

Using the Home-Based Child Care Network Benchmarks:

A Tip Sheet for Funders and Networks

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Funders

Support and Strengthen



Use the benchmarks to:

- Identify criteria for funding
- Develop RFPs for new and existing networks
- Create opportunities for development of tools and resources around implementation of the benchmarks

Existing Networks

Reflect and Improve



Use the benchmarks to:

- Conduct self-assessment of current services
- Identify strengths and gaps
- Prioritize meaningful improvements
- Advocate for additional funding

New Networks

Build with Intention



Use the benchmarks to:

- Clarify fundamental values:
The “why” benchmarks
- Decide on services and strategies:
The “what” benchmarks
- Plan 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.

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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.