The Importance of Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Care for Immigrant and Dual Language Learner Families

December 1, 2021
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➢ Education and Training:
  ✓ Early Childhood
  ✓ K-12
  ✓ Adult Education and Workforce Development

➢ Language Access

➢ Governance of Integration Policy

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The Invisible Work of Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregivers and Its Importance for Immigrant and Dual Language Learner Families

By Maki Park and Jazmin Flores Peña

Speakers

• Maki Park
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• Lorena Garcia
  Executive Director, Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition

• Natalie Renew
  Director, Home Grown
Policy Brief Context

➢ 1 in 4 young children in the U.S. are children of immigrants
➢ 1 in 3 are Dual Language Learners (DLLs)
➢ Child care resources and investments are not reaching many immigrant and DLL families where they are being served
➢ A key equity issue: what happens to the immigrant and DLL families who use FFN care if the FFN sector remains unsupported as the child care system expands?
What is FFN Care?

➢ FFN Care is non-parental care provided by Family, Friends, & Neighbors
➢ A subset of Family Child Care (FCC)
➢ Regulations vary significantly by state: can operate with or without a license
Who Depends on FFN Care?

- FFN care is the most commonly utilized form of care by far, especially among infants and toddlers.
- Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) families are disproportionately likely to rely on FFN care.
- For Immigrant and Dual Language Learner (DLL) families, FFN care offers many benefits:
  - Language, culture, & values match
  - A trusted source of care
  - Flexible schedule, affordability, & availability

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Who Provides FFN Care?

- Disproportionately likely to be BIPOC, Limited English Proficient (LEP)
- The majority remain unlisted in child care registries and work without pay
- For those who do receive pay, average rate is $3.80/hour
- Many—but not all—wish to seek licensure
Barriers to Accessing Resources and Support

➢ Existing systems (Child Care and Development Block Grant - CCDBG) do not adequately support this sector
  • Limited subsidies with limited access

➢ Professional development often inaccessible
  • Many hurdles to licensure
  • Few resources available to those not seeking licensure

➢ Structural & legislative barriers
Opportunities

- Reduce legislative and administrative barriers to child care subsidies and other critical public supports for immigrant and other FFN providers.
- Increase federal funding with explicit guidance for states to invest in supporting FFN providers.
- Improve data systems and promote research to make gaps in equity for immigrant and other populations in early childhood systems visible.
- Include FFN caregivers and families who rely on their care in policy conversations.
- Support CBOs that are working successfully with immigrant and LEP FFN providers to promote expansion and replication.
- Fund Home Visiting services as a strategy to support immigrant and other FFN providers.
FFN providers: Raising Colorado

What’s going on?
Strategies in Colorado

- Community based training and professional development
- Networks
- Rules and regs
- Financial supports
- Policy change
Community Based supports and trainings

- PASO – Evidence Based
- Cultivando
- Valley Settlement
- Some Early Childhood Councils
• Made up of FFN serving organizations and FFN providers
• Currently developing next three-year strategy for providing additional supports.
  • Potential strategies include:
    • FFN hubs around the state that resemble early childhood councils
    • Create an FFN coalition with elected members to represent FFN providers at all of the EC tables that exist
    • Organizational partners to serve as TA support and provide any trainings available.
Rules and regs/Financial support

- There continue to be barriers placing rules and regulations that allow the children in the care of FFN providers to receive equitable care.
  - Food/nutrition supports
  - Grants for licensed providers only, small support for license exempt
  - CCAP for approved license exempt providers – must be initiated by the parent
  - Lack of language accessible trainings for non English Speakers – Some for Spanish speakers
  - Funds restricted to licensed providers at the federal level
Policy Change

Access to licensure

Zoning policies

Child to adult ratios for licensed and license exempt providers

Department of Early Childhood – commitment to Serving children in all forms of care
With every challenge, emerge new leaders

• Technical justifications
  • We don’t know how to reach FFN providers
  • They are not regulated
  • Why don’t they just become licensed
  • Unsure of the flexibility states can employ
Supporting Family, Friend and Neighbor Care

State & Federal Policy Opportunities

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Home Grown

- Home Grown is a national collaborative of funders dedicated to improving the quality of and access to home-based child care (HBCC)
  - Inclusive of Family Child Care (FCC) providers and Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers
- Home Grown Members:
Historic Opportunities for Child Care Sector

- **American Rescue Plan:**
  - Stabilization Funds
  - CCDBG Supplemental Funds
  - Tax cuts for families: Child Tax Credit & Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit

- **Build Back Better:**
  - Caps family child care costs (7%); improves provider compensation; increases supply of high quality care
  - Universal Pre-K
  - Tax cuts for families
Investment Opportunities

- Building Supply
- Improving Quality
- Stabilizing Economic Well-being
- Comprehensive Services
- Building evidence & understanding
Reform Opportunities

- Licensing systems
- QRIS approaches
- Subsidy programs & Payment mechanisms
- Connections to other federal and state programs (CAFCP, housing and community development, etc)
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