



## Strengthening Families Assessment Outcomes for Great Start Parent Coalitions

The Center for the Study of Social Policy’s Strengthening Families Self-Assessment was modified to assist Great Start Parent Coalitions (GSPCs) in Michigan in determining how well they are implementing strategies to strengthen families around the five protective factors (Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Supports in Times of Need, and Social and Emotional Competence of Children) and gain concrete ideas about how the protective factors can be supported through small but significant changes. This worksheet provides a high level summary of the assessment results from individual GSPCs and is intended to be used to create goals based on the results of the assessment process.

<b>Name of GSPC:</b>	Ingham Great Start Parent Coalition
<b>Year completed:</b>	FY18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FY19 <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name of Parent Liaison(s):</b>	Jessica Baker
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Synthia Britton

### **Narrative of the GSPC Assessment Meetings:**

The core group of Ingham’s Great Start Parent Coalition (GSPC) has a wonderfully diverse representation of parents. All have experienced a variety of early childhood services at different points. In fact, most members were ultimately connected to their GSPC through their home visitor or another trusted early childhood services professional. Additionally, the core group has representation from families who live in the city of Lansing and more outer-county areas like Williamston. Lastly, participants also varied in time experienced with the GSPC. Some have been involved across multiple Parent Liaison’s, some have been involved for a couple years, and others have joined within the last year. All offered an important perspective about the activities and experiences that they have had within the Ingham group throughout the assessment process. There were a few areas of disagreement through the assessment that were raised. However, as the group practiced listening to other perspectives, more awareness was captured about the different experiences of the group, leading to conversations about how participants have access to information and activities. The indicators below, reflect the points of strong group alignment or discussion through the assessment process.

**Participants in the assessment process identified the following Strengths:** (The GSPC will select one of these and create a goal, objective, strategy and activities to work on in the coming year)

1. 1.8 The GSPC supports parents by acknowledging stress, and promoting the importance of parental self-care (Parental Resilience).

2. 1.9.4 The GSPC members know how to respond appropriately to family crises that come to their attention by: Promoting community agencies that provide services to families and children (Parental Resilience).

3. 1.15 Resources are available about helping children in times of family crises (Parental Resilience).

4. 3.5.1 The GSPC works together to design and organize opportunities for parent led discussions that reflect on: Parenting expectations and practices (Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development).

**5. 4.2.2 The GSPC members support families in difficult times by:** Keeping families' issues confidential unless given explicit permission to share information (except when potential abuse or neglect is an issue) (Concrete Supports in Times of Need).

**Participants in the assessment process identified the following as opportunities for improvement:** (The GSPC will select one of these and create a goal, objective, strategy and activities to work on in the coming year to strengthen this item)

- 1. 1.2.3 The GSPC engages families by:** Gathering input from families in the community to support the work of the Great Start Collaborative (GSC) (Parental Resilience).
- 2. 1.11.3 The GSPC supports its members in serving as leaders and decision makers by:** Asking families for input about staff hiring (Parental Resilience).
- 3. 1.13 The GSPC helps to support the continued development of parent leaders by supporting attendance at conferences, leadership development training, or special events** (Parental Resilience).
- 4. 2.5.1 The GSPC helps to reduce stereotyping and bias by:** Providing resources, materials and/or activities to the GSPC members on understanding and countering stereotypes and biases (Social Connections).
- 5. 5.6 The GSPC welcomes and affirms the cultures of all families by:** Implementing meaningful discussions regarding cultural differences (Social Emotional Needs of Children).