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Defining Staffed Family Child Care Networks

The child care landscape has many networks of family child care providers, most of which support quality educational practices, networking, and peer support. These entities can become a vital support system for programs seeking to re-open after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, if they are willing to expand supports and services to include financial and business management.

Staffed Family Child Care Networks (SFCCNs) have been hailed as a promising practice by many leaders, but the field does not have a clear or consistent definition of what that term means or what services can, and should, be offered by effective SFCCNs. To address this need, Opportunities Exchange has created a framework that defines SFCCNs by tier level, for both Pedagogical and Business supports. As Networks move from resource and information sharing to delivering intensive business and pedagogical supports through shared staff, the impact of these services deepens significantly.

At the highest tier levels, SFCCNs can not only stabilize and improve earnings for providers, they can also deliver comprehensive services such as health/mental health, social services, and early intervention to children and families who need them.

We offer this [new resource](#) on our website in this moment of challenge and opportunity as we are all engaged in thinking about our work in new ways. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

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