



Why School Districts Should Participate in the ARRCC* Action Network

**ARRCC = ACEs & Resilience Resource Commons for Communities*

The **ARRCC Action Network** makes it much easier and more efficient for school districts to develop strategies to support the students and families with issues that are primarily outside of their in-school experiences. It helps school districts work with multiple community partners to address complex, pandemic-related challenges for high-need students who are called out as priorities for the ESSER funding: This includes

- Students in the foster care system (and their parents);
- Students who are homeless or without stable housing;
- Students with a parent who is incarcerated or away on military service;
- Students with high absenteeism, high learning loss, or other serious disadvantages;
- Students struggling with social and mental health issues;
- Pre-school children who, without special attention, will be seriously struggling when they enter Kindergarten in future years.

The ARRCC Action Network is an 8-month “learning and doing” program that builds on the ACEs & Resilience Resource Commons for Communities, an information-packed *wiki* (like Wikipedia®)

The program combines online workshops, eLearning courses, and coaching by me through a “learning by doing” process where school districts work with a team of community partners to build out the details of one part of a larger strategy.

Most school districts find it overwhelming to attempt to develop the details of their own strategy, especially if they are striving to use the Collective Impact approach. This program combines local teamwork with peer-to-peer collaboration among different communities to build out a robust “system thinking” strategy—including action plans, measures, and tools for equipping multiple community organizations to each support these students in different ways.

To make that much easier for busy school districts to do, this program has many teams working in parallel on small parts of a larger strategy. The process builds on the “collective wisdom” of many communities and school districts by having each team go through a similar process, working on one part of a larger strategy.

Then, each team (and school district) benefits from all the parts that were developed and shared via the ARRCC wiki. This is not a rigid, one-size-fits-all approach, but it uses extensive sharing to minimize *reinventing the wheel*.

What Each School District Does

Each participating school district picks a specific student population from the bulleted list above. They then identify an appropriate local organization to be the lead—ideally a “backbone organization” working on “collective impact” efforts to help the children, students, or families of that student population. This could be a United Way, ACEs Coalition, Cradle-to-Career coalition, or a non-profit organization working to help student in foster care, dealing with homelessness or especially challenging social circumstances.

The school district commits \$20,000 to fund community participation in the ARRC Action Network.

- \$4,000 is for the program fee. The rest of the money flows to community partners.
- \$5,600 is for the lead organization to pay for administrative support and leadership—taking the burden off the busy school district staff.
- \$5,000 covers a \$1,000 stipend paid to each of 5 local organizations that need funding to fully engage in the program.
- \$3,500 covers a \$700 stipend paid to each of 5 local families for their active participation over 8 months.
- \$1,900 pays for a summer intern (trained and managed by the ARRC Action Network program leaders) to provide added “bandwidth” and support the overall process.

Role of the Lead Organization

The lead organization, working with at least one person from the school district, recruits between 10 and 15 additional people (10 of whom can be paid stipends) to participate in the program that will involve between 4 and 8 hours per month for 8 months. These people should involve organizations such as: local non-profit organization, parents of the targeted children/students, faith communities, local philanthropic organizations (especially United Ways), local healthcare providers and/or payers, local government, public health, local colleges or universities, employers, civic organizations, or other coalitions working on the relevant issues.

The **ARRCC Action Network** tracks participation in the eLearning sessions and online, interactive webinars. This information will be provided to the lead organization so they can communicate with their team to keep them sufficiently engaged during the program—especially for those who will be receiving stipends.

The 8-month program, led by Bill Barberg, will be guiding up to 40 teams—the local coalitions in working on different parts of strategies to help the children and students facing these issues. This is the 3rd year of the program, and testimonials are available on the [ARRCC Action Network website](#) and also in this [short video](#).

Expectations of Participating Organizations

Each month, participants commit to 4 to 8 hours per month, which might include about 1 hour of eLearning or reading, 1 to 3 hours of online workshops, a personalized coaching session from Bill Barberg for their team, an optional “office hours” consultation with Bill, and 1 to 2 hours of “doing” work to help build out their part of the larger strategy. Some participants may also meet with peers working on the similar issues for one hour a month.

Program Results

By having a diverse team of stakeholders go through this “learning by doing” process together, many of the *silos* are broken down and the capacity for system thinking and collaboration is greatly enhanced. The teams each go deep on a narrow issue, knowing that other teams are following the same process to wrestle through the challenges of their specific part of the larger strategy. The training greatly builds the *collective impact* skills and capacity of the individual participants, the lead organization, and the school district.

The school district will have solidly fulfilled the intent for ESSER funds to engage various community stakeholders in the process of developing a strategy, and they will have the outputs from all the teams (and teams from prior years) that get shared in the ARRC wiki for all the school districts to use. They will also have well-designed plans with budget numbers for wisely and effectively using ESSER or other funding sources to meet the targeted needs. The strategies developed by the teams will also prioritize financial sustainability—since the ESSER money is a one-time funding source.

For more information, visit <https://www.insightformation.com/2022arrccan>

Or contact bill.barberg@insightformation.com