

Increasing opportunities for children and youth to succeed
***Vision:** All Greater Waterbury children have the opportunity to learn and achieve their potential for success in life through positive experiences supported by parents, families, schools, and the broader community.*

Outcomes for People #A: Greater Waterbury children birth-5 have expanded equitable access to quality early educational experiences.

Community Change #1: Greater Waterbury has a multi-pronged approach in place to enhance families' ability to be their young children's "first teachers".

Community Change #2: Greater Waterbury early care and education providers have easier access to further their professional development leading to widespread adoption of best practices.

Community Change #3: Greater Waterbury decision makers accept the importance of early care & education to subsequent school success.

Proposed Strategies:

- A. Use materials as a method of exposing parents & caregivers to Child Development and Early Literacy milestones.
- B. Support ongoing home visiting programs that focus on early literacy.
- C. Support collaboration (incl medical, faith, business, and social service communities) that focuses on working with parents and parents-to-be during pregnancy, at time of birth and ongoing pediatrician visits to promote child development and Early Literacy

Proposed Strategies:

- A. Increase access to professional development for childcare staff.
- B. Support implementation of quality measures at childcare sites that demonstrate improved instruction.
- C. Collaborate with others to develop equitable approaches to educate home-based childcare providers about opportunities to improve their knowledge.

Proposed Strategies:

- A. Collaborate with others to develop a marketing/Advocacy campaign aimed at decision-makers that fosters public education.

Outcomes for People #B: An increased number of Greater Waterbury children and youth 5-24 have equitable opportunities to experience success and achieve their potential.

Community Change #1: Greater Waterbury has a system to foster families' knowledge, skills, and engagement so they can help their children succeed in school.

Community Change #2: Greater Waterbury offers adequate access to out of school time programs that focus on children's cognitive, physical, and social/emotional competencies.

Proposed Strategies:

- A. Inclusively support mentoring/peer and mental health support programs for parents and caregivers.
- B. Support efforts to expand computer literacy and access to technology for families.
- C. Collaborate with others to develop a marketing campaign to educate parents on the relationship between school success and success in life.

Proposed Strategies:

Support positive youth development programs in which developmental assets are promoted:

- A. Boys and girls are educated about life options, including the value of postponing parenthood.
- B. Youth are encouraged to excel and continue in their education.

Support specific Bridge to Success community youth plan efforts that focus on:

- C. Intentional relationship building between adults and children.
- D. Enhancing the degree to which both boys and girls feel valued by and have an active role in the community.
- E. Adults and youth working with others to develop strategies that improve safety.

Support positive youth development programs in which:

- F. Children are encouraged to be physically active.
- G. Supportive programing impacting youth behavioral/mental health.