

Whole Community Child Care Consortium Program

Guidelines and Timeline



Whole Community Child Care Consortium

The Whole Community Child Care Consortium brings together up to four communities in an innovative collaboration to enhance child care access and quality through peer learning. This six-month cohort-model program provides each community with the tools to engage diverse local stakeholders in their own communities while regularly convening with lead groups to share insights and strategies.

With guidance and support, communities identify needs, set goals, and develop plans to begin implementing solutions to meaningfully improve child care infrastructure. The power of this consortium lies in both the deep whole community collaboration within each participating community, as well as the overarching alliance that enables peer mentorship and idea exchange across communities.

Together, we can tackle the urgent challenge of child care availability. The Whole Community Child Care Consortium mobilizes localized action while cultivating a cooperative network for impactful change.

Joining the Cohort Program

It is important to understand that the program will only work if communities are ready to participate. Communities must be fully committed to making this program successful. To make sure we choose the right communities, we have some important criteria:

Qualification Process:

The process for joining the program involves an application. Communities must meet carefully chosen criteria to ensure they are ready to be part of the program:

1. **Diverse Team:** Each community needs a lead team that represents different groups like employers, schools, county and local government, community organizations, child care providers, and early education professionals. This mix of people makes sure that everyone's needs are considered.
2. **Stories and Impact:** Communities should be able to share stories that show how child care issues affect them or how they can benefit from this program. These stories help motivate change and show that communities are serious about fixing child care problems.

By following these criteria, we create an environment where communities are ready and eager to work together in the program. This makes our collective effort stronger, and we can improve child care for these communities.

The program application process will launch on December 7, 2023.

All applications are due by 4pm CST on January 5, 2024.

Selected communities will be notified on January 16, 2024.

Navigating Our Program Journey: Timeline and Phases

Our program begins a big journey, and each part of it is carefully planned to help communities improve child care. As we go through these important steps, it's crucial to know what each step is for and make sure we're working together effectively to reach our goals.

1. Kickoff Assembly

Purpose: The Kickoff Assembly serves as the starting point for our program, providing participating communities with a solid foundation of knowledge of the process and desired outcomes. Its goal is to ensure that communities understand the program's structure, objectives, and the roles they will play. Participants leave equipped with a toolkit containing essential information for identifying and engaging local stakeholders in upcoming community workshops.

Individual Community Objective: The lead group from each participating community comes together in a virtual kickoff meeting to review the upcoming process and activities.

Virtual Kickoff Assembly – January 30, 2024 – 2:30PM – 4:00PM

Lead groups from selected communities will come together for introductions and program kickoff. This session will also include all the details for the program and provide time for questions and answers.

2. Exploration of Opportunities and Outcomes

Purpose: This phase delves deeper into understanding the unique needs and aspirations of each participating community. The Opportunities & Outcomes Workshop sets the stage for the rest of the program by establishing clear, community-driven goals. It encourages collaboration among stakeholders and helps create a shared vision for the future.

Individual Community Objective: Each community participates in an Opportunities & Outcomes Workshop with multiple focused sessions on the first day to define immediate desired outcomes from community stakeholders. On the second day, the lead group refines and aligns their vision of desired outcomes for focus in this effort. ***Individual community workshops will be targeted for deployment in the first two weeks of March 2024.***

Virtual Monthly Review Meeting – March 14, 2024 – 2:30PM – 4:00PM

The virtual monthly review meetings are designed to provide opportunities for communities to share about their work and learn from the other communities. This month's focus and opportunity for discussion is focused on: ***"What progress have we made towards our identified goals, and how can we further align our visions?"***

3. Pathways to Solutions

Purpose: This phase empowers communities with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions about improving child care capacity and quality. It emphasizes flexibility and tailoring solutions to meet each community's unique needs. The focus is on exploring various pathways to achieve the identified goals, ensuring that communities have a well-informed basis for decision-making.

Individual Community Objective: Each participating community is presented with a preliminary range of potential solutions and their expected impacts, offering communities a diverse array of outcome options aligned with their preferences. ***Individual Community Pathway Solutions presentation meetings expected to be completed by April 5, 2024.***

Virtual Monthly Review Meeting – April 11, 2024 – 2:30PM – 4:00PM

The virtual monthly review meetings are designed to provide opportunities for communities to share about their work and learn from the other communities. This month's focus and opportunity for discussion is focused on: ***"What insights have we gained in reviewing possible solutions? What did we learn from these insights?"***

4. Activation Blueprint

Purpose: This phase marks a significant step toward tangible progress and emphasizes community engagement in turning their goals into reality. Communities will see the first steps they can take to start making their desired outcomes a reality through community-specific activation plans.

Individual Community Objective: Each participating community reviews a strategic roadmap for their community, outlining the implementation of solutions that best align with their identified goals. Final activation plans are reviewed by the local lead group. ***Individual Activation Blueprint presentation meetings expected to be completed by May 3, 2024.***

Virtual Monthly Review Meeting – May 14, 2024 – 2:30PM – 4:00PM

The virtual monthly review meetings are designed to provide opportunities for communities to share about their work and learn from the other communities. This month's focus and opportunity for discussion is focused on:

"What updates can we share in reviewing our activation plans, and what lessons have we learned along the way?"

5. Activity Launch Activities

Purpose: This stage serves as an opportunity to celebrate the beginning achievements of our communities. We showcase each community's work and share highlights of their respective activation plans to inspire collaboration and knowledge sharing among regional partners and leaders. This event highlights the impact of the program and encourages more involvement in our mission.

Individual Community Objective: Each participating community makes a 10-minute Showcase Presentation that showcases their original challenges and opportunities, defines their desired outcomes, and reports on the beginning efforts of their selected solutions.

Program Finale & Launch Meeting – May 21, 2024 – Details TBD

Each community will present their showcase presentation and the audience will have an opportunity to inquire and learn more. As an overall group will also discuss ***"What impact can our activities have on the community, and how can we leverage this momentum for future initiatives?"***