

Focus Areas

Community Connectedness
Youth Social Emotional Supports
Violence Prevention + Intervention



Funded Activities

Funded activities will be in alignment with the target strategies of the identified focus areas and highlight the relationships between them.



Grant Metrics

Grant metrics will be identified by applicant organizations, but should inform the desired impact targeted by WHF for long-term evaluation and program measurement.



Resilient Communities Objectives

The success and impact of the Resilient Communities grant portfolio will be measured against broad metrics as identified by WHF board and staff, in alignment with the desired impact of this body of work.



Desired Impact

Every child in Wyandotte County has positive childhood experiences, recovers from traumatic experiences, and builds resilience to prevent future traumatization.

COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS

Connected and integrated communities play a crucial role in improving outcomes for children and families by creating spaces where individuals can access resources and opportunities to thrive despite challenges. Through relationship-building and holistic support systems, connected communities strengthen families' ability to cope with adversity, reduce isolation, and foster environments where children can grow, learn, and develop resilience.

Targeted Strategies:

- Empower community members through investments in groups and activities that foster connection and engagement.
- Promote social norms change within neighborhoods, particularly among youth, through community-led programming.
- Support cross-sharing among organizations that provide opportunities for youth leadership, engagement, and mentoring.

WHF Program Metrics:

- Evaluate the availability of key services and increase the rate of people accessing available resources.
- Increase participation in community events, volunteerism, local leadership, and neighborhood organizations.
- Increase the number and impact of local community-driven initiatives, such as neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, or shared spaces.

Desired Results:

- The community develops greater cohesiveness, accountability, and trust.
- Communities experience high rates of connection and cohesion.

YOUTH SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORTS

There is a strong need to normalize mental health conversations, especially in family and community settings. Reducing stigma around mental health is crucial for supporting parents and children, intervening early when mental health crises arise, and breaking generational cycles of inaction in the face of mental distress.

Targeted Strategies:

- Increase access to therapy and clinical services for children, youth, and caregivers with a focus on early intervention.
- Offer school-based and out of school programming for children and youth focused on safe spaces, skills development, peer mentoring, social emotional learning, resilience, and conflict resolution.
- Promote culturally sensitive education campaigns to address harmful social norms related to substance use, stigma, and related behaviors.

WHF Program Metrics:

- Increase the rate of people accessing treatment across community behavioral health providers in Wyandotte County.
- Reduce the prevalence of risk factors in children and youth.
- Reduce the youth suicide rate.

Desired Results:

- Children and youth have a positive outlook, a sense of belonging, and hope for the future.
- Caregivers experience reduced mental distress.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Addressing violence prevention in Wyandotte County requires a multifaceted approach, with a strong emphasis on community engagement and opportunities for youth to engage in positive experiences. This need is underscored by the county's higher violent crime rates compared to both the state and the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Targeted Strategies:

- Support initiatives that collaboratively address and mitigate homicide and gun violence through community-led deterrence and coordinated efforts involving law enforcement, social service providers, and community members.
- Support early violence intervention initiatives for youth.
- Promote initiatives utilizing conflict resolution and restorative justice practices with youth in school settings.

WHF Program Metrics:

- Reduce the prevalence of risk factors in children and youth.
- Reduce violent crime rates in Wyandotte County.
- Reduce the youth homicide rate.

Desired Results:

- Children and youth are safe from violence and choose alternatives to violence.
- Families feel safe raising their children in Wyandotte County.