

McLennan County Child Well-being Report FAQ's

What's next and who will be involved in the future phases?

The next phase of this work is to create a Child Well-being Community Action Plan. The Movement's Community Advisory Board (comprised of area parents and residents) will spearhead this effort with support from additional community members and the Core Partner Team (comprised of representatives from area organizations including staff of United Way). Based on the research in the report, community members and stakeholders will together create a community action plan that includes a shared vision, with unified goals and measures of success. The specific action steps developed through the planning process will determine who will be involved in carrying out the work, but the movement is committed to being intentional about cross-sector community involvement.

What role will United Way play in this work moving forward?

United Way will maintain its role as a convener, collaborator and funder. Our priority is to make space for the community to lead this work, and we will maintain a commitment to centering their voices and leveraging the resources needed to carry out their vision.

What does this work and these findings mean for the work of United Way, specifically? Over time, United Way will begin to incorporate the strategic priorities and measures of success that come from the action planning process into our own internal strategic goals and funding priority areas. Many of these will remain similar to our current strategic goals given the cross-sector approach necessary to improve child and family well-being.

This report is different than others I have seen. Why does it recognize the community's experience as data?

The McLennan County Child Well-being Movement recognizes the value in analyzing data trends to understand the health of a community, but also recognizes that oftentimes, traditional research doesn't tell the full story. The goal of this report was to better understand the current condition of children and families in McLennan County while also unveiling their aspirations for a community that meets their needs. As a Movement, we set out to understand the root causes behind child well-being related indicators that still need improvement, and believe that community residents are the best source of information to help paint the full picture. Until we recognize the community's experience as valuable data, we will continue to miss out on the opportunity to understand our community's strengths and areas of improvement which will in turn provide guidance as to how we can collectively make impactful change.

Will the report be presented to local leaders? Will it be shared with community residents?

Yes. Following the release of the report, members of the *McLennan County Child Well-being Movement* will develop a community outreach plan to share this information with local leaders and community residents to spread awareness of the current condition of child well-being in McLennan County as an important next step before developing the community action plan.

How can I get involved in the movement?

The McLennan County Child Well-being Movement is committed to taking a cross-sector approach to improve well-being of children and families in our county. As such, throughout the action planning process, community residents and stakeholders will be working to determine the vision, goals and measures of success to guide this work moving forward. During the action planning process, participants will work to identify what sectors, community residents, leaders, and organizations will be helpful in taking action on identified priorities. We all have a role to play in improving child well-being in our county. Reach out to staff at info@unitedway.org if you'd like to connect to the work of the movement.

Will the Child Well-being Index be what is used to gauge progress made over time on child well-being?

Yes. The index will be used to track progress in addition to the measures of success that become part of the community action plan. *The McLennan County Child Well-being Movement* recognizes that it takes time to see impactful change occur on a county level, and that not all geographic areas in the county are experiencing the same positive outcomes. For this reason, we will continue to uphold a focus on gathering and analyzing zip code-level data to measure progress on indicators in real time.

How will the community voice remain engaged in this work moving forward?

The Community Advisory Board of the *McLennan County Child Well-being Movement* will continue to lead at the helm of this effort, working alongside other county residents to hold all of us accountable to keeping the community's voice central to solution-seeking and decision-making as we stride toward impactful change. If we really believe that the community's voice is one of the most powerful data sources available to us, we must continuously utilize their insights as check-points on progress made on our child well-being indicators as well as opportunities to course correct action steps along the way. It is our goal to continually work alongside all residents, community partners, businesses, and organizations that are committed to championing the well-being of area children and families for the overall betterment of our community.