

Maximizing Funding Discussion Series:  
**Session 2: Braided and Blended Funding**

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March 8, 2021



# MAXIMIZING FUNDING DISCUSSION SERIES

Session 1 – November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020: **Leveraged Funds**

*\*Recording available in the media library on the FRIENDS website*

Session 2 – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021: **Braided & Blended Funding**

Session 3 – Spring 2021: **Fundraising Strategies**

Session 4 – Summer 2021: **Fundraising Strategies, part 2**

# BLENDDED FUNDS



*Blended Funds* (often called pooled funds) are often the most flexible.

- ▶ Combining funds from several sources into a single pool from which allocations or disbursements are made.
- ▶ Offering maximum flexibility to the SLA while often providing gap funding or resources for activities not reimbursable through categorical funds.
- ▶ The agency does not have control of the resources after pooling; therefore, the amounts given are usually smaller.

# BRAIDED FUNDS



*Braided Funds* may also come from a variety of sources, but the funds are tracked both collectively and individually.

- ▶ Like a scarf knitted with several strands of colored yarn, “braided” funds remain in separate strands and can be tracked by each strand (or source) from allocation to service delivery.
- ▶ Accountability for each stream of money is maintained by both the funding source and the agency charged with administering the funds.
- ▶ These coordinated funds are joined or braided into a comprehensive service package and are indistinguishable at the service level.
- ▶ Braided funds are an effective funding strategy that often generates more resources than is possible with pooled funds.

# Kendra Dunn



Director of the Division of Community and Family Support and staff of the Colorado Children's Trust Fund at the Colorado Department of Human Services Office of Early Childhood





COLORADO

# Colorado's CBCAP Blended and Braided Funding



**COLORADO**  
**Office of Early Childhood**  
Department of Human Services

# Key Objectives

- Participants will gain a better understanding of the blended and braided funding activities in Colorado
- Participants will gain a better understanding of the benefits and challenges of blended and braided funding



# CBCAP in Colorado

- Previously housed under Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Office of Early Childhood (OEC) formation including transition of CBCAP funding to OEC
- Increase in state population resulted in increased CBCAP funding
- State Child Maltreatment Prevention Plan- Colorado Child Maltreatment Framework for Action





# CBCAP in Colorado

- Policy level and infrastructure mapping - more funding streams to braid/match/leverage.
- Leadership and partnerships played a large role in the success of CBCAP activities.
- Elements of family wellbeing ecosystem and matching funds with identified needs.



# Chelsey Hall



Director of Family and Community Engagement, State 2Gen  
Coordinator  
Colorado Department of Human Services

# Example of Blended Funding- Colorado 2GO Project Background

- Two-Generation Opportunities = 2GO Project
  - **When:** In November 2018, the 2GO pilot awarded 10 grants of \$100,000 each to both rural and urban communities.
  - **Why:** an effort to help Colorado communities innovate and create their own ways of engaging in a 2Gen approach to service delivery.
  - **How:** Braiding 5 different funding streams
    - SAMHSA Mental Health Block Grant
    - SAMHSA State Targeted Response Grant (Opioid \$)
    - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
    - Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)
    - CBCAP



# 2GO: Strengths/Outcomes



- **Strengths**

- 2Gen Common Concept
- Family Voice
- Coaching structure
- Statewide Conference
- Inter-department collaboration

- **Outcomes**

- Built community readiness for 2Gen approach
- Brought together more than 400 community partners
- Opened the door for workforce, family support, early childhood education and behavioral health to sit at the same table
- Create new solutions while capturing the voice of families
- Each community received an opioid needs assessment, substance use prevention marketing toolkit (2Gen), collective final report
- 2Gen approach included in County Human Services Department Association (CHSDA) strategic plan





# 2GO: Challenges/Lessons Learned



- **Challenges**

- Administrative challenges
- Fiscal responsibility/people
- Budget modifications
- Grant reporting
- Allowable/unallowable expenses
- Planning vs Implementation periods
- Funding streams had different fiscal years(SFY/FFY)

- **Lessons Learned**

- Assign one project manager with oversight
- Regular check-ins with CDHS program staff
- Align data and identify one major outcome
- Tiered funding system for communities
- Continuation funding - 2 year minimum





# Our



# Communities





# Discussion

In the chat box, please share examples of how you have blended or braided funds either currently or in the past.



# Michelle Neal



Program Director, Nurse-Family Partnership  
Invest in Kids





# Nurse-Family Partnership

*Helping First-Time Parents Succeed*

**Michelle Neal MS, RN**  
**Program Director**



**INVEST.  
IN KIDS**



# Purpose

Improve pregnancy outcomes by helping women engage in good preventative health practices, including prenatal care from their healthcare providers, improving their diets and reducing their use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs.

Improve child health and development by helping parents provide responsible and competent care.

Improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family by helping parents develop a vision for their own future, plan future pregnancies, continue their education and find work.



# Funding Sources

- Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement
- Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)
- Medicaid



**INVEST.  
IN KIDS**



# NFP and Medicaid Billing

**2000:** NHVP statute “maximize Medicaid billing”

**2003:** Began billing for Targeted Case Management (TCM)

**2007:** CMMS Audit

**2008-2015:** Payback and very conservative TCM billing

**Late 2015:** Another audit

**Early 2016:** Press the pause button

**2017-2019:** Work with consultants, pilot, mock audit

**2020 to now:** Roll out to all sites complicated by telehealth and COVID



**INVEST.  
IN KIDS**



# Discussion

Who have you partnered with to blend and/or braid funds?



# Aaron Miller



CBCAP State Lead Secondary Contact  
Family Support Lead and Colorado Community Response Program  
Manager  
Office of Early Childhood  
Colorado Department of Human Services



# First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) is a federal law that allows local child welfare agencies to use federal funding to pay for services that keep kids safe, growing up in their families. For Colorado, this provides the opportunity to:

- Reshape child welfare and provide more proactive services, so more children and teens can grow up with their family.
- Partner with community-based service providers to respond to the individual needs of children, teens and families.
- Provide treatment in a setting that is designed to provide a higher level of care.



# Example of Blended Funding FFPSA



## Prevention & Intervention Cash Fund

- Authorized in statute
- Allows for IV-E claiming
- General assembly may provide direct fund contributions
- Increase local child welfare prevention/intervention services
- Child welfare allocation committee.
- Opportunity to retain unspent general fund from initial allocation.
- Claiming opportunity for FFPSA programs outside of child welfare

## Colorado Children's Trust Fund

- Authorized in statute
- Colorado divorce docket fee
- Enhance communities capacity to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Support public education to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Current focus on preventing child sex abuse and substance exposure in newborns prevention.
- Primary and secondary prevention
- Nine member board.
- Claiming opportunity for FFPSA programs outside of child welfare.



# Blended Funding Opportunity

Claiming from FFPSA outside of child welfare directed to one of the funds

- Funds utilized to increase prevention programming around the state
  - Expand current programming
  - Identify new programs based on community need.
- Supports implementation of prevention services



# Discussion

If you are blending and/or braiding funds, how is your state benefitting from it?



# Esmeralda Santillano



CBCAP State Lead Primary Contact  
Family Resource Center Manager  
Office of Early Childhood  
Colorado Department of Human Services



# The Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families

## Public/Private Partnership

- The Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families (the Partnership or CPTF) works collaboratively across Colorado to create the conditions for strong families and communities where children are healthy, valued and thriving.
- The Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families began as a collaborative of human services and public health partners working together to implement a cohesive integrated project to significantly reduce child fatalities and child maltreatment for all children 0 to 5 by positively and proactively supporting strong and healthy family formation.



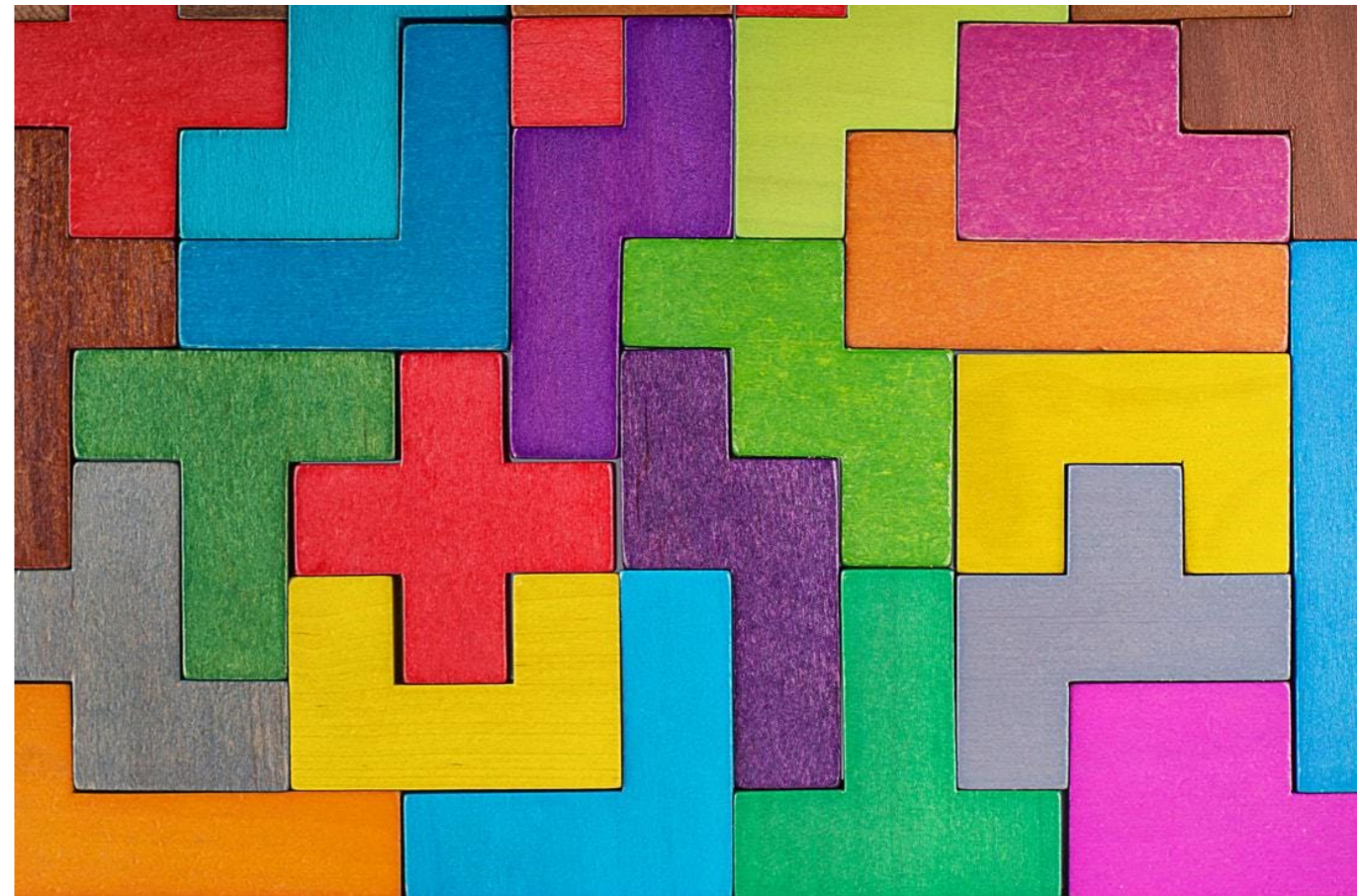
# Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families

**For Colorado to prosper, our kids must thrive.**

*Our children are our future workers, leaders and community members.*

No matter where they live - the plains, mountains, rural areas or urban centers - **children need high-quality experiences and loving relationships to grow.** Early brain development sets children up for success in school.

Community-based organizations and programs **create pathways and opportunities** that empower parents and caregivers to meet their family's basic needs now and in the future.





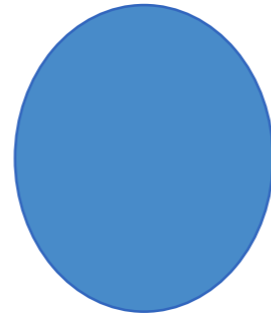
# Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families

Our Partnership will expand and intentionally foster broad cross-sector coalitions statewide that include **health care, housing, public health, human services, community-based organizations, researchers, philanthropic partners, advocates, and parents** who share our vision and are committed to improve child and family well-being.



# Prioritizing Primary Prevention

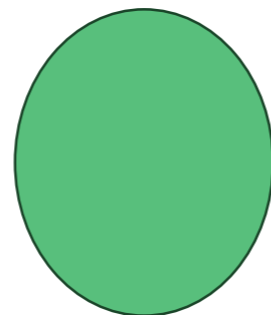
Colorado Partnership for  
**Thriving Families**



Align state and county human services, public health, and health care systems to place family well-being at the center.



Strengthen the family well-being system service array to improve outcomes for parents and infants throughout pregnancy and up to age 1.



Change community norms related to social connectedness to increase access to information on child development and support with parenting to reduce parental stress and decrease child maltreatment.



# Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families

← → ↻ 🏠 coconnected.org/home



## WE NEED EACH OTHER.

Humans are social creatures, and we require connections in order to thrive.

Close personal relationships as well as a sense of community are strongly linked with physical and mental well-being, happiness, and longevity.

**Constructive and supportive social connections help** buffer parents from stressors and support nurturing parenting behaviors that promote secure attachments in young children. Social connections have been shown to strengthen families and prevent child maltreatment.

To support safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for children it is helpful to increase positive norms within our communities on multiple levels: among individuals, families and peers; workplaces, schools, and community organizations; local governments and entities; and state organizations.

GET THE TOOLS TO BUILD CONNECTION

Surveys and focus groups with Colorado parents show families in Colorado are lacking key social support structures. By strengthening social connections in communities, we can better support parents and create stable, supportive environments for children.

WHILE 50% OF COLORADANS  
THINK OTHER PARENTS ASK FOR  
HELP WITH PARENTING.



## THE TRUTH IS . . .

- 1 IN 5 PARENTS IN COLORADO ASK FOR SUPPORT WITH PARENTING.
- 1 IN 5 PARENTS SAY THEY HAVE NO ONE TO TURN TO FOR DAY TO DAY EMOTIONAL SUPPORT WITH RAISING CHILDREN.
- PARENTS REPORT FEELING ANXIETY, LONELINESS, AND DESIRE FOR SUPPORT AND VALUE.

Colorado Connected Website- <https://www.coconnected.org/home>



*Questions?*



## Presenter contact information:

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# RESOURCES



MAXIMIZING FISCAL RESOURCES FOR THE  
COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION (CBCAP)  
STATE LEAD AGENCIES:  
*A Guidebook and Toolkit*

FRIENDS National Center for  
Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs  
A service of the Children's Bureau



## Maximizing Fiscal Resources



FRIENDS Online Learning Center  
<https://friendsnrcelearning.remote-learner.net/>





***THANK YOU!***

