**UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN KENTUCKY**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT PLATFORM**

**EDUCATION – Prepare children, youth & young adults to succeed in school and life (cradle to career)**

***Priority Focus Area: Kindergarten Readiness – Children start school at levels of physical, social-emotional and intellectual development needed for school success.***

**BIG, BOLD GOAL: Increase BRADD area kindergarten readiness scores from 49.4 % to 75% by 2020.**

Strategies:

1. Improve early learning environments and increase access to high quality licensed child care programs for children and families, particularly those of low-income and educational risk.
2. Increase early learning opportunities, including early literacy and language development.
3. Provide resources, education and other needed supports for families and caregivers to bolster their child’s age-appropriate development.
4. Collaborate to create and implement a comprehensive high quality approach to school readiness.

***Priority Focus Area: College & Career Readiness – Students graduate high school prepared for college or other post-secondary training, work and life.***

**BIG, BOLD GOAL: Increase BRADD area college & career readiness scores from 65 % to 80% by 2020.**

Strategies:

1. Improve the connection between school and work for disconnected youth through career and technical education, apprenticeships, work study and other innovative education approaches.
2. Increase the availability and use of postsecondary assessment tools.
3. Provide quality out-of-school opportunities that reinforce and enhance learning and preparation for future success.
4. Increase the preparation and soft skill development of students for post-secondary opportunities/choices.

**INCOME – People have the appropriate skills to maintain a living wage employment.**

***Priority Focus Area: Workforce Development – Individuals have the training and skills needed to obtain and maintain family-sustaining employment.***

Strategies:

1. Increase/create employment opportunities for individuals with felony records through training/reengagement in education, educating employers and connection with services to help secure employment.
2. Provide support and education on training/post-secondary programs for individuals that have graduated high school but have not moved on to post-secondary programs and/or do not have sustaining employment.
3. Provide opportunities for individuals that are under-employed to access employment matching their skill set.
4. Increase knowledge of, and access to, training and education opportunities for unemployed individuals with focus on returning them to the active workforce.

**HEALTH – Increase access to quality, affordable health and crisis intervention services.**

***Priority Focus Area: Access to Affordable Health Care – Individuals have access to affordable, preventative, physical, mental, dental and other needed care critical to good health.***

Strategies:

1. Increase the number of eligible individuals that are enrolled in viable health care coverage options.
2. Increase the number of qualified professionals and patient access for medical care needs including underserved needs like mental health, prenatal care, dental care and substance abuse treatment.
3. Provide education programs designed to improve long-term health including navigating the health care system, substance abuse prevention, mental health, wellness, smoking cessation and obesity reduction/prevention.

***Priority Focus Area: Safe Home and Community – People are safe from violence, crime, emotional and physical abuse.***

Strategies:

1. Reduce the impact of violence on individuals and families through safe and accessible emergency shelter and crisis services.
2. Provide education programs to reduce the incidence and impact of family and individual violence including violence prevention, parenting education and public awareness.

**SAFETY NET – Basic needs are met in a timely manner through a coordinated system of resources.**

***Priority Focus Area: Access to Basic Needs – Basic needs of food, clothing, and safe and affordable housing are met.***

Strategies:

*Emergency Assistance*

1. Provide emergency assistance (food, clothing, shelter, furnishings, utility assistance) to individuals who are homeless or in a financial crisis, incorporating efforts to return the individual to self-sufficiency.

*Housing*

1. Increase rental housing sustainability supports including financial assistance for low-income (200% of poverty and below) households, and consumer education opportunities for financial literacy and renter/landlord rights & responsibilities.
2. Increase the availability, and consumer knowledge of availability, of safe, affordable and habitable housing.
3. Decrease total housing costs for low-income households through improved energy efficiency of dwellings.

*Food*

1. Provide options for healthy and affordable food choices that include nutrition and healthy meal planning education, with focus on reducing both food deserts and service duplication.

*Clothing*

1. Increase options and access for work related apparel and accessories.

***Priority Focus Area: Transportation – Multiple options for safe and reliable transportation are available.***

Strategies:

1. Increase viable transportation options across our communities including, but not limited to, volunteer driver programs, access to low-cost vehicles and/or car loans and alternative, environmentally friendly modes such as bicycles and mopeds.
2. Provide financial supports for low-income (200% of poverty and below) households to access current mass transit routes.

