CLOSING THOUGHTS

Reimagining or Disrupting: How to Manage Fear & Lead Change with Energy and Excitement

May 15, 2019
Low-income children are prepared to enter Kindergarten “ready to learn”

School Readiness

Low-income children graduate high school job or career ready, and are prepared to become successful members of their communities

Youth Success

Families with low income have increased financial security and assets

Family Economic Security

State and local economies offer opportunities for families and individuals living in low-income communities

Community & Economic Development

About Gary Community Investments

OUR MISSION:
To improve the lives of Colorado’s low-income children and their families.

Engagement

Research

Policy

Investment

Snapshot: Children in Colorado

There are 1.3 MILLION children in CO including 334k under the age of 5

1 out of 4 CO parents worry about their children’s emotions or behavior

More than 50% children in CO do not meet kindergarten readiness criteria

Infant child care costs CO families $15,000 annually per child

191,000 young CO children are food insecure
Our innovation strategies

**Early Childhood Fund**
To spur investment opportunities and catalyze private sector activity that will lead to improved child outcomes.

**Innovation Ecosystem for Children**
To support and scale the transformative work of early childhood for-profits and nonprofits and connect diverse actors in Colorado around key issues in the EC sector to accelerate the rate of change.

**Early Childhood Prize**
To accelerate the sourcing, testing and funding of new ideas to tackle challenges in early childhood.
Prize principles

➢ Problem focused: 0-3
➢ Source innovators at different stages to encourage a range of potential ideas
➢ Foster transparency and collaboration through open innovation platform
➢ Engage experts to improve ideas through mentoring and evaluation
➢ Award capital and exposure to the best ideas

$1M Awarded to the top 15 ideas

The Early Childhood Innovation Prize
We’ve heard: What excites innovators & partners

“I’d like this experience to open my mind to what is possible in ECE beyond the traditional Head-Start model I’ve worked in, especially for lower SES kiddos and marginalized communities of color.”

“For 30 years, I’ve looked worldwide for innovation and best practices around children, media, technology, play and learning. This is an opportunity to hear new thinking while also bringing historical and global perspective (though never saying ‘It’s always been done that way!’)”

“We are most interested in activities that build our capacity to innovate and connect us to the resources we need to progress.”

We’ve heard: What innovators need

Most needed to progress:

1. Funding
2. Strategic partners
3. Mentors
4. Network

“Early education receives just 5% of education funding. Therefore, it’s hard to design sustainable business models that support early education.”
Building momentum

How might we build Colorado’s innovation ecosystem to accelerate innovation and impact for young children?

Accelerating impact in Colorado and beyond
WHAT IS AN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM?

The infrastructure that supports nonprofit and for-profit ventures to launch and grow, enabling them to offer solutions to major challenges faced by young children 0-10 in Colorado.

Key impact metrics

GOAL: Increased depth and breadth of impact on young children in Colorado, particularly children at-risk

- New, successful Colorado ventures focused on children
- Significant investment in children in Colorado
- A thriving ecosystem attracting deal flow, new capital, research and innovation
- Economic activity spurred by child-centered ventures
- Colorado’s reputation enhanced in the areas of economic opportunity, social impact investing, and opportunity for children
- Maintained focus on low-income children and their families
Learning from those who have come before us

Potential ecosystem Network Members might include...

- Customers & Pilots
- Accelerators
- Networks & Conveners
- Universities
- Investors
- Mentors & Coaches
- Researchers
- Experts
- Customers & Pilots
- Government
How can we leverage what already exists?

What can we learn from innovators?

- Relentless analysis of data
- Paying attention to scale from the start
- Understanding the “end-users”
- Founders – mission oriented, new skills
- Courage & fearlessness
What will it take?

• Co-creation
• Remaining curious and open
• Clarity about where we are stuck
• Iterating quickly
• Embracing the uncomfortable

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.GaryCommunity.org