

SUCCESS FOR LIFE: A Call for Collaborative Action on behalf of Massachusetts Youth

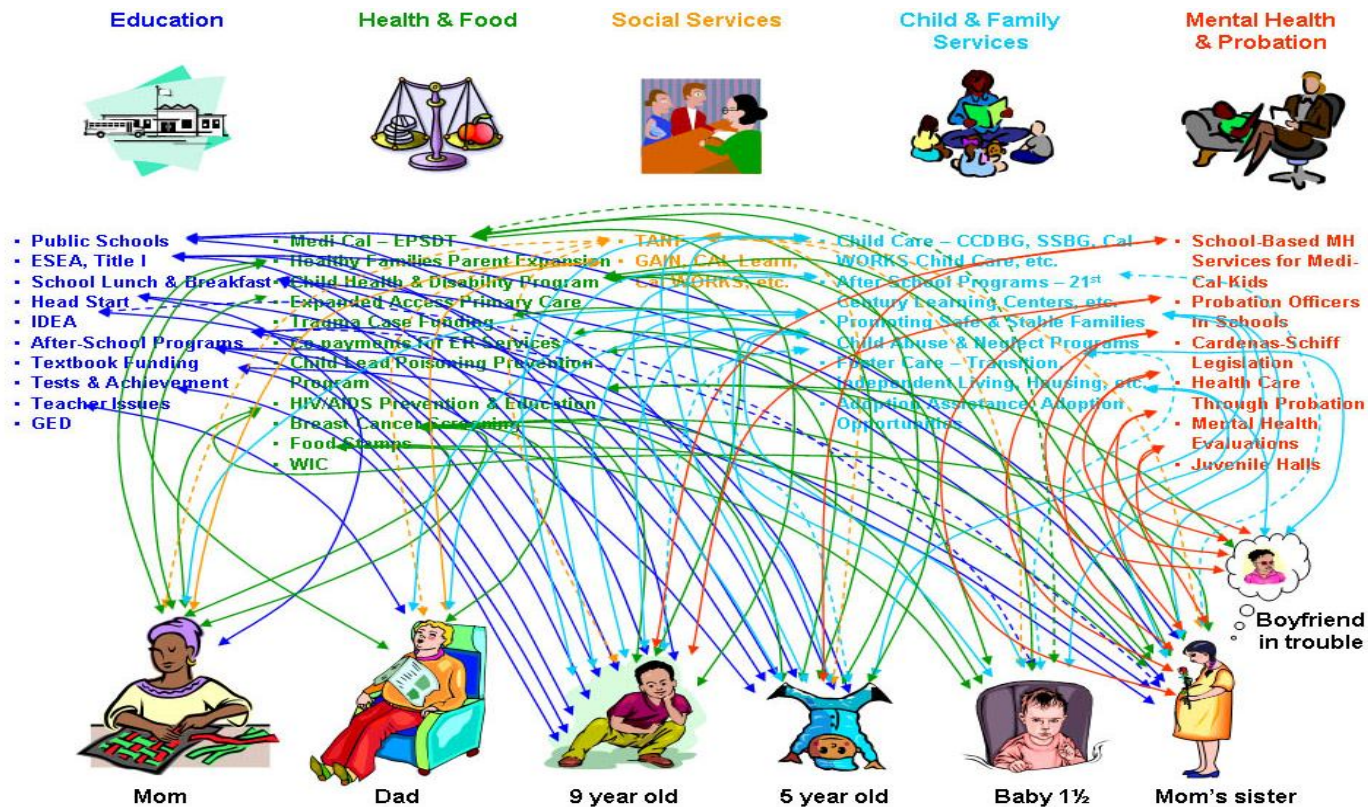


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

LIVE UNITED™ 

The Challenge

Business as usual: See a Problem → Convene a Task Force → Create a Program



Children's Services in Los Angeles County

SOURCE: Margaret Dunkle

The Challenge

In Massachusetts

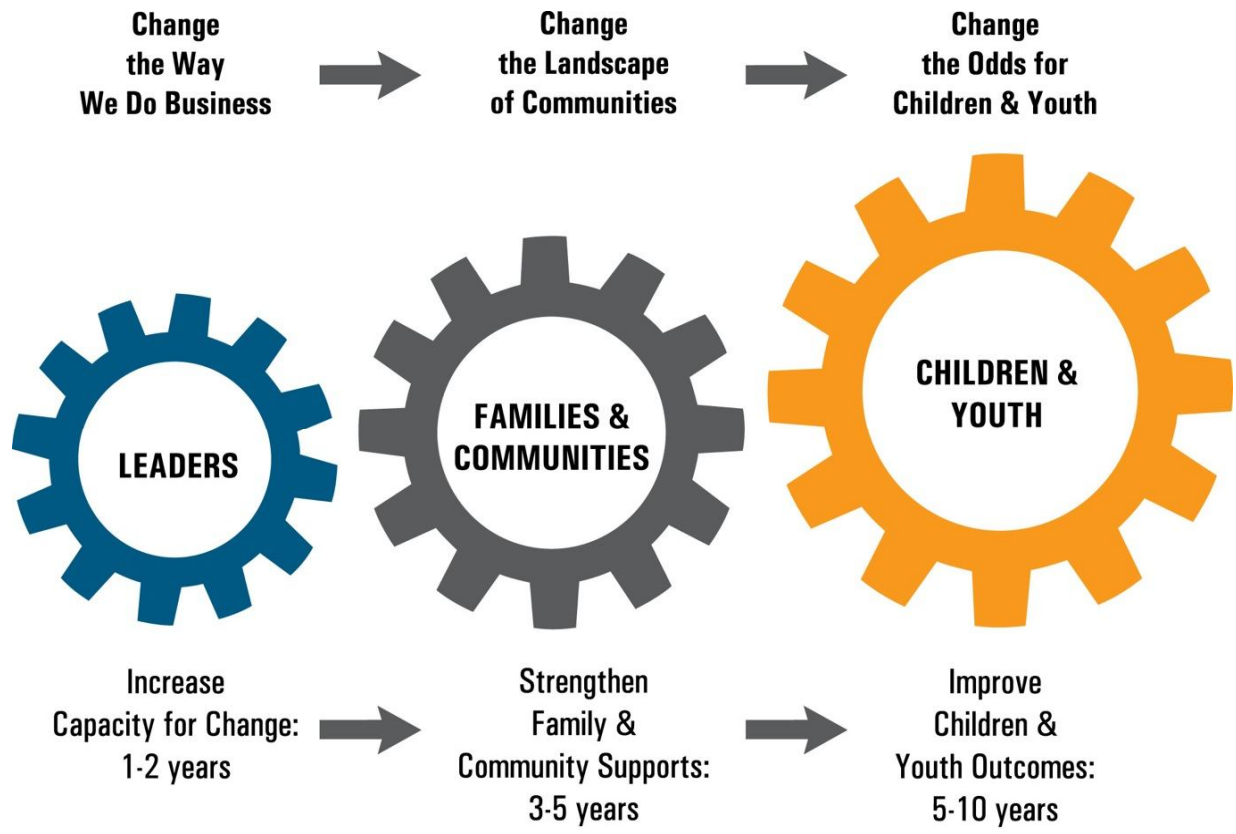
- Massachusetts has consistently ranked among the **top 5 states** in the nationally recognized KidsCount analysis on overall child well-being
- Overall success masks significant and stubborn challenges and disparities. In 2007, KidsCount ranked Massachusetts **dead last** for how low-income children are faring!
- Meanwhile, Massachusetts has the fourth largest income divide in the nation—we rank third in how fast the divide is growing

In Local Communities - Example

INDICATOR	Chelsea	Lawrence	Massachusetts
% of Children in Poverty	26%	37%	12%
3 rd Grade Reading Proficiency	31%	31%	51%
HS grad. rate	49.9%	35.8%	81.2%

The Big Picture Framework

Three Elements Needed to Enable Sustainable Change



Who Developed the Plan...

Led by a Team of More than 100 People Strong

- Statewide
- Cross-Sector
- Nearly all Massachusetts United Ways
- 14 State Government Agencies
- 40 Local and Regional Leaders
- 19 Youth Representatives
- 65 Coalitions represented

With Input from 500 More...

The Consensus:

Our Promise

We will not rest until all Massachusetts children and youth are thriving

Galvanizing Principals....The beliefs we all share

Common Outcomes.....What we want to be true for all children/youth,
families/communities & leaders

Common Indicators.....How we will measure success

Overriding Themes.....What's standing in the way of success

Six Goals & Strategies.....What needs to be done

Why the Plan Will Work:

- Begins with common language and shared outcomes/goals for children/youth, families/communities, and leaders
- Integrates input from broad cross section of citizens & experts
- Complements the Patrick Administration's Agenda
- Builds on and integrates what exists and what research tells us works
- Identifies progress indicators to measure and monitor
- Demonstrates the power and value of public-private partnerships
- Invites shared responsibility and accountability

Major Milestone!

- Plan endorsed by Gov. Patrick's Readiness Cabinet in Nov. 09

"The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Children and Youth Readiness Cabinet endorses the *Success for Life* framework as a shared framework for improving outcomes for Massachusetts youth.

Through public-private partnerships we can use this framework as a resource to communicate, educate, take action and achieve better results for Massachusetts youth."

Key Partners Aligned Work

- State government now working on its own, aligned youth agenda with common metrics.
- UWMBMV aligned it's investment strategies with *Success for Life*

Shared Accountability

UWMBMV'S example



Children & Youth

Encouraging positive behaviors

Creating mentoring relationships

Empowering through civic engagement & leadership

Getting ready for college &/or work

Families & Communities

Engaging families in youth learning/development

Increasing housing supply & housing stability

Gaining basic skills, job skills & employment

Gaining economic milestones

Leaders

Advocating for public policies

What would it look like if it worked?

- **Public, private and corporate funders** align their investments to common goals & strategies and report on progress
- **Local UW's** convene community response teams with aligned local action plans
- **Mayors** publicly declare themselves “Success for Life” cities/towns, support local response efforts, and include progress during speeches
- **Businesses** champion framework and align corporate responsibility and volunteer programs to “Success for Life” priorities
- **Legislators** endorse framework, align state funding, and create a “Success for Life” caucus
- **Educators** (school age and higher education), **social service providers**, **health care organizations** are accountable for “Success for Life” strategies

Progress reports show improved indicators

What UWMBMV is doing?

Dissemination	Engagement	Action
Policy-Makers: Legislature/ Administration	Toolkit	Success for Life Fund/ Local Response Mini-grants
Private Foundations & Corporate Philanthropy	Website	Social Innovation Fund Application
Providers/Advocates	Summits	Readiness Cabinet Request: Mentoring
United Ways in Mass.	Pledges/Endorsements	Volunteer Opportunities
Many other stakeholders!		Tracking Results