

February 1, 2022**News Release***Media Contact: Karen Martsolf, MA
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karen.martsolf@gjhosp.org***Community Hospital in Search of Operator for New Early Childhood Education Center Set to Open on the Main Hospital Campus in 2023**

Mesa County, CO - Community Hospital is pleased to release a request for proposal (RFP) for an early childhood education center (ECEC) operator to run the facility at the main hospital campus at 2351 G Road in Grand Junction. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified the importance of quality childcare for frontline health care workers, which continues to be an issue with childcare and school classroom required quarantines during the pandemic. Community Hospital is slated to break ground on an onsite, 100-slot ECEC in spring 2022. The project is slated for completion in early 2023.

“This project is important as it will allow Community Hospital to provide high-quality childcare to our employees and will help us recruit and retain high-quality health care professionals,” said Tawny Espinoza, Vice President of Business Development at Community Hospital. “We look forward to being a part of the solution to help minimize the lack of available childcare in Mesa County,” added Espinoza.

Community Hospital understands the importance of quality early childhood education (ECE) for employee recruitment, retention, as well as the importance for economic development. According to the Mesa County Child Care 8,000 Business Plan (2020), Mesa County is in need of approximately 4,000 childcare slots to meet the demands of our workforce. The selected ECEC operator will assist with design of the facility, funding applications, and licensure, as well as working toward the highest level of Colorado Shines quality rating.

“We continue to see a vast need for early childhood education and care in Mesa County,” said Stephanie Bivins, Director of Mesa County Partnership for Children and Families. “The lack of availability not only affects school readiness and healthy foundations for children, it presents barriers for families to join the local workforce. It is exciting to be working with innovative community partners such as Community Hospital to help address this important issue,” added Bivins.

To access the ECEC Operator RFP, please visit www.YourCommunityHospital.com/Newsroom. The deadline to submit an RFP is Friday, February 18, 2022 at 5:00 pm (MST). For more information about the RFP, please contact Tawny Espinoza, Vice President of Business Development at tespinoza@gjhosp.org or (970) 644-3016.

To learn more about employment opportunities and the services offered at Community Hospital, please visit www.YourCommunityHospital.com.

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