

Success Planning Community of Practice FAQs

Community of Practice

1. Who should be on my community's team?

Each community's team should be cross-sector, representing different institutions and organizations that serve children and youth. Team members should include leaders of organizations that will be responsible for designing and implementing Success Planning in their communities. Teams should generally include one or more top school/district leaders (such as superintendents or assistant superintendents, principals, directors of student services) as well as leadership from partner organizations such as community-based organizations, municipal leadership, and funders, for example.

2. Can I have more or fewer than four people on my team?

We prefer that each community has a team of four who can participate consistently throughout the community of practice. We will consider teams of three on a case-by-case basis. Four is the maximum number for the community of practice workshop and activities, but we recognize that more people will be involved at the local level and there will be opportunities for them to participate in topic-specific virtual sessions.

3. Can my team be based outside the United States or include people from outside the United States?

The inaugural cohort is limited to applicants who are working with groups of students in the U.S. either through schools or community-based organizations.

4. What is the Virtual Launch Event?

The virtual launch on June 23rd is the kick-off event for the inaugural Success Planning Community of Practice cohort. Participants will have an opportunity to meet each other as well as learn more about the Summer Workshop, including assigned pre-work. This session will set the stage for the year-long community of practice. All team members are expected to attend the session.

5. What is the Summer Workshop?

The Summer Workshop is a three-day, in-person event in which cohort members will create plans to develop and/or expand their Success Planning initiatives. Through knowledge-building sessions and interactive breakout groups, participants will begin designing their vision for Success Planning within their communities while building relationships with the other members

of the cohort.

6. What if one of my team members can't attend any/some of the in-person workshop or the virtual launch? Can we send an alternate in their place?

Yes, although we prefer for the team members to be consistent throughout the year, communities can send an alternate as long as that person has the authority to make programmatic and policy decisions.

7. What does it cost to participate in the community of practice?

The cost for the in-person workshop and year-long community of practice is \$1500 per person, plus the cost of travel and lodging. Thanks to the support of our generous funders, the fee will be waived for four team members per community. We will also cover flights and lodging expenses for two team members per community.

8. Is there funding for travel for more than two people?

No, we can only fund travel—specifically, airfare and hotel—for two people per team. Each team is responsible for travel for the other two team members, for meals other than those provided during the workshop, and for ground transportation for all team members.

9. What will the required pre-work for the Summer Workshop involve?

We will ask communities to undertake a self-assessment of their current goals, resources, opportunities, and challenges. We will share this material with selected communities.

10. Will there be required assignments throughout the year?

Yes, in order to develop and implement Success Planning strategies, we will ask teams to complete specific tasks throughout the year.

11. Is there a fee for working with TA providers?

Communities will have the option of paying to hire TA providers to assist with specific elements of Success Planning beyond the support included in the community of practice. We will identify TA providers who can help communities with different elements of Success Planning.

12. Does my team need to track specific metrics?

Yes, we will ask communities to identify and track metrics related to their Success Planning efforts. We will also ask communities to commit to collecting data and reporting on a set of common metrics. We will provide support on this as part of the community of practice.

13. Can I tell my leadership we will achieve a particular outcome or plan by the end?

Yes, each team will have a fully developed plan to implement at least some elements of Success Planning by the end of the year-long community of practice. We anticipate that some communities will begin implementation before the end of the year.

14. If my community isn't ready to apply to the community of practice right now, is there another session in the future or an alternate group?

We will continue to host webinars that are open to the public, and we will also continue to make most material freely available. We are likely to offer this opportunity again in the future but have not yet settled on timing.

15. Does my community need to have an established Children's Cabinet or similar body?

No. Ideally, establishing a coordinating body such as a Children's Cabinet will be part of each community's vision for Success Planning, since this will facilitate the provisions of services and opportunities, but applicants do not need to have this in place to take part in the community of practice.

Success Planning Elements

1. What are the elements of Success Planning?

Student Success Planning is a personalized, relationship-based approach for ensuring all students have an adult outside their families who knows them well, and develops a plan for ensuring their needs are met by connecting them to supports and opportunities available in their community. Success Planning is a framework rather than a single model. Recognizing that different communities have varying needs, capacities, and entry points for implementation. EdRedesign has developed guiding principles and core components of a successful support system. These components are:

- A **Navigator**—an adult who forms a positive individual relationship with a child and their family, and develops an understanding of the child's needs and interests;
- A **plan** for action and a process for enacting it;
- A coordinated **system** of supports and opportunities;
- A data **platform** to capture information and document plans over time—and in some cases, to refer directly to services.

2. Does my community need to implement the components all at once?

No, communities can start by focusing on one or two components while developing a vision for the remaining ones.

3. Can I apply if my community hasn't started any of the Success Planning components?

Yes, we welcome communities that are just starting out as well as those that already have components in place.

4. Can I apply if my community already has Success Planning components?

Yes, we welcome communities that are just starting out as well as those that already have components in place—including those that are already partnering with an established model or national network.

5. What does it cost to implement Success Planning?

The cost of Success Planning varies greatly depending on the design choices each community makes as well as the community's size. The primary costs are for staffing the Navigator role; for personnel to manage the Success Plans themselves and connect students with opportunities and supports; for training; and for a data platform. In some cases, elements of Success Planning can be started for little or no cost, but in the longer term, communities will need to raise or commit resources to this for it to be successful and sustainable.

6. Does Success Planning need to be for an entire school/district/program or can it be targeted to a specific population or grade level?

Ideally, Success Planning will eventually reach all children and youth in a community. To begin, communities may need to target a subset of their population. This should be by grade level, school, or community program, but not by characteristic (such as English learner or those identified as at risk of dropping out). While children will have varying levels of need, the process and plans are intended for all.

7. Who serves as the Navigator?

The Navigator role can be filled in different ways. This could include newly hired staff; teachers; other school personnel such as para-professionals, cafeteria workers, coaches, or counselors; AmeriCorps volunteers; or community-based organization staff in out-of-school programs. Communities will need to develop strategies to create time for this function if they are using existing staff.

8. What if we don't have a data platform?

Communities need some way to capture data and the plans for action, but they don't need a sophisticated platform to get started. Some communities have used existing data platforms or easily accessible ones (such as Google forms) initially and transitioned to a more sophisticated one later.