

## NEXT STEPS

This plan is the culmination of more than a year and a half of effort by many community partners, and yet also represents a beginning point.

While there has been substantial and significant community involvement in the development of the plan and the community priorities and strategies, there are many organizations and individuals who active participation will be needed to bring all aspects of the plan to fruition.



In the coming months we will be sharing the plan and major priorities which emerged with key organizations and individuals to seek additional input and involvement in its implementation.

We will be re-connecting with community groups that we met with to gather their perspectives about the needs and issues facing children and families and potential strategies to address them – both to report back to them on what each community told us, as well as to explore common elements across communities and how we might link efforts across communities.

A strategy to broadly engage all sectors in plan implementation is under development by the Strategies Committee including identification of potential lead agencies for major priorities. In addition, the Strategies Committee is working to develop a strategy to support each community in engaging in local action to address their concerns.

This is a long-term and ambitious plan that seeks to build on and further the work that grew out of the previous plan. We know there are community groups and organizations that continue to

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work actively to address many of the strategies identified in the plan, and we anticipate that work groups will also be formed in other priority areas to develop implementation plans and to determine how to measure our progress.

There is a sense that as before, this plan will continue to help guide and focus our efforts in the coming years. This is a community that has effectively built partnerships and collaborative initiatives to address many issues, and this approach to resolving community concerns will be essential to our continued success.

We well know that in order for us to be successful we will need to use our 'can do' attitude to identify small, incremental steps to build and strengthen our systems of support.

As we accomplish key tasks in our first areas of priority, we will work to identify our next areas of priority. While recognizing that there will be barriers and challenges to our efforts, we know that as we begin to make measurable progress, momentum will grow, and we will find new partners and advocates who will carry us forward.

We also realize that for Washington County to realize our vision and achieve all that is laid out in the plan, it will take substantial investment of additional resources in the basic infrastructure of our social service system to expand our current base of services and to build new services.

