



A Look Past the Cliff:
Findings from the Colorado Child Care
Assistance Program's Cliff Effect Pilot

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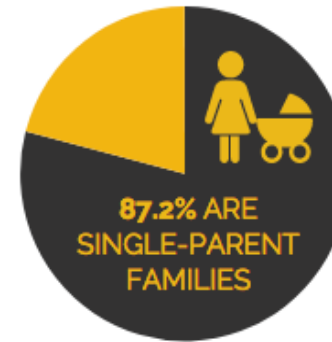
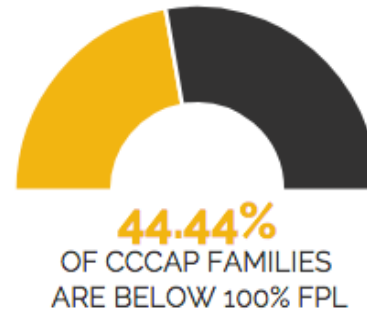
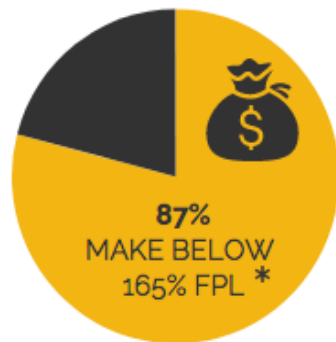
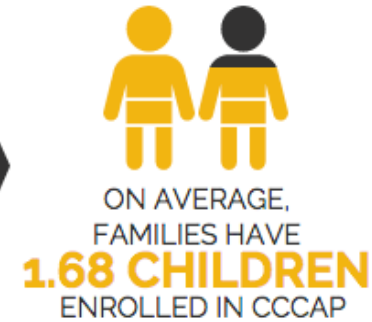
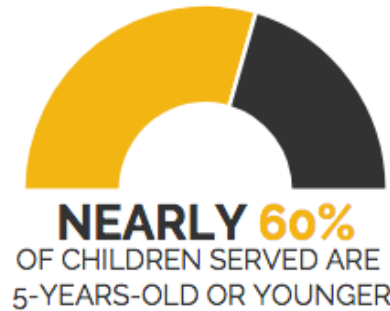
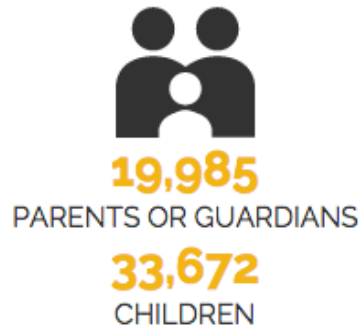
CCCAP Overview:

- CCCAP appropriations
 - \$89.6 million in FY16-17
- Qualify for CCCAP
 - **Income**
 - Statewide income eligibility: 165% FPL
 - Most counties set minimums higher
 - **Eligible Activity**
 - Work, education, training, other
- Program ***only serves about 13% of eligible families***
- Most are employed and funded through low-income CCCAP (67.9%)
 - 2,129 (6.3%) were funded through Child Welfare

CCCAP Overview:

CCCAP KEY FACTS

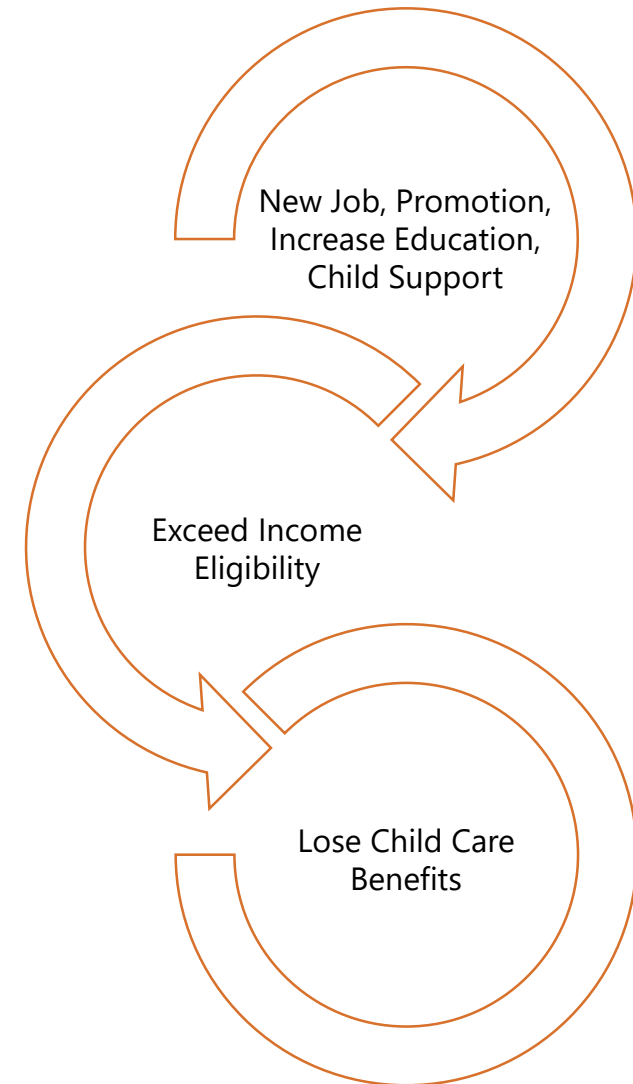
Data collected and analyzed by the Bell Policy Center between July 2015-September 2016
(All of these statistics pertain to families on low-income CCCAP program)



*that's only \$33,693 for a three-person family

The Cliff Effect

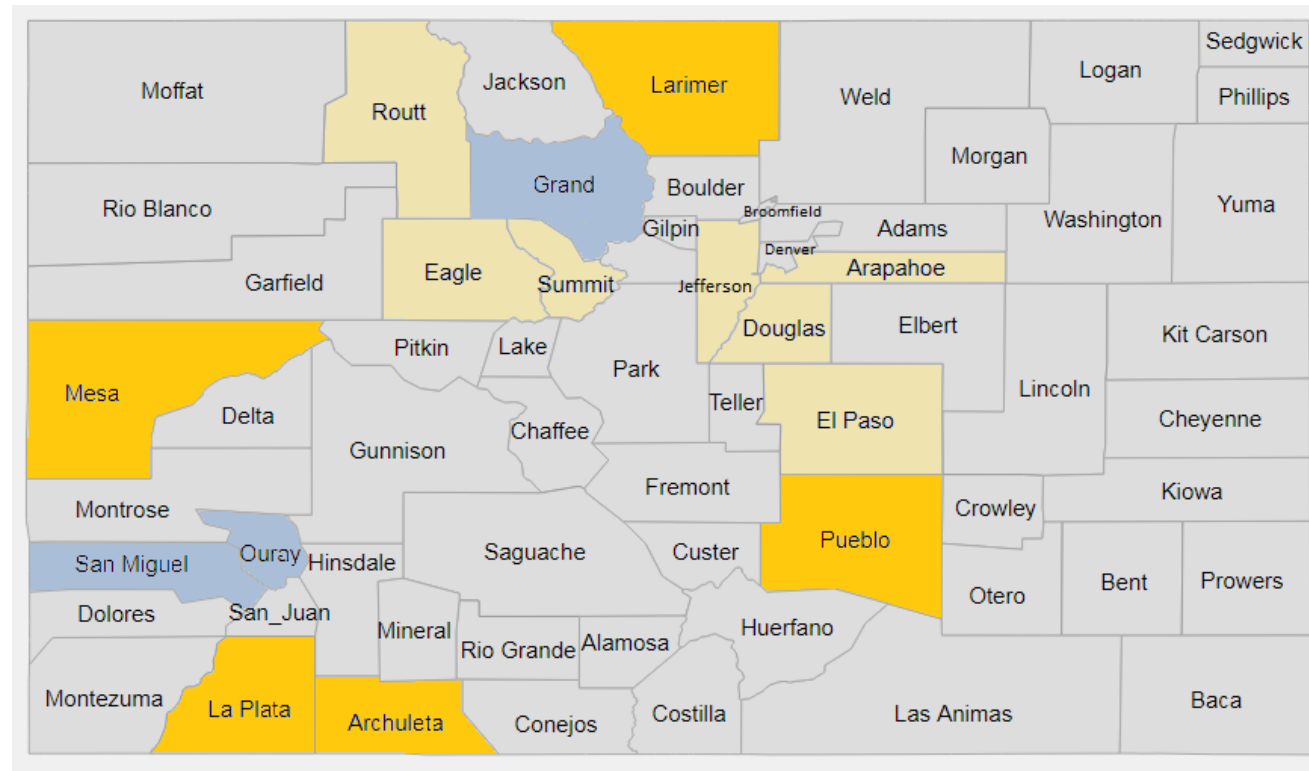
- Sudden loss of child care benefits
 - Short- and long- term effects
- The Colorado Cliff Effect Pilot Program
 - Turn the "cliff" into a "slope"
 - Authorized in 2012
 - 15 counties



Program Implementation:

Design Elements

- Variation in income eligibility
- Co-pay increases
- Redetermination
- Opt in or out
- Communication styles



Program Implementation:

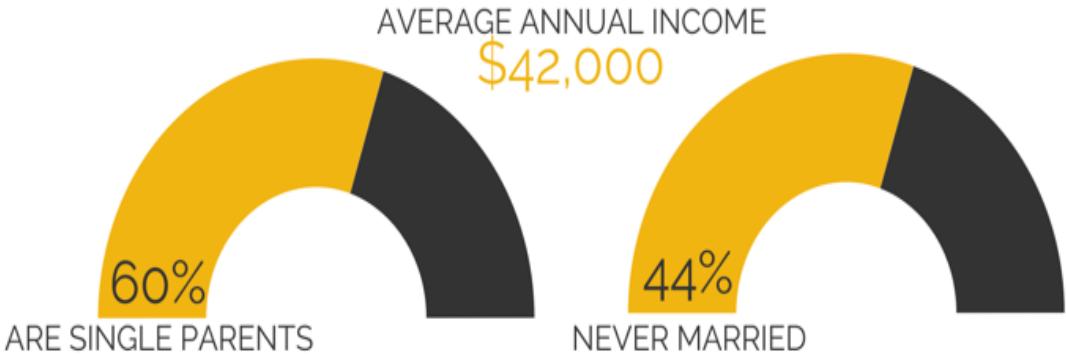
County Insights

- Flexibility versus consistency
- CEPP is not well-publicized
- CEPP impacted by CCCAP evolution
- CEPP helps families but high cost of living, low wages hinder economic mobility
- Non-financial supports are needed in addition to child care

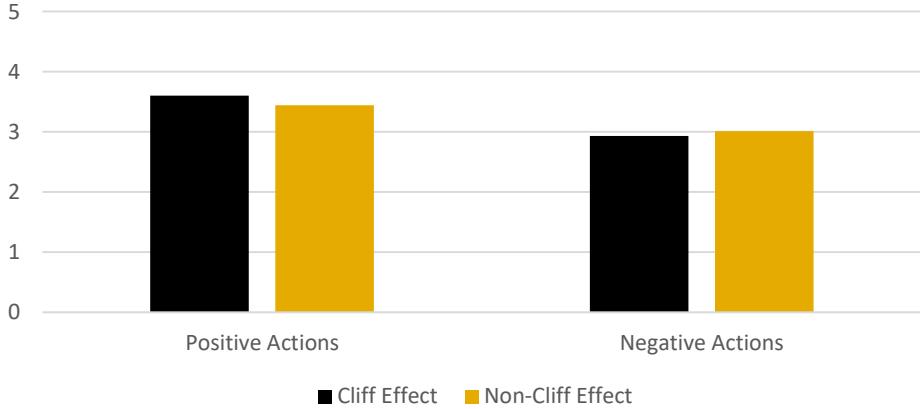
Program Implementation:

Economic Behavior and Perceptions of the Program: Parent Insights

OF ONLINE SURVEY RESPONDENTS...



Differences in Economic Behaviors
by Group



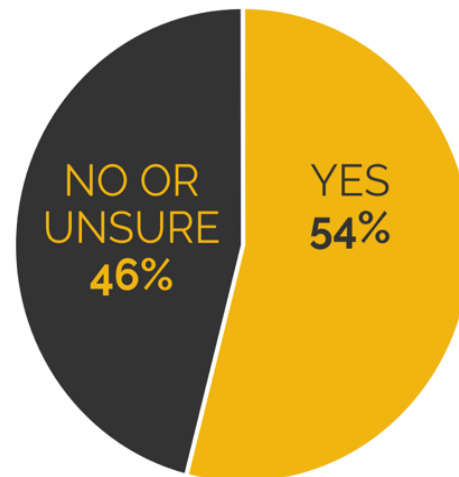
Program Implementation:

Parent Insights

CEPP Mechanism of Change

Understanding/Being Aware of the CEPP

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE
CLIFF EFFECT PILOT PROGRAM (CEPP)?



Parent Interviews

1. Families are worried about the cliff
2. Parents lack familiarity with CEPP
3. CEPP is helping but wide variation in impact
4. Communication, information and transparency matter
5. Additional interventions could make a big difference

Findings and Recommendations

1. Seek out strategies to refine CEPP; ameliorate the cliff.
2. Families welcome assistance from CEPP, anecdotal evidence it enables greater economic mobility.
3. Share information and materials about CEPP and county-specific guidelines
 - Share early before the cliff approaches and make publicly available
1. CEPP should link copay increases with household income increases
 - Incomes rise enough to qualify for the program, but not enough to keep up with the periodic copay increases
2. CEPP and CCCAP may benefit from other implementation consistencies and from the counties learning from each other.
3. We must strengthen public investment in child care for working families.

Suggestions for Future Research

1. Which copay strategies result in better retention rates: what best turns the cliff into a slope?
2. How can technology improve communication with families?
3. What strategies reduce parent worry? Which pieces of the program alleviate worry?
4. How likely is it that a family could be walked down the cliff, given employment trends?
5. Does the cliff effect result in more stable, high-quality child care?