

Factsheet: Community Agencies

Advocacy & Need Assessment

1. Community agencies can also engage themselves in policy advocacy. The Child Care Aware, America created an Advocacy Toolkit to engage parents, legislators and other stakeholders.
<http://usa.childcareaware.org/advocacy-public-policy/resources/advocacy-toolkit/>
2. Community agencies can support and engage with childcare public policy agenda:
<http://usa.childcareaware.org/advocacy-public-policy/resources/research/policyagenda/>
3. The Office of Child Care (OCC) under the US Department of Human and Health Services, provides a Provider Cost of Quality Calculator (PCQC) that allows modelling of annual cost and revenue for childcare programs. PCQC assesses the gap between the cost of providing quality child care and the revenue available to support a program. Assessment of the financial gap will guide the design of programs and policies in the region:
<https://www.ecequalitycalculator.com/Login.aspx>

Build Supply of Quality Child Care

1. Addition of Childcare Homes can add more capacity with minimal efforts and money as compared to creation of Childcare centres. To motivate more in-home providers, existing providers need professional support and guidance to handle the work pressure and to attend personal chores. The community agencies should invest in creation of “Staffed Family Child Care Network” in their region. This professional network provides technical and administrative assistance including keeping a substitute floating pool of staff to allow child care provider time out of the home. This will help in creating of a pipeline of more in-home providers.
https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/sfccn_ta_manual_final_2.pdf
2. OCC also issued a detailed guidelines for states and lead agencies on “Building the Supply of High-Quality Child Care”. Many of the success stories, strategy and resources detailed in the report can be used by the community agencies.
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/occ/ccdf_acf_im_2015_02.pdf
https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/contracts_paper_2017_508_compliant.pdf
3. Community agencies can motivate and guide more families to start childcare homes. New families can get necessary guidance from how to start to business tools on marketing, money management, contracts and policies, legal and insurance, record-keeping and taxes.
<http://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/businessresourcecenter/family-2/marketing-2/marketing-tools/>
4. Community agencies can also get advice on community consulting from the First Children’s Finance as Department of Human Services, Iowa has designated them to assist people in opening new centres in the state of Iowa.
<http://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/programs-services-2/organizational-consulting/>
5. Childcare in the US has been financed through additional property taxes, sales taxes by the state. In private sector, employers, unions, philanthropy and PPP used to finance childcare. The following is a catalogue of different financing option used in the US:
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED458932.pdf>