

Choose Safe Places for Early Care and Education

How State Programs Can Engage Local Partners



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for Early Care and Education
Planning. Guidance. Protection.

Working Toward Sustainability: Engaging Local Partners

Choose Safe Places (CSP) programs striving for sustainability are encouraged to work with local partners. To identify potential local partners for your program, assess your licensing landscape to determine who plays a role in early care and education licensing, regulation, or monitoring at the local level. In addition, find out who your current partners are partnering with and look for local efforts that align with your CSP program's mission and vision, such as environmental health organizations and early childhood councils.

Examples of Local Partners for CSP Programs



LOCAL HEALTH DEPTS.

Many local health departments (LHDs) contribute to licensing and regulation of ECE facilities through inspections, monitoring, or issuance of food permits.



PLANNING AND ZONING

In many municipalities, new ECE sites must be reviewed by city or county zoning and planning departments to obtain local licenses and permits.



LOCAL FIRE DEPTS.

Often, applications for new ECE facilities must be approved by local fire departments that conduct fire safety inspections.

How Can Your CSP Program Increase Awareness Among Local Partners?

- 1 Ask your [State Associations of County and City Health Officials](#) (SACCHO) about disseminating program materials through their membership listserv or at their conferences and meetings.
- 2 Disseminate the [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's \(ATSDR\) CSP factsheets and videos](#) to local health, planning and zoning, and fire departments across the state.
- 3 Develop a one-pager on your CSP program that includes background information, successes, and contact information. Disseminate via social media, your program website, meetings, etc.
- 4 Attend or present at state/regional public health or early care and education conferences and meetings to promote awareness of your CSP program.

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How Can Your CSP Program Engage Local Partners?



Set It Up Safe: A Planning Tool

Share [ATSDR's Set It Up Safe Tool](#) with local partners who can play a part in ensuring safe siting. These partners include early care and education (ECE) program owners and operators, city planners, zoning officials, and health and environmental protection departments.



Build relationships with local partners by attending their meetings whenever appropriate. Try to identify ways your program can benefit local partners, such as providing training and education opportunities.



Ask local partners in key municipalities and counties to help with disseminating materials such as your program's one-pager, [ATSDR's Set It Up Safe Tool](#), and/or any other program materials you think are important to share.



Invite representatives from local health departments, local planning and zoning departments, and local fire departments to sit on your advisory committee or to attend your meetings.

Resources

- State Associations of County and City Health Officials: <https://www.naccho.org/membership/meet-our-members/saccho>
- ATSDR CSP Website: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE/index.html>
- CSP Fact Sheets and Videos: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/safeplacesforECE/fact_sheet_and_videos.html



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