

WILD
PLUM
CENTER

FOR YOUNG
CHILDREN &
FAMILIES

ANNUAL REPORT

Head Start & Early Head Start

2023 / 2024



CONTENTS:

1 Message from the Chief Executive Officer

2 Services

3 Health and Nutrition

4 Transitions

4 Parent Engagement

5 Preschool Outcomes

6 Infant/Toddler Outcomes

7 Family Outcomes

8 Persons Served

9 Community Partnerships

10 23-24 Funding

11 23-24 Expenses

12 24-25 Proposed Budget

14 Board of Directors

A Message from the CEO:



I welcome the opportunity to look back at this past academic year and recognize the accomplishments of the Wild Plum Center. It has been a year of continued growth as we invest in the future leaders of our Longmont Community.

We were able to showcase our strengths as we underwent a full review of our program's quality by the Federal Office of Head Start. While we know our staff are wonderful at what they do, this process required every member of the organization to do their part in preparing for the Review while still executing their daily jobs with the same care and attention to detail. This is a strong team that excelled in this program review, and I am proud to report that no concerns were noted.

Additionally, we had a full assessment of Teacher Quality by the Federal Office of Head Start, and all scores were reported to be above the quality thresholds that are set at a federal level. This speaks to the high quality programming Wild Plum Center offers, and we are proud of our teachers for their exemplary work in this field of Early Childhood Education.

While our staff have been hard at work to manage these accomplishments, our programs have also achieved child outcomes that are sending our preschoolers off to Kindergarten ready to tackle the rigors of elementary school. The impact we have on the young children and families that walk through our doors never escapes me, and we are looking forward to years of continued growth.

We participated in multiple community initiatives this year that allowed us to shine a light on the importance of early childhood education for the children and families of Longmont. Many of these community initiatives included bringing financial and workforce supports into our community to support early childhood education efforts.

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud of the progress we have made in nourishing young minds and growing futures. Our commitment to excellence in early childhood education remains unwavering, and we look forward to continuing this journey alongside our students, families, and community partners. On behalf of Wild Plum's Board of Directors, Policy Council, Executive Team and entire staff, thank you for your support and belief in our mission. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for every child.

Amy Ogilvie
Amy Ogilvie, CEO

Services

Quality early childhood education is one of the most effective ways to influence the path of a child and their family. We partner with families so that parents are empowered to participate in their child's education and wellness. All services are offered in both English and Spanish. In addition to classroom programs, our Family Specialists conduct in-home visits where they can get to know a child's individual needs and address strengths and weaknesses within the family. This kind of attention to detail and a caring approach is what drives our success.

Infant/Toddler Programs 0-3

Developmental services are provided to children ages 0-3 year, as well as prenatal and post-partum pregnant women and children with disabilities. Parents/guardians may select from either a home-based or center-based service model. Home-based services involve Family Mentors working with parents one-on-one in a home setting. This option is supplemented by group-delivered parent education and parent/child socialization activities. Center-based services provide a curriculum-based setting for children while parents work or go to school.

Preschool Programs 3-5

A comprehensive preschool program is available to low-income 3-5 year olds including children with disabilities. Preschool service elements address all aspects of need and allow for meaningful and impactful educational experiences.

Curriculum

- Research-based Creative Curriculum is being used in all 9 Preschool Classrooms.
- The 6 Infant/Toddler classrooms use Beautiful Beginnings Curriculum supplemented by Storybook Journey.
- Our home-based program uses Growing Great Kids Curriculum.
- Each of these curricula focus on all areas of children's growth:
 - Physical
 - Cognitive
 - Social/emotional
 - Language and Literacy
 - Approaches to Learning
- By utilizing each of the three curricula, every Teacher or Family Mentor is able to incorporate and address the specific interests, characteristics, and needs of the children and families in their class.



Health and Nutrition

It is important that our students receive the nourishment they need in order to grow, learn, and be successful, which is why we are glad to provide 2/3 of their nutritional needs every day that they are in the classroom at no cost to our families.

- Using the USDA MyPlate in addition to working with the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), cooks prepare meals each day for all of the classrooms.
- Wild Plum Center works with parents and caregivers to access healthcare screenings and services for their children. Our health services include:
 - Hearing and vision screenings
 - Well-child support, including care and vaccines
 - Prenatal, postpartum, and breastfeeding support and education
 - Home safety education
 - Nutrition information for the entire family, such as helping families access supplemental food items
 - Prenatal and postpartum mental health screenings
- We also provide referrals to health providers and other community resources as appropriate, and help families navigate complicated medical situations to ensure they get proper treatment. Additionally, all Wild Plum parents are encouraged to participate in First Aid and CPR classes at no cost to them.



Transitions

Wild Plum's transition process centers on the needs and abilities of each child to ensure that are able to successfully move up to the next level of education, whether that be a toddler going from home-based service delivery to a WPC early childhood education learning center, or a preschooler transitioning into Kindergarten.

Home-Based to ECE Center/Site

Children going from a home-based or Infant/Toddler model into a Center-Based program receive support from a designated Family Mentor who works directly with both the child and family unit to ensure a successful transition. This Family Mentor maintains close and consistent contact through this 6-month process.

Preschoolers to Kindergarten

For preschool students, discussions with parents about the expectations and requirements children will experience in Kindergarten occur throughout the school year. Specifically, parents are supported from the registration process through enrollment. Transition meetings with the school district are scheduled and families visit the new school. For children with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) moving on to Kindergarten, meetings occur at the end of the school year and include special education service providers, WPC staff, parents, and public school staff.

Parent Engagement

Wild Plum Center makes every effort to support parents through their own journeys in parenthood and paths to self-sufficiency and lifelong learning. We create many opportunities for all parents and caregivers of children who are enrolled in our programs to become more engaged with their children and involved with their education. These include:

- WPC's Policy Council
- Health Advisory Committee
- Parent/Child Activities including educational activities and workshops, live performances, visits to museums and children's fun centers, recreation centers, and other community events.
- Parenting Classes & Workshops
- CPR & First Aid Classes
- In-Home Educational Opportunities
- Conscious Discipline Parent Nights
- Volunteer Opportunities



Preschool Outcomes

Wild Plum Center uses the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment system for all children. In the fall, winter, and spring the teachers use checkpoints to compare each child's skills and behaviors to research-based indicators of learning and development. These comparisons indicate, for each domain, whether a child's skills and behaviors are below, at, or above expectations for their age.

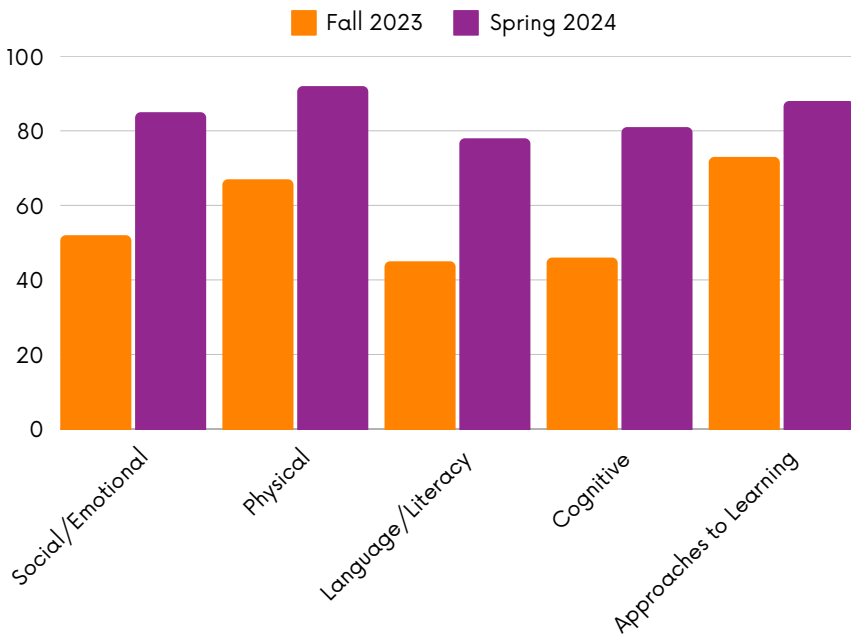
The graph shows the percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectation in areas of targeted skills when they started at Wild Plum Center in the Fall of 2023 and where they were at the final Spring checkpoint in 2024.

Children showed improvement in all categories from the Fall to Spring checkpoints. On average, the number of children meeting and exceeding expectations was 85% in the five measured areas: social/emotional, physical, language and literacy, cognitive, and approaches to learning.

The significant growth across all five domains proves the effectiveness of Wild Plum Center's positive impact on children's development and kindergarten readiness.

Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding Expectations at Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Checkpoint

All Children Ages 3-5 years

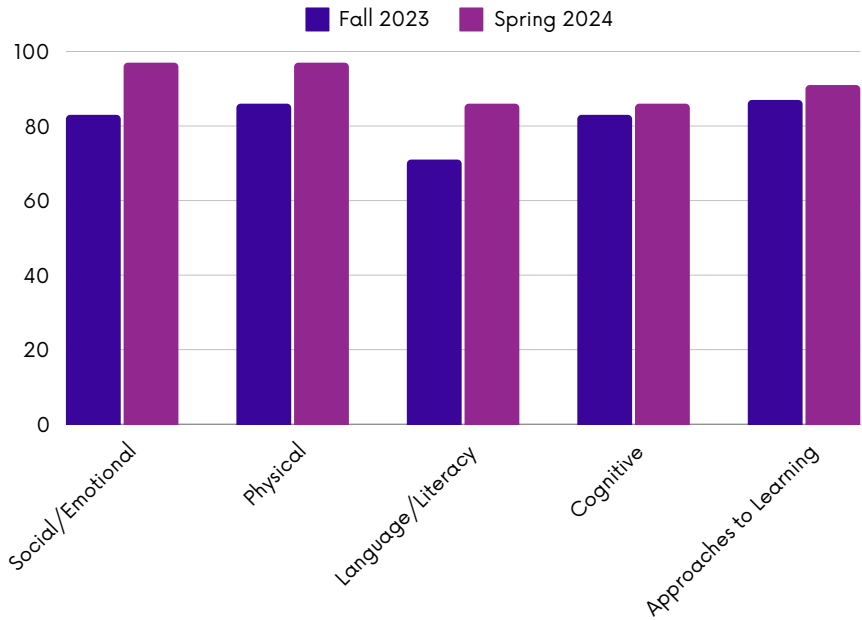


Infant/Toddler Outcomes

Wild Plum uses data to inform instruction allowing us to understand how our efforts are working and the developmental areas in which Wild Plum children may need more support. Data is gathered in the areas of social-emotional, physical, language and literacy, and cognitive with a subset of data related to approaches to learning.

Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding Expectations at Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Checkpoints

All Children Ages 0-3 years



The chart above shows the percentage of Wild Plum children ages 0-3 meeting and exceeding expectations of the targeted skills at the final Spring checkpoint in 2024. At the last available checkpoint, the Wild Plum Early Head Start children are shown to be on track developmentally and showed an average of 9% improvement across the five areas of development.

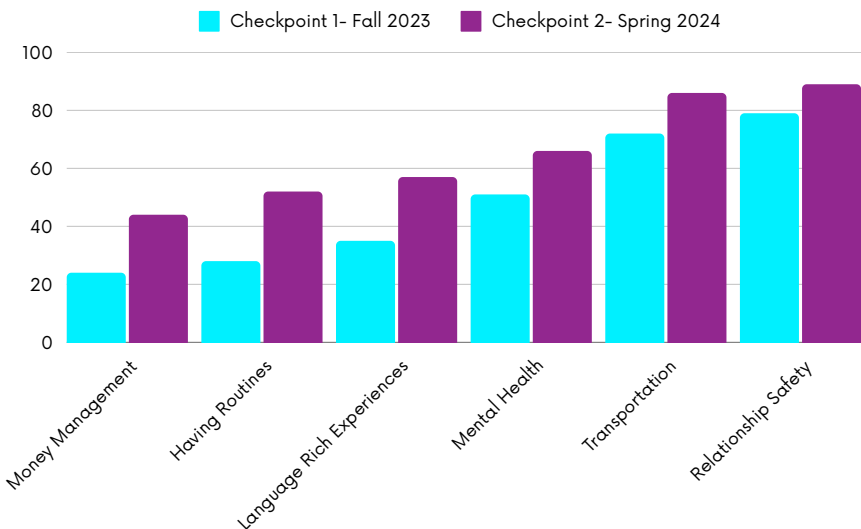
Family Outcomes

In addition to monitoring children's progress, Wild Plum Center assesses self-sufficiency, connections to peers and community, and parent/child relationships. The 21 areas of measure include:

- Reading Daily
- Positive Discipline
- Child Care
- Having Routines
- Employment
- Housing
- Life Skills
- Volunteering
- Language Rich Experiences
- Health Care Access
- Child Safety
- Food
- Transportation
- Money Management
- Criminal Justice System
- Substance Use
- Support System
- Physical Health
- Relationship Safety
- Mental Health
- Adult Education

Every Wild Plum Center family participates in a Self-Sufficiency Analysis, as well as a review of progress made toward goals as outlined in an individualized Family Partnership Agreement. The graph below displays outcomes from the analysis, showing increases in several areas of self-sufficiency for program families.

Family Outcomes 2023–2024 School Year



Persons Served

Infant/Toddler

Enrollment year: September 2023 – August 2024

**TOTAL CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT:
127 PERSONS SERVED FROM 101 FAMILIES**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Under one year old:	32	EHS funded enrollment:	68
1 year old:	35	Center-based, 5 days a week:	32
2 years old:	27	Home-based:	32
3 years old:	17	Pregnant Women:	12
Pregnant Women:	16		

Preschool

Enrollment year: September 2023 – August 2024

**TOTAL CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT:
156 CHILDREN FROM 146 FAMILIES**

NUMBER OF CHILDREN

2 years old:	12	Head Start funded enrollment:	141
3 years old:	70		
4 years old:	74		

PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED:

	Infant/Toddler	Preschool
Below Income	22%	13%
Receiving Public Assistance	17%	32%
Homeless	50%	33%
Over-Income	5%	8%
Foster Care	0%	0%
Between 100% and 130%	6%	14%

AVERAGE
MONTHLY
ENROLLMENT FOR
EARLY HEAD START:

99%

PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLED CHILDREN RECEIVING MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXAMS:

	Infant/Toddler	Preschool
Medical Exams	91%	80%
Dental Exams	48%	78%

AVERAGE
MONTHLY
ENROLLMENT FOR
HEAD START:

99%

Community Partnerships

Non-Profits and Organizations

A Precious Child
A Way Forward
A Woman's Work
Girl Scouts Troop 78567
Growing Gardens
Flagstaff Academy
Heart of Longmont
Justice Center
Knit & Purl Group
Longmont Museum
Longmont Public Library
NamaSTEM
OUR Center
Twin Peaks Rotary Club
WOW Museum

Businesses

AMD
Bridge Center for Play Therapy
Burg Simpson
Centura Health
Common Spirit
Crest Insurance
El Centro Amistad
El Comite
FirstWatch
Georgia Boys BBQ
Hopelight Health Services
King Soopers
KidsCare
Lexia Learning Systems LLC
Longmont Dairy
Longmont Yarn Shoppe
MY Wealth Planners
Marcos Tacos
PIE
Primrose
Proctor Productions
Rocky Mountain Systems
Salud Family Health
Villalobos Printing
Wild Cider

Funders and Foundations

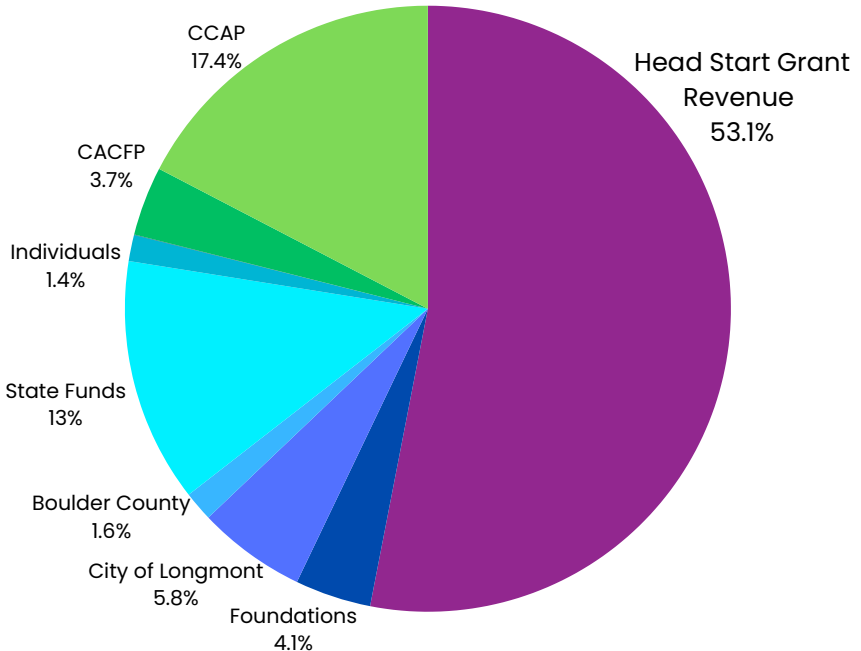
Austin Community Foundation
Boulder County
Buell Foundation
City of Longmont/Council's Book Club
Community Foundation Boulder County
Christine & David Ross Charitable Fund
City of Longmont
Dodge Family Fund
Fidelity Charitable Fund
Hill Charitable Fund
Independent Financial
Kingsberry Friends & Family Fund
Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce
Longmont Community Foundation
Longs Peak United Methodist Women
Maloney Palaich Family Fund
Meadowood Fund
Mile High United Way
Nading Family Fund
National Health Investors
Norris Family Fund
The Sam S. Bloom Foundation
Schnabel Family Fund
Vraboake Charitable Fund
Weibel Family Fund
William & Nancy Berry Family Fund



2023-2024 Funding

Funding

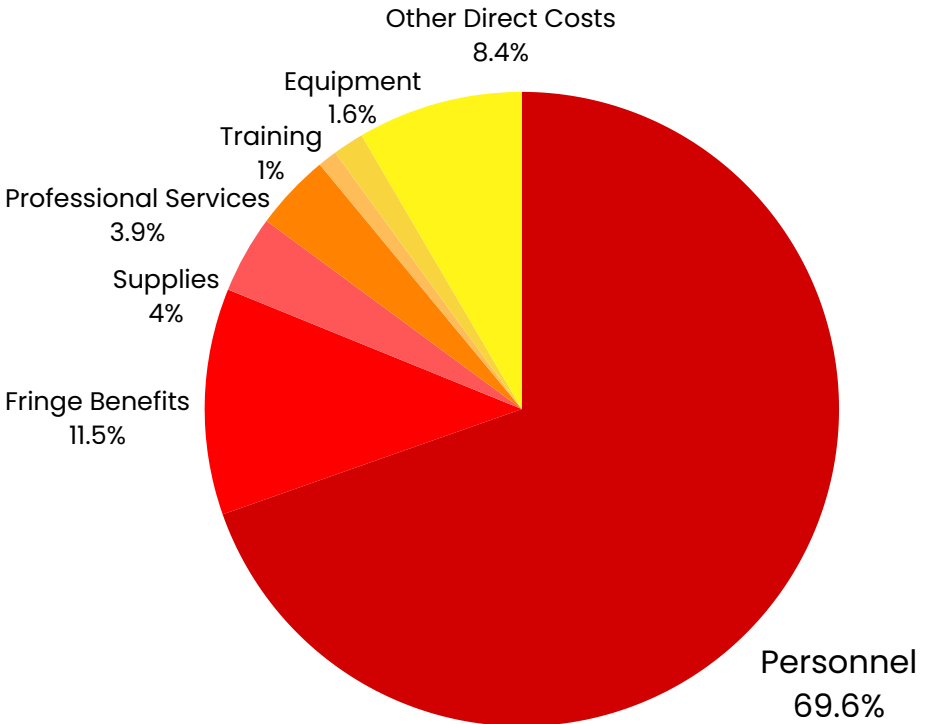
Head Start Grant Revenue	\$2,906,986
Foundations	\$222,290
City of Longmont	\$316,911
Boulder County	\$86,829
State Funds	\$714,193
Individuals	\$76,486
Corporations	\$1,558
CACFP	\$202,353
CCAP	\$951,384
TOTAL:	\$5,478,989



**RESULTS OF MOST
RECENT AUDIT:
In 2023-2024
ZERO concerns were identified.**

2023-2024 Expenses

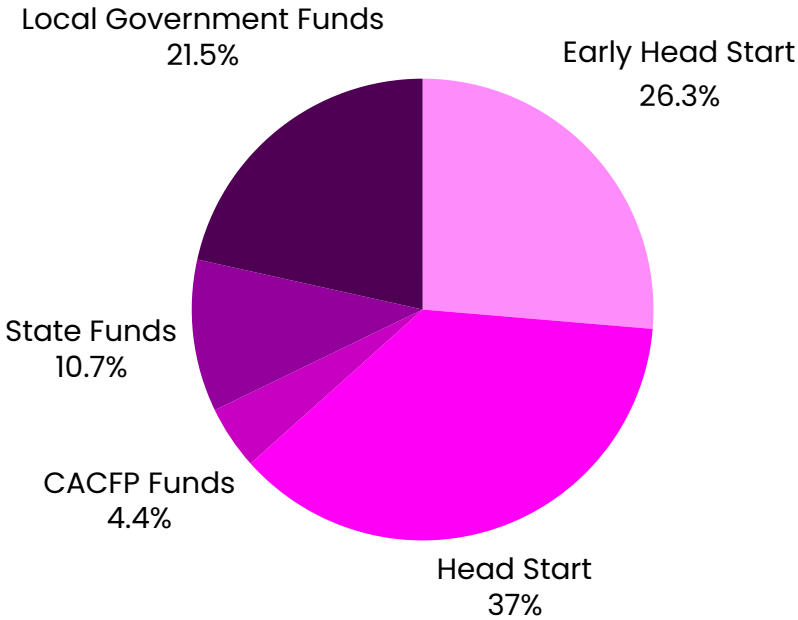
Expenses	
Personnel	\$3,458,868
Fringe Benefits	\$573,140
Supplies	\$196,926
Professional Services	\$193,519
Other Direct Costs	\$419,024
Training & Technical Assistance	\$48,555
Equipment	\$78,726
TOTAL Expense:	\$4,968,757



2024-2025 Proposed Budget

Public Funding

Early Head Start	\$1,236,022
Head Start	\$1,738,287
CACFP Funds	\$208,593
State Funds	\$500,000
Local Government Funds	\$1,009,928



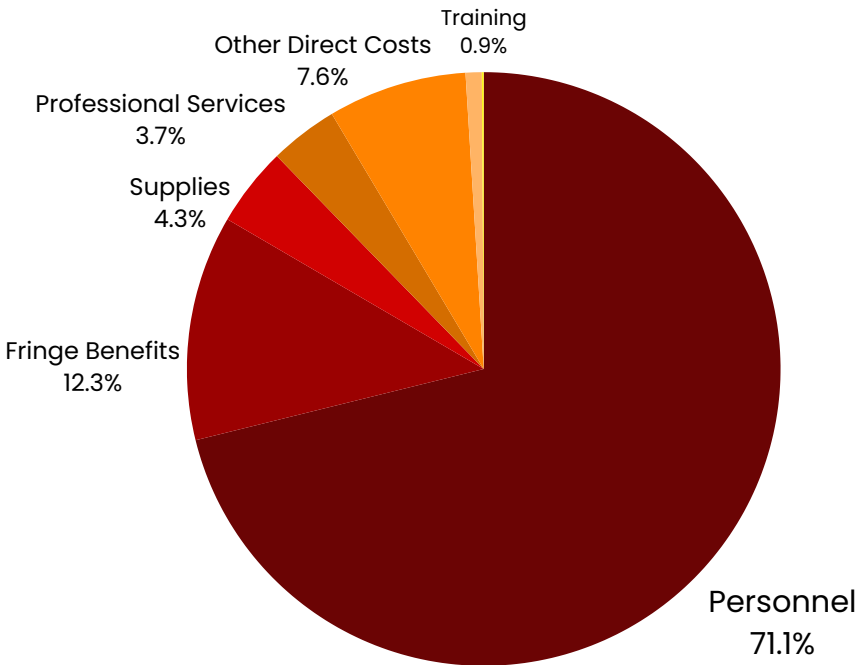
Private Funding

Foundations	\$171,874
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TOTAL Funding:	\$4,864,704
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2024-2025 Proposed Budget

Expenses	
Personnel	\$3,460,848
Fringe Benefits	\$596,948
Supplies	\$209,950
Professional Services	\$181,070
Other Direct Costs	\$368,191
Training & Technical Assistance	\$42,696
Equipment	\$5,000
TOTAL Expense:	\$4,864,704



Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Wild Plum Center is an active, engaged group of people that meets with key staff annually for an in-depth strategic planning session and monthly to set policies and maintain the overall direction of Wild Plum Center. The board defines the mission, establishes priorities, crafts strategies, and ensures that plans and programs are implemented.

PRESIDENT: Dennis Berry, Retired Administrator

VICE PRESIDENT: Stephen Hoel, Principal at SVVSD

TREASURER: Michelle Burns, Financial Analyst

SECRETARY: Judy Davis, Therapist, Private Practice

MEMBERS: Mindy Brooks, Administrator

Holly Kammerer, Lawyer, Burg Simpson

Susan Julien, Elementary School Counselor

Amy Homann, Parent Representative

Angelique Velasco, Librarian

Maria Valdez, Parent Representative



Show Your Support

INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Please consider contributing to the Wild Plum Center with a monetary donation. Without these gifts of financial support we would not be able to provide essential services to Longmont's low income families and their children.

We have many ways to contribute to the success of these programs and the future leaders of Longmont! Please visit www.wildplumcenter.org/donate



BECOME A COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

To find out more about becoming a donor, volunteer or community advocate contact us today!

info@wildplumcenter.org

Call: 303-776-8523

Mailing address: 82 21st Avenue, Longmont, CO 80501

www.wildplumcenter.org