

## Partnering with Families to Build Economic Security During Emergencies



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Families' financial, education, employment, and career goals may change during emergencies and natural disasters. Early care and education professionals can help families access important information, benefits, and tools during crises.

You can partner with families to:

1. Identify their immediate needs caused by the emergency and revisit their long-term financial goals
2. Plan concrete actions
3. Track their progress and celebrate their successes

### 1. Identify Families' Immediate Needs and Revisit Their Financial Goals

- As you check in with families about how they are doing, let them know that early care and education professionals can assist them with their immediate financial needs and long-term financial goals.
- Ask families what method of communication works best for them. 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 printed materials if your program offers drive-up services.
- Work with families to identify their immediate financial needs and long-term financial goals.

## 2. Plan Concrete Actions

- Provide families with resources and tools that can help them meet their financial needs and goals. Share such tools as the Make a Budget Worksheet from the Federal Trade Commission, which families can use to create a budget or a spending plan for their stimulus payment.
- Use the Program Planning and Professional Development Tool in the *Economic Mobility Toolkit for Early Care and Education* to review existing data from community needs assessments. Identify key partnerships and make referrals that can help families achieve their financial goals. Even organizations operating remotely may be able to partner with families.
- Refer to the Key Topics in the *Economic Mobility Toolkit* to help families access needed information and take action. These Key Topics include:
  - Accessing Financial Education, Coaching, and Counseling
  - Building Credit and Managing Debt
  - Accessing State and Federal Benefits
  - And others that may be useful to families

## 3. Track Progress and Celebrate Successes

Follow up with families to track their progress to address their immediate financial needs caused by these challenging times. Also ask about their progress toward their long-term financial goals. Celebrate successes!



### Staff Tip

You may be facing similar financial challenges as those affecting the families you work with. Consider your own needs and follow the steps in this tip sheet to help you maintain your own financial well-being during emergencies. Practicing self-care is a critical part of ensuring that you can provide families with the support they need to weather unexpected challenges.

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 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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