

Using the Home-Based Child Care Network Benchmarks: A Tip Sheet for Funders and Networks

September 2025

| Funders | Existing Networks | New Networks |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Support and Strengthen</p>  | <p>Reflect and Improve</p>  | <p>Build with Intention</p>  |
| <p>Use the benchmarks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Identify criteria for fundingDevelop RFPs for new and existing networksCreate opportunities for development of tools and resources around implementation of the benchmarks | <p>Use the benchmarks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Conduct self-assessment of current servicesIdentify strengths and gapsPrioritize meaningful improvementsAdvocate for additional funding | <p>Use the benchmarks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Clarify fundamental values: The “why” benchmarksDecide on services and strategies: The “what” benchmarksPlan operations, staffing, and data collection: The “how” benchmarks |

Using the Benchmarks

- The [Home-Based Child Care Network Benchmarks](#) and the [Literature Review](#) that summarizes the supporting evidence are great places to start this work.
- Networks can review the [Research Reports and Briefs](#), which offer recommendations and real-life strategies that other networks have used to implement various benchmarks.
- The [Network Benchmarks and Indicators Toolkit](#) is a compilation of resources from networks and funders across the United States that can be used to implement the benchmarks.
- The [Building Comprehensive Home-Based Child Care Networks: Evaluation Toolkit](#) offers detailed information on how to evaluate a home-based child care network, as well as a list of useful tools.

This brief was made possible by generous support from Home Grown.

For the companion report, please see: Ragonese-Barnes, M., Bromer, J., and Porter T. (2025). *Using the Home-Based Child Care Network Benchmarks: Three use cases*. Home Grown and Erikson Institute.