

Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education

How You Can Get Involved:
A Factsheet for Local Agencies
Engaged in Keeping Communities Safe



Choose Safe Places
for Early Care and Education
Planning. Guidance. Protection.

What is Choose Safe Places?

The [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry](#) (ATSDR) created the Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education (CSPECE, or CSP) program to help towns, cities, and states adopt practices that ensure early care and education (ECE) centers are located away from environmental hazards. Even if ECE programs meet current state licensing regulations, they may be located in places where children and staff can be exposed to environmental contaminants. There are currently **28 states** funded by ATSDR to achieve CSP program goals by:

- defining how locations for ECE programs are selected
- developing methods to help ensure ECE programs are placed on safe sites
- assisting agencies that have questions about safe citing for ECE programs

Local partners such as municipal planning and zoning, fire departments, and local health departments that work on licensing, regulations, permitting, and inspections of ECE sites can play a pivotal role in supporting state CSP programs.

How Does Getting Involved With CSP Benefit Your Agency?



CSP initiatives complement the state and local regulations you may be working to enforce.



You'll gain access to national, state, and local environmental health experts.



You'll have access to environmental health training and education.



You can be part of a coalition that comprises local public health, planning/zoning, fire, and environmental protection agencies.

How Can Your Agency Get Involved With CSP?

1

Learn more about Choose Safe Places at the national level [here](#).

2

Learn about your state's CSP program and access staff contact information [here](#).

3

Set up a meeting with your state's CSP program to identify areas for collaboration.

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How Can Your Agency Support Your State's CSP Program?



**Set It Up
Safe: A
Planning
Tool**

Check out the [Set It Up Safe](#) planning tool for choosing safe places for ECEs. See if you can easily integrate some of the checklist items into your workflow. Disseminate the tool to partners whose efforts align with the CSP mission.



Before issuing a permit or license to a new ECE site, run the address through an environmental hazard database such as the Environmental Protection Agency's [MyProperty](#). This database searches for environmental hazards recorded at or near the address of interest.



Share this factsheet with the following partners: ECEs, health inspectors, fire inspectors, local planning and zoning partners, social services, emergency services, the district attorney, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions.



Attend the [National Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference](#) and/or encourage your partners who are involved with ECE licensing and inspection to attend.



Offer to sit on an advisory committee for your state's CSP program. In exchange, you can ask the CSP program to assist with some of your ECE inspecting, permitting, or monitoring activities.

Resources

- Learn about your state's CSP program: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforece/State-CSP-Map.html>
- Learn more about CSP at the national level: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE/index.html>
- CSP Guidance Manual: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE/cspece_guidance/index.html



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Acknowledgments

This document was made possible through cooperative agreement #5 NU38OT000306-04-00 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The content and methods used to develop this document are solely the responsibility of the authors, and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC. This document was created by the Center for Public Health Innovation at CI International.

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