

YEAR IN REVIEW

2024 ~ 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Head Start &
Early Head Start

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A Message from the CEO:

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Dear Wild Plum Community,

As we reflect on this past year, one theme rises above all others: **resilience with purpose**. Despite significant transitions and external challenges, our team, families, and partners continued to move forward with a “What’s next?” mindset that kept Wild Plum Center strong, innovative, and deeply connected to the community we serve.

Our Mobile Classroom underwent a remarkable transformation into a mobile STEM Machine that will bring hands-on learning to children across our community.

Our volunteer program continued to grow, deepening the relationships that make Wild Plum such a vibrant and connected community. Volunteers showed up with heart—supporting classrooms, preparing materials, assisting at events, and lending their hands to projects big and small—strengthening the sense of shared purpose that defines who we are.

Enrollment processes were refined, creating a smoother, more welcoming, and ultimately more successful experience for families. With simplified requirements and a more streamlined system, families were able to navigate enrollment with greater ease and confidence. These improvements not only reduced barriers but also ensured that every family felt supported from the very first interaction.

This year also brought meaningful internal changes that strengthened our organization. We expanded our leadership capacity, added new expertise across teams, and positioned ourselves for the next phase of Wild Plum’s growth. Throughout the year, we made intentional adjustments to improve communication, support staff more effectively, & elevate the quality of our programs. These changes have created new energy and momentum—fueling a sense of excitement about the future and reinforcing our commitment to serving children and families with excellence. Throughout all of this, we continued our culture work—identifying priority areas that will guide how we show up for one another, how we lead, and how we build a workplace rooted in trust, collaboration, and shared purpose.

We also deepened our work with state and local initiatives focused on improving access and affordability for early childhood education in Longmont. Much of this collaboration centered on addressing the impacts of the CCAP freeze, which continues to limit families’ ability to access care even when seats are available. Through policy discussions, statewide workgroups, and local coalitions, we helped elevate the voices of families most affected by the freeze and advocated for solutions. These partnerships are strengthening the early childhood system across our region and ensuring that Wild Plum Center remains a strong voice in shaping long-term strategies that expand opportunity for all children.

To our donors, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your generosity and trust make it possible for WPC to continue providing high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive family support. Your belief in our mission fuels every classroom moment, every family connection, and every step forward for the children we serve. Thank you for standing with us and investing in a stronger, more equitable future for our community.

In every corner of the organization, from classrooms to board meetings to community events, Wild Plum Center demonstrated what it means to stay mission-driven in a time of change. We are grateful to our families, staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who make this work possible every day. Thank you for believing in our mission and for walking alongside us as we continue to grow, adapt, and serve with heart.

With gratitude,



Elizabeth Lenski, CEO

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/mathematics
 - 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 & 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:

4

Wild Plum's transition process centers on the needs and abilities of each child to ensure that they 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 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:

4

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, local farms, and other community events.
- Parenting Classes & Workshops
- CPR & First Aid Classes
- In-Home Educational Opportunities
- 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.

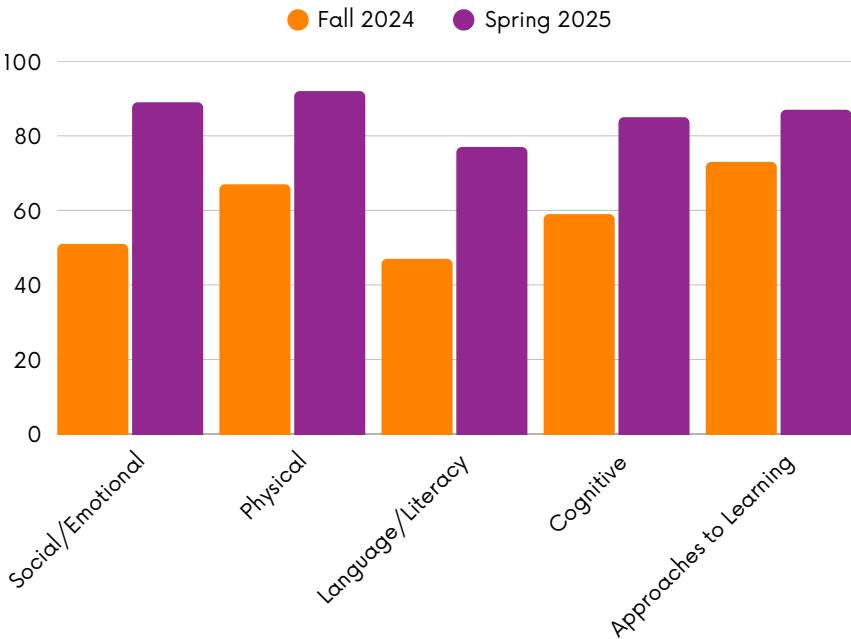
The graph shows the percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectation in areas of targeted skills when they started at Wild Plum Center in the Fall of 2024 and where they were at the final Spring checkpoint in 2025.

Children showed improvement in all categories from the Fall to Spring checkpoints. On average, the number of children meeting and exceeding expectations by the Spring was 86% 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 2024 and Spring 2025 Checkpoint

All Children Ages 3-5 years

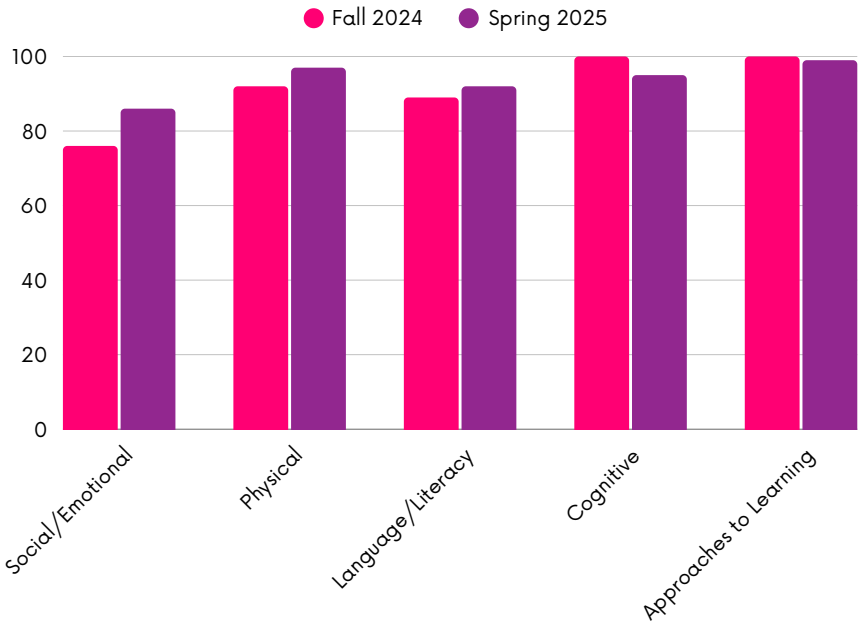


Infant/Toddler Outcomes:

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 2024 and Spring 2025 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 2.5% improvement across the areas of development.

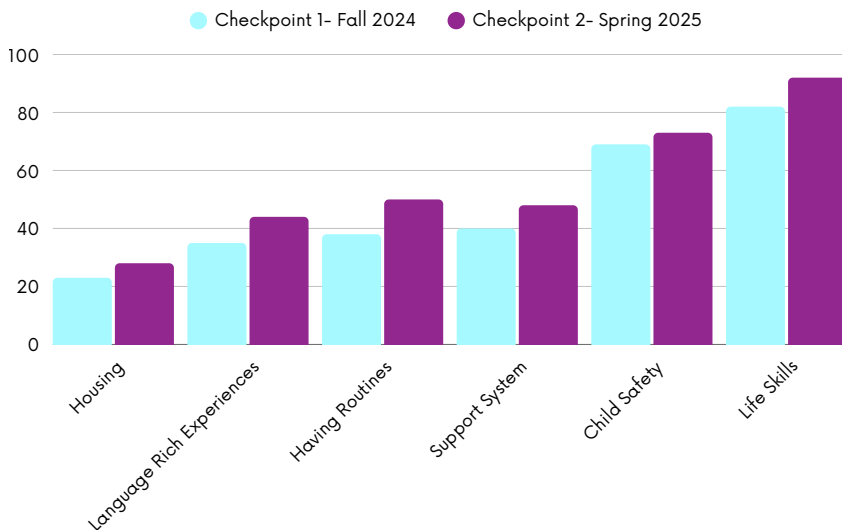
Family Outcomes:

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 2024–2025 School Year



Persons Served:

Infant/Toddler

Enrollment year: September 2024 – August 2025

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

NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Under one year old:	31	EHS funded enrollment:	68
1 year old:	24	Center-based, 5 days a week:	32
2 years old:	29	Home-based:	36
3 years old:	12	Pregnant Women:	11
Pregnant Women:	11		

Preschool

Enrollment year: September 2024 – August 2025

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

NUMBER OF CHILDREN

2 years old:	13	Head Start funded enrollment:	141
3 years old:	62		
4 years old:	77		

PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED:

	Infant/Toddler	Preschool
Below Income	15%	15%
Receiving Public Assistance	22%	28%
Homeless	54%	41%
Over-Income	1%	6%
Foster Care	2%	1%
Between 100% and 130%	7%	9%

AVERAGE
MONTHLY
ENROLLMENT FOR
EARLY HEAD START:

99%

PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLED CHILDREN RECEIVING MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXAMS:

	Infant/Toddler	Preschool
Medical Exams	86%	86%
Dental Exams	65%	71%

AVERAGE
MONTHLY
ENROLLMENT FOR
HEAD START:

100%

Community Partnerships

Non-Profits and Organizations

A Precious Child
A Way Forward
A Woman's Work
Growing Gardens
Flagstaff Academy
Heart of Longmont
Justice Center
Knit & Purl Group
Longmont Elks Lodge
Longmont Museum
Longmont Public Library
NamaSTEM
OUR Center
Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley
St. Vrain Valley School District
WOW Children's Museum

Businesses

Adventure Dental
AMD
Burg Simpson
Centura Health
Common Spirit
Crest Insurance
El Centro Amistad
El Comite
FirstWatch
FiveBelow
Georgia Boys BBQ
Hopelight Health Services
King Soopers
KidsCare
La Mariposa
Left Hand Brewing
Lexia Learning Systems LLC
Longmont Dairy
Longmont Yarn Shoppe
Marcos Tacos
Ollin Farms
Oskar Blues
PIE
Primrose
Salud Family Health
Sprouts Farmers Market
Texas Roadhouse
Vanguard Marketing
Wild Cider

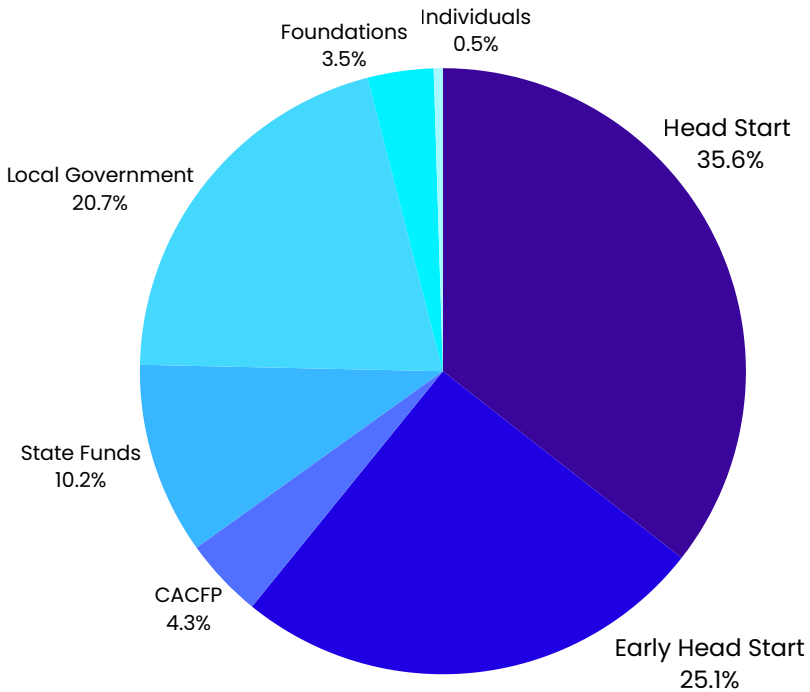
Funders and Foundations

Boulder County
Boulder County Human Services
Buell Foundation
City of Longmont/Council's Book Club
Community Foundation Boulder County
Christine & David Ross Charitable Fund
City of Longmont
Dodge Family Fund
Donovan Family Fund
Jean & Bruce Wyman Community Foundation
Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce
Longmont Community Foundation
Longs Peak United Methodist Women
Mary's Spirit Award
Meadowwood Fund
Mile High United Way
Nading Family Fund
Norris Family Fund
Pennrose Foundation
Schlessman Family Foundation
Schnabel Family Fund
Southstate Bank
Weibel Family Fund
William & Nancy Berry Family Fund



2024-2025 Funding:

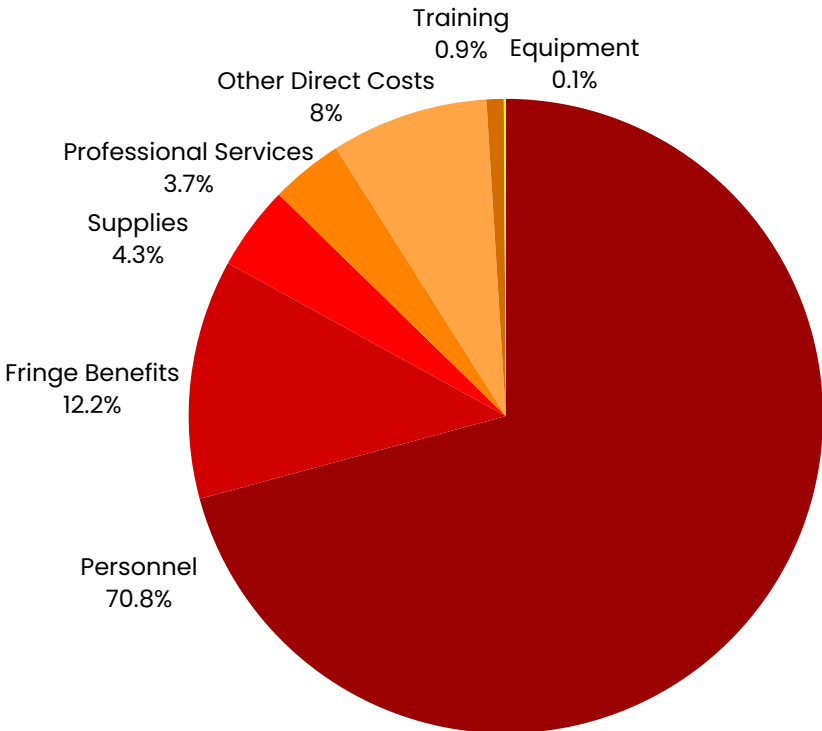
Funding	
Head Start	\$1,738,287
Early Head Start	\$1,236,022
CACFP Funds	\$208,593
State Funds	\$500,000
Local Government Funds	\$1,009,928
Foundations	\$171,873
Individuals	\$23,745
TOTAL:	\$4,888,448



**RESULTS OF MOST
RECENT AUDIT:
In 2024-2025
ZERO concerns were identified.**

2024-2025 Expenses:

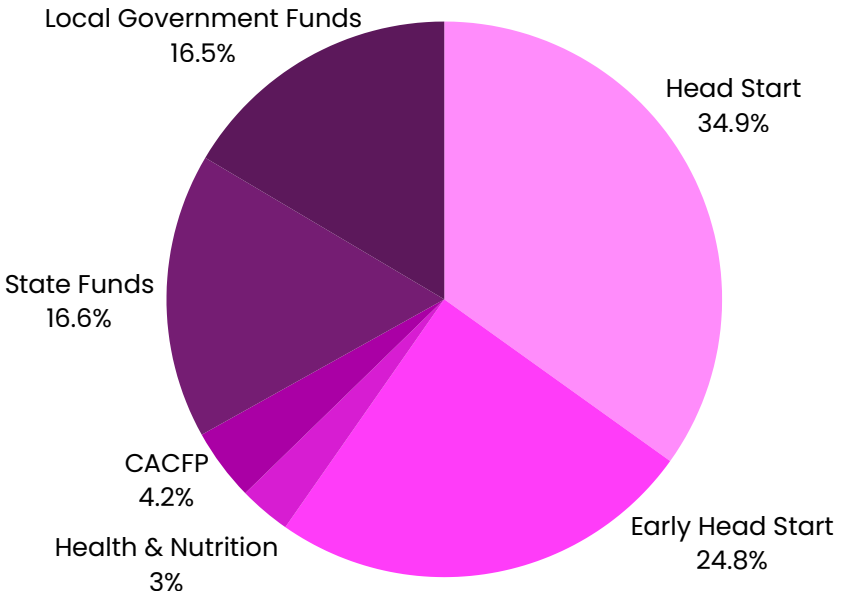
Expenses	
Personnel	\$3,460,848
Fringe Benefits	\$596,948
Supplies	\$209,950
Professional Services	\$181,070
Other Direct Costs	\$391,936
Training & Technical Assistance	\$42,696
Equipment	\$5,000
TOTAL Expense:	\$4,888,449



2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Public Funding

Head Start	\$1,738,287
Early Head Start	\$1,236,022
Health & Nutrition	\$150,210
CACFP	\$208,593
State Funds	\$827,634
Local Government Funds	\$821,581



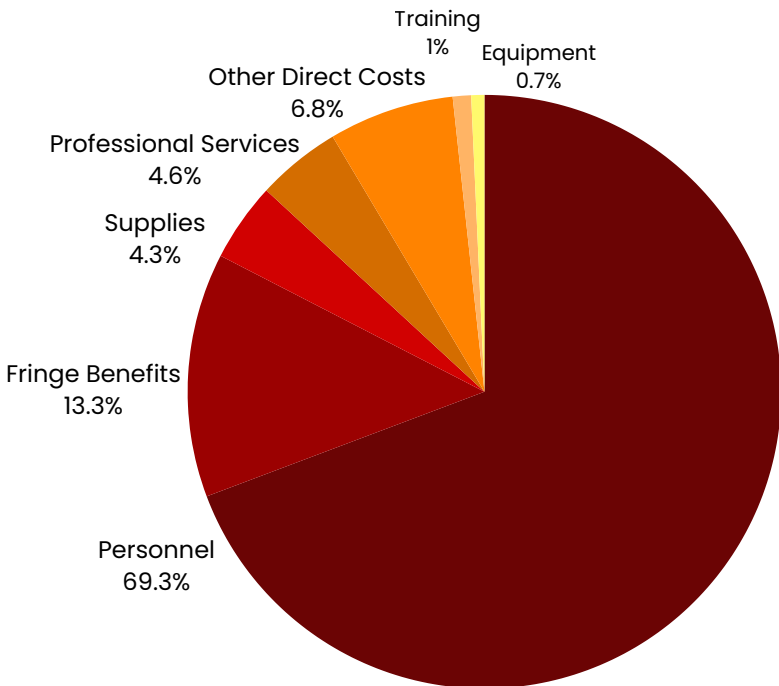
Private Funding

Foundations	\$105,000
Individuals	\$60,000

TOTAL Funding: \$5,147,327

2025-2026 Proposed Budget

Expenses	
Personnel	\$3,565,347
Fringe Benefits	\$684,845
Supplies	\$220,982
Professional Services	\$236,427
Other Direct Costs	\$351,548
Training & Technical Assistance	\$51,278
Equipment	\$36,900
TOTAL Expense:	\$5,147,327



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 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

Sarah Schey, Southstate Bank VP Bank Manager

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

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

www.wildplumcenter.org