

Family Resource Center Association 2026 Annual Impact Evaluation: Executive Summary

Family Resource Center Association (FRCA) supported 29-member Family Resource Centers (FRC) throughout Colorado in Fiscal Year 2026—all working toward a vision in which every family thrives.

FRCA provides professional development training, practice implementation support, peer exchange, data tools, and a research-informed model called the Family Pathways Framework™. The Framework defines three service tiers: General Services (e.g., referrals, community events, some direct assistance), Center Services (e.g., emergency financial assistance, parenting and life skills training), and Family Development Services (e.g., family assessment, goal setting, and coordinated case management).¹ This evaluation, conducted by Omni Institute (Omni), covers Center Services and Family Development Services delivered by member FRCs from July 2025 through June 2026, and outcomes for families enrolled in Family Development Services. Because data are not captured for General Services, these figures underrepresent the total number of families FRCs serve statewide.

Family Resource Centers serve those experiencing meaningful economic pressure

- At FRC entry, the annual median household income among families served was \$16,200—roughly one-sixth of the median household income in Colorado of \$95,470.²
- Employment was the most common unmet need at FRC entry, with 56% of families reporting challenges in this area, followed by child care (39% of families with children), health coverage (32%), and adult education (25%).
- FRCs served diverse families across urban and rural Colorado: 70% had a female identified as the head of household, 54% included two to four people, and 69% lived in urban counties.

Family Resource Centers met the needs of **26,547 individuals** who received **193,941 services or referrals**

FRCs provide direct services responsive to their communities and, per Colorado statute, also serve as referral hubs. Overall, 26,547 individuals received 193,941 services or referrals.



89%

received services to help meet basic needs such as housing, food, clothing, and transportation



5%

received services to support parenting



4%

received services to further adult education



3%

received services for healthy living and health coverage

Family Resource Centers supported improvements in economic self-sufficiency and health for families across Colorado

Family progress on economic self-sufficiency, health, and child maltreatment protective factors is assessed using the Colorado Family Support Assessment™ 2.0 (CFSA 2.0), a validated tool for measuring family well-being in areas shown to protect against child maltreatment. These findings are for the 2,160 families who engaged in Family Development Services, a coordinated case management model in which families set goals that lead to referrals or direct services.



Families demonstrated significant gains in economic self-sufficiency, ensuring children and families have the necessities to allow them to thrive.

- Economic self-sufficiency, a combined metric spanning income, employment, housing, transportation, food security, adult education, cash savings, and health coverage, rose significantly from baseline to the latest follow-up.
- On the CFSA 2.0, “moving to safety” means a family moves from crisis or vulnerability to safety, stability, or thriving. Families most often moved into safety in housing (19%), employment (17%), and debt management (16%).



Families showed significant improvement in health.

- Families showed significant improvements in physical and mental health while engaged in Family Development Services.
- While most families were already stable in physical and mental health at entry, 56% of families in mental health crisis and 55% in physical health crisis moved out of crisis at latest follow-up.



Families improved significantly in areas that protect against child maltreatment.

- Families demonstrated statistically significant increases in concrete support, family functioning and resiliency, social support, and nurturing and attachment—all of which protect against child maltreatment.³

Together, these results highlight the role Family Resource Centers play in preventing child maltreatment.

Beyond gains in specific child maltreatment protective factors, families gained greater access to economic supports and saw stronger economic outcomes—factors research has shown to reduce the risk of abuse and neglect, prevent child welfare involvement (including family separation), and enhance child and family well-being.⁴



Strengthening Fidelity to the Family Pathways Framework™

This year, FRCA and Omni established a shared approach to assess and strengthen fidelity to the Family Pathways Framework. This continuous learning initiative informs ongoing program improvements and helps evaluate how stronger fidelity directly drives better outcomes for families and children.

¹ For more information on the Family Pathways Framework, please see <https://www.cofamilycenters.org/service-delivery-model/>

² Median household income from 2020-2024, in 2024 dollars. United States Census Bureau. (2025). QuickFacts: Colorado. [Census.gov. https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/CO#](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/CO#)

³ For more information on its evidence-based rating see the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse <https://www.cebc4cw.org/assessment-tool/colorado-family-support-assessment-version-2-0/>

⁴ Casey Family Programs. (2022). *How do economic supports benefit families and communities?* Retrieved 2026-09-21, from <https://www.casey.org/economic-supports-research/>

