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# Transitioning from Cradle to Career





Aspen Community Foundation (ACF) has been a catalyst for transformation in the Aspen to Parachute region since its inception. Through the Cradle to Career Initiative, launched in 2012, ACF spearheaded collective efforts to improve outcomes for children, families, and communities. Now ACF embarks on a redefined and expanded programming model to deepen our impact and address the evolving needs of the region. None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the generous support of our donors, the nonprofits who serve our region, and the unwavering commitment of our community.

We're excited to share our journey with you as we transition from our Cradle to Career Initiative to a more community-informed approach. With your continued support, we're paving the way for lasting change in our community.



# Celebrating the Successes of the Cradle to Career Initiative

Since the launch of our Cradle to Career Initiative in 2012, ACF coordinated networks of nonprofits, agencies, schools, and businesses to work collectively toward common goals. Through cross-sector collaborations, we championed early childhood education policies and facilitated invaluable career exploration opportunities for our youth. We increased philanthropic investment, advocated for government funding and forged impactful partnerships. Remarkable strides have been achieved in enhancing kindergarten readiness and post-high school success, evidenced by substantial increases in preschool enrollment and students aspiring for college education. Together, we are proud of the milestones we have achieved for the region.

#### A FEW CRADLE TO CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:



### **250+ BUSINESSES**

engaged to advocate for early childhood education policies and more youth career exploration opportunities





# 3 SCHOOL DISTRICTS



were served by the  ${\bf Preschool}$  on  ${\bf Wheels}$   ${\bf program}$ 



## **ALL 9 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**

received college and career counselors through the Post High School Success project created by ACF.



Established the Healthcare Alliance Fund to support insurance options for **small business owners** 

If you would like more information about the achievements of the Cradle to Career Initiative, please contact Valerie Carlin at valerie@aspencommunityfoundation.org.

#### BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER

After an extensive strategic planning process that involved community input, we have made the decision to shift our programmatic focus away from the Cradle to Career Initiative in order to expand our impact in the community. We are excited about this new direction, which reflects our renewed dedication to developing strategies that tackle the underlying causes of social issues and create lasting change in the Aspen to Parachute region.

Our focus areas for Community Impact funding and programming include:

#### **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Ensuring all children have access to quality care and resources for a strong start in life, addressing key components from caregiver support to sustainable funding.

#### YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Empowering youth for success through career planning, mental health support, out-of-school opportunities, and scholarships.

#### **COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

Convening leaders, assessing pressing needs, and proposing action on community-led issues to ensure equitable opportunities for all.

As we embark on this new chapter, we remain steadfast in our dedication to creating equitable opportunities for all individuals and families in the Aspen to Parachute region. We invite you to join us in this exciting journey as we continue to make a meaningful difference and together, we can create a future where every individual and family can thrive.

Thank you for your continued support!

# LEARN MORE

about our updated programming focus and the rest of our work by visiting our recently updated website.

www. Aspen Community Foundation. org



