

# Partner ★ Plan ★ Act

an Illinois Action for Children Community Systems Development Initiative

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

| Collaboration Component or Function  | Advocacy & Policy Ideas  |
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| <p><b>Governance, Planning, or Local Collaboration Structure</b></p>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Integrate into your work:</b> Include policy and advocacy in your strategic plan or collaboration work plan each year</li> <li>• <b>Include in your structure:</b> Have a policy and advocacy work group in your collaboration</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Education, Training &amp; Capacity Building of Local Collaboration</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trainings:</b> Host advocacy trainings for community and collaboration members to deepen advocacy skills</li> <li>• <b>Presentations:</b> Invite speakers to present on early childhood policy issues at collaboration meetings</li> <li>• <b>Events:</b> 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</li> <li>• <b>Rallies:</b> Attend rallies on early childhood issues to show public support for young children</li> <li>• <b>Stay Informed:</b> Sign up to receive e-alerts and updates on early childhood policy issues – share updates with local collaboration members</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Public Awareness in Local Community</b></p>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community events:</b> 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</li> <li>• <b>Community Forums:</b> Host a community forum on early childhood policy issues and ask legislators to discuss issues with the local community</li> <li>• <b>Media Advocacy:</b> 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</li> <li>• <b>Build relationship with local reporters:</b> Find out the education reporter for local newspaper and get to know them; contact them for upcoming newsworthy events</li> <li>• <b>Voter Registration:</b> Conduct voter registration drives to register new voters and share with them key facts about why early childhood matters in your community</li> </ul> |



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