



### ➤ About Bright Start TN

Bright starts finish strong. That’s why the STRONG Accountable Care Community is proud to be a part of the Bright Start Tennessee Network (Bright Start TN) – an initiative of Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE) that brings together a statewide network of community partnerships dedicated to accelerating early learning outcomes and closing achievement and opportunity gaps for Tennessee children birth through third grade.

**In response to this stakeholder engagement, we will create a plan for Northeast Tennessee by June 30, 2022 and launch implementation in January 2023.**

### ➤ Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Bright Start NETN has made a significant investment of time and energy in engaging with stakeholders throughout the 10-county region. Information gathered through the community and stakeholder engagement includes identifying target communities, discovering related needs and recognizing regional resources and assets.

### ➤ Thank You!

Thank you to all those who participated in the work of community and stakeholder engagement. Nearly 500 hours of community member/stakeholder time was invested in this effort. The information shared informed the Bright Start NETN Measures of Success and strategies. Feedback gathered through this process includes specific information related to each of our ten counties; thus, the Bright Start NETN plan will address needs of all counties in the region.



**A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan was implemented through:**



**TOWN HALL MEETINGS**



**SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT INTERVIEWS**

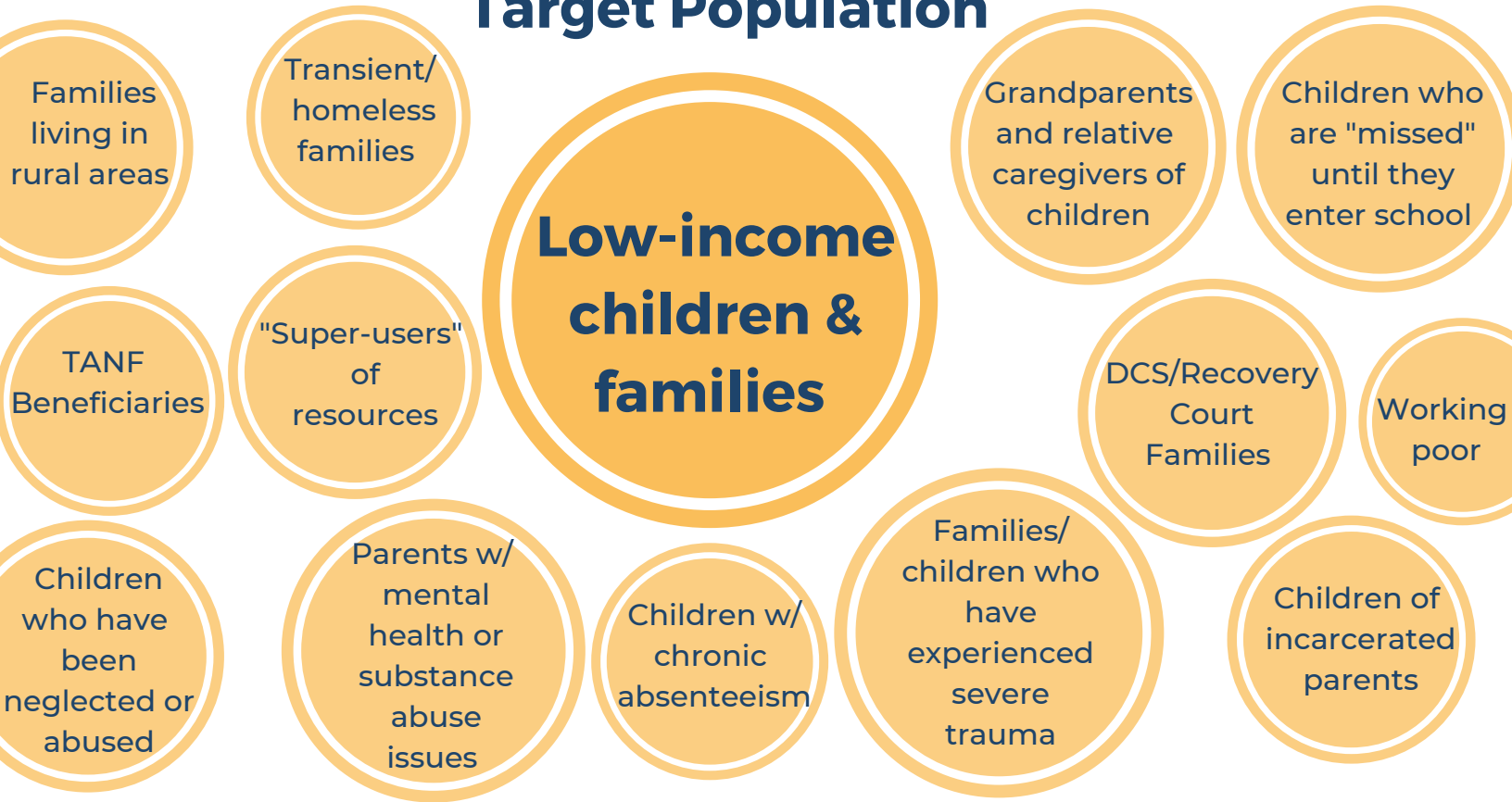


**CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL SURVEY**

“*There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.*”  
- Margaret J. Wheatley



## Target Population



## "Home environment"

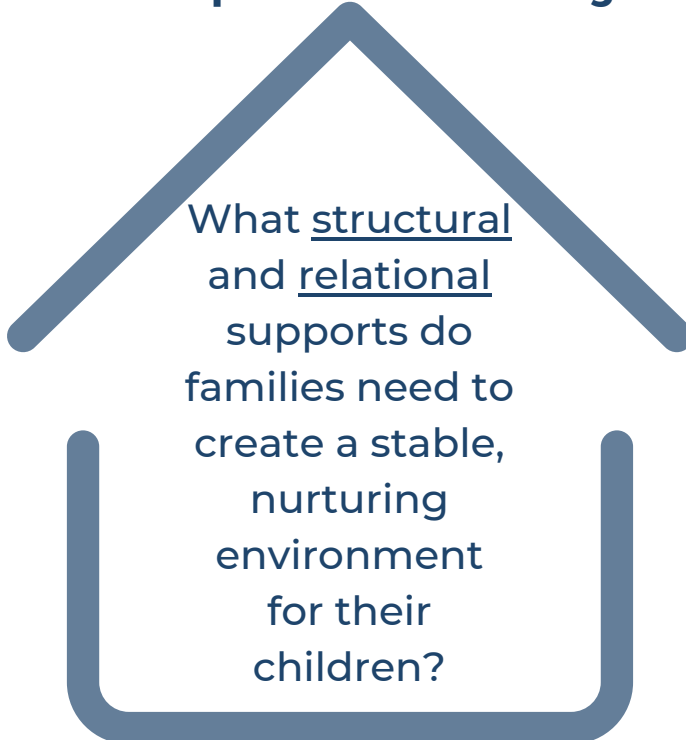
was stated as the most critical influence on young children's early development and learning.

### Structural Supports

- Access to healthy food
- Stable and safe housing
- Transportation
- Access to medical care for the entire family
- Access to behavioral and mental health services for the entire family
- Access to high-quality, affordable child care
- Access to books

### Relational Supports

- Safe, stable, nurturing and responsive caregiver/child relationships
- Use of "serve and return"
- Knowledge of child development
- Parenting support groups
- Psychological safety for caregivers
- Parenting classes for all



Striving Toward Resilience & Opportunity for the Next Generation



**Bright Start TN**  
Powered by **TQEE**



### Learning Environments

Learning environments outside the home also play a critical role in optimal learning and development for young children. Community and stakeholder engagement participants shared factors and beliefs about what contributes to high-quality early learning environments. Thoughts may differ based on the type of environment; however, a strong relationship between educators and family members is needed no matter the environment. Additionally, all high-quality early learning environments must address behavioral and mental health needs of children.

#### Birth - 5 years old



- Universal, high-quality Pre-K
- Accessible, affordable, high-quality childcare
- Trained early childhood educators who are paid a thriving wage and feel valued and respected
- School readiness focus balancing cognitive development and social and emotional competency

#### Kindergarten - 3rd Grade

- High-quality instruction in reading and math
- Developmentally appropriate practices
- Appropriate assessment strategies
- Trauma-informed educators and staff
- Summer learning opportunities
- Afterschool programs
- Strong collaboration with wrap-around service providers

### Most Commonly-cited Community Supports for NETN Families



**Behavioral & Mental Health services**



**Parks & Recreational activities**



**Substance abuse treatment/ recovery services**



**Parenting Education**



**Early Intervention Services**

### More Community Supports for NETN Families

- Medical providers
- Community navigators
- Food and nutrition
- Housing/shelters
- High dosage tutoring
- Family literacy programs
- Services for immigrant populations and non-English speakers
- Extracurricular activities
- Public health programs
- Afterschool programs
- Libraries
- Family resource centers
- Home visiting
- Crisis pregnancy centers
- Faith community programs

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