

NCCIC Is a Service of the Child Care Bureau

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ACTIVITY: CASE STUDY
FINANCING AN EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SYSTEM
FOR THE STATE OF GREENFIELDS

Suggestions for Presenters

The goal of this exercise is to push bold, new ideas and to make these discussion groups 'safe places for radical conversations.' To this end, use whatever techniques might help keep the group focused on what might be possible (e.g. cutting edge, new ideas) rather than what is currently done (the status quo).

1. Share the following information with participants:

This case study exercise is designed to give you the opportunity to explore various ways that a statewide, comprehensive early care and education system might be financed. It is a composite, fictionalized example based on current State experience that includes general background information on State policy, resources, and history.

The case study is an example of system reform and a springboard for your own thinking. It is NOT the only way to design an early care and education system. Indeed, many important details have been omitted, and we hope that the discussion groups will expand and enrich your exploration.

As you work with the case study, try not to get lost in the contextual details; they are provided largely to give you ideas for systems/funding streams/partners and to help you grasp the real life politics of the situation. The goal is for the group to answer the discussion questions, which are aimed at developing a work plan for how you would approach this task. For example, you will be asked to suggest who should be involved, what data and resources are needed, what action steps should be taken, what meetings or products would be most helpful, how results should be presented, and so forth.

In addition to the case study, the handout "Smarter Reform: Moving Beyond Single Program Solutions to an Early Care and Education System" identifies five key principles of an early childhood education system as well as a concrete proposal for both structure and finance.

2. Divide the participants into small groups, with eight to ten members each. Have each group choose someone to report back to the larger group. Distribute the *Case Study* handout to participants. Have each group choose someone to report back to the larger group.

3. Even if participants don't have time to fully respond to each question, they should try to brainstorm new ideas and explore how to build financing for cross-system leadership and vision focused on reform. They should explore how they can promote collaborative efforts that improve the field of ECE as a whole.
4. Wrap up the exercise by asking the reporter from each group to summarize the group's "take-away" ideas from the case study.

Handouts

Case Study: Financing an Early Care and Education System for the State of Greenfields

"Smarter Reform: Moving Beyond Single Program Solutions to an Early Care and Education System" (Summer 2006), in *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*, Vol. 37, No. 2, by Louise Stoney, Anne Mitchell, and Mildred E. Warner. <http://government.cce.cornell.edu/doc/pdf/101-115%20stoney%20mitchell%20warner.pdf>