

## Partnering with Families to Build Economic Security During Emergencies



## Partnering with Families to Pursue Employment and Career Goals

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Families' employment and career goals may change at any time, including during emergencies. Early care and education professionals can help families access key resources and take steps to achieve their immediate and long-term employment and career goals.

You can partner with families to:

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

### **1. Identify Families' Immediate Employment and Career Goals and Revisit Their Long-Term Employment and Career 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 employment and career 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 to them by regular mail. Or families can pick up materials if your program site is closed and it offers drive-up services.

- Partner with families to identify their immediate and long-term employment and career goals.
- Connect with families individually to assess where they are and what they would like to accomplish. Remember, every family is different. Some families will need to look for immediate employment. Others may be interested in learning a second language to support their career goals. Still others may want to use this time to consider a career change.

## 2. Plan Concrete Actions

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

- **Job Search:** Connect families to Career One Stop to find career and job-search resources. American Job Centers (AJCs) can offer free help for a variety of career and employment-related needs. Many AJCs also help people with unemployment claims and may allow walk-ins, depending on the state. Nearly 2,400 AJCs are located throughout the United States. Families can check with their local AJC to see what services are offered during this time.
- **Re-Entering the Workforce or Making a Career Change:** For those families considering re-entering the workforce or making a career change, a career assessment may be useful. You can partner with families to take career assessments. These tools ask questions about skills, strengths, and interests and then show a list of potential careers based on the answers provided. To learn more about exploring career interests or to take an assessment, visit:
  - [MySkillsMyFuture.org](https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org)
  - [MyNextMove.org](https://www.mynextmove.org)
  - [CareerOneStop.org](https://www.careeronestop.org)
- **Other Employment Sources:** Look for information from your local mayor's office, county commissioner's office, or chamber of commerce about employment opportunities in your community. You can share that information with families.
- **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.

Families who have recently lost a job can contact their local American Job Center to see if they qualify for one of the following benefits:

- The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which provides retraining funding for laid-off workers who qualify for services
- Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), which is for workers whose job loss was the result of increased foreign imports or shifts in production out of the United States
- The Dislocated Worker/Rapid Response program, which may offer additional resources to help laid-off workers through a job transition

### 3. Track Progress and Celebrate Successes

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



#### Staff Tip

You may find that your own employment 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 employment and career 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.

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