First Children's Finance

Rural Child Care Innovation Program Timeline

Round 2 - FY27

The Rural Child Care Innovation Program (RCCIP) is a facilitated community engagement process designed to develop the right-sized solutions to address the challenges of early care and education in the communities selected to participate. Over a two-year period, selected communities will partner with First Children's Finance to increase the supply of high-quality affordable childcare in their local community.

Historically all RCCIP activities have been held in person. With the pandemic, we have developed systems to adapt the RCCIP process so it can be done in-person, virtually, or a combination of both. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis by the core team lead and First Children's Finance staff depending upon regulations and the current situation with the pandemic. We will do our best to hold the core team orientation retreat, child care provider appreciation event, town hall, and implementation planning retreat in person. Some of the other meetings may be held virtually as needed.

	Description	*Timing*	*Date (Guide Only)*	*Details*
Application Phase	Application Opens	First Monday of December	December 1, 2026	Send the application, post it on the website
	Webinar	View Webinar from Round 1	August 5, 2026	Learn about the RCCIP process, and expectations.
	Application Deadline	8 weeks after the application opens	January 26, 2027	Due by 5:00 PM
	Application review and follow-up questions for applicants	1 week following application deadline	January 26 - February 2, 2027	FCF will connect by phone or email
	Final Awards made	The Monday following application review period	February 8, 2027	FCF will notify via email.

	Description	*Timing*	*Date (Guide Only)*	*Details*
Planning Phase	Core Team Lead Orientation	Two weeks after final awards made	Late Winter 2026/Early Spring 2027	Webinar with Core Team Leaders to set expectations
	Core Team Onboarding (6 hrs.)	1-2 Months after core team lead orientation	Spring 2027	A face-to-face meeting (6 hours) to discuss the RCCIP details and expectations. There is also the option of two virtual meetings (3 hours each)
	Core Team Planning Meeting (4 hrs.)	Ideally 2 weeks after onboarding	Early Summer 2027	During the face-to-face or virtual meeting, the community engagement activities will be mapped out and a timeline for the process will be developed
	Data Gathering & Community Engagement Activities	This is ongoing to start before the Provider Appreciation event. This must be completed at least 3 weeks before the Town Hall event.	Spring- Fall 2027	The Core Team engages the community in data collection and informs them about their work
	FCF Facilitated Ongoing Core Team Check-ins	Starts the month following the planning meeting and continues until goals are finalized and the core team lead hand-off has happened.	Early Summer- Early Winter 2027	Virtual monthly Core Team meetings
	Child Care Provider Appreciation Event	This will happen 2-3 months after the	Fall 2027	A face-to-face dinner or virtual event is

		planning meeting. Planning this event will take a little time.		organized to recognize and appreciate the community's providers
	Synthesize Data	After the survey's close which will be at least 3 weeks prior to Town Hall event.	Fall/Early Winter 2027	FCF synthesizes data into informative info for Town Hall meeting
	Planning Meeting for Town Hall (1 hr.)	At least 2 Weeks after the Provider Appreciation Event. This must be before the Town Hall.	Early Winter 2027	Virtual Core Team meeting to plan for the Town Hall Event
	Child Care Provider Recruitment	On-going	On-going	Recruit providers to participate in business trainings, business leadership cohorts, and one-on-one consultations conducted by FCF
	Town Hall Event	1-2 months after the Provider Appreciation Event	Early Winter 2027	Face-to-face or virtual community-wide event is held to identify and develop projects

	Description	***Timing***	***Date (Guide Only)***	***Details***
	Organization of Town Hall ideas	Right after the Town Hall Event	Winter 2027	FCF staff organizes Town Hall ideas into a workable format
	Goal Setting and Implementation Meeting (4 hrs.)	1-2 Weeks after the Town Hall Event	Winter 2027	Face-to-face or a virtual meeting to prioritize goals, develop SMART goals, map out implementation activities, and plan for the Community Launch
	SMART Goal Finalization Meeting	This happens during the next core team	Late Winter 2027	One or two virtual meetings action

Implementation Phase		check-in meeting following the goal setting and implementation meeting		steps, and identify local project leaders
	Community Solution Action Plan (CSAP) Development	This begins once the community goals are finalized.	Spring 2028	FCF creates a report detailing community data, types of solutions, and community-identified projects
	Planning meeting for Community Launch and Action Step updates	This meeting takes place after the finalized CSAP is provided to the Core Team Lead	Late Spring/Early Summer 2028	Face-to-face or a virtual meeting to share the CSAP, plan the CSAP Community Launch, and share updates on action steps
	Community Launch of CSAP	This will take place 1-2 months after the planning meeting for the CSAP Launch.	Summer 2028	Press release and community activities to share the CSAP
	Regular Core Team Meetings	These begin after the goals are finalized and continue for approximately 12 months following.	Winter 2028-Winter 2029	Updates discussed from project teams to the core team; frequency determined by the core team; facilitated by the Core Team Lead
	Biannual Reporting	The first report is due 6 months after goals are finalized	Late Summer/Early Fall 2028	Core Team Lead provides written biannual report to FCF
	Regular Project Team Meetings	These begin after the goals are finalized and continue for approximately 12 months following.	Winter 2028-Winter 2029	Project teams meet to implement community solutions; facilitated by the project team lead

	Technical Assistance & On-going Support	On-going throughout the implementation phase.	Winter 2028-Winter 2029	FCF provides Technical Assistance when needed
	Final Report	The final report is due 12 months after goals are finalized.	Winter 2029	The Core Team Lead submits a final written report to FCF
	Celebration with the Core Team	This takes place after the final report is completed and returned to FCF.	Winter/Early Spring 2029	The Core Team celebrates its success
	Learning Communities	In-Person and/or Virtual meetings will be hosted biannually by FCF. Communities can participate once they are in the implementation phase.	Various Times as determined by FCF.	Opportunities to learn from and network with other RCCIP communities who are either in the implementation phase or who have completed the RCCIP process.

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