

Question	Prioritized Responses	
	Session I	Session II
<p>What is working well in your community for families with young children?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community playgroups available ▪ Good agency collaboration (First Steps, Healthy Families, mental health, etc.) ▪ Good staff/employees in Human Services ▪ Success by Six strong in this area ▪ YMCA before/after school programs ▪ Strong preschools in place ▪ Good day care in place ▪ Partnerships between preschools and child care with the local schools ▪ Before and after Kindergarten programs ▪ Boys and Girls Club programs are well utilized ▪ Dare to Care and Kids Cafe (nutrition and homework help which also uses teen volunteers) ▪ Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Armstrong Farms Apartments work in conjunction (field trips, activities, etc.) ▪ Youth sports ▪ Speech therapy at Head Start (collaboration with the schools) ▪ Churches helping children get clothes and supplies for school ▪ Single Parent Support Center (provides support groups, mentoring...) ▪ Crusade for Children – money for children with disabilities ▪ Training for child care providers provided by the state and locally ▪ Money available for training through Work One ▪ Clark Memorial supports child care training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most children have access to health insurance ▪ Good word of mouth networking among families ▪ Renewed interest in all day Kindergarten and more preschool opportunities ▪ Better child care centers available (certified, accredited...) ▪ Private child care in public school buildings ▪ Coordinated play groups available ▪ Success by Six, with support from the media ▪ Better view of school systems and what they provide to young children ▪ YMCAs are expanding in local areas ▪ Core groups of parents are active and involved in local programs

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<p>What are some barriers related to raising young children?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Program regulations/restrictions (eligibility requirements, income guidelines, age restrictions and funding cuts) ▪ Poor finances for families (pay scale problem, lack of paid leave, inability to afford better housing and childcare) ▪ Overall parenting skills are not where we would like them (lack of parenting networks, lack of education or resources for parents especially single parents). <p>-----</p> <p>Medical Services are expensive and hard to find (lack of dental providers, no or poor medical coverage, high insurance premiums)</p> <p>Lack of affordable high quality child care</p> <p>Lack of all resources for those in rural communities</p> <p>Lack of transportation for many families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parenting skills lacking in some areas ▪ Lack of slots in good preschools that everyone can afford ▪ A-typical child care not available (i.e. child care for sick children, drop-in child care, childcare for children with special needs, odd shift childcare) <p>-----</p> <p>Lack of transportation</p> <p>Limited rural services</p> <p>Lack of funding for programs</p> <p>Parental dependency on drugs and alcohol</p> <p>Time constraints on families</p>

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<p>What does your community need to do to ensure that children are safe, healthy and ready to learn?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve the Early Education and Childcare system (better trained and educated staff, provide after school care, educate families on choosing providers, more funding for lower income families, keep Head Start, work with role models that are well known in community to help with camps...). ▪ Improve security in the area (enforce curfew, stop the number of kids raising themselves because parents are at work, provide better supervision in child care and school settings, minimize discrimination in schools). ▪ Provide better mental health and overall health supports (increase parent involvement in schools, free health screenings and follow up, increase opportunities for counseling services, provide service that gives stay at home parents a break). <p>-----</p> <p>Educate families and public and private sector on issues related to safety</p> <p>Increase parenting education opportunities</p> <p>Provide English as a second language classes for free</p> <p>Improve transportation systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There needs to be a community “buy-in” for parenting skills improvements. ▪ Provide affordable, higher quality child development centers. ▪ Socialize or streamline medical services for children and families. ▪ Provide Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention activities. <p>NOTE: The last two items got the same amount of votes.</p>

	<p>Provide adequate living conditions</p> <p>Increase services for single mothers</p>	
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<p>What does your community need to do to ensure that children have access to comprehensive services?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase public awareness of services that are available (accurate information at appropriate places, advertise, implement 2-1-1 Information Access Center...). ▪ Maintain consistent funding for programs (raise income guidelines to 200-250% above poverty level for all programs, replace funding cuts...). <p>NOTE: There was a tie in the number of votes between the first two items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the number and type of services available (more services for single fathers, grandparents raising their grandchildren...). <p>-----</p> <p>Increase transportation within the community.</p> <p>Teach families and providers how to advocate for young children.</p> <p>Come up with a more systematic approach to paperwork for public assistance.</p> <p>Decrease turfism between agencies that provide services to young children and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Centralize things – come up with a Central Child Hub where families could go to seek out medical services, register for other programs; a one stop shopping facility for children and families. Also included in this would be a central website where all information for children is located. ▪ Common enrollment form for all types of public assistance. <p>NOTE: There was a tie in the number of votes between the first two items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Come up with a simple packet that includes information on all programs available for children and families which includes income requirements.

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<p>What does your community need to do to ensure that services are coordinated, cost effective and community based?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the theory that if a community has quality health, childcare and education then it will have a positive effect on economic development. ▪ Support businesses that invest in the community (i.e. patronize business that give dollars to programs related to children and families). ▪ Build a "Community Coalition" which would be made up of all stakeholders. This coalition will continue effective dialogue and focus on building partnerships both within the public and private sector including faith based organizations. <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Develop systematic income guidelines at living wage level.</p> <p>Streamline the paperwork process.</p> <p>Provide effective training of service providers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An electronic and physical HUB for children and families. A place where all services can be accessed or inquired upon. ▪ Develop one common advisory council within the community that will remain focused on issues facing young children and families. ▪ Develop a broader range of services in each and every community.

Jeffersonville

	Network with other communities to see what is working well for them.	
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