

***The Importance of Family, Friend,
and Neighbor (FFN) Care for
Immigrant and Dual Language
Learner Families***

December 1, 2021



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- Education and Training:
 - ✓ Early Childhood
 - ✓ K-12
 - ✓ Adult Education and Workforce Development
- Language Access
- Governance of Integration Policy

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Today's Release



The Invisible Work of Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregivers and Its Importance for Immigrant and Dual Language Learner Families

POLICY BRIEF

DECEMBER 2021

BY MAKI PARK AND JAZMIN FLORES PEÑA

Executive Summary

Child care provided by relatives, friends, and community members in unlicensed settings makes up a large but often overlooked sector known as family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) care. Despite being the most commonly used form of child care across the United States, FFN care providers and settings are often unresourced, unsupported, and largely invisible in child-care policy conversations.

Increasing support for FFN caregivers is an important strategy for states and localities seeking to more equitably support immigrant and DLL families.

While many U.S. families rely on FFN care, it is particularly prevalent among immigrant and Dual Language Learner (DLL) families. Formal center-based child care is often expensive and frequently lacks the flexible scheduling options, multilingual staff, and culturally and linguistically responsive practices these families look for in a care provider. By contrast, FFN caregivers are far more likely to share a language and culture with the families of the children in their care, leading to an enhanced sense of trust and safety and offering a high-quality experience that is responsive to these families' priorities and

needs. For some families, parents' irregular work schedules and the high cost of licensed care may also mean that FFN care is their only feasible child-care option.

Young children of immigrants and DLLs possess many strengths, including their linguistic and cultural assets. However, considerable research shows that these children are less likely to access early childhood programs and subsidies than their peers, and points to gaps in later educational and other outcomes for these groups. There is thus a pressing need for early childhood programs that are responsive to this population's characteristics and needs. Increasing support for FFN caregivers is an important strategy for states and localities seeking to more equitably support immigrant and DLL families.

A. *FFN Caregivers and Barriers They Face to Accessing Support*

FFN care providers are disproportionately likely to be immigrants, Limited English Proficient (LEP), low income, and women of color. The majority remain unrecognized by state child-care systems, are unlisted in child care registries, and work without pay, and many experience food insecurity and other threats to their economic security and well-being. While some immigrant FFN care providers may seek a path

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By Maki Park and Jazmin Flores Peña

<https://bit.ly/1221ffnc>



Speakers

- **Maki Park**
MPI Senior Policy Analyst for Early Education and Care
- **Lorena Garcia**
Executive Director, Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
- **Natalie Renew**
Director, Home Grown



Policy Brief Context

- 1 in 4 young children in the U.S. are children of immigrants
- 1 in 3 are Dual Language Learners (DLLs)
- Child care resources and investments are not reaching many immigrant and DLL families **where they are being served**
- A key equity issue: what happens to the immigrant and DLL families who use FFN care if the FFN sector remains unsupported as the child care system expands?



What is FFN Care?

- FFN Care is non-parental care provided by Family, Friends, & Neighbors
- A subset of Family Child Care (FCC)
- Regulations vary significantly by state: can operate with or without a license



Who Depends on FFN Care?

- FFN care is the most commonly utilized form of care by far, especially among infants and toddlers
- Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) families are disproportionately likely to rely on FFN care
- For Immigrant and Dual Language Learner (DLL) families, FFN care offers many benefits:
 - *Language, culture, & values match*
 - *A trusted source of care*
 - *Flexible schedule, affordability, & availability*



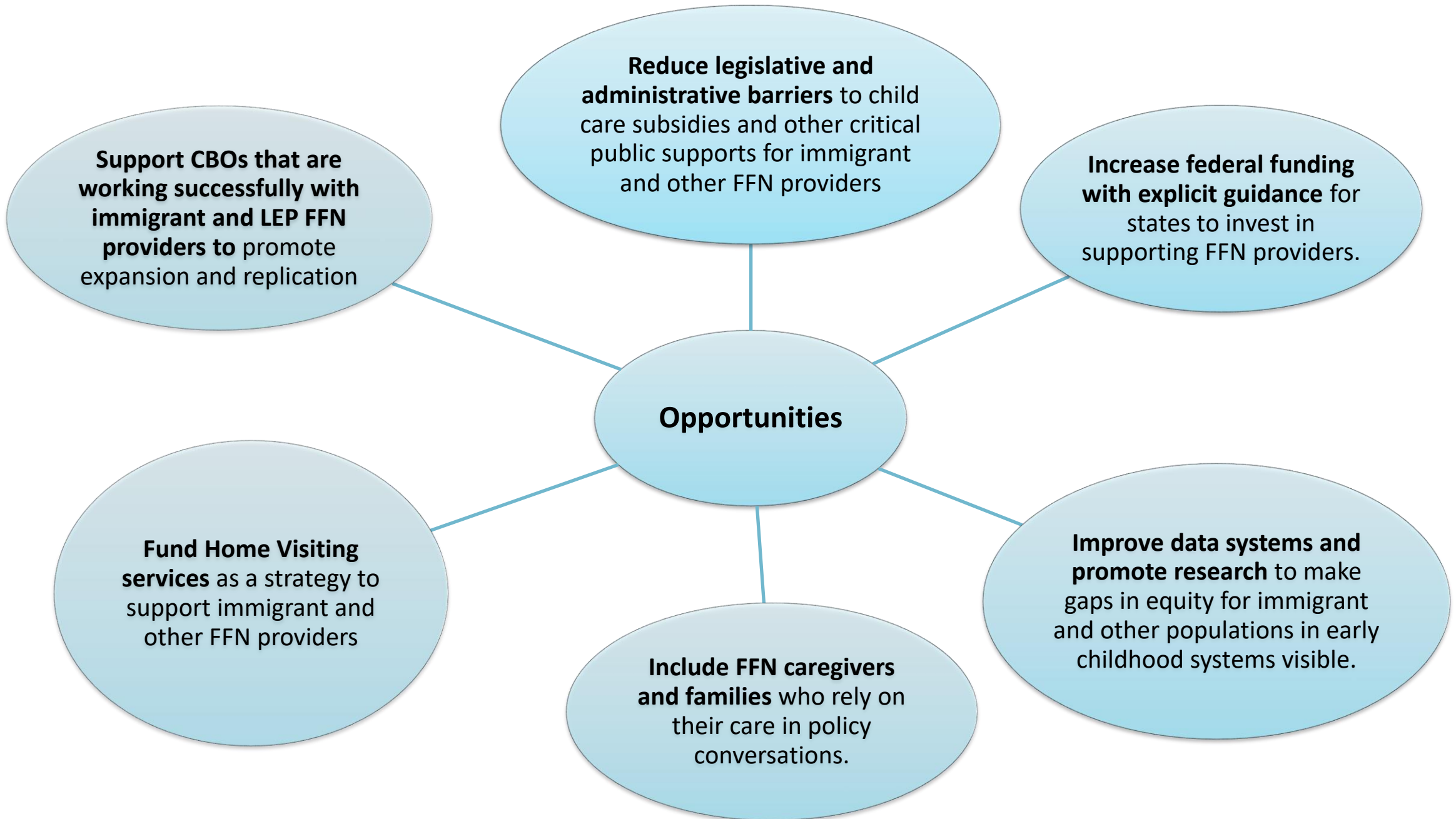
Who Provides FFN Care?

- Disproportionately likely to be BIPOC, Limited English Proficient (LEP)
- The majority remain unlisted in child care registries and work without pay
- For those who do receive pay, average rate is \$3.80/hour
- Many –but not all– wish to seek licensure



Barriers to Accessing Resources and Support

- Existing systems (Child Care and Development Block Grant - CCDBG) do not adequately support this sector
 - Limited subsidies with limited access
- Professional development often inaccessible
 - Many hurdles to licensure
 - Few resources available to those not seeking licensure
- Structural & legislative barriers





**COLORADO STATEWIDE
PARENT COALITION**

FFN providers: Raising Colorado

What's going on?

Strategies in Colorado

- Community based training and professional development
- Networks
- Rules and regs
- Financial supports
- Policy change



Community Based supports and trainings

- PASO – Evidence Based
- Cultivando
- Valley Settlement
- Some Early Childhood Councils



FFN Strategic Action Network

- Made up of FFN serving organizations and FFN providers
- Currently developing next three-year strategy for providing additional supports.
 - Potential strategies include:
 - FFN hubs around the state that resemble early childhood councils
 - Create an FFN coalition with elected members to represent FFN providers at all of the EC tables that exist
 - Organizational partners to serve as TA support and provide any trainings available.

Rules and regs/Financial support

- There continue to be barrier placing rules and regulations that allow the children in the care of FFN providers to receive equitable care.
 - Food/nutrition supports
 - Grants for licensed providers only, small support for license exempt
 - CCAP for approved license exempt providers – must be initiated by the parent
 - Lack of language accessible trainings for non English Speakers – Some for Spanish speakers
 - Funds restricted to licensed providers at the federal level



Policy Change

Access to licensure

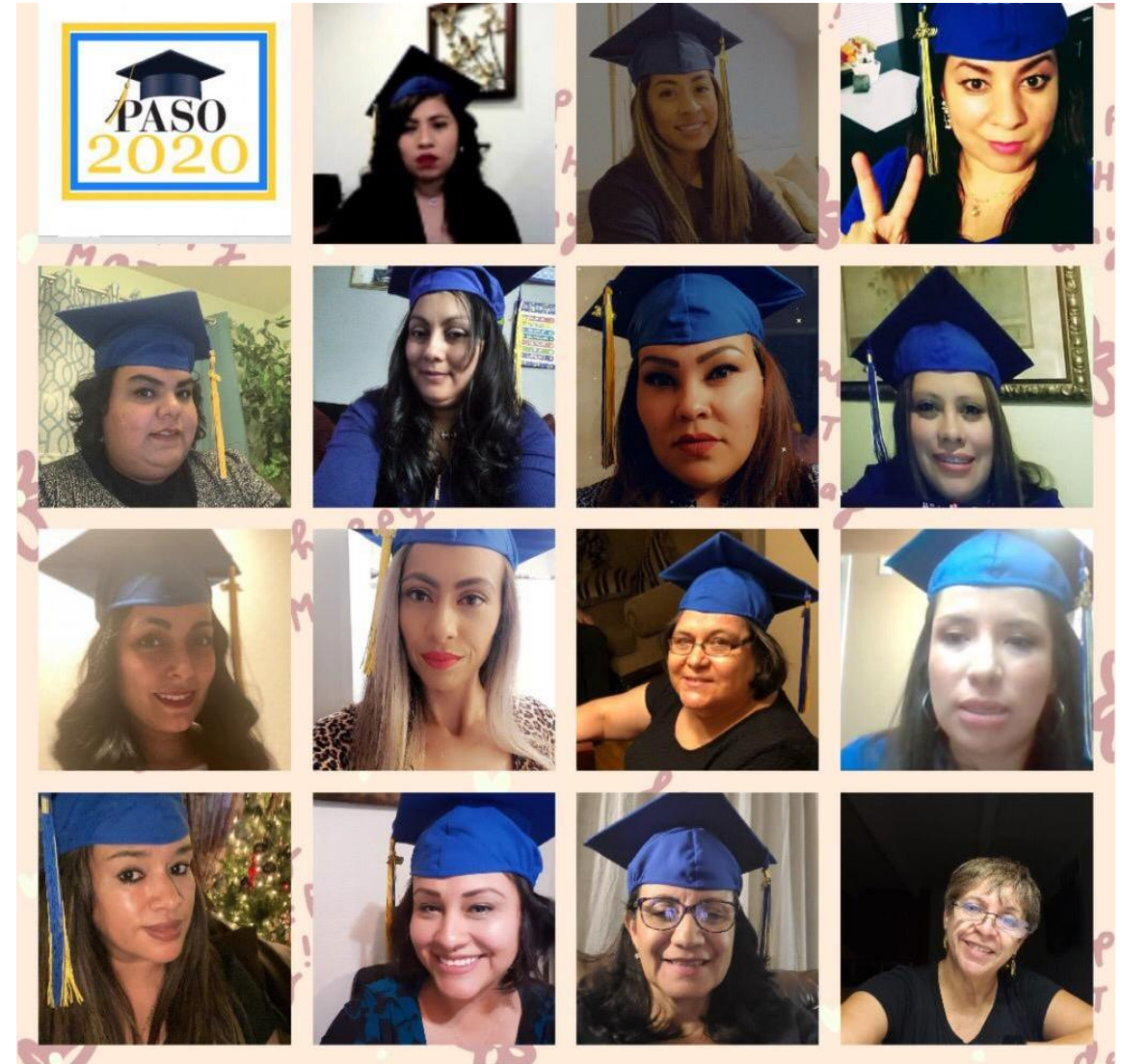
Zoning policies

Child to adult ratios for licensed and license exempt providers

Department of Early Childhood – commitment to Serving children in all forms of care

With every challenge, emerge new leaders

- Technical justifications
 - We don't know how to reach FFN providers
 - They are not regulated
 - Why don't they just become licensed
 - Unsure of the flexibility states can employ





Supporting Family, Friend and Neighbor Care

State & Federal Policy Opportunities

December 1, 2021



Home Grown



- Home Grown is a national collaborative of funders dedicated to improving the quality of and access to home-based child care (HBCC)
 - Inclusive of Family Child Care (FCC) providers and Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers
- Home Grown Members:
 - Bainum Family Foundation, Buffett Early Childhood Fund, Gary Community Investments, Heinz Endowments, Heising-Simons Foundation, Imaginable Futures, Klingenstein Philanthropies, MAEVA Social Capital, Merage Foundations, Overdeck Family Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Pritzker Children's Initiative, Ralph C. Wilson Foundation, Vanguard



Historic Opportunities for Child Care Sector

- **American Rescue Plan:**
 - Stabilization Funds
 - CCDBG Supplemental Funds
 - Tax cuts for families: Child Tax Credit & Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- **Build Back Better:**
 - Caps family child care costs (7%); improves provider compensation; increases supply of high quality care
 - Universal Pre-K
 - Tax cuts for families



Investment Opportunities

- Building Supply
- Improving Quality
- Stabilizing Economic Well-being
- Comprehensive Services
- Building evidence & understanding



Reform Opportunities

- Licensing systems
- QRIS approaches
- Subsidy programs & Payment mechanisms
- Connections to other federal and state programs (CAFPCP, housing and community development, etc)



Thank You
homegrownchildcare.org



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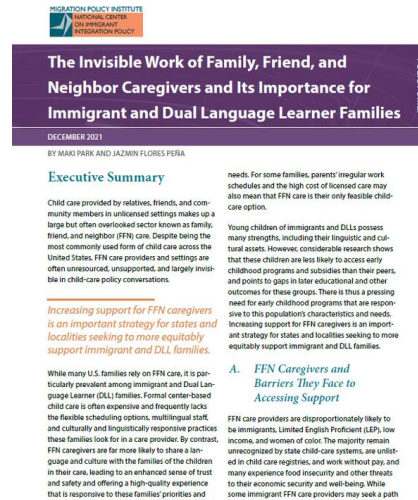
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