

**All Our Kin
New Haven, CT**

Sponsoring Organization

All Our Kin
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Service Delivery Area

Greater New Haven. Expanding to additional areas of Connecticut in fall 2010.

Type of Organization

Independent, non-profit ECE agency

Summary of Approach

All Our Kin supports a Family Child Care Network that includes approximately 90 home-based providers. AOK also sponsors an Alliance of 10 providers that provide Early Head Start services in family child care homes. Additionally, AOK reaches out to a much broader group of family child care providers who need assistance with licensing, training or wish to participate in networking activities.

Type of Approach:

FCC Network w/ non-profit “umbrella”

Services Provided:

- Provider payment -- only for Early Head Start. AOK has funding to support 24 Early Head Start slots in 10-12 homes.
- Provider Support -- Nurse Consultant for homes that participate in Early Head Start initiative. Program visits (coaching, consultation, individualized PD plans) for all providers in network. Warm Line for all providers in Network. Monthly peer support/training meetings, with content and peer support.
- Technical Assistance (in addition to provider support, above) – help with licensing for all providers, even those who are not in the network or EHS initiative.

- Training – CDA, business training, workshops, annual conference, warm line. Also partnered with DSS to pilot the Infant-Toddler Early Learning Guidelines in family child care homes.
- Classroom Observations – AOK mentors conduct classroom observations but these are ‘coaching’ observations rather than ‘objective’ observations. Staff use FDCRS, ARNETT, and the NAFCC tool. Staff will also start using CLASS. The goal is to conduct more objective observations with the 10 providers who participate in the EHS initiative.
- Child Assessment – AOK currently uses Ages & Stages, and will soon use the new Creative Curriculum assessment tool with the EHS providers.
- Substitutes -- AOK doesn't provide substitutes.
- Family Advocates – for families served by providers who participate in the EHS initiative (to make sure that the families in these programs get supports they need, such as access to a medical home or trouble with transportation, etc.)
- Microcredit program – providers can apply for a loan/grant of \$250 to \$5,000 for expenses that will improve the quality and viability of the their program. Program is not for new providers. Half of funding is a loan; half is a grant.
- Bilingual services – most training and support services provided by AOK are in both Spanish and English

Direct Funds that are administered to participating providers by AOK

- operating assistance – for providers in EHS initiative. AOK provides funding, either a supplement to their state child care subsidy or a per child allocation in cases where the child is not eligible for subsidy or funds aren't available.
- quality improvement grants – see microcredit program described above
- scholarships for NAFCC and CDA, or to pay for books and registration fees for college courses
- free materials, supplies and equipment
- free high-quality children's books

Staff at Network Coordinator or “Umbrella” Organization

Executive Director

Chief Knowledge and Learning Officer

Family child care licensing director– helps support and advocate for providers in going through licensing process

Teacher Mentor – leads 12 week intervention with new providers

Educational Consultants – work with existing providers in network (3)

Administrative Assistant – helps providers with tasks as needed like designing a flyer, or make business cards, etc as well as general AOK administrative tasks

Trainers - independent contractor for CDA training; many other trainers as needed for conference, individual workshops, etc. (staff also conduct some trainings)

Nurse Consultant (independent contractor)

Family Advocate

Consultants who come in to do specific tasks

Typical Staff in family child care homes

One provider for each home of up to 6 preschool-age children and 3 additional school-age children (after school or on holidays.) CT does allow Group FCC but there are not many of them in the AOK network (or in the state). AOK serves some husband and wife FCC teams that take 2 apartments, side by side, each licensed as an individual FCC home.

Date Initiative Began/Relevant Historical Info:

AOK Started in 1999 with a training program for parents on public assistance. FCC network started in 2002. The EHS initiative began in 2010.

Who funds the initiative?

The United Way, local foundations, Annie E. Casey, Ms. Foundation, individual donors, Federal EHS and CT Department of Social Services

Which providers participate

The AOK FCC network includes 90 providers, about 55% Latino, almost 45% African American, and 2% Caucasian.

The Early Head Start initiative includes 10 providers.

Overall, AOK serves about 250 providers annually in their various training and support efforts.

Population served by the Family Child Care homes

Approximately 72% of the families served by AOK providers qualify for Care4Kids subsidies, state funding available only to low-income working families (below 50% of state median income) and families on public assistance..