

## Convening the First Steps Collaborative (FSC)

**First Steps Collaborative**, with over 17 regional community partners to help us strengthen, restructure, redesign and standardize a regional parent support system.

The collaborative builds off of our 2010 Initiative: First Steps, continuing to work at ensuring that not only are parents supported and empowered to be good parents, that children are developing on-track and ready for school, but also that they will be raised in an affordable, healthy, stable and nurturing home. Our goal is to ensure that home visiting and early childhood community services in our region have a centralized referral process. It will also make consistent home visiting outcomes possible region-wide for families, no matter which home visiting program is serving them or where the referral came from.



United Way amplified its regional system-wide efforts when 2 grant opportunities came about through the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN Foundation.

United Way continues to work to bring stake-holders, service providers, people and resources together to improve lives in our community. The following diagram describes in further detail how the First Steps Collaborative is being built.

# First Steps Collaborative (FSC) Overview

**Success by Six Vision:**

Mobilize the community to support families, ensuring that all children are nurtured and ready for kindergarten.

**FSC Mission:**

To develop a comprehensive system to identify, refer, assess, and care for families that will ensure that as a regional community we

- Identify families and children early
- Monitor that children are developmentally on track
- Connect families to resources
- Develop and utilize a global tracking tool

**FSC Values:**

- To be culturally sensitive in our delivery of quality family education and parenting support.
- To keep fidelity of the model throughout all home visiting partners.

**Purpose of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Planning Grant:**

1. Identify the “hub & spoke” of First Steps Collaborative
2. Clarify partners roles
3. Streamline Assessment & Tracking

Screen	Identify	Refer	Assess	Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with community partners to create a <b>universal tool</b> that can be used to refer expectant mothers, families, and providers.</li> <li>• Develop <b>additional referral “points of entry”</b> so that there is no “wrong door” for expectant mothers, families, and providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with community partners to create a <b>universal streamlined system</b> that helps to identify expectant mothers, families, and providers that would benefit from the FSC menu of services</li> <li>• Identify <b>key indicators</b> that partners are looking for, identifying the niches that each partners is able to best serve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with community partners to identify the <b>“hub and spokes”</b> of the FSC</li> <li>• Develop <b>Memorandums of Understanding (MOU’s)</b> among FSC partners</li> <li>• Identify the <b>strengths and niches</b> of each referral partner to ensure each referral is provided the best services for their unique needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with home visiting partners to ensure we keep <b>fidelity of the model</b> through full utilization of curriculum and assessment tools</li> <li>• Work with and train community partners on how to <b>utilize the global tracking tool</b> to report outcomes and progress with the children, parents, and providers served through the FSC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with FSC partners to provide <b>holistic, multi-cultural, whole-person support</b> to expectant mothers, families, and providers</li> <li>• Communicate and train community partners on how the FSC works and <b>provide outside referral and link early childhood services</b> to all expectant mothers, families, and providers</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>BCBS Grant</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop publicity and marketing materials</li> <li>• Educate and outreach to multiple community partners about the FSC</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>BCBS Grant</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build policy, practices, and procedures through MOU’s.</li> <li>• Link key indicators to similar evidence-based home visiting models</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>BCBS Grant</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn how to utilize each others strengths to maximize capacity</li> <li>• Develop MOU’s and formal centralized system</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>BCBS Grant</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train all home visiting partners in the Growing Great Kids curriculum</li> <li>• Develop online global tracking tool</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>BCBS Grant</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilized to help build communication and referral networks among FSC partners and other community early childhood programs</li> </ul>