



Counties for Kids

Resources

The National Collaborative
for Infants & Toddlers




THE ABCs OF PRENATAL-TO-THREE FOR
COUNTY OFFICIALS

The daily decisions that counties make not only shape community conditions but often set a trajectory for success for their youngest residents. When infants are born healthy into safe and nurturing environments with parents who are well-supported, a whole community can benefit from improved social, economic and health outcomes. County officials play a key role in helping young children to grow, learn and thrive - one way to do this is to prioritize and promote the programs and policies necessary to support healthy development. If your county is just starting out or looking to expand upon existing efforts, this resource, "The ABCs of Prenatal-to-Three for County Officials," offers policymakers a range of ideas for prioritizing investments that set young children on a path to success. While there is no set process for advancing a prenatal-to-three agenda, the National Association of Counties Research Foundation (NACoRF) has learned from counties across the nation about some of the challenges and opportunities that exist. No matter where you are in your journey, NACoRF can support you by providing relevant information and connecting you to best practices and local leaders who have made meaningful strides.


QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY LEADERS TO CONSIDER

- **Is there strong leadership for infants and toddlers in your county?** One way county boards can demonstrate bi-partisan community support for their youngest residents is through a public statement of support.
- **Does your county have an active early childhood stakeholder group?** Connecting to or convening a diverse stakeholder team can build broad-based community support and cultivate champions for young children. Counties may establish a new or identify an existing group that is committed to shared vision and developing a strategic plan of action for children from prenatal to age three. To further support their cross-sector stakeholder group, counties may explore opportunities for establishing a dedicated early childhood system coordinator to strategically drive initiatives in the community.
- **Does your county have a vision for improving outcomes for its youngest residents that includes infants and toddlers?** Oftentimes, planning for school readiness begins at prenatal or at birth. Leaders can work with the childhood stakeholder group to develop a shared vision and help to support the full continuum of a child's development by facilitating the integration of prenatal to three stakeholders and priorities within broader conversations around school readiness.


Prenatal-to-Three
County Leader Toolkit



Counties Getting Started:
A Prenatal-to-Three Guidebook




www.countiesforkids.org



National
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NACo



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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 and sign in to or create an account.

Prenatal-to-Three Leaders & Champions

Counties for Kids

[Discussions](#) [HELP DESK](#) [Resources](#) [Events](#) [Members](#) [Topics](#)



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!](#)

[Start A Discussion](#)

[I NEED HELP!](#)

How to Use the Counties for Kids Neighborhood

Keep today's conversation going!

Prenatal-to-Three Leaders & Champions

Counties for Kids > Discussions [More](#)



Supporting Home-Based Child Care Providers



Arabella Pluta-Ehlers 172.18.174.255 6 minutes ago

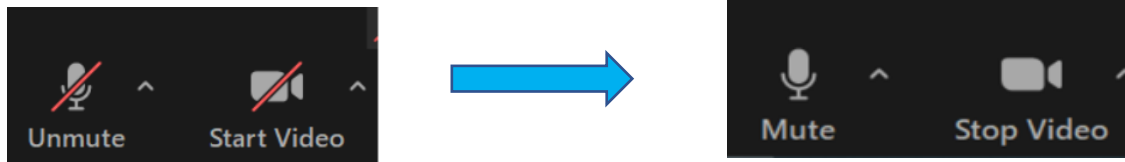
Hello all, in case you missed it, the Prenatal-to-Three Peer Learning Network will be meeting Feb. 24, 25 and 28 to discuss how counties can support home-based child care providers. We will hear from Cabarrus County, N.C., Montgomery County, Md. and King County, Wash. You can register [here](#) if you 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:

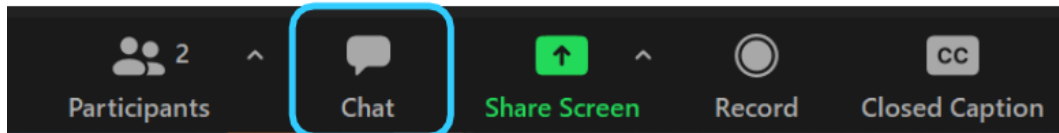
- What were your key takeaways from the Peer Learning Network convenings? What are you taking back to your county?
- What questions do you still have about home-based child care?
- What's happening in your county that you want to share?

Instructions

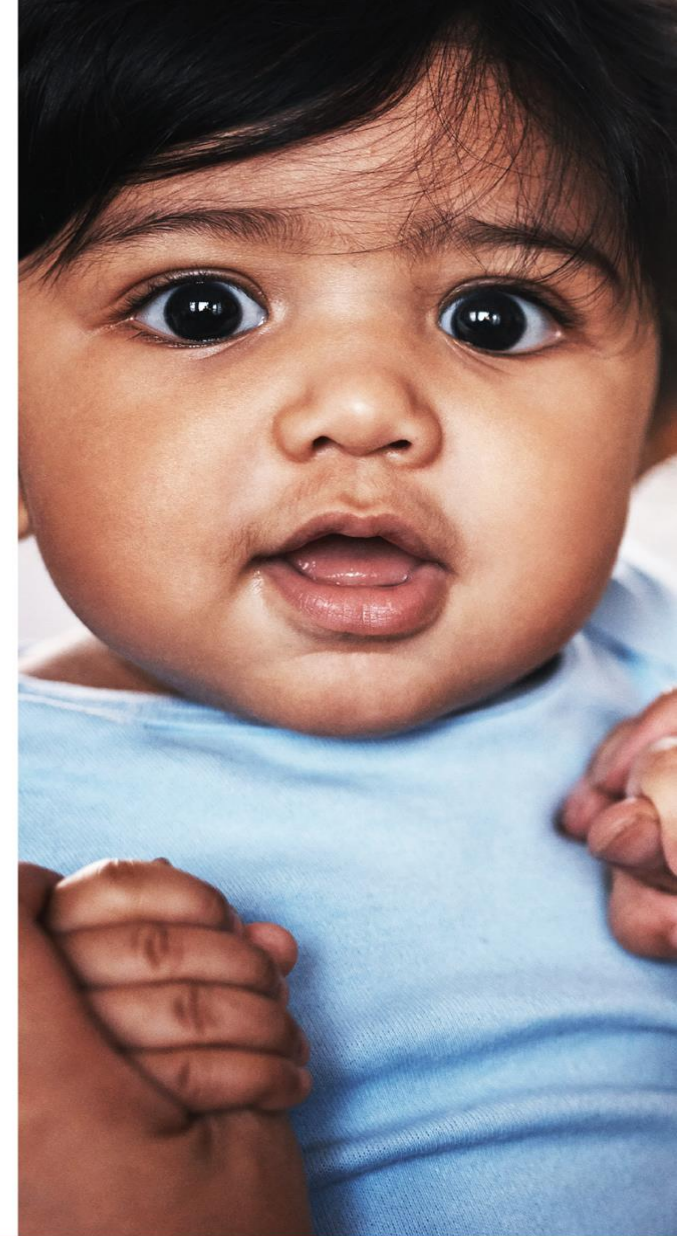
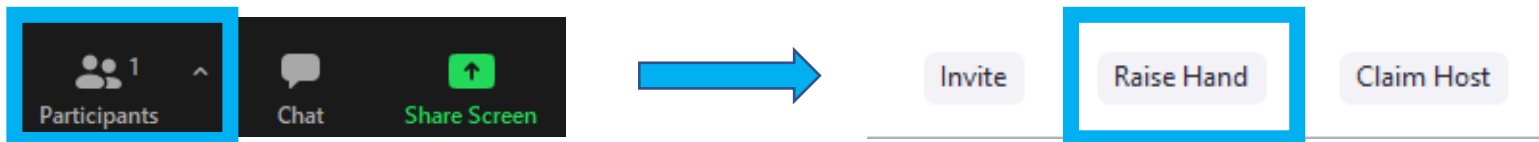
To mute/unmute and start/stop video:



To access the chat box:



To raise/lower your hand:



Agenda

Rural PN-3 Peer Learning Network: Supporting Home-Based Child Care Providers

- Welcome
- Overview of Home-Based Child Care
 - Natalie Renew, Home Grown
- County Presentation
 - . Families First in Cabarrus County, N.C.
- Questions & Interactive Discussion
- Conclusion





NACoRF Peer Learning Network



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



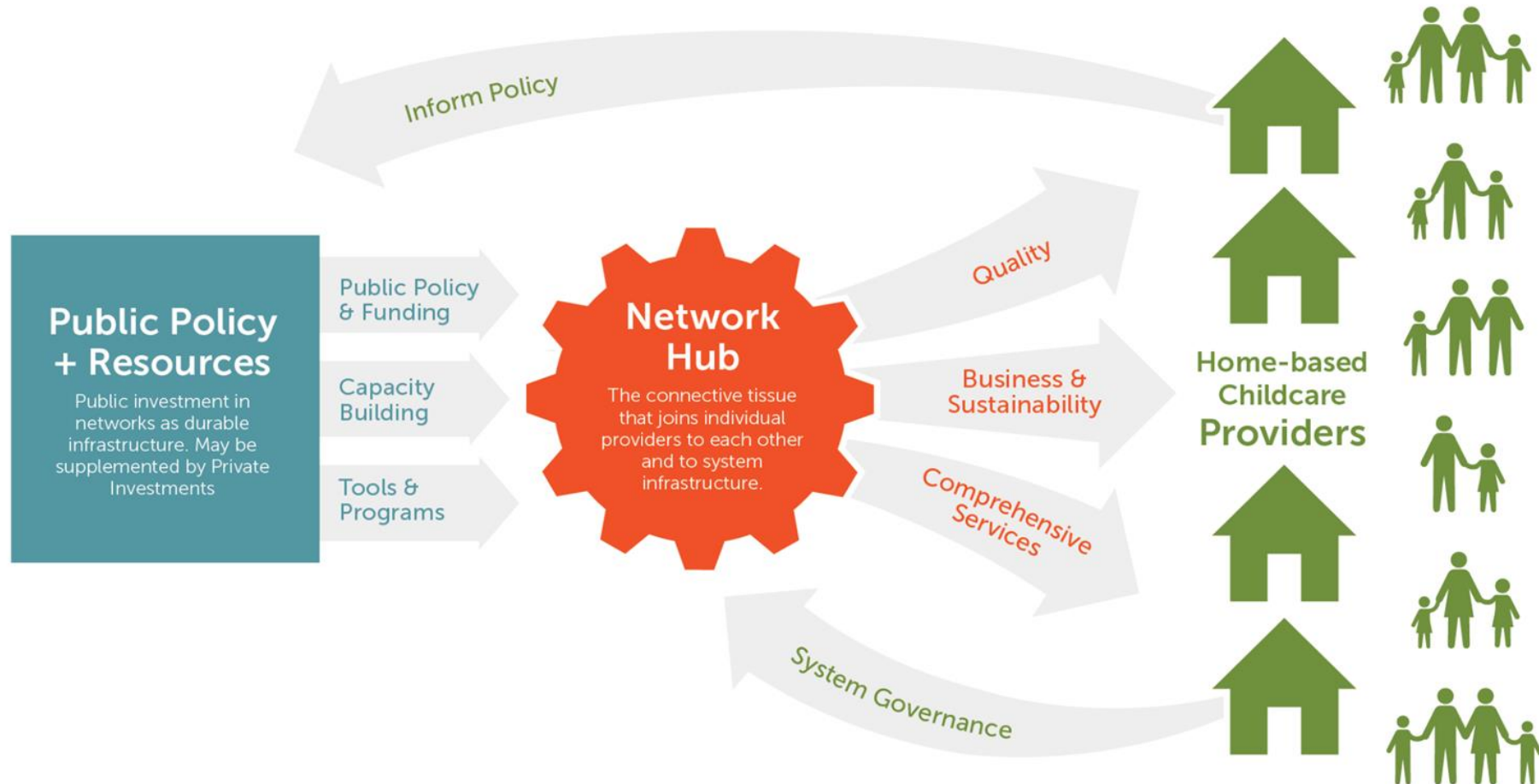
Networks as durable infrastructure. Local entities with public funding that can

- 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





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

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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](#)

Families First in Cabarrus County

Spencer Swain, Executive Director
Aurora Swain, Director of Operations





Our Agency and Our Service Area

Serving Providers and Parents



Partnerships



The background is a dark grey or black field filled with numerous question marks of varying sizes and opacities. Some are light grey, while others are darker. On the left and right sides, there are large, abstract, overlapping green shapes that resemble stylized leaves or geometric folds. These shapes are in various shades of green, from a bright lime green to a darker forest green. The overall composition is modern and graphic.

Questions?

Contact

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Families First in Cabarrus County, Inc.

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Phone: 704-202-5057



<https://familiesfirstcc.org/>

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?



Contact Us

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Thank you!



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