



**Equitable Access, Shared Assets, and Full Opportunity for
Kent County Children, Youth & Families**
FY2023–FY2025 Refreshed Community Plan



FY 2023 – FY 2025

COMMUNITY PLAN



VISION

Building equitable access, shared assets, and full opportunity for children, youth, and families.

MISSION

Uniting our community to connect and strengthen Kent County youth and families.*

***We focus on ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households** - individuals and families who are working, but are unable to afford basic necessities - **and those below this income threshold**

PRIORITIES

- 1** Build capacity to meet basic needs and support economic mobility with youth and their families
- 2** Center the voice and choice of youth and families to effectively access services
- 3** Increase and expand community-based programs and innovative approaches for child well-being

SHARED RESULTS



Families are Economically Stable



Healthy Children



Children are Successful in School

KCLMB's Purpose

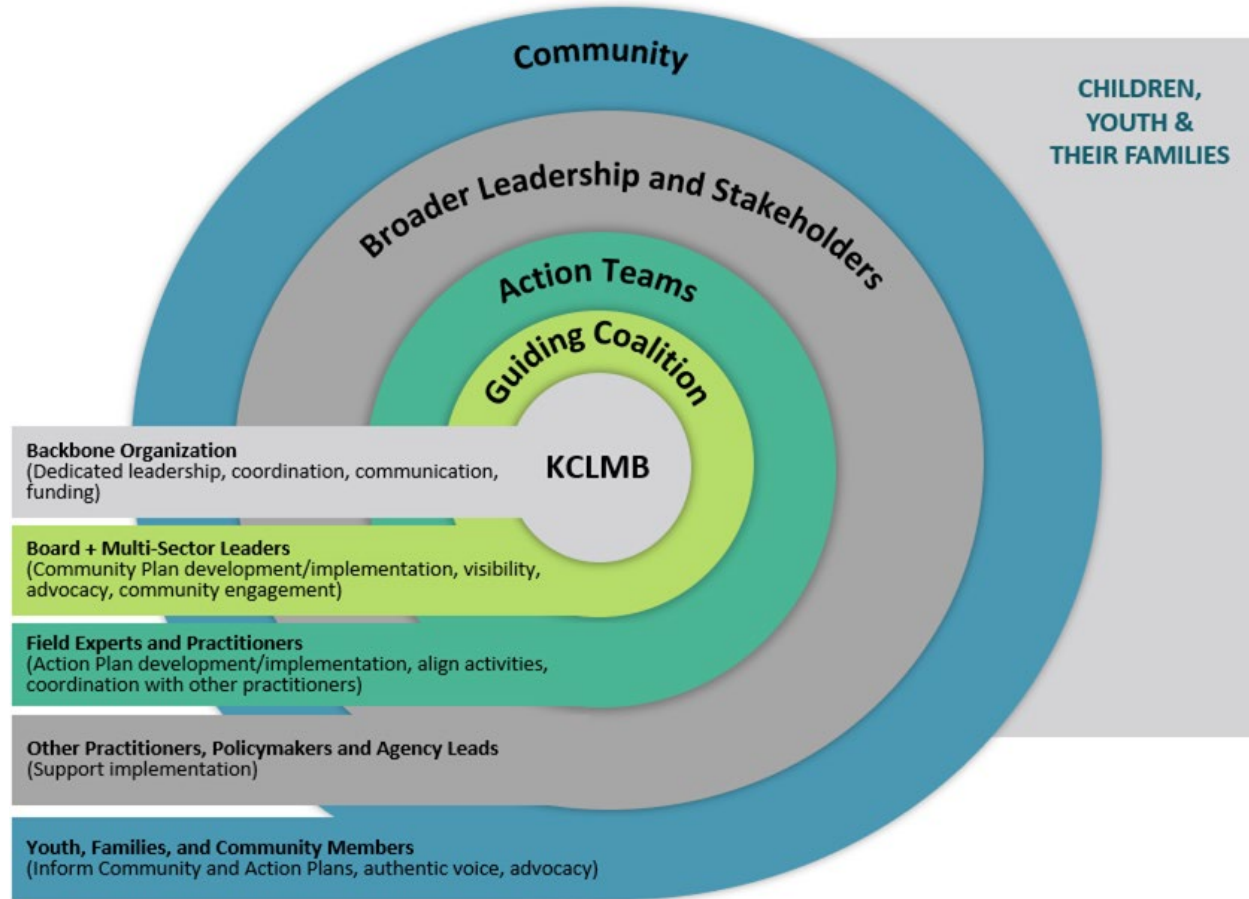
To convene partners, fund solutions and evaluate local investments that improve systems, services and programs for Kent County youth and families.



- Youth and families lead us in creating solutions
- Push back on the status quo within systems
- Deep commitment to including all people with energy and interest in advancing a shared vision
- Holding ourselves accountable for equitable and lasting change
- Meaningful connections and communication to sustain collective progress
- Following through on long-term priorities

Guiding Principles

KCLMB's Collaborative Model



Shared Result: Families are Economically Stable

THE CHALLENGE

- 44% of Kent County Households earn less than the basic cost of living (33% ALICE, 11% Fed. Poverty Level), when disaggregated the rate rises to 80% for Black households
- In 2021, 127 Kent County students experienced homelessness
- Kent County has struggled to invest in solutions that promote affordable housing, accessible transportation and other equitable supports for basic needs

THE OPPORTUNITY

KCLMB is building a long-term vision to address these needs and promote economic mobility



Priority 1:

Build capacity to meet basic needs and support economic mobility with youth and their families

Action Teams

Bringing together a group of local leaders and organizations to work collaboratively to address the basic needs of youth and their families facing financial hardship or a lack of access to resources. The Action Teams focus on increasing investments in affordable housing and accessible transportation

Healthy Families

Investing in Kent County Healthy Families, a home visiting program, works to monitor and model parent-child interactions. The program supports the development of healthy children ages 0 to 5 and stable, economically sufficient parents



Priority 1:

Build capacity to meet basic needs and support economic mobility with youth and their families

Strategies

- To convene the Affordable Housing and Transportation Action Teams and coordinate the development and implementation of action plans to individually and collectively advance specific segments of our Community Plan
- Increase funding for targeted actions and programs
- Work to build political will and advance policies that support economic mobility of youth and families
- Connect families to specialists to promote safe and healthy starts

Shared Result: Healthy Children

THE CHALLENGE

- In the four years before the pandemic, the rates of anxiety and depression in Middle and High School students increased by 9%
- KCPS performed 2x's the number of suicide ideation assessments in the 2021-2022 school year when compared to 2020
- Black students were 1.2x's more likely to struggle with anxiety and depression than their White peers

THE OPPORTUNITY

KCLMB will facilitate a student led process to identify solutions and invest in strategies



Priority 2:

Center the voice and choice of youth and families to effectively access services

Local Care Team

Managing the the Kent County Local Care Team (LCT) for families who need assistance finding and connecting to resources. The Team:

- Meets with families to understand their challenges
- Brainstorms solutions, shares knowledge, develops strategies and advocates for and with families to help them thrive
- Links parents and children with behavioral health and wellness services
- Connects families to additional resources and provides ongoing support

Resource Coordination

Serving as a hub for service providers and families including managing a robust resource directory and actively sharing resources

Youth Connections

Engaging with Middle and High School students to share behavioral health resources and tools to support their peers



Priority 2:

Center the voice and choice of youth and families to effectively access services

Strategies

- Support families in need of assistance finding and connecting to resources
- Serve as a hub for connecting and coordinating resources
- Increase equitable design and delivery of resources and programs for youth experiencing behavioral health challenges
- Engage with youth to increase and share behavioral health resources and tools to support their peers

Shared Result: Children are Successful in School

THE CHALLENGE

- Over the past 5 years, students in Kent County have been struggling to attend school with a 12% increase in Chronic Absenteeism
- At Kent County Middle School, students of color are 2.2x's more likely to be chronically absent than white students

THE OPPORTUNITY

KCLMB is investing in out of school programs to create more spaces for students to identify their strengths, advocate for themselves and their peers and to connect with their schools and community



Priority 3:

Increase and expand community-based programs and innovative approaches for child well-being

Middle School Afterschool Program

Investing in after-school programs for 6th to 8th graders that focus on positive youth development

Community Schools

Supporting our Community Schools as they develop and utilize partnerships to connect the school, students, families and surrounding community to the resources needed for students to thrive

Strategies

Priority 3:

Increase and expand community-based programs and innovative approaches for child well-being

- Increase youth and family engagement in program design and refinement
- Increase youth engagement in out of school time programming focused on positive youth development