MAPPING the Future of Adams County Child Care Convening Session Three Results

Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs  
Making a Difference in Rural Illinois

www.IIRA.org

Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
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What’s Next for Adams County?

Maintaining the Momentum!

- Action Teams continue to meet and work on projects.
- A followup meeting will be held Fall 2019 to review progress, challenges, and next steps.

Goal One

Strategy Prioritization

In Session 3, participants used TurningPoint™ electronic polling system to prioritize strategies identified in Session 2. Using electronic response cards, participants selected a rating of 1 to 7, with “1” indicating not important and “7” extremely important to reach the goal. The results of the prioritization are included in this report.

Goal 1 Adams County has sufficient high quality child care providers that offer options to fill each family’s unique needs and priorities including weekend/night and emergency care as well as care for kids with special needs.

Prioritization of Level of Importance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale: How Important is the Strategy?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Not at all</td>
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<td>6.4</td>
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1. Identify appropriate spaces in the community that could be developed into lab space, child care centers, etc.
2. Provide support to providers to develop financially secure businesses that pay workers adequate pay and benefits
3. Partner with educational institutions to create/expand learning labs to provide more slots for children
4. Seek partnerships with businesses and churches to provide care
5. Work with school district to expand early childhood education to be universal
6. Offer workshop for those interested in providing home care, including real-time licensing guidance
7. Launch an employer childcare co-op as a model
8. Develop support programs for home and center based child care providers to be able to provide care options to meet the needs of all children and families
9. Work with area governmental bodies to support and subsidize quality child care
10. Work with area businesses, organizations, foundations to create a grant fund for start ups
11. Partner with local entities/stakeholders to open crisis nursery
12. Coordinate current providers to offer emergency care
## Adams County Action Plan

### High Priority Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Top 5 Strategies</th>
<th>1. <strong>Quick Win</strong>—Create a proposal for Quincy Public Schools, Quincy University, and John Wood for an Early Childcare Learning Center.</th>
<th>2. Provide workshop on child care.</th>
<th>3. Launch the Early Childcare Learning Center at Quincy Public Schools.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Action Teams</th>
<th>Christine Stevens</th>
<th>Amanda Goings</th>
<th>Marla Willard</th>
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### Top 5 Strategies

#### Goal 1:
- **Adams County has sufficient high quality child care providers** that offer options to fill each family’s unique needs and priorities including weekend/night and emergency care as well as care for kids with special needs.

#### Top 5 Strategies
1. **Identify appropriate spaces in the community that could be developed into lab space, child care centers, etc.**
2. **Provide support to providers to develop financially secure businesses that pay workers adequate pay and benefits.**
3. **Partner with educational institutions to create/expand learning labs to provide more slots for children.**
4. **Seek partnerships with businesses and churches to provide care.**
5. **Offer workshop for those interested in providing home care, including real-time licensing guidance.**

#### Goal 2:
- Residents of Adams County **understand the value of quality early childhood education** for all children and are vocal advocates for providers.

#### Top 5 Strategies
1. **Develop marketing campaign to educate businesses.**
2. **Develop a repository with all the facts on the impacts of quality early childhood education and care.**
3. **Develop a coalition of employers to pool resources to provide child care.**
4. **Develop a marketing campaign to educate the community.**
5. **Research needs/attitudes towards child care by various stakeholders to better educate residents/businesses/organizations.**

#### Goal 3:
- **Low income families** in Adams County have an abundance of affordable high quality care available.

#### Top 5 Strategies
1. **Work with area businesses and nonprofits/ foundations to fund a grant program to encourage childcare startups to provide care for low income families.**
2. **Partner with local entities to provide monetary incentive to providers for taking subsidy clients.**
3. **Develop a mentoring program for child care providers with low income clients.**
4. **Develop a program to assist parents in fulfilling documentation requirements for subsidies.**
5. **Research possible existing grant opportunities to help with low income families with child care business startup costs.**

#### Quick Win
1. **Investigate partnership with AmeriCorps VISTA for placement with the West Central Child Care Connection.**
2. **Create a start-up assistance program for low income households to start in-home childcare centers.**
**Goal Two**

Residents of Adams County understand the value of quality early childhood education for all children and are vocal advocates for providers.

### Prioritization of Level of Importance

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1. Develop marketing campaign to educate businesses
2. Develop a repository with all the facts on the impacts of quality early childhood education and care
3. Develop a coalition of employers to pool resources to provide child care
4. Develop a marketing campaign to educate the community
5. Research needs/attitudes towards child care by various stakeholders to better educate residents/businesses/organizations
6. Develop an advocate training program to teach residents how to be an advocate/child care ambassador

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**Goal Three**

Low income families in Adams County have an abundance of affordable high quality care available.

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1. Work with area businesses and nonprofits/foundations to fund a grant program to encourage childcare startups to provide care for low income families
2. Partner with local entities to provide monetary incentive to providers for taking subsidy clients
3. Develop a mentoring program for child care providers with low income clients
4. Develop a program to assist parents in fulfilling documentation requirements for subsidies
5. Offer classes/resources to assist parents and child care providers to navigate government assistance programs
6. Research possible existing grant opportunities to help with low income families with child care business startup costs
7. Educate low income couples on child care (availability, subsidies, types, etc.) before they have children in need of care
“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

— Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa