





Policy Drives Practice: Building the Roadmap for Staffed **Family Child Care Networks**

By Louise Stoney, February 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has been tremendously challenging for early care and education. The new year promises hope—we now have a vaccine and strong national leadership - but a return to the pre-pandemic normal is unlikely. How do we reinvent early care and education in a new world? What role should home-based care play? Opportunities Exchange believes that home-based care is essential and that policy and finance to bolster provider networks—commonly referred to as Staffed Family Child Care Networks (or SFCCN, for short)—is a foundational strategy.

Addressing these key needs will require challenging long-held beliefs and taking a careful look at policy and finance that embraces scale, technology and innovation. Leaders will need to focus squarely on improving provider compensation, stabilizing small businesses, and addressing systemic inequity. Some reforms can occur nationally, but most will need to be enacted by state or local governments.

A new Issue Brief from Opportunities Exchange describes a policy and finance agenda focused on SFCCN. As states explore how to spend new COVID-19 relief dollars and revise CCDF and PDG B-5 plans, we believe that home-based child care deserves increased attention, leadership and support.

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