

What is the ECSOC?

The Early Childhood System of Care Community Self-Assessment (ECSOC) is used to guide local communities in a systematic process of community mapping and planning by identifying their strengths and gaps in early childhood services and supports for social emotional development and early childhood mental health.

The ECSOC looks at four main areas: 1) Health, 2) Family Resources, 3) Early Childhood Mental Health Services, and 4) Schools. It covers an age span from prenatal through third grade (age 8) focused on both prevention and intervention services and supports.

Who Should be Invited?

It is important to have a broad representation from your community. Here are some recommended members:

- Parents/Consumers
- Medical/Health Care Providers
- Early Development Network (EDN)
- Community Action Agency
- Local Health Department
- Home Visitors
- School (preK-3)
- University/College
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Behavioral Health/Mental Health Providers
- City/County Officials
- Family Advocates, CASA, GAL
- Crisis Center
- Elected Leaders (City Council, etc.)
- Faith Community Leaders
- Business Community Members (Chamber of Commerce)
- Community cultural organizations
- Public Library
- Early Childhood Educators (including Childcare Providers)
- Early Learning Connection Coordinator
- Department of Health and Human Services-Child Welfare/other DHHS Staff
- Community Leaders/Volunteers/Champions
- Local funders/philanthropists

Steps of the Self-Assessment:

1. Identify community stakeholders and invite to meeting. Make a plan for gathering parent surveys strategically, distribute and collect parent surveys (EC Subcommittee, lead)
2. Stakeholders score items through a process of group facilitation (facilitation by Rooted in Relationships staff from Nebraska Children). Three (3) hours is preferred for this work.
3. Rooted staff take scores from stakeholder group, parent surveys, comments, etc. and summarize into a document for the group to review.
4. Stakeholder group reconvenes to review the summary to identify priority actions (facilitated by Rooted in Relationships staff). Three (3) hours is preferred for this work.