



The Ingham Great Start Collaborative (GSC) has been operating since 2006, with history that dates back to 1999, when Lansing Mayor David Hollister convened a Commission charged with developing a plan to create a system of support services for families with young children. This system evolved into the Ingham GSC, which has embraced the mission of ensuring that all children arrive at the kindergarten door ready and able to succeed. The current Strategic Plan and Action Agenda (see back page) were developed to continue the work of our mission.

### THE STORIES

Nearly 250 participants, including 130 parents, gave feedback through face-to-face and online surveys in the development of the Strategic Plan and Action Agenda. These participants included Ingham families who...

“Families see themselves represented in this work because almost 50% of the data gathered came from families – it shows value.”

- Were English Language Learners (4.3% of K-12 Enrollment)
- Had a birth paid for by Medicaid (48.1% of Births)
- Received WIC (52.9% of Children 0-4)<sup>1</sup>

Ingham GSC was intentional about gathering a diverse voice and applying an equity lens (gender, race, class, ability, etc.) in the development of the Plan. Ingham GSC will continue to work towards achieving Michigan’s Early Childhood Outcomes (see right) and having all children attend high-quality, age-appropriate learning environments. [Research](#)<sup>2</sup> shows that children who attend these high-quality environments are more likely to...

- **read** more proficiently by third grade,
- **graduate** from high school,
- **attend** college, and
- **earn** higher incomes.



<sup>1</sup> Sources: Michigan Department of Education (2012), Michigan Department of Community Health (2011, 2012)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.highscope.org/content.asp?contentid=219>

Ingham Great Start Collaborative developed the current Action Agenda to support

## MICHIGAN'S EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES

Children are ...

- Born healthy
- Healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry
- Prepared to succeed in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

## THE SUCCESSES

- [Play and Learn Groups](#) provide socialization experiences for 425 children and their families (FY 2014) in communities where they live and places where they access services, including the Harley Franks Early Childhood Center and the Grand River Head Start Center.
- A centralized, on-line [Preschool Application](#) for Head Start and the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) provides parents the opportunity to fill out one application to be considered for tuition-free preschool placement for their child, and connects families who are not eligible for tuition-free placement to [Great Start to Quality.org](#). Over 3,500 applications have been submitted for the 2014/15 school year.
- \$1 Million from the Affordable Care Act **provided expansion of Home Visitation** programs, including Early Head Start on the south side of Lansing, and Nurse Family Partnership, serving first-time African American mothers by their twenty-eighth week of pregnancy. The Healthy Families America program, serving at-risk pregnant women and families with newborns, was also established.



“The GSC has been around for a long time- a lot of work has gone into creating family services.”

- Ingham GSC partners coordinate **Multi-Agency Trainings**: safety, child abuse and neglect for home visitors; Talking to Kids About Race for families and preschool programs; and the ABLe Change Framework for organizations to further individual, as well as collective, system work.
- **The Parent Leadership and Support workgroup** of the Ingham GSC has evolved into the **Local Leadership Group (LLG)**, the advisory body to the Home Visit Hub. The LLG, convened by parents, provides a forum for parent feedback concerning experiences with local home visiting services. [The Parent Resource Guide](#), maintained by the workgroup, has been the most utilized resource on the Ingham GSC website over the last several years.
- The annual **Back to School Health Fair** at the Ingham County Health Department is a collaboration of education and health partners that provide children with vision and hearing screenings and immunizations; and gives families information about programs and services, such as health insurance, WIC, home visiting, and preschool. Nearly 400 children from birth to 6 years old attended the Fair in August, 2014.
- Ingham GSC and Ingham Family Coalition participate annually in **Community Mental Health Consumer Appreciation Zoo Days**. Over 675 books were distributed to attendees in November, 2014.

## THANK YOU!

Regardless of your role in the community, our hope is that you will see yourself represented in the Action Agenda (see back page), and will partner with Ingham GSC in working towards its implementation. Ingham GSC meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at Grace United Methodist Church. For more information

[inghamgreatstart.org](http://inghamgreatstart.org) [facebook.com/InghamGreatStart](https://www.facebook.com/InghamGreatStart), or contact us at [inghamgsc@gmail.com](mailto:inghamgsc@gmail.com)

# 2014 – 2015 INGHAM ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY



## Every child ready to succeed in school and in life.

### MICHIGAN'S EARLY CHILDHOOD OUTCOMES:

CHILDREN ARE...

•Born healthy •Healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track •Ready for school at time of school entry •Reading proficiently by end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

TARGET	OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Quality: Increase awareness, understanding, and implementation of quality standards in early childhood.</b></p>	<p>Promote understanding of roles and responsibilities for providers and parents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand high quality in early childhood settings</li> <li>Develop and increase awareness of school readiness definition</li> <li>Organize core trainings on diverse early childhood topics</li> <li>Survey professionals and families about their role in early childhood</li> <li>Advocate for consistent funding</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gaps: Decrease gaps in services for families with children birth to eight years old.</b></p>	<p>Increase access to existing early childhood programs that meet families' needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote preschool recruitment through <a href="http://inghampreschool.org">inghampreschool.org</a></li> <li>Grow the Early Childhood Endowment Fund</li> <li>Advocate for funding to increase capacity of programs</li> <li>Address cultural and racial barriers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voice: Increase opportunity for those who access services to have their voice heard and authentically used.</b></p>	<p>Within individual programs or agencies, increase opportunities to hear and use family voice to guide decision – making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess and define family engagement</li> <li>Provide customer service training</li> <li>Provide support and education to families to advocate for their children</li> <li>Use families' stories to illuminate experiences with social inequities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Connection: Increase and improve connection, communication, and coordination between health and education systems.</b></p>	<p>Strengthen awareness of community resources and information exchange among providers and families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate and strengthen 211</li> <li>Promote opportunities for health and education to network</li> <li>Target community resource outreach</li> </ul>