

CRADLE TO CAREER GIVING NETWORK

December 2020 Investment Report

In December of 2019, Cradle to Career Giving Network members allocated funding for a variety of projects, programs and activities to be implemented in 2020. Members gave more than ever before securing a generous match from Laura and Gary Lauder. An additional match was put forth during the convening in December by Melony and Adam Lewis. In total, the Network recommended over \$322,000 in funding to support children and families in the Aspen to Parachute region.

Your generous contributions impacted children and families through four main areas: Ready for Kindergarten, Social Emotional Wellbeing, Ready for College & Career, and Policy & Leadership.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, nonprofit partners have been busy stabilizing families with economic assistance for over 8,000 households and weekly meals for 3,000 families in addition to offering other services like legal aid, mental health care, and childcare. Despite the pandemic, five of the programs or efforts Giving Network invested in have been completed, five will continue in 2021, and only one was not launched. This report summarizes the impact your Network contributions had in the region.

2020 Investments

Goal Area	Project	Allocated	Balance
Ready for Kindergarten	1. Increased quality licensed family childcare	\$15,000	\$0
	2. Quality of Family, Friends and Neighbor care	\$40,000	\$0
	3. Business coaching for preschools	\$10,000	\$10,000
Social Emotional Wellbeing	4. Arts Program in Parachute	\$37,500	\$0
	5. Operating support for youth-serving organizations	\$25,000	\$0
	6. Support the Parachute Family Resource Center	\$70,000	\$0
Ready for College and Career	7. Expanding Career Academies	\$80,000	\$0
	8. Designing a Career Pathway System	\$12,000	\$0
Policy and Leadership	9. Census 2020	\$15,000	\$0
	10. Nonprofit Management Institute	\$15,000	\$8,000
	11. Nonprofit 2020 election advocacy project	\$5,000	\$0
	TOTALS	\$322,000	\$18,000

1. Increased Quality Licensed Family Childcare

Allocation: \$15,000 granted to Garfield County Childcare Licensing

Purpose: to provide small grants to newly licensed home childcare providers to help them meet and exceed standards

Results:

- Two new licensed home providers received small grants to improve their programs totaling \$5,000
- Disbursement was slower than expected this year due to COVID

Status: The remaining \$10,000 is available for Garfield County home childcare providers in 2021.



Licensed family childcare programs serve 24% of the children in care in western Garfield County which is much higher than any other part of the region. Ensuring high quality standards in these programs will have a direct impact on the kindergarten readiness of children in the Garfield Re2 and Garfield 16 school districts.

2. Quality of Family, Friends and Neighbor Care

Allocation: \$40,000 granted to Early Childhood Network

Purpose: to provide weekly coaching and training for 10 unlicensed Family, Friends and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers on safety, quality, and enrichment

Results:

- 59 providers caring for 180 children have received coaching
- Two providers began the process to become licensed
- Training included: safe outdoor play, dental care, enrichment instead of screen time and literacy development



Status: This grant supports an early childhood coach that benefits children and families in the region. This is on the agenda for the Network's funding consideration in 2021.

For families with limited income, unlicensed childcare may be the only type of care accessible to their families. Families choose this type of care for its flexibility, small group sizes and lower cost. Increasing the quality of these care environments can support vulnerable children in building the skills and knowledge necessary for kindergarten.



February 2020

3. Business Coaching for Preschools

Allocation: \$10,000

Purpose: to support experienced childcare business leaders in coaching new center directors on effective business models for sustainability

Status: Due to COVID, this project did not launch and the unspent \$10,000 is available for 2021 allocations

4. Arts Programming in Parachute

Allocation: \$37,500 granted to Theatre Aspen

Purpose: to support the social emotional development of 3rd through 5th graders in Parachute through after-school arts programming in drama and music

Results:

- The program has been co-designed by Theatre Aspen and the Garfield 16 School District

Status: The program is ready to implement in 2021 and no further funding is needed at this time.

The March 2020 start of the program was delayed due to COVID. They plan to begin programming in 2021 that will provide extra-curricular activities in drama and music to support children's social emotional wellbeing.

5. Operating Support for Youth-Serving Organizations

Allocation: \$25,000 to ACF's Community Grantmaking Fund

Purpose: to support five youth-serving nonprofits with flexible, operational support

Result:

- Aspen Santa Fe Ballet's Folklorico program, Aspen Youth Center, The Buddy Program, Stepping Stones, and YouthZone received funding

Status: All funding has been granted

These organizations support vulnerable populations by building relationships with children to support social emotional wellbeing, a goal of Cradle to Career. In this extraordinary year, these organizations also delivered supplies, provided economic assistance and served as a support system for youth in our region.

6. Support the Parachute Family Resource Center

Allocation: \$70,000 granted to Garfield County School District 16

Purpose: to provide homeless families with free laundry access, support families with emergency assistance and parenting support and provide access to mental health supports in Parachute

Results:

- 17 families have been supported with economic assistance
- A fully stocked laundry room has been running since April
- 12 students and 5 parents are being supported through ongoing virtual mental health supports

Status: This program will continue in 2021. No funding needed.

Garfield County School District 16 is in the most under-resourced community in our region and the School-Based Family Resource Center is the go-to resource for food, economic assistance, mental health support and other critical services for families and children.



7. Expanding Career Academies

Allocation: \$80,000 granted to Youthentity

Purpose: to increase programming or expand to a second school district

Results:

- Current academies, construction and culinary arts, were adapted to meet the needs of students during COVID through online and out of school opportunities
- Hospitality and animal and people care academies will be added to the offerings in the Roaring Fork School District in 2021

Status: This program will continue in 2021. No funding is needed.

Youthentity adapted well to meet the needs of students during the pandemic and is committed to supporting students in 2021. In addition, Youthentity is pursuing the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCERR) accreditation so students will earn a national certification through the Construction Academy.



8. Designing a Career Pathway System

Allocation: \$12,000 to a coalition of 6 college and career pathway partners

Purpose: to design a roadmap for a career pathway system in the Aspen to Parachute region

Status: Due to COVID, this project has not yet launched and ACF will report back in January on what the next steps will be.

9. 2020 Aspen to Parachute's Complete Count

Allocation: \$15,000 into the ACF Census Fund

Purpose: to support and partner with the regional coalition of nonprofits, schools, libraries, county, and municipal agencies in completing the under-resourced 2020 Census count

Results:

- Garfield County increased its self-response Census count by 7% which represents over 4,000 people
- Pitkin and Eagle counties maintained the same level of self-response count as in the 2010 Census
- Actual Census count data will be made public by March 31, 2021 in time for legislative redistricting

Status: This project was completed

Because the 2020 Census was underfunded, the Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee designed strategies that addressed the lack of federal support and targeted the specific hard to count populations specific to our region.



10. Nonprofit Advocacy

Allocation: \$5,000 to purchase county voter lists, printing and postage

Purpose: to increase voter participation in the 2020 election by leveraging nonprofit relationships and trust

Result:

- 10,000 hand signed, nonpartisan postcards were mailed to targeted voters by six nonprofits; Manaus, Advocate Safehouse Project, Senior Matters, Garfield 16 Family Resource Center, Valley Settlement and ACF

Status: This project was completed

The original plan was for ACF to provide advocacy training for nonprofits for the election season. Instead, through conversations with the Giving Network chair, the funding was used to purchase county voter lists, postcards, and postage to encourage civic engagement in our community by voting.



11. Nonprofit Leadership Development

Allocation: \$15,000 to Stanford Social Innovation Review

Purpose: 5 nonprofit leaders attend the 2020 Nonprofit Management Institute in September



Results:

- 10 organizations participated virtually with their teams: Alpine Legal Services, Aspen Homeless Shelter, Aspen Youth Center, Family Visitor Programs, Mountain Family Health Centers, Raising a Reader, River Center of New Castle, Valley Settlement, Youthentity, and YouthZone
- ACF led a discussion where participants shared their insights from the conference

Status: The cost for 10 organizations to attend was \$7,000, leaving a balance of \$8,000. This balance is available for 2021 allocations.

The 3-day Nonprofit Management Institute hosted by the Stanford Social Innovation Review was held virtually this year. Global nonprofit leaders, researchers, philanthropists and national elected officials provided case studies and challenged traditional nonprofit thinking.