



United Way  
of Southeastern Idaho

## American Falls Early Learning Collaborative Strategic Action Plan

### **Vision Statement:**

Every child in American Falls will have the opportunity and access to high quality early learning programs that meet their family's needs.

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the American Falls Early Learning Collaborative is to engage a diverse group of committed community members to develop a quality preschool program accessible to all, eliminating barriers to attendance, and to use its early successes to build a foundation for future work.

### **Needs Assessment Findings:**

As a result of our community needs assessment, we determined the following areas will provide the greatest opportunity to create an immediate positive impact in the American Falls community.

1. The demand and interest in additional quality preschool spaces indicates that the collaborative should continue to focus on creating additional seats.
2. A significant portion of the American Falls community struggles financially. In order to provide a quality experience for all children the collaborative will need to develop a plan to provide sustained funding for: scholarships, facility capacity, additional teacher/provider capacity, curriculum/assessment materials, on-going professional development training, etc.
3. Increasing spaces for more students to participate is only the first part of the work to be done in American Falls. Community members expect and deserve quality programs for their children. This makes it a priority for the collaborative to keep quality at top of mind when strategizing their action plan.

**FINDING #1: INCREASING QUALITY PRESCHOOL SEATS**

**Goal 1:** By September 2021, increase the participation of the total population of three and four-year old children in American Falls attending a quality preschool to 64% (77 three year old seats and 77 four year old seats for a total of 154 students).

<b>Strategy 1.1-</b> Develop a communication plan to generate community interest and understanding of application process and timeline.		
<b>Action Plan Task &amp; Rationale</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1. Solicit collaborative and parent feedback on the 2020 application, materials and process looking for missing information, data overlap, clarity of questions, streamlining with other forms, etc.	Tennille	January 2021
2. Create streamlined online application based on feedback. Have application translated to Spanish.	Tennille	February 2021
3. Create timeline marketing plan including: social media, newspaper print, radio ads, community events, school district email system, etc.	Tennille	February 2021

**FINDING #2: FUNDRAISING FOR A SUSTAINABLE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**

**Goal 1:** By February 2021, the collaborative will create and implement a fundraising plan to sustain the preschool program.

<b>Strategy 1.1-</b> Develop a comprehensive fundraising plan for a minimum of one academic year (2021-2022).		
<b>Action Plan Task &amp; Rationale</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1. Create a list of items to be funded with associated dollar amount. Differentiating essential versus wish list. To include but not limited to: additional physical space, staffing, curriculum/assessment, professional development funds, programmatic materials, technological needs, <b>scholarships</b> , etc.	Tennille	December 2020
2. Develop job description and hire a locally based individual to coordinate all aspects of this PDG Action Plan.	Felice	January 2021
3. Develop a list of local leaders and businesses to approach as potential donors.	Kevin/Randy	December 2020
4. Develop an MOU document (encouraging multi-year support) for donors/business owners including the type of information they will get back about the program, PR, etc.	Felice/Kevin	January 2021
5. Approach potential donors and funding partners to secure financial support.	Kevin/Randy	March 2021

**FINDING #3: DEVELOP QUALITY EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES**

**Goal 1:** By end of May 2022, AF Early Learning Collaborative Providers/Teachers will complete at least 4 training hours in the domain areas of: curriculum and instruction, child development, or classroom management.

<b>Strategy 1.1- Observe classrooms and communicate with providers to see what specific training is needed for each facility.</b>		
<b>Action Plan Task &amp; Rationale</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1. Monthly observations/check ins with providers to identify training needs.	Tennille/Tina/Judy	October 2020-May 2022
2. Survey providers to set goals/identify areas of improvement relating to delivering curriculum.	Tennille, Providers/Teachers	January 2021
3. Provide opportunities for providers to observe "model" classroom.	Providers/Teachers	March 2021
4. Develop individual professional development plan for each facility for the year.	Tennille and Providers/Teachers	May 2021
<b>Strategy 1.2- Work with Idaho STARS to make sure specific trainings are offered or bring in trainers for specific trainings.</b>		
<b>Action Plan Task &amp; Rationale</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1. Work with Idaho STARS to identify courses available for providers in identified domains.	Tennille and Judy	January 2021
2. Identify areas not supported by Idaho Stars and find specific training opportunities.	Tennille, Tina and Randy	March 2021
3. Determine incentives to aid in completion of trainings.	Tennille, Felice and Randy	April 2021
4. Work with Idaho STARS to identify a system to track who completed the courses.	Tennille and Judy	April 2021
5. Complete Classes.	Providers/Teachers	July 2021

**Goal 2:** By December 2021 we will research, choose, and implement an online family engagement communication system and/or module and accommodate any associated technology needs.

<b>Strategy 2.1- Identify family engagement communication system and/or module.</b>		
<b>Action Plan Task &amp; Rationale</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1. Research communication systems/modules.	Tennille/Felice	February 2021
2. Hold a focus group with parents to see what would be most useful and mostly likely to be utilized.	Tennille/Felice	Spring 2021
3. Identify costs associated with each program researched.	Tennille/Felice	June 2021
4. Purchase selected system.	Tennille	July 2021
5. Implement system and train front end users.	Full Team	August 2021

<b>Strategy 2.2-</b> Identify sources to pay for or provide technology equipment for families who do not have access or financial ability.		
<b>Action Plan Task &amp; Rationale</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1. Communicate with American Falls School District to see what resources they have available and/or have already shared out to families.	Tennille/Randy	March 2021
2. Reach out to Idaho AEYC to see what resources they have access to for providing technology needs for families with children 0-5 years of age.	Tennille	June 2021
3. Find or allocate funding to purchase tech equipment for qualifying families.	Kevin	July 2021

**Next Steps**

This action plan will be used in the coming year by the American Falls Early Learning Collaborative to guide their work. The group will remain flexible and consider this to be a working document that can be adjusted at any point to meet the collaborative and community needs, to respond to challenges/barriers as well as leverage any new opportunities which might impact this work.