effectively deliver quality child care services when they themselves are facing unstable conditions.⁷⁵

The lack of compensation for educators not only negatively impacts themselves, but also makes it difficult to sustain high-quality early childhood programs. Interviewees spoke to the low wages and high cost of living, which creates high staff turnover and difficulty recruiting staff for early care programs in Summit County. Additionally, community leaders highlighted that many early child educators lack benefits; for example, assistant teachers at the Park City School District preschool do not receive benefits since their hours are slightly less than full time.⁷⁶

To address this issue, other communities have implemented solutions that are both indirect, such as professional development or mentoring, and direct, such as wages and benefits; North Carolina, a national leader on this issue, has done both. The statewide [Teacher Education and Compensation Helps \(TEACH\)](#) program offers scholarships for two- and four-year degrees of prospective teachers pursuing early childhood education. It is funded publicly through the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG).⁷⁷ Complementing this program, the statewide [Child Care WAGES](#) program directly increases compensation by providing education-based salary supplements to early care educators. It is funded through a collaboration between the local nonprofit Smart Start and the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education.⁷⁸

Public Preschool

It is important to recognize that the early care and learning system is closely tied to the public K-12 system, for successful transition into kindergarten. Currently, there are 7 preschool programs in Summit County; 1 High-quality School Readiness classroom at Holy Cross Ministries, 4 in Park City SD, 1 in South Summit SD, and 1 in North Summit SD. Park City SD serves the most students overall, although their total enrollment has been declining the past five years. McPolin Elementary serves the largest proportion of Hispanic students, English language learners, and economically disadvantaged students in the county.

⁷⁵ Austin, "BUILD Initiative Blog | Supporting the Infant-Toddler Workforce"; Whitebrook et al., "Early Childhood Workforce Index 2018"; Ngozi Lawal and Erin Robinson, "Community Solutions to Supporting the Well-Being of Expectant Parents, Babies, and Toddlers: Reversing the Loss of Infant and Toddler Child Care Slots in Denver," Center for the Study of Social Policy, March 2020. <https://cssp.org/resource/community-solutions-to-supporting-the-well-being-of-expectant-parents-babies-and-toddlers/>

⁷⁶ Interview with Kathy Anderson, Park City School District Preschool.

⁷⁷ <https://www.thencit.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/North%20Carolina%20Case%20Study.pdf>

⁷⁸ <https://www.childcareservices.org/programs/wages/#overview>

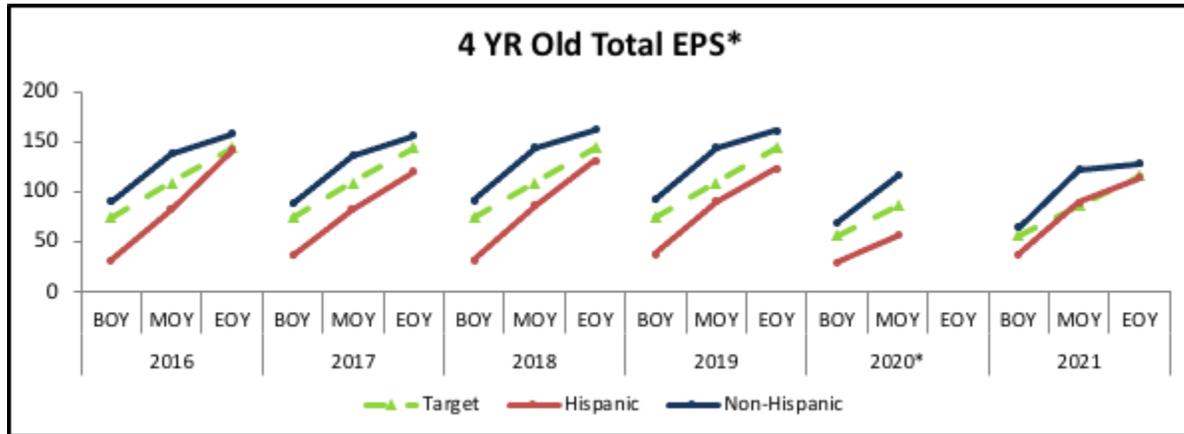
Table 22: Preschools at Public Schools, recognized as Exempt Centers by Child Care Licensing and Office of Child Care

| Name | Location | Licensed Capacity | Hours | Ages Licensed to Serve |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Jeremy Ranch Elementary Preschool | Park City | 56 | 3yo: 2 days/week 8:15am - 11:15pm 4yo: M-Th 8:15am - 3:05pm | 3-4 |
| McPolin Elementary Preschool | Park City | 56 | 3yo: 2 days/week 8:15am - 11:15pm 4yo: M-Th 8:15am - 3:05pm | 3-4 |
| Parley's Park Elementary Preschool | Park City | 36 | 3yo: 2 days/week 8:15am - 11:15pm 4yo: M-Th 8:15am - 3:05pm | 3-4 |
| Trailside Elementary Preschool | Park City | 30 | 3yo: 2 days/wk 8:15am - 11:15pm 4yo: M-Th 8:15am - 3:05pm | 3-4 |
| North Summit Elementary Preschool | Coalville | 30 | T-Th 7:45am - 2:15pm | |
| South Summit Preschool | Kamas | 10 (for students with IEP) | 3yo: W-Th 9am - 10:30 am 4yo: 2 days/wk M/T 9:00am - 11:30am OR M/W 12:30 - 3:00pm OR T/Th 12:30 - 3:00pm | 3-4 |

Source: Utah State Department of Health, Child Care Licensing; and Care About Childcare

Data from the Park City School District preschool programs indicates student growth in key skills over time on the Early Preschool Skills test. Testing from beginning, middle, and end of year shows progress for enrolled children over the school year, with most students reaching the target range by the end of the year. However, Hispanic students tend to score consistently lower than non-Hispanic students.

Figure 11: Early Preschool Skills Test, Park City School District



Source: Park City School District Preschool Program.

*The median score (in green) represents the point at which 50% of students scored higher and 50% scored lower.

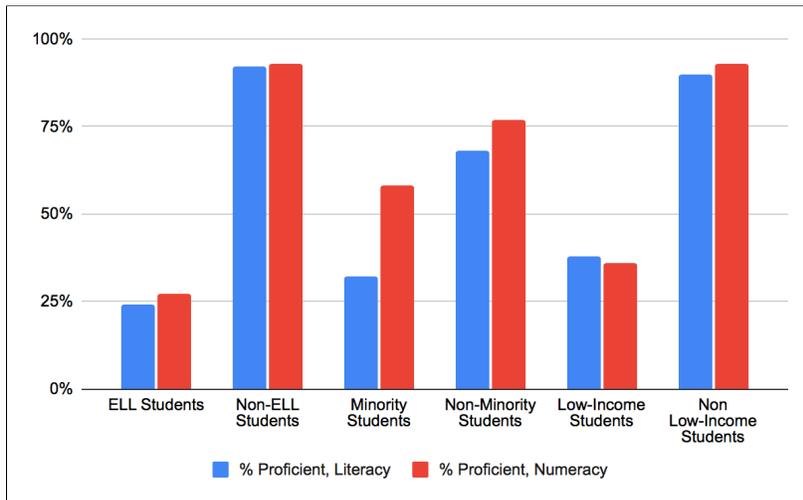
Table 23: Park City Preschool Demographics Over Time

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | N (%) |
| TOTAL | 200 | 197 | 159 | 166 | 165 | 146 |
| Hispanic | 44 (22) | 47 (24) | 43 (27) | 37 (22) | 45 (28) | 39 (20) |
| Low-Income | 20 (10) | 2 (1) | 32 (20) | 32 (19) | 26 (16) | 22 (15) |
| Hispanic & Low Income | 19 (10) | 1 (.5) | 24 (15) | 21 (13) | 18 (11) | 15 (10) |
| Special Education | 10 (5) | 2 (1) | 12 (8) | 10 (6) | 11 (7) | 12 (8) |
| 3 Year Olds | 81 | 51 | 55 | 54 | 45 | 40 |
| Hispanic | 11 (14) | 7 (14) | 8 (15) | 10 (19) | 7 (16) | 8 (20) |
| Low-Income | 1 (1) | 0 | 6 (11) | 5 (9) | 2 (4) | 6 (15) |
| Hispanic & Low Income | 1 (1) | 0 | 2 (4) | 2 (4) | -- | 3 (8) |
| Special Education | 2 (2) | 0 | 2 (4) | 3 (6) | 4 (9) | 2 (5) |
| 4 Year Olds | 119 | 141 | 104 | 112 | 110 | 106 |
| Hispanic | 33 (28) | 39 (28) | 35 (34) | 27 (24) | 38 (35) | 21 (20) |
| Low-Income | 19 (16) | 2 (1.4) | 26 (25) | 27 (24) | 24 (22) | 16 (15) |
| Hispanic & Low Income | 18 (15) | 1 (.7) | 22 (21) | 19 (17) | 17 (16) | 12 (11) |
| Special Education | 8 (7) | 2 (1.4) | 10 (10) | 7 (6) | 7 (6) | 10 (10) |

Source: Park City School District Preschool Program

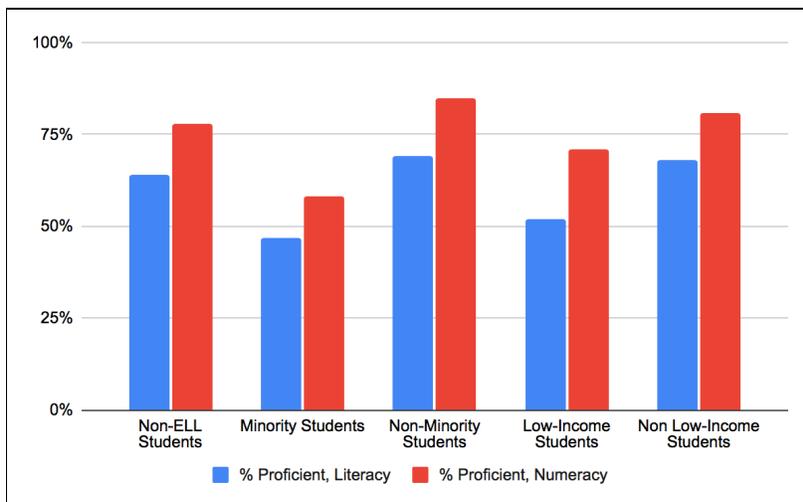
Despite academic gains made in preschool, the kindergarten readiness exam, KEEP, consistently shows that low-income, English Language Learners (ELL), and minority students in Summit County score significantly lower than their counterparts.⁷⁹ In addition, elementary schools in Summit County serve significant populations of students who could benefit from high-quality early learning experiences.

Figure 12: Park City SD Student Proficiency Rates, KEEP Entry Assessment, 2020



Source: Email from Jon Collins, Utah State Board of Education to Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance

Figure 13: North Summit SD Student Proficiency Rates, KEEP Entry Assessment, 2020

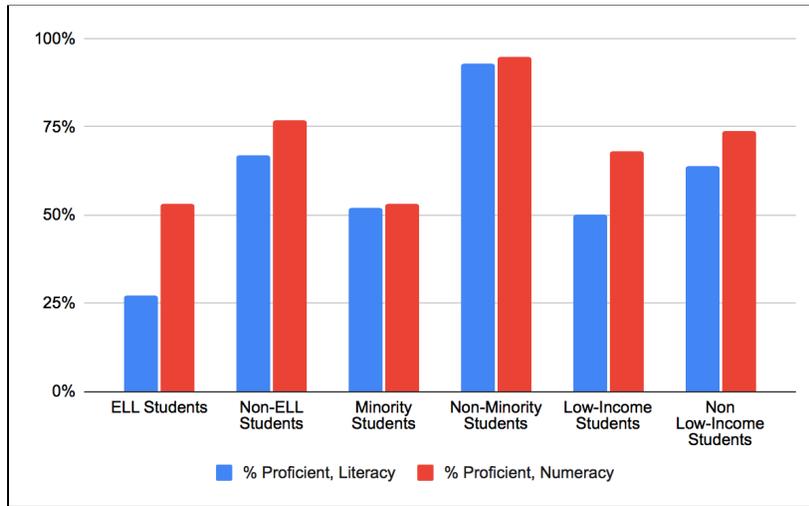


Source: Email from Jon Collins, Utah State Board of Education to Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance

Note: ELL Student proficiency was not included in USBE-reported data

⁷⁹ Information provided via email on 1/14/21 and 1/30/21 by Jon Collins, Research Consultant, Utah State Board of Education to Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance.

Figure 14: South Summit SD Student Proficiency Rates, KEEP Entry Assessment, 2020



Source: Email from Jon Collins, Utah State Board of Education to Kristen Schulz, Early Childhood Alliance

Table 24: Elementary School Demographics, October 2020

| | Hispanic Students | White Students | Economically Disadvantaged Students | English Learner Students | Students with a Disability | Students in Preschool |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Park City SD | | | | | | |
| Jeremy Ranch Elem | 16.3% | 77.9% | 15.5% | 13.4% | 5.4% | 45 |
| McPolin Elem | 42.9% | 50.6% | 39.4% | 32.3% | 4.0% | 41 |
| Parley's Park Elem | 20.8% | 74.1% | 17.4% | 15.9% | 7.7% | 30 |
| Trailside Elem | 16.7% | 76.4% | 17.7% | 11.8% | 6.7% | 28 |
| North Summit SD | | | | | | |
| North Summit School | 18.8% | 80.3% | 27.0% | 9.0% | 14.0% | 26 |
| South Summit SD | | | | | | |
| Silver Summit School | 7.4% | 90.8% | 7.4% | 0.0% | 1.9% | N/A |
| South Summit School | 13.2% | 85.8% | 21.1% | 10.9% | 9.6% | 31 |

Source: Utah State Board of Education, Fall Enrollment by Demographics and Grade
<https://schools.utah.gov/superintendentannualreport>

Social Connections & Family Supports

Social networks often begin at the community level through workshops, events, and peer groups;⁸⁰ offering opportunities for parents to build their social networks and connect with those going through similar experiences can be extremely beneficial for parent and child wellbeing.⁸¹ Additionally, communities that empower parent voice and encourage parent leadership roles are well equipped to identify gaps in services and ultimately strengthen their early childhood system.⁸²

Key Findings and Opportunities

- Summit County is a tight knit community and families often learn about services through word of mouth or informal provider referrals.
- There is a lack of services and resources provided in Spanish, creating information gaps and long wait times. Interviewees indicated there were only two Spanish-speaking mental health counselors available in the county.
- Providing centralized access to programs and services, via community navigators or a brick-and-mortar community center, could greatly benefit the community.
- To further the county's focus on equity, intentionally elevating parent voices in the early childhood space could allow for ownership of the system among those it serves.

By the Numbers

- ❖ **10% of Summit County residents are foreign-born⁸³**
- ❖ **Average of 175 Child Protective Services cases per year, approximately 33% with supported allegations**

Summit County is a tight-knit community with relatively strong social connections and family support. Community leaders and philanthropic donors are invested in improving the community and ensure equity and inclusivity is at the center of their work. Their commitment to advocate for marginalized communities, particularly the Latinx community, has prompted providers to find innovative ways to spread information and build trust. Due to its small size, providers often use their personal connections to refer clients to other necessary services.

However, Summit County's informal referral system relies on the provider's time and knowledge to access the necessary resources; employing members of the community as community

⁸⁰ Franklin, "Ripples of Transformation: Families Leading Change in Early Childhood Systems"; Juanita Gallion and Scott Hebert, "Fostering Resident Voice and Influence in Community Change: The Making Connections Experience with Resident Engagement and Leadership," Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2016. <https://cssp.org/resource/fostering-resident-voice/>

⁸¹ "Welcome to the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)," NICHQ - National Institute for Children's Health Quality, accessed December 15, 2020. <https://www.nichq.org/welcome-national-institute-childrens-health-quality-nichq>

⁸² "Parent & Family Engagement: A Community Action Brief" (Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2019). <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Community-Action-Brief-Family-FINAL.pdf>

⁸³ U.S. Census Bureau (2015-2019). American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

navigators could maintain existing trust while ensuring families are matched to the most impactful resources and services available. Interviewees also saw a centralized access point for a multitude of resources as promising to connect families and foster community. Finally, a majority of leaders interviewed pointed to the lack of services and resources available in Spanish, which severely limits the reach of programs and further disadvantages already vulnerable populations. Addressing these gaps will allow all families to access information and resources in the local community, empowering them to achieve more for themselves and their children.⁸⁴

Social Groups

Social groups offer parents the opportunity to connect with community members with similar interests, experiences, or values, benefitting both their own and their children's wellbeing.⁸⁵ These groups can be informal, such as family, friend, or neighborhood connections, or emerge from more structured environments, such as religious settings. In Summit County, there are many tight-knit communities and religious organizations that contribute to families' social networks. Public events like storytimes at Summit County library locations and the Park City Library provide child-oriented social groups for families. Formal groups such as the Hive Family Collective intentionally target families, bringing together parents who can support each other from pregnancy to parenthood; they offer free programming such as a weekly peer support group, monthly education discussions with practitioners, and summer hiking socials. Finally, organizations like The Healing Group and Postpartum Support International offer support groups to new mothers struggling with anxiety and depression.



⁸⁴ Jamie Colvard and Julie Cohen, "Cross-System Collaboration to Better Support Babies in New Jersey: Providing Families with a Single Point of Entry for Accessing Services," ZERO TO THREE, January 8, 2019. <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2598-cross-system-collaboration-to-better-support-babies-in-new-jersey-providing-families-with-a-single-point-of-entry-for-accessing-services>

⁸⁵ Franklin, "Ripples of Transformation: Families Leading Change in Early Childhood Systems"; Juanita Gallion and Scott Hebert, "Fostering Resident Voice and Influence in Community Change: The Making Connections Experience with Resident Engagement and Leadership," Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2016. <https://cssp.org/resource/fostering-resident-voice/>

Parenting Classes

Parents are a child’s first teacher, and by providing them with information on developmentally-appropriate parenting strategies, they are better positioned to support their child throughout their development. Empowering parents with this knowledge is especially important during the first years of their child’s life, when the brain is rapidly developing.⁸⁶ Summit County currently has multiple parenting classes, several of which focus on early childhood.

Table 25: Parenting Classes in Summit County

| Program | Organization |
|--|----------------------------|
| Parent Group Connections | Holy Cross Ministries |
| Park City Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) | Mountain Life Church |
| Parenting the Love and Logic Way | Utah State University |
| Newborn and New Parent classes | Wasatch Pediatrics |
| Guiding Good Choices | Holy Cross Ministries |
| Strong Parents, Strong Kids | Summit County Health Dept. |

Child Welfare

Healthy development during childhood cannot be achieved without safety from abuse and neglect. In Utah, the most vulnerable group of children are those between 0-5 years old. Most commonly, parents are the perpetrators of child maltreatment.⁸⁷

38% of child abuse cases in Utah involve 0-5 year olds

The Utah Division of Child and Family Service (DCFS) reported an average of 175 child protective service cases per year for Summit County over the past five years. Additionally, Summit is home to relatively few children in foster care (<25).⁸⁸ The Summit County Attorney’s Office has spearheaded child safety programming in the area, establishing both Camp Safety and The Children’s Justice Center. Camp Safety, a summer camp, teaches children entering

⁸⁶ “Strengthening Families: Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development,” Center for the Study of Social Policy, accessed December 15, 2020. <https://cssp.org/resource/sf-knowledge-of-parenting-and-child-development/>

⁸⁷ <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2017.pdf#page=130>; Utah Division of Child and Family Services,” Utah Department of Human Services, Child and Family Services. <https://dcfs.utah.gov/>

⁸⁸ Email from Lesley Lundeburg, Data and Analytics Administrator, DCFS to Becca Hanlin, Sorenson Impact Center (6/9/2021).

kindergarten and 1st grade how to stay safe and handle a variety of dangerous situations. The Children’s Justice Center in Summit County conducts child abuse investigations and provides children and their family with referrals to other resources, such as mental health counseling, medical care, and victim support. Peace House also provides support to mothers and children experiencing domestic violence through services such as counseling, support groups, safe housing, and victim advocacy.

Table 26: Child Protective Services (CPS) Cases

| Year | Total CPS Cases | Cases with a Supported Allegation | Cases with a Support Domestic Violence Related Child Abuse Allegation |
|------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2016 | 191 | 57 (30%) | 31 (16%) |
| 2017 | 175 | 53 (30%) | 31 (18%) |
| 2018 | 190 | 63 (33%) | 27 (14%) |
| 2019 | 169 | 59 (35%) | 26 (15%) |
| 2020 | 149 | 57 (38%) | <25 (<17%) |

Source: Email from Lesley Lundeburg, Data and Analytics Administrator, DCFS to Becca Hanlin, Sorenson Impact Center. June 9, 2021.

Legal Services

Providing legal services, especially in areas with concentrated immigrant populations, is essential to ensure children and families have access to resources and programming. In Summit County, the Legal Immigration Program at Holy Cross Ministries and the Immigration Legal Clinic at the Christian Center provide services such as legal consultation, citizenship and naturalization services, and humanitarian assistance to low-income and disadvantaged individuals to overcome these barriers.

Connection and Referral

Systematically connecting families with multiple programs or services, via community navigators, ensures families receive the help and support needed for their unique situation.⁸⁹ From 2018-2020, ECIDS data indicates that many children under 6 were enrolled in multiple services at a time.

⁸⁹ Jamie Colvard and Julie Cohen, “Cross-System Collaboration.”

Table 27: ECIDS Child Counts by Crossover Program

| | ASQ | BTOTS | CCS | WIC |
|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| ASQ | x | 12 | 5 | 23 |
| BTOTS | 12 | x | 6 | 55 |
| CCS | 5 | 6 | x | 30 |
| WIC | 23 | 55 | 30 | x |

Source: Email from Stephen Matherly, Utah Department of Health to Allison Nicholson, Sorenson Impact Center. June 21, 2021.

ASQ - Ages & Stages Questionnaire

BTOTS - Baby Watch Early Intervention Program

CCS - Child Care Subsidy

WIC - Women Infants & Children

To ensure connections and referrals occur, there are many existing services Summit County residents can access. 211 Utah, a free, confidential helpline, connects individuals with any necessary health or human resources. Help Me Grow Utah, an information and referral helpline specifically for children and families, is also available; they served 63 children in 34 families during 2020. Finally, online sources dedicated to outlining the information, resources, and programs available to families exist at the both the state level, at Uplift Families, and the local level, at the Early Childhood Alliance.

63 **34**
children **families**
served by Help Me Grow
in Summit County in
2020⁹⁰

Many community leaders interviewed spoke to the small size of the community, making it relatively easy for providers themselves to connect clients to other services. Yet, supporting a system with dedicated community navigators not only removes the burden from individual providers but also ensures that all children and families are provided with the most appropriate services to meet their needs. For example, the Christian Center utilizes case managers and Basic Needs Assistance (BNA) navigators to coordinate, evaluate, and navigate service options to best meet the needs of each client. The Christian Center has also partnered with McPolin Elementary, which has significant percentages of economically disadvantaged and ELL students, and UW Promise Partnership, to provide wraparound services for families. At Holy Cross Ministries, the Promator/a program engages bilingual, bicultural community health workers to help families navigate the health and social service systems.

⁹⁰ Early Childhood Alliance analysis, provided to Sorenson Impact Center.

The value of community navigators could be further extended by considering the ease of access, delivery of services, and community leadership. At [Help Me Grow](#) in Kent County, MI, community navigators are easily accessible to all families via phone, email, or web chat. They identify and address all needs through in-depth conversations then ensure all needs are met by conducting follow-up calls to clients two weeks after their initial contact. For the [Ramsey County Early Childhood Initiative](#) in Minnesota, they placed parent voice at the center of their efforts to redesign navigation protocols. Not only did the effort create greater alignment among the providers serving the families, it also allowed parents to take ownership over the system. Even once navigation systems are established, community members can still play an active role by becoming navigators themselves; their cultural competency and community credibility can be leveraged to reach more individuals.

Cultural & Language Barriers

New American families, which make up 10 percent of the Summit County population, may have limited English language proficiency, making it difficult for them to access information, resources, and services provided only in English. Providing services with translation or in families' native language is widely recognized as necessary across the health and education fields to effectively serve children and families.⁹¹

Providing translation for or services in Spanish was a recurring theme in interviews with community leaders. Currently, there are only two Spanish-speaking counselors and limited Spanish-speaking childcare providers in Summit County. Additionally, organizations recognized that not all the Spanish-speaking parents and families have strong literacy skills, making written resources (even those in Spanish) inaccessible to some; in response, creating innovative communication strategies, such as leveraging Facebook's video feature, helps to spread information.

2

Spanish speaking counselors in Summit County

Also a theme among interviews with community leaders in Summit County was a hesitancy to trust government and institutions among the Latinx and Hispanic communities, particularly those who are undocumented. Parents are often reluctant to speak up and seek out services that their child may be eligible for, and processes like Medicaid applications can be a barrier to enrolling for families when personal information is required to be given to governmental and other entities. One strategy to overcome a lack of trust with institutions is to engage with community leaders to act as bridges between institutions and community members by creating peer-to-peer referrals for services and programs.

⁹¹ "Importance of Language Services" Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2008/06/importance-of-language-services.html>; "English Language Learners: What you need to know" National Education Association, 23 June 2020. <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/english-language-learners-what-you-need-know>

Centralized Access Point

Families' needs can be holistically addressed when funneled through a centralized access point, which often means co-locating services for ease of access; this can occur within schools, healthcare facilities, government offices, or in standalone spaces. While no such space currently exists in Summit County, many interviewees considered this to be a promising avenue to better serve families.

Examples of successfully creating community hubs are abundant; in upstate New York, the [Adirondack Birth to Three Alliance](#) created family resources centers, a one-stop shop for families to receive support for multiple needs. Similarly, in Kent County, MI, the [Great Start Parent Coalition](#) created family support stations, mobile resource centers that connect families to a variety of resources by locating in areas that families already frequent. Finally, the [Utah Association of Family Support Centers](#) has multiple locations across the state, strengthening families by providing 24-hour crisis and referral services and parent and youth education, as well as additional services tailored to the needs of the community.



Economic Supports

Parents' ability to meet their own and their children's basic needs is largely dependent on their financial means. As mentioned previously, the cost of housing in Summit County is disproportionately higher than the state of Utah, limiting parents' expendable income for other necessities and lifestyle choices. Parents' educational attainment and career opportunities and choices directly affect their income. Additionally, there are several governmental programs designed to supplement family income both generally and focused on specific aspects such as housing and nutrition.

Key Findings and Opportunities

- There are no educational attainment nor career advancement programs specifically for Summit County parents.
- The high cost of housing in Summit County, mentioned as a challenge for families in the majority of interviews conducted, creates barriers to families' economic stability.
- Financial and basic need supports available to families are limited to national welfare programs with strict eligibility criteria and local nonprofits.
- Financial assistance to families to offset the cost of housing and other basic needs would greatly benefit families.

Meeting a family's basic needs first (e.g., food, clothing, safe and secure housing) allows the family to then support their children's additional developmental and emotional needs. All interviewees recognized this, and reported on the generous philanthropic community that supports local nonprofits to provide financial and other basic needs to supplement governmental aid programs.

By the Numbers

- ❖ **36% single-mother families with children under 5 fall below the FPL⁹²**
- ❖ **1 in 3 women who gave birth in the last 12 months had no college⁹³**
- ❖ **13% of children in Summit County experience food insecurity⁹⁴**

Due to Summit County's unique position as a resort destination, the economic situation of families residing in the area is especially important to consider. Current supports available to families are limited to national welfare programs with strict eligibility criteria. As such, there are opportunities for improvement by implementing parent career advancement and direct financial

⁹² ACS 5-year estimates, Table DP03.

⁹³ ACS 2019 5-year estimates, Table B13014.

⁹⁴Food Access Profile: Summit County" Utahns Against Hunger. 28 June 2019.

[https://www.uah.org/images/pdfs-doc/County%20Food%20Access%20Profiles%202019/FINAL%20Summit%20County%20Food%20Access%20Profile%20-%206.24.2019%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.uah.org/images/pdfs-doc/County%20Food%20Access%20Profiles%202019/FINAL%20Summit%20County%20Food%20Access%20Profile%20-%206.24.2019%20(1).pdf)

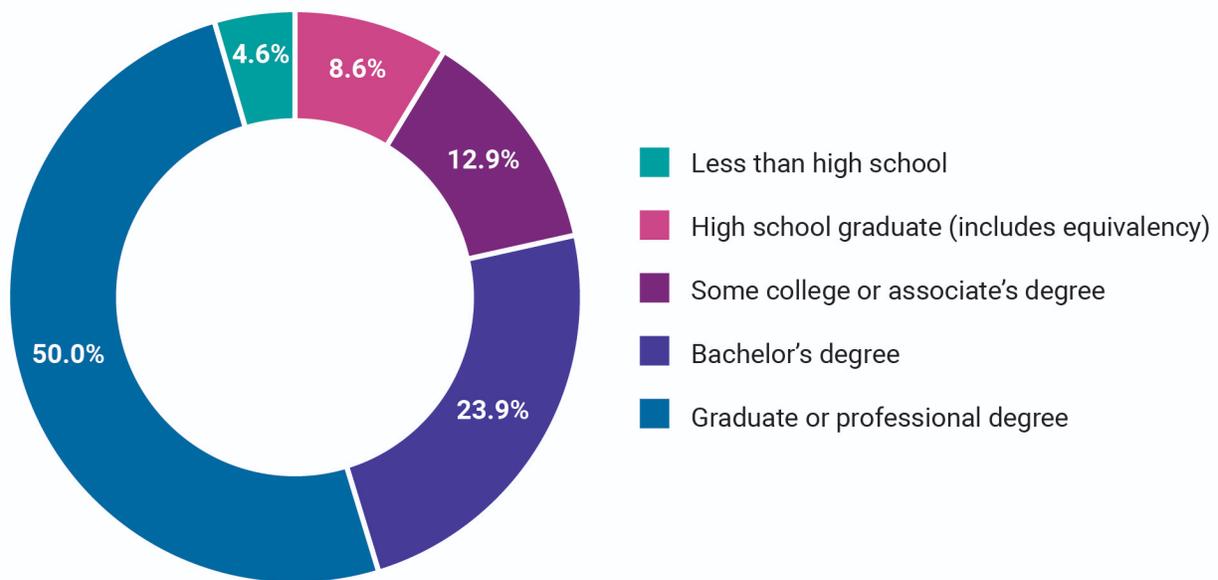
support programs. This is critical for families' well-being; when the adults in children's lives have greater economic stability, they are more able to support their children's development.⁹⁵

Parents' Educational Attainment

Education is correlated with higher income levels, lower poverty rates, and increased employment security. The link is well established between a mother's educational attainment and increased proficiency in literacy and numeracy, enrollment in early learning opportunities, and also several child health outcomes. Once a woman gives birth, she faces additional barriers to completing her education and obtaining more advanced education. Providing parents with opportunities to further their education not only allows them to obtain more stable, high-paying employment but also better support their children.⁹⁶

Of the women who gave birth in Summit County in the last 12 months, 41% had a bachelor's degree, 23% had a graduate or professional degree, 22% had some college or associate's degree, and 13% had a high school diploma.⁹⁷ While there are no dedicated parent education programs in the area, there are higher education providers such as Utah Valley University Heber location and Utah State University Summit County Extension office.

Figure 15: Levels of education for mothers who gave birth in the last 12 months in Summit County



Source: ACS 2019 5-year estimates, TableID B13014

⁹⁵ "2016-2018 Biennial Report to the Nebraska Legislature" (Sixpence Early Learning Fund, January 2019). <https://www.thencit.org/resources/2016-2018-biennial-report-to-the-nebraska-legislature>.

⁹⁶ <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED558149.pdf>

⁹⁷ <https://www.sorensonimpact.com/early-childhood-data-dashboard>

Parents' Career Advancement

Parents are more likely to successfully support their child's development if they themselves have the skills for gainful employment.⁹⁸ Career training can be an avenue to better outcomes for families, yet the cost and time commitment of such programs can also be prohibitive for low-income families.⁹⁹ Research shows that the cycle of poverty can be extremely difficult to overcome; yet with the personalized support from the community, empowered individuals can become financially stable.¹⁰⁰

There are currently no career training programs that specifically target parents in Summit County. The Department of Workforce Services provides general services to help job seekers and business owners with two locations in Summit County: Park City and Heber. Due to the two ski resorts located in Summit County, the local economy is heavily dependent on tourism and a significant portion of the workforce is employed in the hospitality, recreation, and service industries.

Table 28: Employment by industry in Summit County, 2017-2020

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Accommodation and Food Services | 12.2% | 11.8% | 11.9% | 10.2% |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 7.8% | 7.8% | 7.8% | 7.4% |
| Food Services and Drinking Places | 7.1% | 6.9% | 6.6% | 6.6% |
| Retail Trade | 6.8% | 6.8% | 6.5% | 6.4% |
| Amusement, Gambling & Recreation | 6.7% | 6.7% | 6.5% | 6.0% |
| Accommodation | 5.1% | 4.9% | 5.3% | 4.3% |
| Construction | 3.3% | 3.5% | 3.6% | 4.2% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 2.9% | 2.9% | 2.9% | 3.2% |
| Education Services | 2.7% | 2.8% | 2.8% | 2.9% |
| Professional and Technical Services | 2.6% | 2.8% | 2.7% | 2.7% |

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Utah Economic Data Viewer

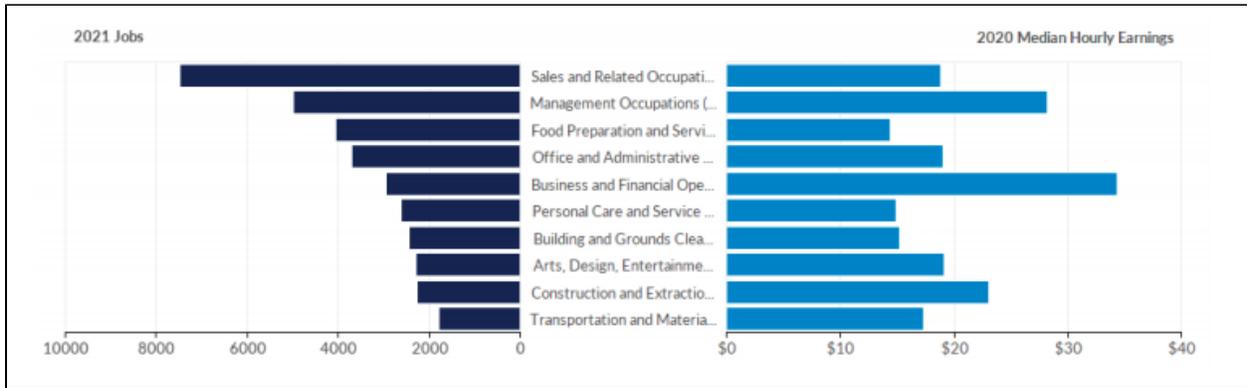
<https://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/utalmis/#/industry/list>

⁹⁸ "2016-2018 Biennial Report to the Nebraska Legislature" (Sixpence Early Learning Fund).

⁹⁹ P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale et al., "Effects of a Two-Generation Human Capital Program on Low-Income Parents' Education, Employment, and Psychological Wellbeing," *Journal of Family Psychology* 33, no. 4 (2019): 433-43.

¹⁰⁰ Stand Together, "How to Escape the Poverty Trap for Good," *The Guardian*, accessed December 15, 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/advertiser-content/stand-together/how-to-escape-the-poverty-trap-for-good>.

Figure 16: Largest Occupations in Summit County



Source: Jeff Jones, Summit County Economic Development. EMSI data Highest Ranked Occupations 2021 to 2031

Basic Needs

All of the interviewees recognized families’ basic needs as a significant need in the county. In Summit County:

- 36%** of single-mother households with children under 5 are below the federal poverty level (FPL)¹⁰¹
- 13%** of Summit County children experience food insecurity¹⁰²
- 22%** of children in all six Summit County elementary schools receive free and reduced-price lunch¹⁰³

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is available through the Department of Workforce Services, it is estimated very few households participate in Summit County.

¹⁰¹ ACS 5-year estimates, Table DP03.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Utah State Board of Education, Child Nutrition Program October Survey. Available at: <https://www.schools.utah.gov/data/reports?mid=1424&tid=2>

1.4% of households participate in SNAP,¹⁰⁴ totalling only:

21% of all eligible families¹⁰⁵

To supplement nutrition, Summit County also has food pantries available to the community, including the Community Action Services & Food Bank in Coalville and Kamas, the Christian Center Food Pantry, and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Park City.

1/2 of all SNAP participants are children¹⁰⁶

\$392 average monthly SNAP benefit for households with children in 2017¹⁰⁷

Given the lack of access many immigrant families have to federal food assistance programs, the [Preventative Food Pantry](#) in Boston has maximized immigrant access by providing food security screenings and healthy pantries as part of local health clinics, regardless of insurance.

Local organizations in Summit have also recognized the need for basic goods, such as furniture and clothes. The Christian Center manages two thrift stores, one in Park City and one in Heber, to provide affordable goods for families in need. Jewish Family Services also provides thrift store vouchers as part of their Safety Net program. Additionally, seasonal drives by the Christian Center, such as Back 2 School Basics, Easter Basket Outreach, and Operation Hope (at Christmas), provide families with basic goods at critical times. The Gabriel Project at St. Mary's Catholic Church also provides time-sensitive services by targeting new and expecting mothers to provide free maternity clothing, baby clothing, diapers, and other baby supplies.¹⁰⁸

70% of homes in Park City are considered unoccupied due to second home ownership

¹⁰⁴ ACS 2019 5-year estimates, Table DP03.

¹⁰⁵ "Food Access Profile: Summit County" Utahns Against Hunger. 28 June 2019.

<https://www.uah.org/images/pdfs-doc/County%20Food%20Access%20Profiles%202019/FINAL%20Summit%20County%20Food%20Access%20Profile%20-%206.24.2019%20.pdf>

¹⁰⁶ "Chart Book: SNAP Helps Struggling Families Put Food on the Table," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. November 7, 2019.

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/chart-book-snap-helps-struggling-families-put-food-on-the-table#part2>

¹⁰⁷ Ibid

¹⁰⁸ Saint Mary's Catholic Church Park City, Gabriel Project. <https://www.stmarysparkcity.com/gabriel-project>

Finally, the high cost of housing makes it difficult for families to afford rent. In Park City, 70 percent of homes are considered unoccupied due to second home ownership,¹⁰⁹ and it is estimated that the Park City School District has between 51-125 students experiencing homelessness.¹¹⁰ The Mountainland Community Housing Trust addresses housing affordability and availability in Summit County by encouraging new construction of affordable housing, providing direct assistance in securing housing, and promoting education on housing policy. In 2020, they served 381 individuals in their Transitional and Temporary Housing program.

51-125 students in the Park City School District experience homelessness

Buncombe County, NC, which faces similar housing challenges, formed the [Community Oriented Development](#) program, which provides incentives for developers and advocates for land-use regulation changes to increase affordable housing availability.

Direct Financial Support

Children who experience poverty are more likely to have lower academic achievement, worse health outcomes, and fewer well-paying employment opportunities.¹¹¹ Providing families with direct financial support can positively impact their present wellbeing and long-term outcomes. The need for families to have access to direct financial support was also a theme heard throughout interviews conducted for this needs assessment with Summit County nonprofits, county officials, and school employees.

At the state level, the Department of Workforce Services oversees the Family Employment Program (FEP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), both of which provide cash assistance to eligible families. In Summit County, Community Action Services and Food Bank serves as the local contact for the TANF Family Housing program, which helps families in short-term crisis with a demonstrated history of housing and employment stability obtain stable housing through providing deposits, utility assistance, rent assistance, and back payment.¹¹²

Recognizing this problem, the Christian Center provides direct financial assistance through the Basic Needs Assistance fund, which clients typically use for rent but can also be applied to

¹⁰⁹ Interview with Jeff Jones, Summit County Economic Development

¹¹⁰ Utah State Board of Education, Number of Homeless Students in Each LEA, available at: <https://schools.utah.gov/file/68634f68-1644-46ef-ac9f-71fc28fc70b1> (accessed on 8/12/2020).

¹¹¹ Arloc Sherman and Tazra Mitchell, "Economic Security Programs Help Low-Income Children Succeed Over Long Term, Many Studies Find," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, July 17, 2017.

¹¹² <https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/data/misstats/grants/index.html>

other issues such as food, clothing, or transportation. In March 2020, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Christian Center of Park City started an emergency aid fund. Throughout 2020, Basic Needs Assistance made nearly \$1.4M in payments and served over 1,400 constituents, primarily to support households' rent payments (\$895,066).¹¹³ Similarly, Jewish Family Services maintains an Emergency Assistance Fund/Loan for those facing financial uncertainty, including eviction, suspension of utility services, unexpected medical bills, or rent payments.



¹¹³ <https://www.ccofpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ccpc-annual-report-03-21.pdf>

Conclusion

Summit County has valuable community resources and assets. With a philanthropic and equity-minded approach, leaders in the community are well-positioned to act on this Needs Assessment to address gaps in early childhood systems and services. This report highlights data and captures stakeholder insight into the needs of the community as well as the opportunities and ideas to continue moving early childhood forward. While the focus was on the needs of children ages 0-4 and the programs, resources, and services that address those needs, it is abundantly clear that the larger issue of poverty and families' economic security is inextricably foundational to children's healthy development and early learning.

As a destination and resort community, Summit County faces large stratification of wealth and opportunity. Service and support workers struggle to afford everyday necessities, leaving little room in the family budget for child care or other high-quality early learning experiences and developmentally appropriate activities. Interviewees consistently identified common needs among families with young children, including housing, transportation, child care, mental health services, and basic needs. Navigators, who help families connect with services and tackle language and bureaucratic challenges, were frequently mentioned as an impactful means to address inequities and family needs. Additionally, providers and community leaders recognized the need for more Spanish language services and providers in health care, child care, connection and referral roles. As early childhood services involve multiple agencies and service sectors, a cross-sector family support hub, with transportation barriers of those it aims to serve in mind, could add considerable value to the county.

The Early Childhood Alliance (ECA) plays a key role in the community, and is in a strong position to increase community buy-in, build strategic relationships, and continue to advocate for strong early childhood services. ECA is already convening important stakeholders in early childhood. Creating strong connections between early childhood issues, current key policy priorities, and other "unsuspecting sectors" in a community ensures a continued focus on early childhood and infuses momentum into community development efforts more broadly. Such nontraditional partners might be economic development, planning and zoning, the business community, housing, transportation, or other poverty support services. This integration can elicit additional thought partnership, unlock additional opportunities to blend and braid different funding streams, and build capacity in other areas to potentially reduce duplication of efforts. Most importantly, it keeps early childhood issues and ideas elevated in planning and policy decisions, creating a foundation for lifelong success, equity, and return on investment for the community as a whole.

Appendix A. Community-Level Early Childhood System Infrastructure

Governance

An intentional governance structure at the community level can connect learning, health and family support services together, ensuring coordination among fragmented programs and services. In addition, governance facilitates functions such as data sharing and integration, coordination of funding, and streamlining messaging and communication. Funding a key staff person, or multiple staff, greatly increases the likelihood for successful implementation. Coordination, alignment, and system-building work takes significant time, concerted effort, and resources. Key personnel maintain a pulse on the early childhood work occurring in the community, across sectors and groups, and drive forward the strategic efforts and initiatives of the community. This systems-level work to bolster a multi-partner initiative differs from traditional program-level work. A dedicated staff person is able to focus on this specific system-level work stream and convenes key partners, stays connected to key policy agendas that impact young children, and fosters relationships with decision makers at the local and state levels, building political and public will.

The Early Childhood Alliance plays this key role in Summit County, and should continue to designate a coordinator and foster relationships and outreach in the community. In addition, there are several other entities that play a key connecting role for families through their multi-support models. For example, the Christian Center utilizes a continuum of care to address family needs that span basic needs assistance to mental health counseling, and connecting families with outside entities that provide additional resources. Holy Cross Ministries employs community health workers to specifically address needs in the Latinx community through the Promotor/a Outreach Program.

Data Sharing

The extent to which a community intentionally formalizes their early childhood governance and data processes and structures affects their longevity and sustainability to outlive political and administrative changes. This formalization process goes beyond best practices of appointing or convening a group of key stakeholders to oversee the work of the project or initiative, and instead supports permanence by adopting official policies and procedures. Early childhood programs are managed by a variety of government, nonprofit, and private agencies. While each organization likely collects data, it is impossible to attain a comprehensive picture of the services a child receives without systematically sharing data. Data sharing systems take time and commitment to create and maintain, yet ultimately allows community leaders to more effectively service young children and their families.¹¹⁴

¹¹⁴ Elliot Regenstein, "An Unofficial Guide to the Why and How of State Early Childhood Data Systems" The Ounce, 22 August 2017. https://startearly.org/app/uploads/pdf/PolicyPaper_UnofficialGuide.pdf

Summit County doesn't have a formalized early childhood data sharing infrastructure. However, the state's Early Childhood Utah Advisory Council is building a Community Assessment Tool (CAT) through its ECIDS system, which will have features for community-level analysis.

Other communities have recognized the importance of data sharing and benefited greatly from such efforts. [One Voice for Volusia](#), based in Volusia and Flagler Counties, Florida, acts as a hub for community data, collecting and publishing a wide variety of statistics. The [Birth to Eight Collaborative Initiative](#) in Dakota County, Minnesota plays a similar role, having successfully navigated data privacy laws to expand data sharing provisions between the county and school districts.

Strategic Relationships and Community Buy-in

Relationships are vital to changemaking efforts, reflecting the adage “It’s not what you know, but who you know.” Ensuring the sustainability of local early childhood initiatives requires bringing together multiple sectors, agencies, and levels of leadership to promote the ongoing exchange of perspectives, resources, and support necessary to create lasting change. In a community initiative, engaging with local government and community leaders is paramount to success and sustainability. An often overlooked, but equally important partnership and group to engage are parents and families receiving services. These are the stakeholders with arguably the most important feedback.

A key element of community buy-in involves forming strong connections between traditional partners and non-traditional partners. These relationships can develop additional early childhood champions in unlikely places throughout the community, who can carry the banner for young children into other community development efforts while providing additional innovative solutions to address systems-change work.

Parent Voice/Engagement

Parents are a child’s first teacher, and now more than ever, community leaders recognize the importance of engaging parents in all aspects of early childhood systems building. Evidence demonstrates that when families are empowered to influence systems, outcomes for both systems and families improve.¹¹⁵

¹¹⁵ “Parent and Family Engagement: A Community Action Brief.” Center for the Study of Social Policy. <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Community-Action-Brief-Family-FINAL.pdf>

Elevating parent voice requires ongoing partnership, which communities have achieved in a variety of ways. In Ramsey County, MN, the [Ramsey County Early Childhood Initiatives \(RC-ECI\)](#) intentionally sought out parents’ perspectives, via surveys during the design and focus groups during the implementation of a new centralized access point for early childhood services. For Onondaga County, NY, the [Early Childhood Alliance’s](#) THRIVE Initiative engages parents continuously to identify barriers and strengthen programming in the community.

Funding

Funding and financing are arguably the first aspects that people think of when considering the sustainability of an early childhood initiative - is there an ongoing funding source? While this is an end goal, a community will be in a better position to seek additional funding if all other aspects of strong infrastructure and sustainability are also in place; specifically, ensuring that there is a trusted community entity to manage and distribute the funds is crucial. Some communities have identified new funding streams through avenues such as pooled philanthropic funding, a tax increase initiated through a ballot initiative, or tax credits to incentivize individuals and businesses to support children’s services and funds. Others tap into existing public funding streams that can be better utilized for the age 0-4 population.

Table 29: Examples of Local Dedicated Funding Sources for Early Childhood

| Community, State | Funding Initiative | Funding Source | Description |
|------------------|---|--|---|
| Kent County, MI | Ready by Five Early Childhood Millage | Millage (property tax) of \$0.25 for every \$1,000 of taxable value from 2019-2024 | Voters passed a ballot initiative for new dedicated funding for early childhood. |
| Boone County, MO | Children’s Services Fund | Quarter-cent county sales tax increase began in 2012. For every \$4 consumers spend in the county, 1 penny is given to the fund. | County citizens passed a proposition to create a dedicated children’s fund for children under age 19. |
| Aspen, CO | Kids First | 0.45% sales tax for affordable housing and childcare. Tax has been approved three times and is in place until 2038. | Childcare receives a portion of the dedicated sales tax fund, which is used to fund Kids First programs, resources and aid. |
| San Antonio, TX | Pre-K 4 SA | Sales tax increase of one-eighth cent began in 2013. | Voters approved a referendum to increase sales taxes to fund a |

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | voluntary full day kindergarten program for four year olds from low income families. |
| Seattle, WA | Families, Education, Preschool and Promise (FEPP) Levy | \$619 million property tax levy beginning in 2018 and going for seven years. | Seattle voters approved a seven-year Families, Education, Preschool and Promise (FEPP) Levy to invest in education including high-quality early learning preparing students for kindergarten. |
| Multnomah County, OR | Preschool for All | Personal Income Tax of 1.5% on taxable income over \$125,000 (individuals) and \$200,000 (joint filers), and additional 1.5% on taxable income over \$250,000 (individuals) and \$400,000 (joint) | Voters approved ballot measure in Nov 2020 for free preschool for all 3 and 4 yr olds |
| North Hollywood, CA | Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) | CBA with Valley Jobs Coalition, received \$44 million in public subsidies loans. | Provided on-site space for a child care center for low income families and to provide resources to maintain quality and affordability for families. |
| Pittsburg, PA | Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) | One Hill Coalition CBA with the developers of Pittsburgh Penguins arena, negotiated in 2008. | Created a youth center and gave \$8.3 million in neighborhood improvements. |

In addition, communities are in a unique time to be able to use historic investments from federal pandemic relief money. Governors have invested at the state level in key ECE supports through multiple funding sources. Local governments are also receiving significant amounts of funding. The CARES Act provided much needed funding during the peak of the pandemic, which communities utilized in innovative ways. Whatcom County, WA recognized child care businesses as foundational to their economy and pooled their funds to provide \$700,000 in

grants to local childcare providers. For New Braunfels, TX, the additional funding to the CDBG via the CARES Act allowed them to support court advocacy services for children.¹¹⁶

Now the American Rescue Plan, which includes over \$65B in direct federal aid to counties, allows for greater flexibility in spending than previous relief funding. Its broadened definitions make a wide range of early childhood interventions allowable, including expansion of high-quality childcare, premium pay for essential workers (including early care educators), and increased availability of home visitations and community navigators.¹¹⁷ With this new funding stream, communities like Summit County have the opportunity to innovate and ultimately strengthen their early childhood system.

¹¹⁶ "The Cradle to Career Guide to Federal Relief Funding for Kids During and Beyond Covid-19." Children's Funding Project, March 2021.
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b75d96ccc8fedfce4d3c5a8/t/6064b0c561017345fce86ab5/1617211591386/Emergency+Funding+Guide+2021.pdf>

¹¹⁷ "Overview for America's Counties." NACO, May 24, 2021.
<https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/us-treasury-interim-final-rule-guidance-state-and-local-fiscal>