Resources

www.countiesforkids.org
Why Use the Counties for Kids Neighborhood?

- Connect with your peers to problem solve, learn new strategies and share opportunities and challenges to your prenatal-to-three work

- Learn from experts at the local, state and national level

- Find resources on issues across the prenatal-to-three spectrum including child care, home visiting, infant/toddler mental health, prenatal and peri-natal health, economic supports for families and more

- Share your county’s wins with peers and have the chance to be highlighted in the Counties for Kids newsletter, blog posts and webinars and events
How to Use the Counties for Kids Neighborhood

Visit [www.ncitxchange.org/pn-3-leaders-champions/counties-for-kids](http://www.ncitxchange.org/pn-3-leaders-champions/counties-for-kids) and sign in to or create an account.

Welcome to the Counties for Kids Neighborhood

The National Association of Counties Research Foundation has created this virtual space for county leaders interested in prenatal-to-three to come together and ask questions, share best practices and learn from experts and each other. This neighborhood is part of the Counties for Kids initiative and created in partnership with the National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers.

If you need focused help with a problem, link to I NEED HELP!
How to Use the Counties for Kids Neighborhood

Keep today’s conversation going!

Supporting Home-Based Child Care Providers

Arabella Pluta-Ehlers  172.16.174.255  6 minutes ago

Hello all, in case you missed it, the Prenatal-to-Three Peer Learning Network will be meeting Feb. 24, 25 and 28 to discuss how counties can support home-based child care providers. We will hear from Cabarrus County, N.C., Montgomery County, Md. and King County, Wash. You can register here if you haven't already.

We are looking forward to a great discussion during the convenings and I encourage you all to use this forum to continue the conversation. Following the convenings, please reply to this post with your thoughts on the questions below:

• What were your key takeaways from the Peer Learning Network convenings? What are you taking back to your county?
• What questions do you still have about home-based child care?
• What’s happening in your county that you want to share?
Instructions

To mute/unmute and start/stop video:

To access the chat box:

To raise/lower your hand:
Urban PN-3 Peer Learning Network: Supporting Home-Based Child Care Providers

• Welcome
• Overview of Home-Based Child Care
  • Natalie Renew, Home Grown
• County Presentation
  • Jessica Cafferty, Child Care Policy Lead, King County, Wash.
• Questions & Interactive Discussion
• Conclusion
NACoRF Peer Learning Network
HBCC Landscape

Where are young children having their early childhood experiences? **FACT SHEET**

- **7 million children 0-5** in home-based child care
  - Less than 1 million in licensed family child care
  - Most in paid and unpaid family, friend, and neighbor care
  - Over 97% women; 50% persons of color
- **30% of infants and toddlers** attend home-based child care as their primary care arrangement compared to just 12% in centers

Who receives care in home-based child care?

Children from low-income families
Black and Latinx children
Infants and toddlers
Children in rural areas
Children with special needs
Children whose parents work nontraditional hours
Immigrants & dual language learners
HBCC During COVID

- Shifting demand
- Health concerns for themselves and their families
- Concern for the families they serve (health and mental health)
- Financial hardship:
  - Closures/enrollment changes/parents’ ability to pay
  - Increased costs to clean and meet COVID requirements
  - Limited access to public supports (PPP; etc)
- Lack of distinct, specific and timely information
- Feasibility and implementation of new protocols
- Food and housing insecurity
- Additional challenges for FFN caregivers: exclusion from federal individual supports and many EC system supports
Critical moment: reform & investment

- Focus on equity
- Shifting demand and preference during the pandemic
- Changing workforce dynamics
  - nontraditional hours
  - unpredictable hours
  - hybrid work schedules
  - work from home
- Historic investments (Covid relief, ARPA, Build Back Better)
Building Comprehensive Networks
Building Networks of Support

Networks as durable infrastructure. Local entities with public funding that can
- Serve as a hub for policy, payment, information and support to HBCC
- Gather critical data, assess needs and deliver services
- Be lead, informed and responsive to provider needs

Effective networks will enable providers to:
- Offer high-quality child development services;
- Be financially sustainable and offer continuous care (as individuals or small businesses);
- Connect children, families and providers to comprehensive services that improve their mental, physical, social and economic well being.
Role of a Comprehensive Network Hub

Network Hub
The connective tissue that joins individual providers to each other and to system infrastructure.

Public Policy + Resources
Public investment in networks as durable infrastructure. May be supplemented by Private Investments

Inform Policy
Quality
Business & Sustainability
Comprehensive Services
System Governance

Home-based Childcare Providers

Building Comprehensive Networks Resource Website
Advancing Quality, Supply & Economic Stability
Building Supply

- Identify and support unpaid, unlisted FFN
  - primarily relatives
  - basic needs and benefits access
  - need safety and quality supports

Oklahoma kith.care
Colorado FFN Needs Assessment
Emergency Fund Supports
- Support legally-exempt FFN in accessing subsidy funding
  - stabilize services & expand enrollment
  - quality supports

Oregon: high percentage of FFN in subsidy program
- Support path to becoming licensed
  - small business development
  - professionalizing

Support programs: All Our Kin, Luna Latina Unidas, Wonderschool, NeighborSchools, MyVillage
Building Quality

- Shifting the HOW and the WHAT of quality improvement initiatives
- Community leaders with shared language and culture facilitating quality improvement activities
- Rely on trusted intermediaries and community organizations as hubs
- Leading Strategies:

  **Home Visiting programs adapted to FFN**
  - [ParentChild+] (publicly funded in Seattle, NYC, Minnesota, Cabarrus County/NC)

  **Play & Learn Groups**
  - [Kaleidoscope] (publicly funded in Washington and an adaptation in California)

  **Emotional Support Groups that integrate child development concepts**
  - [Kith and Kin] (publicly funded in Arizona & expanding to Nevada)

  **Offering Health and Mental Health Supports**
  - [CLUES Circle of Support](Minnesota initiative)
Economic Stability

- **Comprehensive Networks of Support for Home-Based Child Care**
  - Nevada multi-tiered network for HBCC

- **Expand access to child care subsidies**
  - Urban Institute Report: [Expanding Subsidies for Home-Based Child Care Providers Could Aid the Postpandemic Economic Recovery](#)
  - Oregon case study ([Report on % of care in FFN: CA, IL, NY, MN, NV, CT, HI](#))

- **Benefits counseling** (for providers and parents)
  - Child Tax Credit
  - Child & Dependent Care Tax Credit

- **Basic needs support** (food, housing, etc)
  - Colorado Pandemic Fund
Thank you

Email: natalie@homegrownchildcare.org
Newsletter:
https://homegrownchildcare.org/newsletter/
Resource List

New Tool: **Home-Based Child Care Compendium of Supports**

- See also Home Grown’s publications:
  - [State Recommendations: Scaling Effective Stabilization Funds for Home-Based Child Care](#)
  - [CCDF Policy and Investment Recommendations for States](#)
  - [Stabilization Fund Strategies: Using Federal Child Care Funds to Reach Home-Based Child Care Providers](#)
  - [Supporting and Strengthening FFN Care: Honoring Family Choice and Recognizing the Need for Flexible Care](#)

- [Urban Institute Reports:](#)
  - [Easing Barriers to Child Care Food Subsidies for Home-Based Child Care Providers Offers Policymakers an Overlooked Opportunity](#)
King County Home-Based Child Care Supports

February 28, 2022
Happy
Healthy
Safe
Thriving

We want to see babies born healthy, kids thrive, and young people grow up to be happy, healthy, successful adults.
RECENT ASSESSMENTS OF THE CHILD CARE SYSTEM

These recent reports examine the local child care crisis and its equity and economic impacts. Each proposes solutions.

All three reports informed the proposal to renew and expand Best Starts.

Equitable and Accessible Child Care in King County: Recommendations from the Children and Families Strategy Task Force (King County Children and Families Strategy Task Force, 2020)


Supporting King County’s Women, Families & Employers: Improving Child Care Access and Affordability Throughout King County (King County Women’s Advisory Board, 2018)
• Includes foundational principles for implementation of child care strategies, including anti-racist principles, guidance for County revenue related to child care, and accountability structures

• Also includes programmatic and systemic policy needs King County should play a role in advancing, including equitable wages and benefits, financial supports for King County families, tailored supports for FFN and informal caregivers, and comprehensive supports for Black and brown providers and men in the early learning and child care field
CURRENT KING COUNTY INVESTMENTS

- VSHSL Student Veterans pilot provides deep subsidy and scaled supports for families up to 100% Area Median Income (AMI) in licensed and informal care

- PSTAA Early Learning Facilities offers funding to preserve, improve, and expand early learning facilities, including family child cares

- COVID emergency child care investments have provided subsidies, grants, and guaranteed slots, along with financial supports for FFN caregivers
Best Starts for Kids Child Care Investments
CHILD CARE HEALTH CONSULTATION

• Best Starts for Kids partners with community based organizations to provide child care health consultation (CCHC) services to licensed and informal caregivers

• Traditional CCHC services and community-informed pilots, including services delivered by community health workers
SUPPORTS FOR CHILD CARE AND CAREGIVERS

Identifying needed supports:

• Regular calls with CCHC service providers to receive feedback and identify emerging needs
• Calls offered opportunity for peer support in developing strategies for supporting families, caregivers, and child care providers
• Reallocated levy underspend to launch PPE distribution

Key Partnerships:

• CCHC CBO partners, including CISC and Sisters in Common serving FFN caregivers
  • Provided flexibility to pause and adjust service delivery models to address emerging community needs
• Child Care Resources and CBO partners for procurement, storage, and distribution of COVID supplies to child cares and FFN caregivers
• T-Mobile for bulk purchases of tablets for FCCs
• Environmental Health for distribution of toxic free nap mats to FCCs and HEPA units to FCCs and FFNs
CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

- Launch a low-barrier, equitable subsidy program for approximately 3,000 children and their families
- Build upon existing programming to expand eligibility and fill gaps
- Flexible program design to respond to changing child care landscape
- Pilot financial assistance for Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregivers
CHILD CARE WORKER WAGE ENHANCEMENT

- Explore impact of wage increase on worker retention and continuity of care
- Fund wage enhancement for 1,400 providers
- Licensed providers eligible for program for duration of employment or length of levy
QUESTIONS?
Jessica Tollenaar Cafferty, jecafferty@kingcounty.gov
Discussion Questions

- Based the information that you’ve heard today, is your county or state doing similar work to build and maintain the supply of home-based child care (HBCC)?

- What supports do HBCC providers have access to in your county? How are you connecting with HBCC providers to understand their needs?

- Has your county used CARES funding or American Rescue Plan Act funding to support child care? (i.e. child care slots, grants for child care providers, public facilities for child care services) If so, have these efforts included HBCC?

- What concerns or issues are you hearing from parents around child care access and affordability?

- How are you collecting data and information about what parents are looking for in child care arrangements? What do you know about parental preference for center-based vs. home-based care?

- How is your county addressing equity issues regarding barriers to child care access?