



Great Grants and Initiatives

Grantor: The Piton Foundation

Grantee or Initiative: The Denver Preschool Initiative

Amount: \$251,550 Period of Grant Award: 2004-2006

The Piton Foundation in its operating-foundation capacity, worked with city officials and business and community leaders, to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood education and develop a proposal to increase the number of quality preschool slots in Denver.

In 2004, Mayor John Hickenlooper convened the Mayor's Leadership Team on Early Childhood Education, which was made up of over 30 business and community leaders. The Piton Foundation funded the staff position for the Mayor's Leadership Team and also provided additional support through its own staff. Piton also helped pay for polling to gauge public support for universal preschool. In addition Piton commissioned research to identify current preschool slots, the funding sources available, and the gap that would need to be filled in order to provide more slots for children in Denver. In 2006, the Foundation help to develop and fund a public information campaign on television on the importance of early childhood education.

The efforts of this initiative supported by Piton lead to The Denver Preschool Program, a ballot initiative approved by voters in November 2006. This Program provides parents of four-year-old children in Denver with a tuition tax credit to use at a quality rated preschool program of their choice.