

We make opportunity happen.

Driving public policies that help Coloradans get ahead
and stay ahead.



A Look Past the Cliff: Preliminary Findings from the CCCAP Cliff Effect Pilot Projects

Rich Jones and Natalie Wood
October 2016

The Bell Policy Center





We make opportunity happen.

Driving public policies that help Coloradans get ahead and stay ahead.

The Bell Policy Center identifies, researches, and advocates for ideas that build and sustain economic opportunity in Colorado. Our primary areas of focus are:

- ❖ Promoting family economic security
- ❖ Transforming post secondary education and training
- ❖ Ensuring that Colorado has a long-term strategy on aging
- ❖ Increasing financial support for effective public services



History of the Cliff Effect Pilot

3

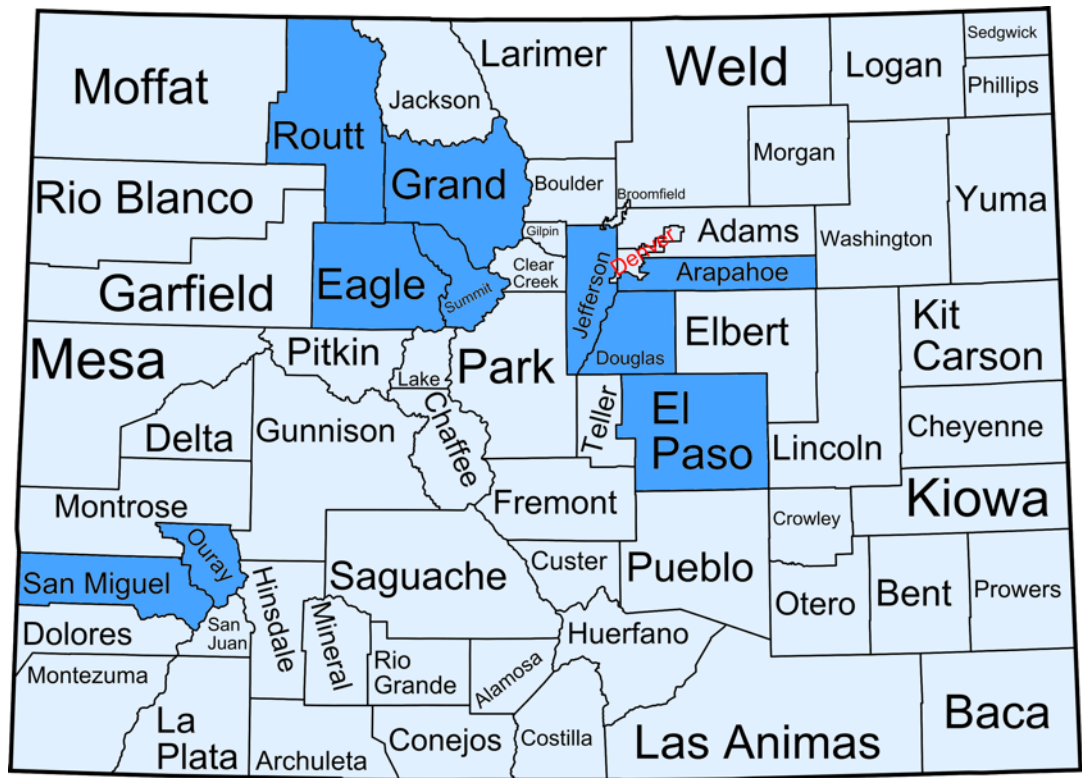
Pieces of Legislation

10

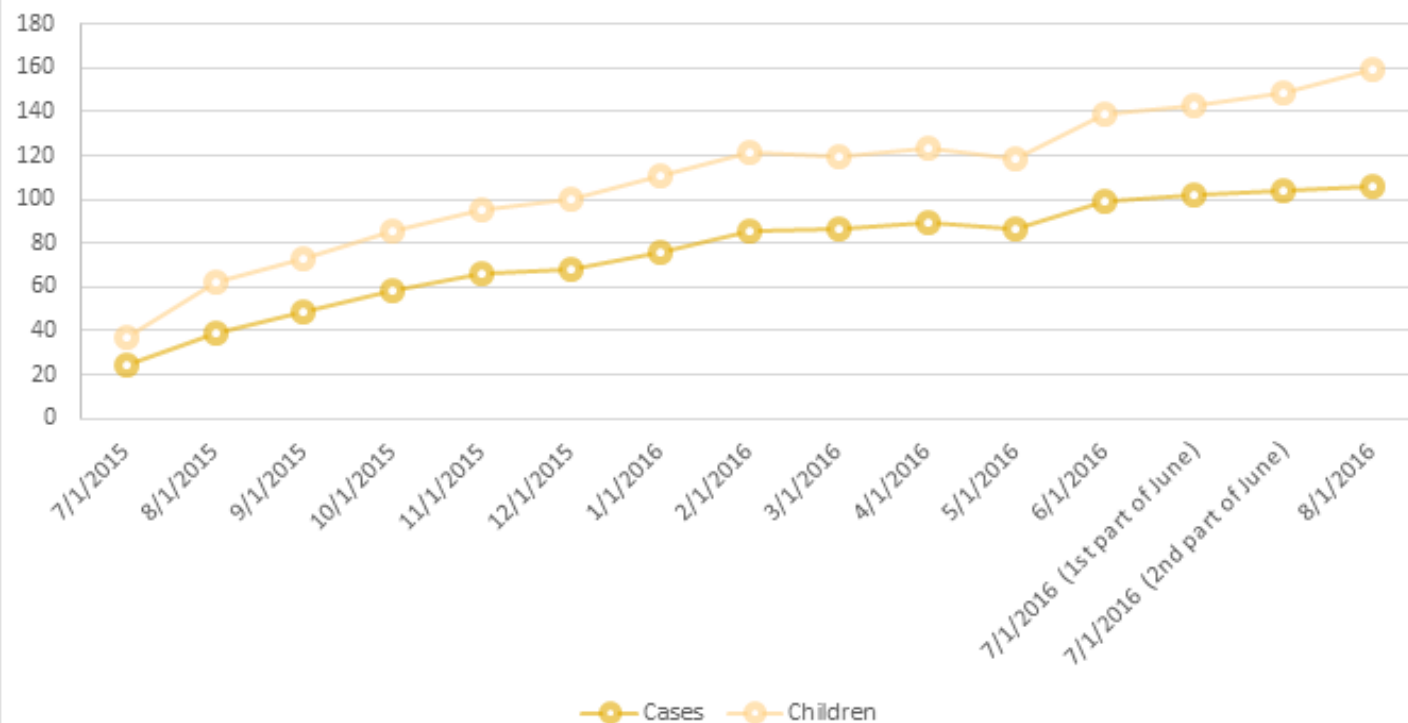
Counties Participating Counties (through July 2016)

\$1.2 M

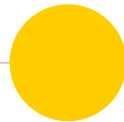
Appropriated in FY 14-15 for the pilot



CCAP Cliff Effect Pilot Participants



County Perspectives



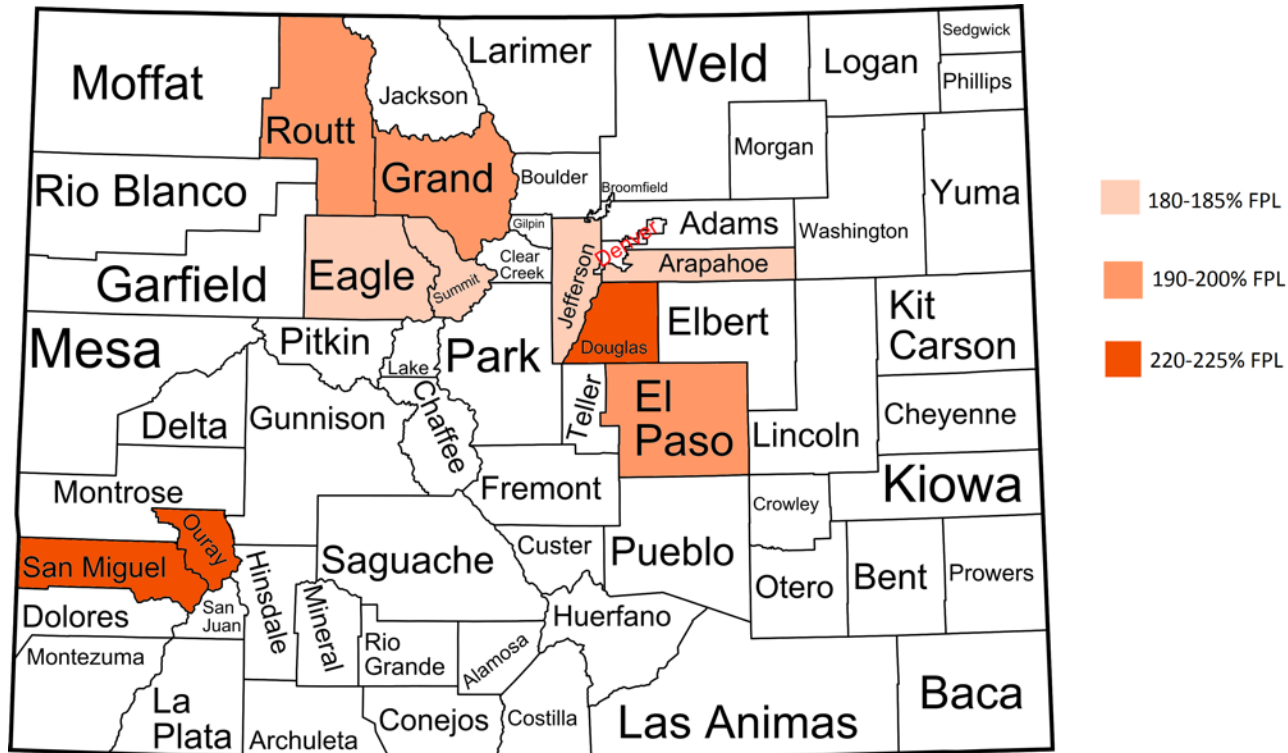


Pilot design variation

- ◉ Exit FPL Level
- ◉ Communication
- ◉ Opt in/Opt out
- ◉ Parent copays – amounts and adjustments
- ◉ Frequency of income redetermination or proof
- ◉ When pilot kicks in – application of 90 day rule



Pilot Design: Exit FPL Level





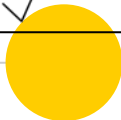
Pilot Design: Communication

- ◉ Timing
- ◉ Method
- ◉ Redetermination
- ◉ Personnel assigned
- ◉ Feedback



Pilot Design: Opt in/Opt out

County	Opt out	Opt in
Arapahoe	✓	
Douglas		✓
Eagle	✓	
El Paso	✓	
Grand	✓	
Jefferson		✓
Ouray	✓	
Routt	✓	
San Miguel	✓	
Summit	✓	





Pilot Design Approaches: Co-Pays

County	Adjustment frequency and amount
Arapahoe	1 st month = CCCAP co-pay; subsequent months, based on household income and graduated parental co-pay schedule.
Douglas	1 st six months = CCCAP co-pay; 1% increase each subsequent six month period.
Eagle	1 st six months = CCCAP co-pay; increases of 20% and 30% each six month period based on cost of care and family income.
El Paso	1 st six months = CCCAP co-pay; 10% increase each subsequent six month period. Max set at provider's private pay rate.
Grand*	1 st six months = CCCAP co-pay; 10% increase each subsequent six month period. Max set at provider's private pay rate.
Jefferson	1 st ninety days = CCCAP co-pay; 91 st day-six months = 14% + \$40 for additional child; 1% increases for each subsequent six month period.
Ouray	1 st six months = CCCAP co-pay; 6-12 months 20% increase; additional increase by the dollar amount of that 20% increase in each subsequent six month period.
Routt	CCCAP co-pay up to 225% FPL; increases by 5% tied to income up to 25% of household income.
San Miguel	1 st six months = CCCAP co-pay; 6-12 months 20% increase; additional increase by the dollar amount of that 20% increase in each subsequent six month period.
Summit*	CCCAP full monthly child care cost is calculated. Current co-pay is subtracted and divided by 24. Amount is added to monthly parent co-pay until parent pays the full cost of care.



Pilot Design: Income Redetermination

County	6 months	12 months
Arapahoe	✓	
Douglas		✓
Eagle		✓
El Paso		
Grand		
Jefferson		✓
Ouray		✓
Routt		✓
San Miguel		✓
Summit		✓





County Insights

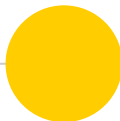
“We had hoped that the funding could provide ongoing case management and transitional case management. I think that is a missing piece.”

“Child support has a huge impact. People don’t want to apply because people don’t want to receive it. They are very concerned about the child support putting them over so they aren’t very forthcoming about its impact.”

“Coming up with the parent fee calculation was hard. I was scratching my head for days, if not weeks coming up with something to do.”

*“We don’t call it ‘the cliff.’
Parents’ hackles immediately go up.”*

“We should look at how to prevent siloes. If we are looking at...supporting higher wages then we should be partnering with other programs at CDHS that help to that end.”





County Insights

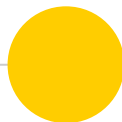
"It's a huge benefit to someone who would have a \$1000 tuition bill. If you roll that number out to anyone, a \$200 parent fee increase helps substantially."

"These are hard working families and I really think it's a segment of our population that we need to support."

"If we aren't allocated more pilot funding, we just won't do it. It's heartbreaking because child care really is the gateway to self-sufficiency for families."

"The cliff effect is really hard on families. Glad it is starting to be recognized and addressed."

"It's important to relay that they are doing great in life, and (the increased co-pay) is not a punishment.' Anything for them to see the change is a positive."

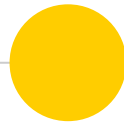




County Concerns


- Impact of tiered reimbursement
- FY 16-17 pilot allocation
- Movement of families

Family Perspectives





***“To work as hard as I do, I need child care.
And if I didn’t have CCCAP I couldn’t work.
Why would I pay \$1300/month when I am only
making \$900?”***

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a teal shirt and blue jeans, is kneeling on a grey concrete sidewalk. She is hugging a young child from behind. The child is wearing a white t-shirt, blue jeans, and gold sandals. A large black backpack is on the child's back, and a white stuffed animal is visible peeking out from the bottom of the backpack. The background shows a building with light-colored stone walls and a glass door.

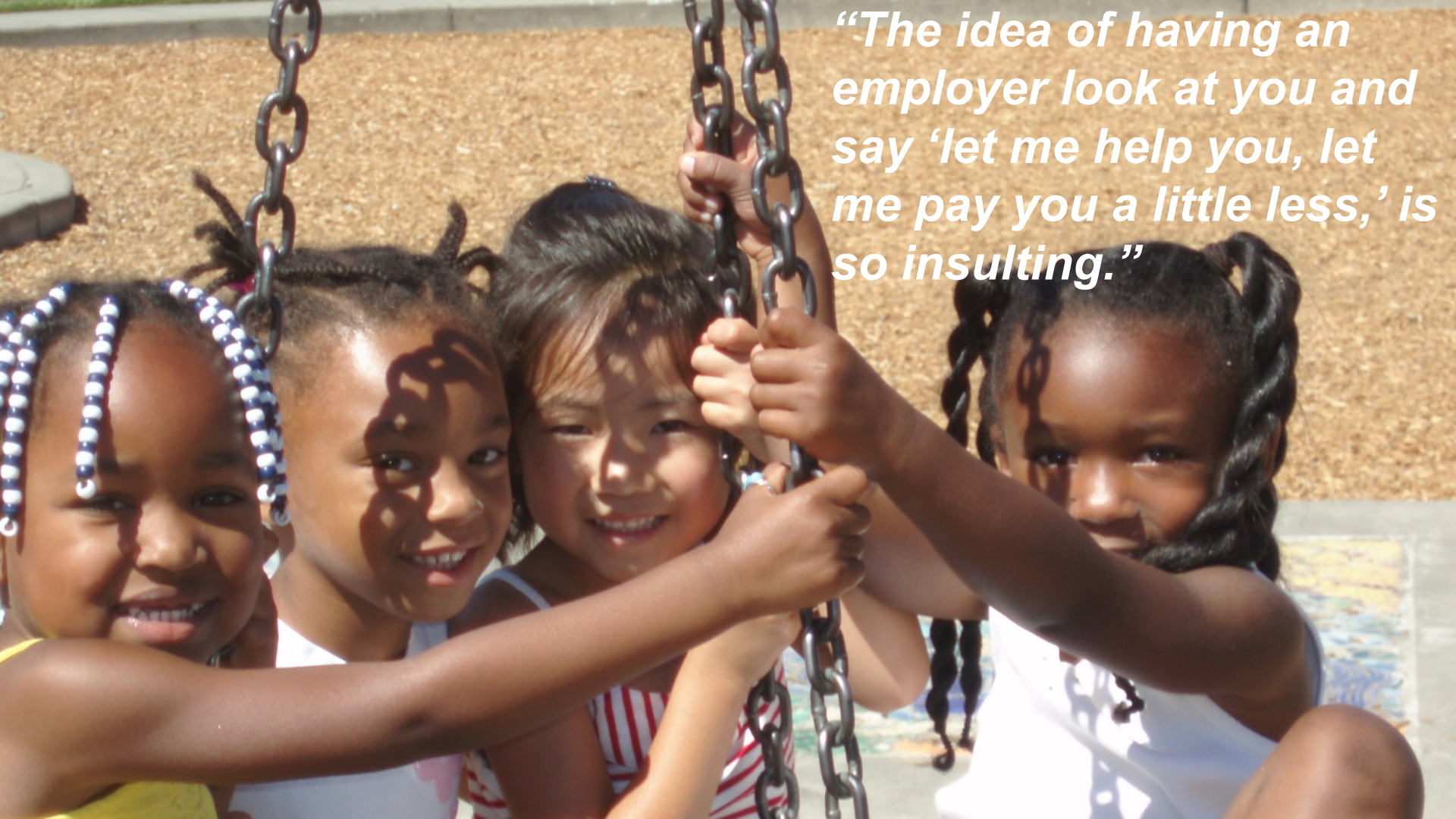
“I believe that you have to grow professionally. I don’t want to be on CCCAP for a long time. I want to be self-sufficient.”

*I'm worried because if I get a raise, or
make more money, I can't afford
child care."*



When a 50-cent raise costs you \$2 in benefits, it doesn't work."




A close-up photograph of four young girls of diverse backgrounds smiling and holding onto a metal swing chain at a playground. The girls are of various ethnicities, including African American and Asian. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a sandy playground surface. The text is overlaid in the top right corner.

“The idea of having an employer look at you and say ‘let me help you, let me pay you a little less,’ is so insulting.”




“I got a raise and (went over). I was also told I would lose Medicaid. Obviously you panic. I had to go from paying \$480/month to paying \$1000. That almost took up everything I had. But then I was able to enroll in the pilot.”



“I wasn’t scared when I was on the pilot. But I didn’t understand it completely and that goes into why I lost it...”

“The increased co-pays have been fair and reasonable. It increased quite a bit, but so did my pay. That’s to be expected. I would like for it to be continued, even if I have to increase my co-pay.”



A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a black t-shirt, is holding a young child. The child is wearing a blue shirt and has their hand near their mouth. They are in a dimly lit room, possibly a living area, with a doorway and some furniture visible in the background. A quote is overlaid on the right side of the image.

(Ultimately) I couldn't go backwards. I would have had to take a huge pay cut at work. And that is just ridiculous."



Observations

- ⦿ Preliminary results!
- ⦿ Need greater family feedback
- ⦿ Stay tuned for statistical analysis
- ⦿ Natural experiment



Questions?





Connect with us online



bellpolicy.org



[@BellPolicy](https://twitter.com/BellPolicy)



facebook.com/bellpolicy



[@BellPolicy](https://www.instagram.com/BellPolicy)

The Bell Policy Center
1905 Sherman St.
Suite 900
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: (303) 297-0456