

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Allison Hines, Senior Vice President of Development & Communications
United Way of Larimer County
E-MAIL: ahines@uwaylc.org

Larimer Child Care Fund Launches New Scholarships on April 4

\$350,000 in funding will be available for families living in Larimer County

FORT COLLINS, CO – United Way of Larimer County and the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County are partnering to offer a one-stop-shop for local families to access both child care providers and financial scholarships through the integration of the Larimer Child Care Fund and the Larimer Child Care Connect platform. The launch of this online platform has been a collaborative effort with child care providers, public and nonprofit partners. The expansion of United Way’s Child Care Fund will provide ongoing funding for the scholarships to help ensure that all children in Larimer County have access to quality care.

“This partnership is an incredible step on our journey to create a single access point for families seeking child care in Larimer County,” said Christina N. Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County. “We are so excited about our work with United Way to further our organizational mission of increased access and equity in the early childhood sector. Families deserve quality care and Larimer Child Care Connect gets us one step closer to making that a reality for all families in our community.”

The Larimer Child Care Fund will distribute approximately \$350,000 in scholarship funding to local families through the Larimer Child Care Connect online portal. The site is mobile friendly and applications will be available in both English and Spanish from April 4 – April 25. Eligibility and awards are determined on a first come, first served basis.

“Access to quality early child care directly intersects our key priority areas of youth and education and financial stability and is vital to a healthy community, stable workforce and thriving economy,” said Deirdre Sullivan, President and CEO of United Way of Larimer County. “The expansion of our Larimer Child Care Fund is our latest effort to not only provide financial support, but also to help increase families’ choice in accessing affordable care in Larimer County.”

Building on the success of United Way’s WomenGive program that provides child care scholarships to single mothers returning to school, the expansion of the Larimer Child Care Fund will support families in a variety of employment, school, and life experiences. Through generous community donations, United Way of Larimer County has more than quadrupled its investment in child care access and affordability over the last five years.

For families interested in applying for scholarships, the parent/guardian must meet all of the following criteria to apply:

UNITED WAY OF LARIMER COUNTY

525 West Oak Street, Suite 101 | Fort Collins, CO 80521 | p. 970.407.7000 | f. 970.407.7099 | www.uwaylc.org

- Parent/Guardian is enrolled in or seeking care at a licensed provider located in Larimer County for any child age 0-5 or who is not yet eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten
- Parent/Guardian lives, works, or is attending in-person school in Larimer County
- Family is not eligible for or currently receiving Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) benefits
- Income must be less than the amount listed in [CCCAP Exit Income table](#)

The Larimer Child Care Fund allows parents to choose the licensed child care setting of their choice. Scholarships will be paid directly to child care providers on behalf of the family each month for one year with the opportunity for families to reapply annually. Scholarship recipients will be limited to paying up to 15% of their income on child care, freeing up resources for other household needs like rent, utilities and health care.

Visit www.uwaylc.org/ChildcareFund to learn more about the Larimer Child Care Fund, including how to apply for scholarships and donate to the fund. All donations made to the Larimer Child Care Fund are eligible for the Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit. This credit allows individuals and businesses to claim a 50% state income tax credit for qualified contributions.

ABOUT UNITED WAY OF LARIMER COUNTY:

United Way of Larimer County (UWLC) is a one-stop resource for generosity in our community, ensuring that gifts of time, talent and treasure address today's greatest needs - and reduce tomorrow's. UWLC recognizes that community needs change over time and encourages nimble and innovative approach to human services. UWLC strengthens our community with a focus on supporting youth & education, financial stability, community engagement, and nonprofit excellence programs in Larimer County. To learn more about United Way of Larimer County, and how you can get involved with your local community, visit www.uwaylc.org.

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