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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaboration Component or Function</th>
<th>Advocacy &amp; Policy Ideas</th>
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| Governance, Planning, or Local Collaboration Structure | • **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 |
| Education, Training & Capacity Building of Local Collaboration | • **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 |
| Public Awareness in Local Community                  | • **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 |