

Early Learning

GOAL: Children enter school ready to succeed in school and life.

STRATEGIES TO GET THERE

1. Improve access to quality early learning opportunities for children ages 0-5
2. Provide resources and supports to families that strengthen positive interactions and attain the skills and knowledge to promote early learning at home

STRATEGY 1. Improve access to quality early learning opportunities for children ages 0-5

REQUIREMENTS

- Utilize an evidence based curriculum with Child Observation Record (COR)
- Utilize a validated developmental screening
- Implement parent engagement and/or educational programming with a minimum of 2 parent engagement/education opportunities per year
- All program staff complete ACE's training by the end of the grant cycle
- Program staff participate in ongoing professional development
- Provide participating families with community health packet to include required immunizations, lead screening information, and community health resources

REPORTING

Quantity:

- # of children (0-5) served in quality early childhood program (Quality early learning environment is a home-based, center or preschool participating in a quality initiative, such as Paths to Quality, Program Quality Assessment, Head Start standards, NAEYC, or Indiana Licensing Guidelines)
- # of families, caregivers provided with information, resources, tools, training and/or teaching skills
- # of children who receive a developmental screening
- # of children who are referred for follow-up services as a result of a developmental screening
- # of parents who participate in a parent education program
- # of families receiving community health packet

Quality:

- Verification of evidence based curriculum and use of COR Assessment
- Program staff are trained in both curriculum and COR assessment
- Program staff trained in COR by Family Connection
- Program staff trained in ACEs
- Program staff participate in ongoing professional development

Results:**• SHORT TERM**

- #/% of children served (0-5) who show developmental growth as verified by validated COR assessments
- #/% parents/families who increase their knowledge about child development and parenting
- #/% of children who received services as a result of a developmental screening

• LONG TERM

- #/% of children served in a UW funded early childhood program who are proficient on validated school readiness assessments

Systems Improvement:

- # of policies promoted, enacted or modified to promote childhood success
- # of early childhood staff trained to provide quality programs, services

STRATEGY 2. Provide resources and supports to families that strengthen positive interactions and attain the skills and knowledge to promote early learning at home

REQUIREMENTS

- Utilize an evidence based curriculum and assessment tool
- All program staff complete ACE's training by the end of the grant cycle
- Program staff participate in ongoing professional development
- Provide participating families with community health packet to include required immunizations, lead screening information, and community health resources

REPORTING**Quantity:**

- # of parents who participate in a parent education program to promote early learning at home
- # of families receiving community health packet

Quality:

- # of program staff trained in ACEs
- # of program staff participate in ongoing professional development related to program

**Results:**

- **SHORT TERM**
 - #/% of families who report improved nurturing and attachment between the parent and the child
 - #/% of participating families who increase their knowledge about child development and parenting

- **LONG TERM**
 - % of children served in a UW funded parent education/engagement program who are proficient on validated school readiness assessments

UNITED WAY INITIATIVES

- Born Learning Academies
- K- Camps
- United Way Early Learning Capacity Building Grants

COLLABORATION

- Programs who wish to apply for funding, but are not currently implementing the funding requirements on their own, are encouraged to apply as a collaborative team with community partners in order to meet the criteria listed above. Should a program not collaborate with community partners, the applying agency must document a plan to meet criteria list above.

For programs not currently utilizing COR Assessment, a referral and small grant will be provided to establish a relationship to The Early Years Count! Family Connections, supported through the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, as well as purchase COR and technology needed. Family Connections will work with the program for two years' to obtain certification and practice in COR Assessment. At the conclusion of two years, the program will become eligible for additional United Way funding for years three and four.

Youth Success

GOAL: Support children from entrance through high school graduation with the skills necessary to pursue post-secondary education or advance training.

STRATEGIES TO GET THERE

1. Provide quality and engaging year-round out-of-school opportunities for students that reinforce and enhance academic & social/emotional learning
2. Prepare students to make the successful transition from elementary to middle school, and middle school to high school
3. Increase access to support services, including mental and behavior health services, for students and their families

REQUIREMENTS

- All partners awarded in Youth Success will participate in ongoing discussions regarding the development of shared measurements focused literacy, post-secondary preparation, and job readiness skills (Communication, Problem Solving, Collaboration, Respect, Initiative, Work Ethic)
- All program staff complete ACE's training by the end of the grant cycle

REPORTING

Quantity:

- # of **elementary/middle/high** school youth served who participate in school and/or community-based out of school programs
- # of students and families who access support services, including mental and behavior health services
- # of families receiving community health packet

Quality:

- Verification of evidence based approaches/curriculum used in programming and staff trained in curriculum
- Program staff trained in ACEs by the end of the grant cycle
- Program staff participate in ongoing professional development related to program

Results:**• SHORT TERM:**

- #/% of elementary/middle/high school youth served who maintain satisfactory or improve grades and behaviors
- #/% of middle/high school youth served who develop college preparation and job readiness skills (Communication, Problem Solving, Collaboration, Respect, Initiative, Work Ethic)
- #/% of youth served who transition from elementary to middle to high school on time
- #/% of students and families who access support services, including mental and behavior health services who increase school attendance

• LONG TERM:

- #/% of youth served who graduate high school on time
- #/% of youth served who gain post-secondary employment, further education or credentials (students graduate with a plan for success)

Systems Improvement:

- # of policies promoted, enacted or modified to promote youth success
- # of youth development staff trained to provide quality programs, services

UNITED WAY INITIATIVES

- Project Lead the Way
- Community Schools Initiative
- FAFSA Completion Challenge

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

To capture the impact our Early Learning & Youth Success Programs are having inside the classroom, MOU's have been presented to local school districts to obtain student data for those enrolled in United Way supported programming while abiding all privacy restrictions.

This data will include

- Academic growth – growth in grades and assessments, graduation rates
- Attendance – improvements in attendance reports
- Behavioral Referrals – improvements in disciplinary or intervention needs

STABLE FAMILIES

GOAL: Help individuals and families build strong, stable foundations by supporting programs that help them develop the skills to meet their basic needs, obtain and sustain employment, and improve their quality of life.

STRATEGIES TO GET THERE

1. Increase access to affordable and accessible public and private transportation to utilize programs, resources, and maintain stable employment
2. Provide individuals and families with tools and resources to become financially secure and self-sufficient
3. Assist individuals in gaining economic mobility through workforce preparation, educational and vocational training to increase their income through job placement, retention and advancement
4. Increase access to quality and affordable mental, behavioral, dental, and general health care services by addressing barriers and supporting individuals to navigate systems
5. Increase access to supportive services to help individuals remain housed or access transitional/permanent housing.
6. Increase access to free or low cost legal services to remove barriers to achieving financial stability

REQUIREMENTS

- All program staff complete ACE's training by the end of the grant cycle
- Provide participating families with community health packet to include required immunizations, lead screening information, and community health resources

STRATEGY 1. Increase access to affordable and accessible public and private transportation to utilize programs, resources, and maintain stable employment

REPORTING

Quantity:

- # of unduplicated clients served
- # of families receiving community health packet

Quality:

- Transportation conformed to generally accepted industry best practices regarding operational efficiencies, safety, facilities, vehicles and accessibility
- Program staff trained in ACEs by the end of the grant cycle



Results:

- # of individuals that utilized adequate transportation to find and maintain employment and/or accessed professional and community services as measured by partner agency data.

STRATEGY 2. Provide individuals and families with tools and resources to become financially secure and self-sufficient

REPORTING

Quantity:

- # of unduplicated clients served
- # of individuals/families who are participating in a financial literacy program
- # of families receiving community health packet

Quality:

- Verification of evidence based approaches/curriculum used in programming
- # of program staff trained in ACEs by the end of the grant cycle
- # of program staff participate in ongoing professional development related to program

Results:

- #/% of clients who change on their attitude/behavior about financial literacy/skills
- #/% of individuals who improve 25% at the end of the financial literacy program from the pretest to posttest
- #/% of un-banked individuals/families who open an account at a bank, credit union, or other mainstream financial institution
- #/% of individuals served who increase disposable income by accessing benefits and/or reducing costs

STRATEGY 3. Assist individuals in gaining economic mobility through workforce preparation, educational and vocational training to increase their income through job placement, retention and advancement

REPORTING

Quantity:

- # of unduplicated clients served
- # of individuals enrolled in workforce preparation, educational and/or vocational training programs
- # of families receiving community health packet

Quality:

- Verification of evidence based approaches/curriculum used in programming and staff trained in curriculum
- Program staff trained in ACEs by the end of the grant cycle
- Program staff participate in ongoing professional development related to program

Results:

- #/% of individuals who complete programming and/or earn credential
- #/% of individuals served who gain/maintain employment for at least 6 months following completion of program
- #/% of individuals served who earn industry recognized licenses and/or certificates

STRATEGY 4. Increase access to quality and affordable mental, behavioral, dental, and general health care services by addressing barriers and supporting individuals to navigate systems

REPORTING**Quantity:**

- # of unduplicated clients served
- # of families and individuals residing in St. Joseph County accessed primary and behavioral healthcare as needed
- # of families receiving community health packet

Quality:

- Verification of evidence based approaches/curriculum used in programming and staff trained in curriculum
- # of program staff trained in ACEs by the end of the grant cycle
- # of program staff participate in ongoing professional development related to program

Results:

- #/% of individuals who are able to establish a medical home
- #/% individuals who have increased knowledge of the medical and social service systems
- #/% of individuals that obtained health insurance

STRATEGY 5. Increase access to supportive services to help individuals remain housed or access transitional/permanent housing.

REPORTING

Quantity:

- # of unduplicated clients served
- # clients who move into independent transition or permanent housing
- # of clients accessing rental assistance programs
- # of families receiving community health packet

Quality:

- Verification of evidence based approaches/curriculum used in programming and staff trained in curriculum
- # of program staff trained in ACEs by the end of the grant cycle
- # of program staff participate in ongoing professional development related to program

Results:

- % of clients who increased their knowledge through education and awareness of rental rights and processes
- #/% of clients who were able to avoid eviction
- #/% of unsheltered or temporarily sheltered individuals who maintain permanent supportive housing for 12 months

STRATEGY 6. Increase access to free or low cost legal services to remove barriers to achieving financial stability

REPORTING

Categories:

- Housing Issues
- Family Issues (Domestic violence, custody, divorce etc)
- Income
- Health Care
- Expungement

Quantity:

- # of unduplicated clients screened
- # of unduplicated clients who received legal services
- # of families receiving community health packet

**Quality:**

- # of program staff trained in ACEs by the end of the grant cycle
- # of program staff participate in ongoing professional development related to program

Results:

- #/% of families or individuals with a successful outcome
- #/% of families or individuals with a successful outcome that lead toward achieved financial stability

Systems Improvement:

- # of policies promoted, enacted or modified to promote economic mobility
- # of financial sector staff trained to provide quality services
- # of policies promoted, enacted or modified to promote health
- # of health sector staff trained to provide quality services

UNITED WAY INITIATIVES

- Team HEAT
- VITA