Partnerships and Innovations to Support the Increased Need for School-Age Child Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Presenters

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Agenda

• Welcome! Name, Jurisdiction, why this webinar?

• Context: Partnerships and Innovations to Support the Increased Need for School-Age Child Care During COVID-19 Brief

• Chat pods, survey, Q&A

• Partnership and Innovation in Action: Vermont Afterschool’s Community Learning Hubs

• DHHS Partnership with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation: Funds to Child Care Providers

• Partnerships Moving Forward

• Resources & Feedback
Why This Webinar

Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic:

• Reaffirm the importance of OST

• Explore the present challenges affecting children and families

• Share OST partnerships and innovations that are meeting the needs of children and families
Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC)

- Physical education and physical activity
- Nutrition environment and services
- Health education
- Social and emotional school climate
- Physical environment
- Health services
- Counseling, psychological and social services
- Employee wellness
- Community involvement
- Family engagement


Priorities in Our Collaborations

• Help children re-engage and reconnect with an eye toward systemic inequities.
• Begin our strategic planning by checking in with families on what they want and need.
• Identify supports for all children including non-traditional hour care and those in home-based childcare settings.


Priority Steps for Collaboration

1. Assess parent's childcare needs/preferences and availability of care

2. Connect schools with caregivers and access to meals/supports

3. Coordinate data collection

4. Blend funds for education, childcare, schools

5. Create consistent guidance across state agencies

6. Meet needs of all teachers and caregivers

Partnership Poll

What partners have you engaged with?
The Landscape

Major Themes of Concern Escalating During COVID-19 Pandemic

- Health & Safety
- Child Care Operational Cost
- Hybrid & Remote Learning Support
- Nutrition
- Social & Emotional Learning

Health and Safety

- Implement social distance strategies
- Intensify cleaning and disinfecting efforts
- Modify drop off and pick practices
- Implement screening procedures upon arrival
- Maintain an adequate ratio of staff to children to ensure safety – use of pods
- Staff members and older children (over 2 years) should wear masks

Child Care Operational Costs

- Program Space
- Increased hours
- Ratios
- Staffing
- Cleaning protocols and PPE
- Technology
- Social distancing

Hybrid and Remote Learning Support

- Parents and caregivers become remote learning mentors
- Access to internet/broadband
- Access to technology tools
- Technology skills and comfort level
- Level of support

Distance Learning Guiding Principles

• Implementation:
  • Support the **quality of support and supervision of distance learning**
  • Ensure **caregivers have access to the resources they need**
  • Support the **social-emotional well-being** of children, family members, caregivers, and educators

• Households with children are more likely to be food insecure. In 2018, 11.2 million children (1 in 7), lived in a food-insecure household.

• As closures caused by the coronavirus lead to a rise in unemployment and poverty, more people are experiencing food insecurity.

• A significant rise in unemployment over the year (+7.6 percentage points) and a corresponding rise in child poverty (+5.0 percentage points) would result in a total of 18.0 million children (1 in 4) experiencing food insecurity.

Feeding America (2020). *The Impact of the Coronavirus on Child Food Insecurity.*
https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/Brief_Impact%20of%20Covid%20on%20Child%20Food%20Insecurity%204.22.20.pdf
Social and Emotional Learning

SEL Outcomes:

- Improved self-confidence
- Increased academic outcomes and standardized test scores
- Increased school day attendance
- Pro-social behavior
- More fully engaged future citizens

Discussion

Please share an example of how you are addressing one or more of these elements

➢ Health & Safety
➢ Operational costs
➢ Hybrid & Remote Learning
➢ Nutrition
➢ Social Emotional Learning
State Examples of Partnerships and Innovation
Vermont’s Hub Program

• Vermont’s Governor directed $6.9 million dollars of COVID-19 Relief Funds
• Grants to sites to open school-age childcare hubs (grades K-6) on remote learning days
• Covered start-up costs and first month’s operating costs
  – Equipment, furniture, technology, cleaning supplies, PPE, staffing, rent and Wi-Fi
• In just a few weeks, resulted in 43 hubs offering programming at 93 different sites
• Served approximately 6000 children
What Worked Well

- Building off the existing system of providers
- Cross agency state coordination
- Dedicated resources ($ and staff)
- High profile
- Health & safety guidelines
- Learned from running essential childcare and summer programs
- Statewide staff hiring campaign and training resources
Lessons Learned

• Participation fees can create burden on families
• Divide between childcare and education
• Consider expanded afterschool programs, not only remote learning days
• Significant differences in remote learning materials and schedules from schools (even among children in the same grade at the same school)
• Timing and family choices
• Business and school involvement
• Creating local partnerships
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. (2020, July 8). DHHS Announces Partnership With Nebraska Children And Families Foundation To Award Funds To Child Care Providers [News Release]. http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DHHS-Announces-Partnership-with-Nebraska-CCDF-to-Award-Funds-to-Child-Care-Providers.aspx

1. Share a partnership and/or innovation example/resource/practice from your state and/or program

2. What are some of the successes and challenges you have had in building partnerships?

3. What systemic inequities does your state need to address, or is addressing, and what partnerships can help with this work?
Power of Partnerships Moving Forward

- Summer programming
- OST program redesign
- Policies and procedures
- Addressing equity gaps
- Funding and resources
- Social-emotional supports/mental health services
Visit the NCASE Resource Library:
https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/ncase-resource-library
Please take a few minutes after today’s event to provide feedback to help us plan for future webinars.
Resources


Resources


Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. (2020). *Center-based programs serving school aged only stabilization and reopening fund Q&A.* https://www.nebraskachildren.org/school-age-providers.html


Resources


Visit the NCASE website at:
https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/ncase

To contact NCASE, please email us at:
ncase@ecetta.info

Thank You!