

Partner ★ Plan ★ Act

an Illinois Action for Children Community Systems Development Initiative

Best Practices: Integrating Policy & Advocacy Strategies in Local Collaboration Efforts

Collaboration Component or Function	Advocacy & Policy Ideas
<p>Governance, Planning, or Local Collaboration Structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate into your work: Include policy and advocacy in your strategic plan or collaboration work plan each year • Include in your structure: Have a policy and advocacy work group in your collaboration • Designate a person in your collaboration to engage regional and statewide advocacy organizations to stay up to date on policy and advocacy efforts – communicate and share with local collaborate at regular meetings
<p>Education, Training & Capacity Building of Local Collaboration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings: Host advocacy trainings for community and collaboration members to deepen advocacy skills • Presentations: Invite speakers to present on early childhood policy issues at collaboration meetings • Events: Attend policy and advocacy events such as Illinois Action for Children’s Public Policy Caucus, Spring into Action Conference, or the Partner Plan Act Conference to develop skills and policy knowledge • Rallies: Attend rallies on early childhood issues to show public support for young children • Stay Informed: Sign up to receive e-alerts and updates on early childhood policy issues – share updates with local collaboration members
<p>Public Awareness in Local Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events: Invite local and state legislators to community events to build a relationship with your elected officials and raise awareness on the importance of early childhood issues • Community Forums: Host a community forum on early childhood policy issues and ask legislators to discuss issues with the local community • Media Advocacy: Write letters to editors, place an op-ed (opinion piece) in local newspapers; invite media to community events; share policy information and events on social media • Build relationship with local reporters: Find out the education reporter for local newspaper and get to know them; contact them for upcoming newsworthy events • Voter Registration: Conduct voter registration drives to register new voters and share with them key facts about why early childhood matters in your community



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