



Denver Preschool Program

Presentation to City Council

October 8, 2025

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Denver Preschool Program

Elevating Early Childhood
Education in Denver since 2006



WHO WE ARE

The Denver Preschool Program (DPP) is a vital community initiative dedicated to ensuring that every child in Denver has access to high-quality preschool education. Since the nonprofit's inception in 2006, DPP has been committed to preparing Denver's youngest learners for kindergarten and beyond by making preschool accessible and affordable for all Denver families.

OUR IMPACT – BY THE NUMBERS



\$184M

Total tuition credits distributed to date

78,000

Total students served to date

\$29.6M

Funds dedicated to quality improvement to date

\$6.3M

Preschool for 3's tuition credits distributed to date

19

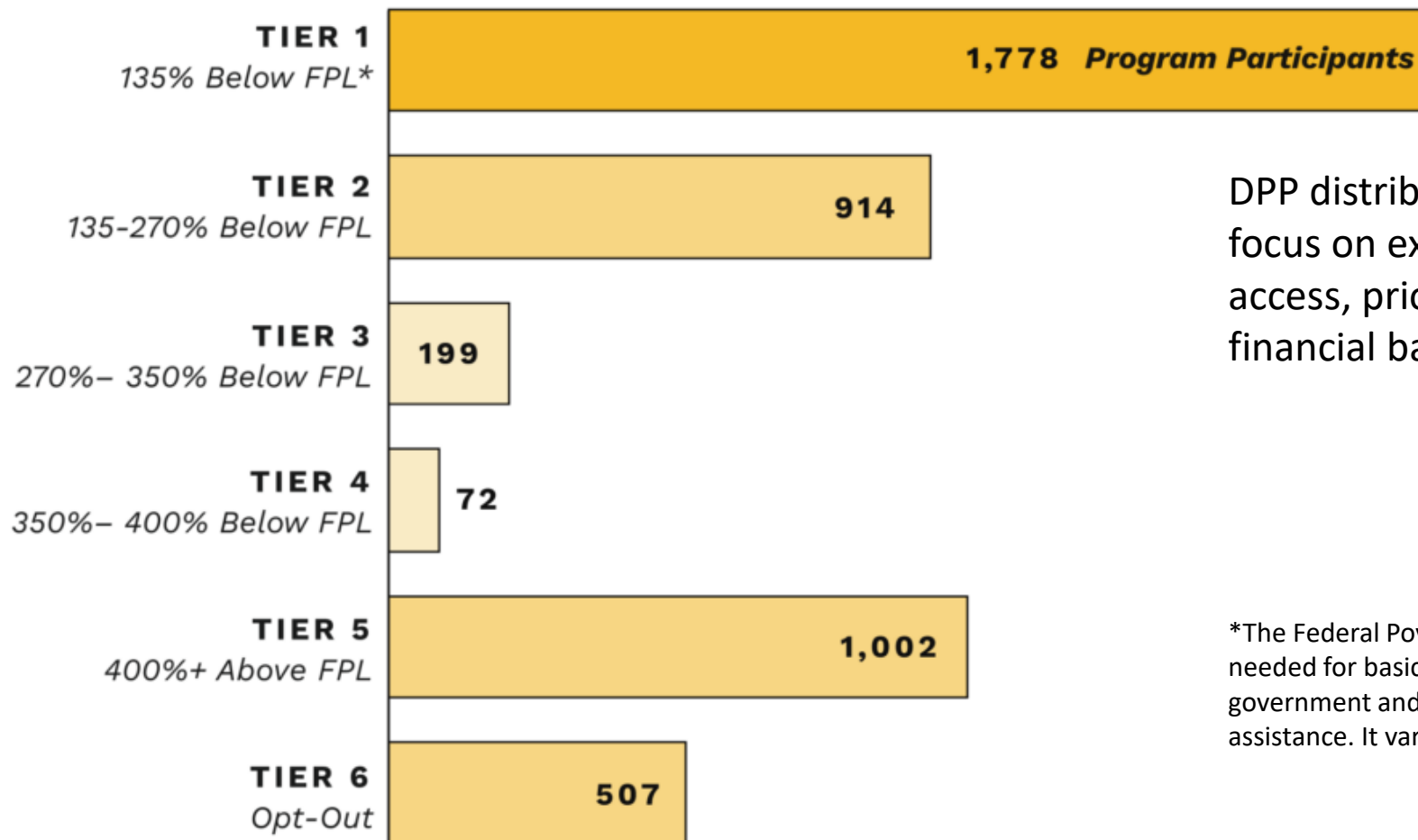
Years helping Denver families find and pay for quality preschool

264

Participating preschool providers in Denver

4-YEAR-OLD TUITION CREDIT BY INCOME TIER

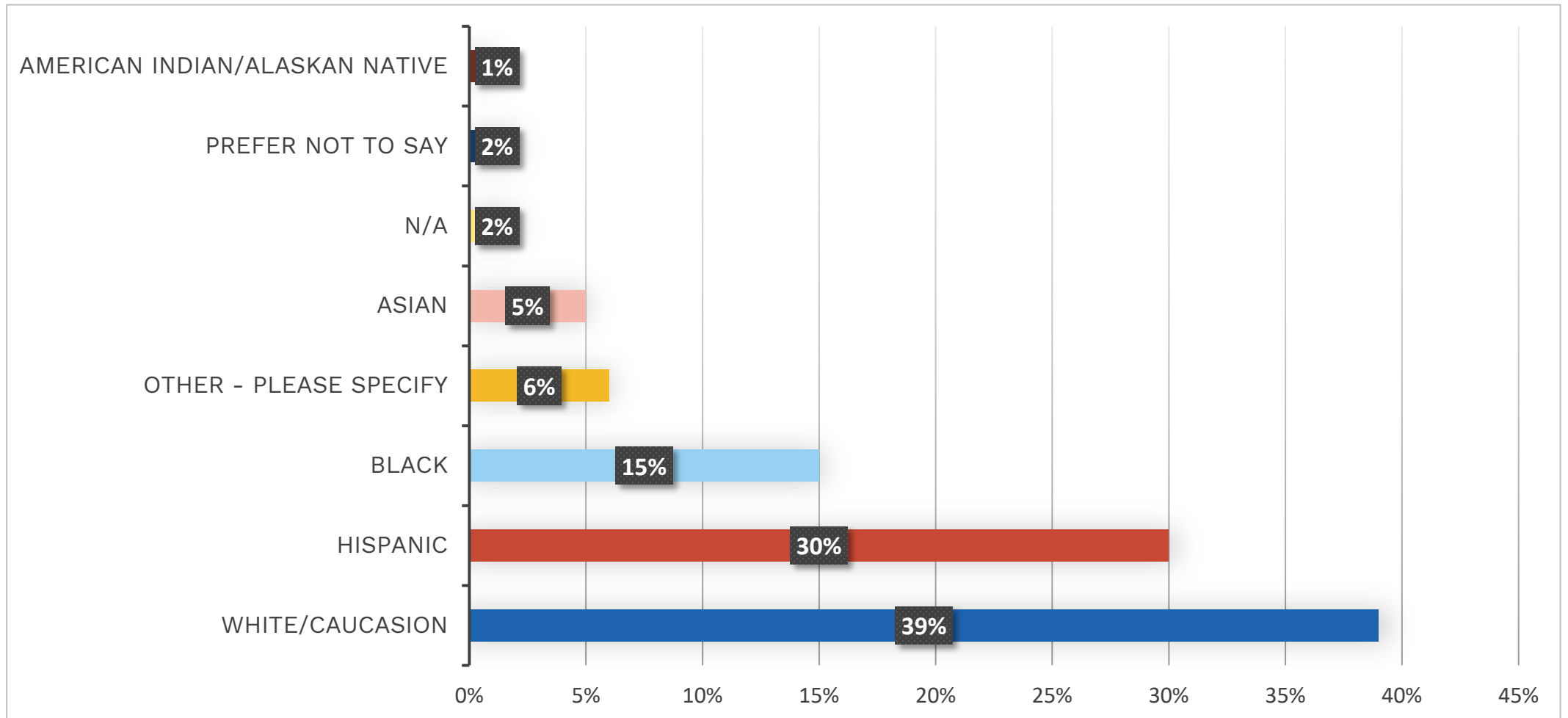
2023-2024 PROGRAM YEAR



DPP distributes tuition support with a focus on expanding opportunity and access, prioritizing families facing financial barriers.

*The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is the minimum income needed for basic living expenses, updated yearly by the U.S. government and used to determine eligibility for public assistance. It varies by household size.

BENEFICIARY DEMOGRAPHICS



DPP + COLORADO SHINES: ADVANCING HIGH-QUALITY PROGRAMS

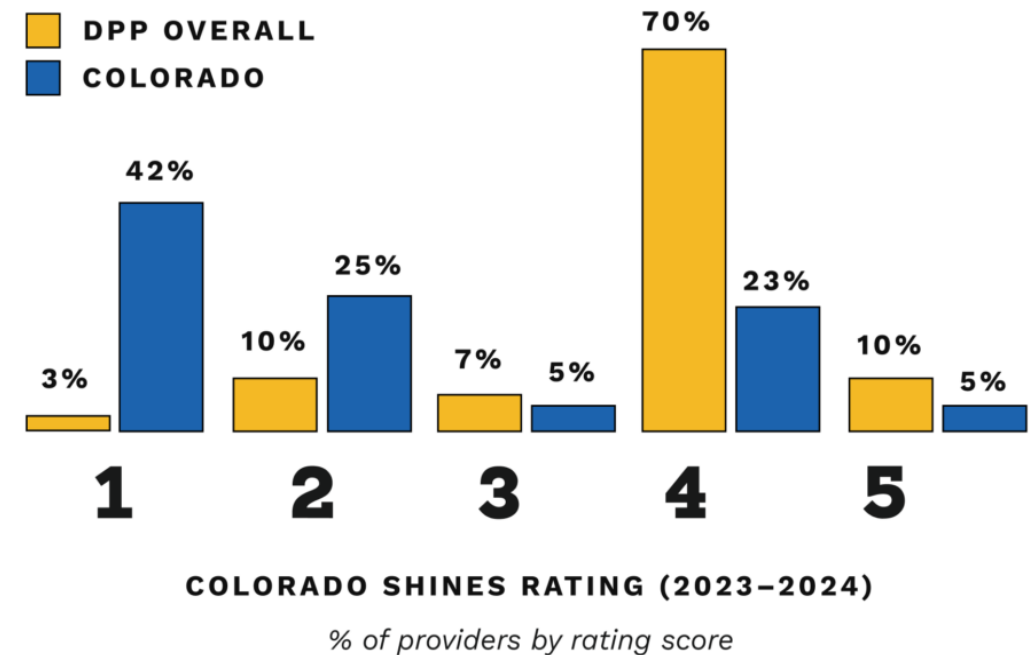


Quality Improvement

DPP invests in a wide range of teacher-focused QI initiatives, providing training, coaching and financial resources to empower educators.

Colorado Shines

DPP's QI program aligns with the state's Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). As a result, **75% of DPP's preschools have top Colorado Shines ratings of 4 or 5 stars**, compared to just 25% of preschools statewide.



QI BY THE NUMBERS



\$3.6M

Total invested in quality improvement resources

264

Total providers: 86 DPS/DPS Charters, 6 family child care homes, 172 child care centers

87%

of DPP providers earn a Colorado Shines rating of 3 or higher. DPP supports all providers in improving their quality.

Approximately \$1.5M was distributed in grants to providers

630K

in Workforce Stipend grants

\$515K

in Strengthening grants

\$410K

in Quality Initiatives grants

VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

Educational Readiness

Our research shows that children who attend high-quality preschool are better prepared for kindergarten, setting the stage for future academic success and lifelong learning.

Economic Benefits

Every dollar invested in early childhood education yields significant long-term economic benefits, including higher graduation rates, reduced crime rates, and a more skilled workforce.

(Heckman et al., 2010)

Parental Support

DPP provides critical financial relief to families, allowing parents to pursue employment or further education and thereby enhancing the community's overall economic stability.

Community Strengthening

By investing in our youngest residents, we are building a stronger, more cohesive community that values education and opportunity for all.



VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

Universal Access

DPP is open to all Denver families with children in their last year of preschool before kindergarten, regardless of income level.

Sliding Scale Tuition

Our sliding-scale tuition credits are designed to provide greater financial assistance to families with lower household incomes, making quality preschool education equitably accessible to everyone.

Provider Partnerships

DPP partners with over 260 preschools across Denver, including community-based centers, Denver Public Schools, and home-based providers, ensuring a wide range of options for families.

Quality Rating System

We utilize Colorado Shines, a comprehensive quality rating and improvement system, to assess and enhance the quality of preschool programs, helping parents make informed decisions about their child's education.



SUCCESS STORIES

Increased Kindergarten Readiness

Data shows that DPP participants demonstrate significant gains in literacy, math, and social-emotional skills upon entering kindergarten.

Parental Satisfaction

Surveys indicate that 95% of parents are highly satisfied with DPP's preschool options and support.

Long-term Impact

Longitudinal studies have shown that children participating in DPP are more likely to excel academically, have lower retention rates, have better attendance, be more likely to be redesignated from English learner status and have higher SAT scores.

Fiscal Impact

Over four years, DPP generated **\$42.3M in citywide savings** – more than \$10 million annually – by reducing remediation costs, preserving per-pupil funding, and boosting family income.



BETTER TOGETHER

Denver Preschool Program + Colorado Universal Preschool

In Denver, Colorado Universal Preschool (UPK) complements DPP's proven tuition credit and quality improvement programs. The two programs can be combined, providing more support for Denver families, maximizing financial support.

UPK funds up to 15 weekly preschool hours for each eligible child from August to May. However, 80% of Denver families need more support than what UPK Colorado provides. The Denver Preschool Program (DPP) complements UPK by offering full-day and extended care and support during summer. In response to the introduction of UPK Colorado, DPP has also expanded its Preschool of 3s program, allowing eligible families to enroll their children in preschool and start benefiting from early education even earlier.

HOW DPP + UPK WORKS

Average monthly Cost of Care in Denver:

\$1,500

With DPP + UPK

\$657

Average DPP tuition credit

\$625

Average UPK Contribution

**UNMET
NEED**

KEY MILESTONES

2006

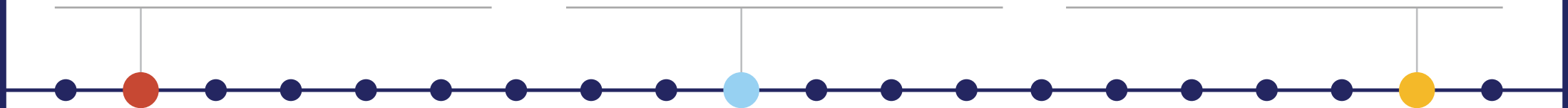
Denver voters originally authorized the Denver Preschool Program, establishing a funding mechanism to support preschool education for all Denver children.

2014

Denver voters reauthorized and expanded the DPP, allowing for increased funding and support to enhance the quality and accessibility of preschool education.

2023

DPP received its latest voter-approved reauthorization, ensuring continued support and growth of the program to meet the evolving needs of Denver's families and children.





EXPANDING OUR COMMITMENT

Serving Denver's Children Ages 0-5

- **Board Commitment:** In September 2025, DPP's Board adopted a goal to launch an infant and toddler pilot program within 5 years, directing staff to begin coordinating with key stakeholders.
- **Early Action:** A pilot will launch in partnership with [Lifespan Local's Blossom House](#) and [Mile High Early Learning](#).
- **Long-Term Impact:** This strategy [builds on 20 years of success](#) to serve Denver's children through DPP's proven tuition support model.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

MOMENTUM

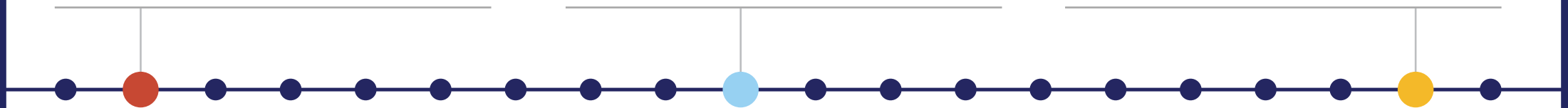
DPP's strategic planning initiative is nearing completion, charting the course for the next era of impact in early childhood education in Denver.

CELEBRATION

DPP will mark its 20th anniversary in November 2026 celebrating 20 Years of Impact as a milestone of service to families.

EVOLUTION

DPP will rebrand with an evolved identity to guide the next 20+ years.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING DENVER'S CHILDREN

We wish to thank Denver City officials and, most importantly, Denver voters for your continued support of Denver Preschool Program and for helping us expand our reach and impact. By investing in early childhood education, we are investing in the future of Denver.