IMPLEMENT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION

Automation: Review and select the most appropriate child care management software system. SFCCNs that seek to improve the financial position of FCC providers will need to offer business leadership that reduces the cost of operations and improves revenue for their members. These tasks are performed most efficiently and effectively through the use of business automation and data sharing tools that allow the Network Hub to access the financial and program information of each member/provider. There are several affordable off-the-shelf products that can meet a SFCCN's technology needs. The use of automation reduces FCC provider time spent collecting and reporting data, increases the accuracy of data collected and reported, and ensures the availability of timely, accurate and useful data for informed business decisions.

Opportunities Exchange has worked to understand the child care management software landscape, and to build relationships with software vendors who are interested in meeting the technology and data needs of Shared Service Networks. We have advised vendors about functionality needed to meet the needs of networks, and we have assisted organizations creating Network solutions to go through a vetting process to select a suitable software product.

Download the following resources from the website:
CCMS: Frequently Asked Questions
Child Care Management Software: What you Need to Know

Additionally, the website https://www.capterra.com/child-care-software/ is a listing of off-the-shelf child care management software that includes user ratings and reviews as well as a summary of features and the ability to compare up to four products at the same time.

Linking Data: Driving efficiency and system change. SFCCNs afford small, independent business owners the power of scale. Helping providers harness the power of technology to save time and increase revenue is a critically important first step. Being able to use data to inform decisions, at the provider and Network level, is a significant step toward sustainability. Sharing data with public systems to drive policy and finance reform has the potential to be transformative.

There is a growing awareness in the early childhood education sector that data collected at the provider level can be legally and appropriately shared with public sector systems, including: resource and referral entities to track "real-time" availability of child care openings for parents searches and supply and demand assessments; child care subsidy systems to reduce error, save time, and ensure more timely payments to providers; child outcome data to track early learning and anchor policy efforts such as QRIS to actual child outcomes.

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The graphic below shows how provider level data can flow into public systems to improve the ECE system:

Provider data collection	Data Trust Agreement	Public Data Systems
• Enrollment • Attendance • Staff Data • Child Outcomes	• Ensures legal, confidential, sharing of data	• Child care searches • Subsidy management systems • Workforce Registries • Child Outcomes Tracking