

## Partnering with Families to Build Economic Security During Emergencies



## Partnering with Families to Pursue Education and Training Goals

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Families' education and training goals may change during emergencies. For example, some families may have unexpected time available to enroll in online courses to advance their education. Others may need a referral for a community-based program. Early care and education professionals can help families access key resources and take steps to achieve their immediate and long-term education, employment, and career goals.

You can partner with families to:

1. Identify their immediate education and training goals and revisit their long-term education and training goals
2. Plan concrete actions
3. Track progress and celebrate successes

### **1. Identify Families' Immediate Education and Training Goals and Revisit Their Long-Term Education and Training Goals**

- As you check in with families about how they are doing, let them know that early care and education professionals are available to assist them with their immediate and long-term education and training goals.

- Ask families what method of communication works best for them. Then set up a time to talk. You can connect with families remotely by phone, email, video conference, text, or social media. If families prefer printed information, you can send it by regular mail. Or families can pick up materials if your program site is closed and it offers drive-up services.
- Work with families to identify their immediate and long-term education and training goals.
- Connect with families individually to assess where they are and what they would like to accomplish. Remember, every family is different. For example, some families may want to work toward taking the General Educational Development (GED) test. Others may be interested in learning a second language. Still others may want to develop a skill related to their long-term education or career goals.

## 2. Plan Concrete Actions

When you know what goals families are interested in, you can research options and provide the families with tools.

- **Job Training:** Connect families to Career One Stop to find job training resources.
- **GED Classes:** Connect families to local libraries, community colleges, or technical colleges for information about GED preparation classes and the exam.
- **Online Courses:** Contact local two- and four-year colleges or use the Community College Finder from the American Association of Community Colleges to explore options for online coursework that could help families advance their education and training goals.
- **Find a School:** Connect families to the College Navigator tool or the Community College Finder to explore college options. They can search by state, type of school, major, and other criteria.
- **Check a School's Accreditation:** Use the Look Up a School tool from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to find out if a college or university is accredited. Accreditation is an indication that an institution meets standards of quality. Attending an accredited two- or four-year college is important because employers often require applicants to have attended an accredited school or program. By using ED's College Scorecard, families can also learn about colleges' graduation rates, average annual costs, and the salary ranges of their graduates.
- **Costs:** Remind families to think about finances when looking for a school. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's tools can help families choose a school that is financially right for them.
- **Internet Access:** If families don't have access to the internet, you can help them connect to Lifeline. Lifeline is a federal program that helps make communications services more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline gives subscribers a discount on monthly telephone service, broadband internet service, or voice-broadband bundled services purchased from participating companies.

### 3. Track Progress and Celebrate Successes

Follow up with families to track their progress toward meeting their education and training goals. Celebrate successes!



#### Staff Tip

You may find that your own education goals shift during an emergency. Follow the steps in this tip sheet to reflect on and take action toward your own immediate and long-term education and training goals.

Check out the other staff tip sheets in the *Partnering with Families to Build Economic Security During Emergencies* series. Let families know about the companion family tip sheet series so they can get important information on how to improve their family economic security during emergencies.

This document was developed with funds from Grant #90HC0014 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start, and Office of Child Care, by the National Center on Parent, Family, and Community Engagement. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

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PFCE@ecetta.info | 1-866-763-6481



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