About Future Ready Collier

Future Ready Collier is a network of more than 60 organizations, businesses, schools and community members working to ensure every child in Collier County, Florida, is ready for Kindergarten, and every young person enters adulthood with a vision and plan to accomplish that vision.

Our Goals

• Ensure all children are Kindergarten ready.

• Ensure all young people are career ready by graduating high school on track to obtain a degree or credential.

Future Ready Collier is a FutureMakers Coalition Partner. The goal for the regional coalition is to transform the Southwest Florida workforce by increasing the number of college degrees, certificates, or other high-quality credentials from 27 percent to 55 percent by 2025.
The Naples Children & Education Foundation conducts a study on the needs of children and well-being in Collier County and brings beneficiary organizations together to work collaboratively around strategic initiatives.

Champions For Learning initiates a community-wide engagement effort, called Connect Now producing a Community Statement about the aspirations for education published in 2009.

Champions For Learning learns about the Florida College Access Network through the Consortium for FL Education Foundations and FCAN shares Collier County data. This inspires college access models led by Champions For Learning, with Collier County Public Schools and others.

Southwest Florida Community Foundation launches the FutureMakers Coalition to address degree attainment challenges. Champions For Learning named as Collier’s lead partner.

The Community Foundation of Collier County, Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, and Champions For Learning begin informal discussions around collaborative opportunities in Collier.

Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce releases the Opportunity Naples study with “building an education pipeline” for talent as a key component.

The ongoing informal conversations between the Community Foundation of Collier County, Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce, and Champions For Learning, become more formal and add Collier County Public Schools, Naples Children & Education Foundation, and United Way of Collier County.

The partners secure funding for capacity to collaboratively develop collective goals for Collier County in alignment with the regional FutureMakers Coalition. Champions For Learning coordinates. Organizations across Collier County are invited to be part of the conversations.

Regional FutureMakers Coalition becomes part of the Lumina Foundation’s Community Partnership for Attainment.

Four (4) priority strategies each for the Early Learning goal and the College and Career Readiness goal are determined, with priority teams focusing on those efforts.

Hurricane Irma made landfall in Collier County, and post-storm, the groups quickly reconvene to re-prioritize to stay on track.

The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation funds and conducts, in partnership with the Community Foundation of Collier County, a county-wide Community Assessment.

More than 35 organizations convene monthly for a year to engage in deep discussion about the shared goals and strategies that will move community results in Collier.

The group decides to call the Collier-based network, Future Ready Collier.

Baseline indicators for Future Ready Collier are established.

Community Assessment for Collier County released.

Future Ready Collier partners increase to more than 60 aligning with and contributing to the priority strategies.
Why Collective Impact

Individual organizational programs have a positive impact for specific numbers of children.

But when we start to learn and understand the entire picture of results for all children in Collier County, individual programs, on their own in isolation, cannot reach the necessary scale, as when we collectively align toward key goals for all of our community’s children.

Documented in a widely-read 2011 Stanford Social Innovation Review article, there are five critical elements that are apparent in successful collaborations with results on a broad scale. Collective impact succeeds when these connected efforts of common goals, ongoing measurement, communications, support, and aligned activities—are rooted in trusted relationships. And, as we as communities learn from these efforts, the process of collective impact becomes clearer.

There’s a much better return on philanthropic investment when organizations are working toward common goals that will make a difference in our community.

Eileen Connolly-Keesler
CEO, Community Foundation of Collier County

The child born today is the contributing adult of tomorrow...
Why Now in Collier County?

With degree attainment below state and national averages for adults in Collier County, the working-age adult, who would also tend to be the parent of a school-aged or Pre-Kindergarten child, has very little experience helping their child get ready for Kindergarten, or navigating the post-secondary education process.

Goal 2025 outlines the need to have at least 60% of working-age adults have a high quality degree or credential to be ready for the jobs of the future (Florida College Access Network).

Most communities, including Collier County, have a variety of programs and institutions targeted toward children and youth at different ages and stages. The time is now to strengthen partnerships to leverage improvements in education and the community to deepen our collective capacity to build and sustain a dynamic economy that works for everyone.

New norms of trust and connected impact are building in Collier County. These interactions and networks of connected work are the “infrastructure” of collective impact. As habits of collaborative, productive work build, the community can expand and deepen its efforts to improve conditions and trajectories for all young people.

The future of our community is only as strong as the next generations.

Let’s all be Future Ready Collier.

Collective impact means we are committed to looking outside of ourselves to build our community’s capacity to sustain itself and thrive for the future.

Mary Beth Geier
Florida Director
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation
Getting All Children Ready

What We Have Learned

Approximately one-half of children are not developmentally or academically ready for Kindergarten in Collier County. There are significant gaps for children from birth to three years old, particularly in early literacy materials for home libraries, and fewer than one-fourth of low income children are enrolling in any formal child care program.

We know that a shortage of quality, affordable, and accessible care, as well as family preference for at-home care, are the contributing factors. We continue to examine how to best support families with young children to improve early childhood outcomes.

Because there is no “system” that connects resources for all Collier children 0-4 years old, existing supports for school readiness are generally fragmented. As we engage the different partners, we are exploring opportunities to better align and connect resources for families.

Next, as a community we will work through Future Ready Collier to build a framework that supports school readiness, which is the foundation for all future success.

Being part of a network that leverages and complements our work to ensure that children have the best early learning opportunities maximizes our impact tremendously.

Susan Block
CEO, Early Learning Coalition of SWFL

COLLIER’S CHILDREN
0 - 4 YEARS:

More than 4,000 low-income children (0-4 years) are not in early childhood programs each year.

Source: 2015-16 Florida Office of Early Learning Annual Report

INDICATORS

How do we know it’s working? This report includes the baseline indicators that we have agreed upon to answer this question over time.

Baseline years vary depending on relevant variables, such as the change in the state Kindergarten readiness test.

For a complete list of organizations participating in support of the goal to get all children ready for Kindergarten, visit FutureReadyCollier.org

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2017 Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)

48.9% ready for Kindergarten

Baseline 2017

iReady Diagnostic of Reading on Kindergarten Entry

25% 28%

2016 2017

% on level at K entry

Source: Collier County Public Schools

Baseline 2016
for Kindergarten

Collective Priorities

- Engage families with tools and resources to support the early development of their children.

- Improve the quality of existing early childhood education providers.

- Increase the number of high quality early childhood education spots available to low-income families.

- Identify and/or develop appropriate data indicators for early learning goals and priorities.

Future Ready Collier provides the framework in which to leverage our investments in child well-being and education and impact the entire community.

Maria Jiménez-Lara
CEO
Naples Children & Education Foundation

2017 Kindergarten Registration

92% on-time (first day)
2,643 in attendance on day one versus 2,872 in attendance on day 20 (month 1) – excluding students enrolled from outside of Collier
Source: Collier County Public Schools

2016
2017

Developmental Screening Referrals

2017 Early Learning Centers with 4/5 Star or Accreditation

9%
15 out of 160 total
Source: Early Learning Coalition of SWFL
Baseline 2017
Helping Our Young People

What We Have Learned

Our young people are challenged in many ways. With more than 68% qualifying for free or reduced priced lunch, the challenges of economic need are a constant.

They also lack family experience in navigating the process to earn a post-high school degree or credential to help them build their skills. While graduation rates continue to rise, we know that we need to work to be sure that every student is ready for what comes next.

With a typical senior class of approximately 3,000 students, 70% go annually to a two-year, four-year institution or technical college, and of those more than 80% attend a college or university in Florida. And of those, more than half stay local at either Florida Southwestern State College or Florida Gulf Coast University (National Student Clearinghouse).

This provides our community the opportunity to engage our young people with our local economy and workforce.

We have an amazing community that really cares about the well-being and success of our students. Through Future Ready Collier we are, together, harnessing the community’s resources and talent to provide additional supports to ensure our students succeed.

Dr. Kamela Patton  
Superintendent, Collier County Public Schools

2017 COLLIER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL’S 12TH GRADERS’ FAFSA COMPLETION

The completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the number one indicator of college going (FCAN). It also is the vehicle that provides students access to federal, state, and institutional aid and scholarships. There is an opportunity to encourage students and parents to complete it earlier.

MARCH 31, 2017  
43.5%  
1320 seniors completed

JUNE 30, 2017  
53%  
1606 seniors completed

After high school graduation, a significant number complete it. A key strategy will be to encourage them to complete before graduation; the earlier they complete, the more financial resources they can leverage.

DECEMBER 31, 2017  
66.4%  
2014 seniors completed

Sources: Florida College Access Network and US Dept. of Education

INDICATORS

How do we know it’s working? This report includes the baseline indicators that we have agreed upon to answer this question over time.

Baseline years vary depending on relevant variables, such devising new ways to capture information from the senior class.

For a complete list of organizations participating in support of the goal to help our young people graduate ready, visit FutureReadyCollier.org

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Rates for CCPS 12th Graders

High School Graduation Rates

Sources: Florida College Access Network and US Dept. of Education

Sources: Florida Department of Education
Future Ready Collier provides a vehicle to share best practices and leverage our innovative program models to have broader impact for students and teachers. By working together, we can create a brighter future for students and our community.

Lynn Davidson
Chair, Champions For Learning
Impact

Building Trusted Relationships

People are building relationships and connecting with the success of others, learning and sharing best practices. When organizations learn from each other, and look at things from different perspectives, we can identify opportunities for our entire community. When we look at data together for the purpose of the impact on all children, rather than for the purpose of assessing one program’s outcomes, we all gain new insights and challenge our own assumptions. We also gain skills for collaboration, communication, and increase our versatility as a community.

An example of this strategic learning includes the study conducted by Florida SouthWestern State College to determine the costs to prepare children for Kindergarten in our region.

We are excited by the opportunity to stay continually focused on quality programming for our children and families—being part of Future Ready Collier allows us to share, learn from each other, and replicate great ideas.

Renate Engels
Director of Early Childhood Education, Guadalupe Center

Strengthening and Improving Programs Serving Students and Families

Fun Time Early Childhood Academy and Guadalupe Center have created parent programs for their center adapted from a program created by Grace Place for Children & Families, resulting in more parents getting support in Immokalee and the River Park area.

The pediatricians at the Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida are utilizing the list of books Future Ready Collier partners assembled to guide families to pick the most appropriate types of books for their child’s development. As of December 2017, they had distributed this list to more than 5,000 families.

When it comes right down to it, what matters most is that we have the best community in which to live, work and visit, now and in the future. The key to that is that our young people are prepared for their future and our employers innovate to build a vibrant economy.

Bill Barker
Chair-Elect, Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce

CASE STUDY: THE IRMA TEST

When Irma landed in Collier County on September 10, 2017, school had been in session just a month, and Future Ready Collier partners were planning a “kick-off” on September 27th. With more than half of the schools serving as hurricane shelters, and all schools working to re-open, and virtually the entire community without power for several weeks, it would have been understandable to cancel the meeting.

But the partners kept that meeting. More than 65 people gathered to re-prioritize to ensure families and students stayed on track. Within a week, the status of early learning centers’ ability to re-open was assessed, and new strategies were developed for the Class of 2018 with FAFSA opening October 1st. Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida SouthWestern State College led the way with a Free Application Week.

Future Ready Collier put our community in a position to be nimble and stay focused on outcomes for children and families. We would not have organized and re-prioritized so quickly if we hadn’t already built trusted relationships and understood the resources available. We call it the Irma Test—and collective impact works.
Alignment of Strategies Toward Common Goals

Organizations are leveraging resources and implementing strategies in the context of their respective missions to support key opportunities to align. Strategic examples include: 1) on-time Kindergarten registration; 2) increasing FAFSA completion for seniors; and, 3) providing more work-based learning opportunities for young people.

This process of learning, sharing, and leading in family engagement has not only allowed us to leverage and provide additional opportunities for the families we serve, but has also had an impact for children outside of our reach. Sharing our best practices as partners has helped to address a gap in high quality books for our children ages 0-3 years, supporting early literacy for those who are under served.

Diane Ponton
Director of Family Literacy, Grace Place for Children & Families

ENGAGING PARENTS & STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

A common refrain throughout our Future Ready Collier conversations has been: if parents only knew about... If they only knew the timing of their 4-year old’s physical would impact Kindergarten registration when the child turned five. If only they knew that completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), was the key for accessing all financial aid and scholarships—regardless of family income. If only....

We have identified parent engagement as the common link — regardless of the age of the child. And then, after learning about Strengthening Families, a nationally recognized framework that builds on the strengths in families, rather than the gaps, we have realized that building parent-to-parent relationships and information-sharing will significantly impact their children.

As a result, we are working with Be Strong Families in Illinois to bring the tools of this framework to Collier County. Thanks to the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, we will have this opportunity for a one-time investment in our capacity as a community.

Coming soon: Future Ready Collier Parent Cafés!
Get Involved

• Everyone can be part of this effort. You can act individually by taking on a future ready mindset and engaging your friends, colleagues and family members.
• Invite us to speak to your group or organization.
• Attend a Roundtable to contribute to the community conversation.
• Volunteer through one of our partner organizations.
  To see a complete list of opportunities, go to our website and look under “Get Involved”.
• Stay well-informed on opportunities and resources to share with others.

Champions For Learning (CFL), The Education Foundation of Collier County is an independent, community-based, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that creates life-changing learning experiences for every student. With a vision of a community that is 100% engaged in support of student success, CFL has a unique and important role to be a community catalyst and convener around student learning and community engagement.

To Our Partners

Thank You

The following have made financial contributions to support our capacity for collaboration:

Sustaining Partners

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF COLLIER COUNTY
FOR GOOD, FOREVER.

Lal Gaynor
Early Education & Beyond Fund
at the Community Foundation of Collier County

Florida Philanthropic Network

Future Makers Coalition

NAPLES CHILDREN’S FOUNDATION

RICHARD M. SCHULZE
FAMILY FOUNDATION

Network Partners

CareerSource Southwest Florida | Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida
Fun Time Early Childhood Academy | Grace Place for Children & Families
Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce | Guadalupe Center | The Immokalee Foundation

For a complete list of Future Ready Collier partners, visit FutureReadyCollier.org