

# Making Connections Des Moines: Major Initiatives and Partners

As of May 15, 2007

The Making Connections for *community change initiative* is broad. It is deep. It is interwoven. The following charts show you what is happening in Des Moines to strengthen families and children in our most challenged neighborhoods and who is working to make that change happen. It is snap-shot at a point in time. Work continues to evolve, grow and change.

The charts are organized around our core results areas: Children Healthy and Prepared to Succeed in School (CHAPSS), Youth, Family Economic Success (FES), Health and Resident Engagement. To give you an indication of the breadth and depth of this change movement, they also tell on what level that change is happening. In many cases, change

is occurring on several fronts and on multiple levels.

Making Connections has some level of involvement in each. However, in many circumstances, Making Connections has only a participatory or advisory role, not a leading role. Substantial numbers of these initiatives are led by partners in the community. It is they who are setting the agenda to move this work forward. *We* in the Des Moines community are making change happen, and *we* are in this together. And we are very thankful to all for their hard work and dedication.

**For more information or to connect with any of the initiatives listed here, call the Making Connections office, 282-3561.**

## Cross-Results Initiatives

Improve outcomes and close the gap in results for families and children in Making Connections neighborhoods by using multiple strategies.

Initiative	Change Level	Description	Desired goals & outcomes	Partners (in addition to MC)
<b>Community Impact</b>	S,P,I Results areas – all	Developing and strengthening a “community impact” agenda and actions (former Health Services Planning Alliance-HSPA work) around economic self-sufficiency, youth development, early childhood, housing continuum and health access issues.	Strengthen families, children and neighborhoods on many fronts.	UW, multiple community partners including City of Des Moines and Polk Co.
<b>Strong Families Cohort</b>	S Results areas – all	Conducting a three-year study of the effect on up to 200 families of young children (ages 0-5, but not yet in kindergarten) in census tract 48 of the Wallace School District when the services and supports they say they need to move out of poverty are provided to them in a concentrated and deliberate manner.	Move families out of poverty and improve their outcomes in the areas of health, early childhood education, employment and connection to neighborhoods.	ECP, Polk Co. Empowerment, UW, VNS, NHI, Head Start, DMPS--Success Workers, CFPC, MC residents
<b>Leadership Council</b>	S Results areas – all	Leadership Council members priority for 2007 – work on common tool for funders and providers for performance measures and reporting tools that close the gap on results.	Increase funders’ impact on common goals, decrease provider reporting time, increase impact for resident consumers and community impact.	Leadership Council members
<b>Transition of Making Connections Des Moines initiative to local management</b>	S Results areas – all	Beginning the process of transferring management of the MC initiative to an entity made up of local leaders from all stakeholder groups, including residents. Local management entity will assume responsibilities for the initiative’s management and budget oversight.	Deepen, broaden and infuse principles and priorities of the MC initiative within Des Moines community so systemic, large-scale positive change for the city’s most vulnerable families and children can continue and be sustained.	AECF, LC, MC, MC residents
<b>Women’s Alliance</b>	S,P,I Results areas -- all	Collaborative effort to strengthen the work of organizations serving girls and women and share learnings and best-practices with one another	Improve the lives of girls and families in central Iowa. Increase effectiveness of partner organizations working to help them.	Chrysalis Foundation, CBOs
<b>Addressing racial disparity</b>	S Results areas -- all	An ongoing effort to address system-wide barriers that are leading to negative and disproportionate outcomes for minorities in employment, housing, education and over representation of minority youth, in such things as special education programs and the corrections system or under-representation or involvement in organizations and processes that affect them. Includes the “Undoing Racism” workshops.	Improve outcomes for minority families and children.	DHS, DOC
<b>Charitable hospital care for the uninsured</b>	S Results areas – FES, Health	Ongoing effort to help individuals with no health insurance pay for their hospital care by providing them access to discounts available through hospital charitable care programs.	Lessen the financial effects of medical debt on low-income households and decrease need to access predatory loans.	AMOS, Iowa Health Systems, Mercy Medical Center, Broadlawns
<b>Medical debt management solutions</b>	S Results areas – FES, Health	Exploring two broad solutions sets – 1) debt management and consolidation of debt held for individuals by hospitals and other health care providers, and 2) proactive management of medical credit before debt is incurred.	Ease the burden of medical debt, its unintended consequences and its long-term negative impact on low-income households.	The Access Project, Good Capital, Des Moines hospitals

<b>Health care access for undocumented families</b>	S Results areas – Health, CHAPSS, RE	Launching a community dialog to address emerging trends of lack of access to obstetric care and health care in general, and the cost of that care for undocumented families.	Increase access to needed health care services, decrease financial burden to undocumented families	TBD
<b>Health Realization</b>	P, I Results areas – Health, CHAPSS, RE	Teaching people how to tap into their natural ability to change their thinking and discover their own personal power, happiness and success. Helps with stress, conflict, change, effective problem-solving, self-empowerment, time management, burnout, mood, client care, understanding yourself and others, and personal and professional relationships.	Enhance resident health and provide capacity to build personal and community health	Des Moines Health Realization Task Force, NHI, Wellmark Foundation, Prairie Meadows Foundation, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation
<b>Healthy mental development initiative</b>	P Results areas – CHAPSS, Health	Strengthening pediatric practitioners' identification and effective referral of children for developmental needs.	Improve children's physical, mental and developmental health	VNS, Community Health Foundation, State of Iowa, ECP, CFPC
<b>Depression prevention</b>	P, I Results areas – CHAPSS, Health, RE	Address causes and provide treatments and preventive remedies to communities and low-income families who have symptoms of depression.	Improve outcomes for families	HAP, Iowa Health Systems
<b>Wrap-around Services for individuals reentering society after prison</b>	P, I Results areas – FES, RE	Developing positive community supports to address the critical needs and long-term development issues ex-offenders face when re-entering society, such as housing, employment, family stability, mental health issues, and addiction.	Increase number of formerly incarcerated individuals securing gainful employment. Strengthen family and community.	U.S. Department of Labor, TDC – Spectrum Resources, PACE Juvenile Justice Center, YMCA, Willkie House, Creative Visions, ISED Ventures
<b>Parents as Partners Program</b>	S, P, I Results areas – CHAPSS, RE	Creating space for birth parents who are involved in the child welfare system and who have had their children removed from their home to participate in the decision-making process that will impact their future	Strengthen and reunite families, build community	DHS–Child Welfare, Polk Co. Decategorization unit, community partnerships, AECF-Family-to-Family, Elevate, foster parents and birth parents
<b>Community Partners for Protecting Children, and Minority Youth &amp; Families Initiative</b>	S, I Results areas – Youth, RE	Creating space for minority families and teens aging out of foster care to participate in the decision-making process that will impact their future	Strengthen families and youth, build community	DHS-Elevate, Children & Families of Iowa, numerous community partners
<b>Fatherhood Initiative</b>	S, P Results areas – all	Helping non-custodial fathers reconnect with their children and provide positive emotional, physical and financial supports to them.	Link fathers in the community with the support they need to be positively involved in the lives of their children.	DHS–Child Support & Recovery, Grubb YMCA, Families and Fatherhood Coalition of Polk Co.
<b>Black Community Advisory group</b>	S, I Results areas – CHAPSS, RE	Mobilizing group for action, including support for parent volunteers.	Improve outcomes for African American students in Des Moines Public Schools	DMPS
<b>Drivers Licenses for Undocumented Individuals</b>	S, I Results areas – FES, RE	Gathering individuals together to address the economic impact on undocumented individuals who cannot obtain a valid license	Reduce barriers and increase opportunities for individuals to secure employment and build assets	AMOS, MC residents
<b>Action Study Circles</b>	S, I Results areas – CHAPSS, FES, RE	Using affinity groups to identify education and economic issues to work on and build sense of community, focusing on seniors, youth, and Latinos in and around Polk County	Strengthen sense of community	DMACC, UW, CFPC
<b>Administrative/ Office Support</b>	Results areas – all	Reporting, accounting and invoice processing, computer systems administration, meeting coordination, and more		UW, sub-grant partners
<b>Technical Assistance (TARC) -- Connecting MC-related partners and initiatives to expert consultation, coaching, training, capacity building &amp; peer exchanges</b>	S, P Results areas – all	DMPS-coaching		DMPS
	S, I Results areas--all	UW-coaching		UW
	S, I Results areas – CHAPSS, RE	Parent resources – peer exchange		

**CHAPSS (Children Healthy and Prepared to Succeed in School) Initiatives (Children Birth-Grade 3)**

**Close the gap in kindergarten assessment scores between children in Making Connections neighborhoods and other Des Moines children.**  
**2010 Goal:** Score of 52 on DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) test as compared to 57 for Des Moines as a whole  
**Baseline (2001-02):** Score of 42.3 as compared to 52.2 for Des Moines as a whole

**Close the gap in third-grade reading scores between children in Making Connections neighborhoods and other Des Moines children.**  
**2010 Goal:** Score of 50 as compared 57 for other DMPS children  
**Baseline (2001-02):** Score of 44.2 as compared to 54.9 for other DMPS children

Initiative	Change Level	Description	Desired goals & outcomes	Partners (in addition to MC)
<b>Polk County School Readiness Leadership in Action Project (LAP)</b>	S, P, I	County-wide effort to address effects of family mobility and set common goals to make sure all children are ready to enter kindergarten– no matter where they live in Polk County or if they change districts.	Increase number of children ready to enter kindergarten and are prepared to succeed.	Polk Co. public schools, UW, Polk Co. Empowerment, other accountability partners and LAP participants
<b>Making Connections School Readiness Workgroup</b>	P, I	Network of parents who meet regularly to inspire each other and develop strategies that help teach other parents about the importance of early involvement in their child's learning	Empower parents to help their children be prepared to succeed in school.	CFPC, Polk Co. Empowerment, DMPS, UW, childcare providers and parents
<b>Close the Gap in Third Grade Reading Scores initiative</b>	S, P, I	Exploring the idea of conducting parent-school forums at two elementary schools where third grade reading scores are especially low, engaging parents to work with school personnel in understanding issues, and identifying parent, community, school activities to raise achievement and close gap.	Increase third grade reading scores in schools where children come from diverse race, culture, and language backgrounds	DMPS, parents and children
<b>Family literacy initiative</b>	S, P, I	Developing school-based family literacy programs and activities in the elementary grades	Strengthen family literacy through programs and activities in the elementary grades Enhance adult family members' skill set to increase opportunity for better paying jobs	MC School Readiness Workgroup, DMPS, Drake, UW, DMACC, ECP
<b>School-based parent groups and supports</b>	S, P, I	Ongoing support of school-based parent groups to offer simple family-centered strategies for connecting with their child's learning. These include IPTV reading nights and distributing Born Learn materials and School Readiness calendar	Improve parental confidence and competence, build new social ties, establish a community more ready to support young children	MC School Readiness Workgroup, DMPS, IPTV, UW, Polk Co. Empowerment
<b>Making Connections Child Caregivers Network</b>	S, P, I	Using a formal network, now three years old and 117 members strong, to provide education and support to help parents and childcare providers do their work in the best possible way.  Currently moving to provide individuals with health information they can use with their families, working to change childcare subsidy reimbursement timing through policy work, and helping some become registered home care providers resulting in higher child care subsidies.	Increase numbers of children from MC neighborhoods who are healthy and prepared to succeed in school, strengthen families, provide caregivers with meaningful tools and supports, make home care a viable economic occupation for those who choose it, and create a social network that strengthens the community	CFPC, UW, Polk Co. Empowerment, Early Literacy initiative, and others
<b>Play + Learn Circles</b>	P, I	Ongoing support of these opportunities for family, friends and caregivers to learn strategies for connection with young children's learning	Improve young children's acquisition of developmental skills while in child care, create new neighborhood leaders and hubs for promotion of school readiness	MC School Readiness Workgroup, MC Child Caregivers workgroup
<b>Technical Assistance (TARC)</b>	S, P, I	LAP- consultation		ECP

Youth Initiatives (Youth Grades 4-12)

Increase the graduation rate of youth in Making Connections neighborhoods. **2010 Goal:** 100% of youth succeed and graduate from high school.

Initiative	Change Level	Description	Desired goals & outcomes	Partners (in addition to MC)
<b>Youth Directions Initiative</b>	S,P,I	Collaborative effort to improve services for youth in the areas of social development, recreation, after-school programming, spiritual guidance, and health and fitness, including after-school and summer programs.	Improve youth outcomes	Grubb YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Willkie House, Employee and Family Resources, AMOS, PACE Academy
<b>Youth Leadership Development Program</b>	S,P,I	Creating a program focusing on training and development of leadership skills, participation in youth-focused action circles, and mentorship for youth.	Give youth a voice at decision-making table, address policies and practices that result in disproportionate minorities representation in juvenile corrections, special education classes, suspensions and unemployment	UW, Youth Development Partnership of about 350 youth-based groups
<b>AMACHI mentoring program</b>	P,I	Matching children who have parents in the corrections system to adult mentor for one hour each week to decrease use of substances among youth, improve performance in school, reduce violent behavior, and improve self-confidence.	Increase outcomes for children whose parent(s) are incarcerated.	Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Iowa, MC faith leaders
<b>ICUD (Inner City Urban Development) Athletic &amp; Academic League</b>	P,I	Supporting a low-cost opportunity for youth in MC neighborhoods to participate in an organized athletic league. Offerings include tackle football for 3rd through 7th graders, flag football for kindergarteners through 2nd graders (through Grubb YMCA), cheerleading for kindergarteners through 7th graders as well as programs in sports announcing, nutrition education, tutoring, and mentoring. Fees for participation are designed to be reasonable for families.	Increase youth self-esteem, increase numbers of youth succeeding and graduating from high school, enhance sense of community and strengthen families, increase parent involvement, especially, especially among males.	AAU/NFL, Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa, Character Counts, DMARC, Des Moines Parks and Recreation, DMPS, Families First, Grubb YMCA, Harding Middle School, ISU Polk County Extension, Martin Luther King Jr. Neighborhood Association, Midwest Business Solutions, Mondamin Presidential Neighborhood Association, North High School and numerous individuals.
<b>Youth Baseball League</b>	P,I	Forming a baseball league for MC youth to start summer 2007	Provide positive activity for youth	ICUD, FCA, Urban Dreams, Boys & Girls Club, YMCA
<b>Youth Development Group</b>	P,I	A collaboration of MC residents and other individuals who want to make a positive impact on youth at especially high-risk.	Improve youth outcomes	Albert Williams, architect; ISED Ventures, ISU Extensions
<b>Music in the Metro</b>	P,I	Teaching kids about the wide range of careers in the music industry through hands-on learning	Enhance self-esteem of youth, expose youth to career opportunities in music industry.	Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa Music in the Metro, Inc.

Family Economic Success (FES) Initiatives Jobs & Earnings, Asset Growth, Housing

Close employment gap

**2010 Goal:** 81.9%, or 3,193 more residents in Making Connections neighborhoods employed. **Baseline:** 64.7% employed  
**2007 goal:** 1,232 more residents employed (72.16% employed)

Increase median income for residents

**2010 Goal:** \$29,140 annual, \$14.01/hour. **Baseline** (2000): \$18,331 annual, \$9.17/hour in Making Connections neighborhoods (\$38,545 annual, \$19.27/hour for Polk County)  
**2007 goal:** \$23,678 annual, \$11.83/hour in Making Connections neighborhoods (\$44,258 annual, \$22.12/hour for Polk County)

Increase number of households with savings accounts

**2010 Goal:** 64.8% of households, or 2,825 households. **Baseline** (2005): 54.8% of households. **2007 goal:** 58.8% of households, or 2,563 households

Build assets through returns from EITC campaign

**EITC return goal 2007:** \$3.1 million in returns for 2,250 households  
**EITC return actual 2007:** Goal met

Increase percentage of home ownership in each neighborhood

**2010 Goal:** 55.8%, or 5,966, compared to 72.3% for Polk County as a whole. **Baseline (2000):** 51.8%, or 5,538, compared to 65.6% or 102,623 for Polk County as a whole. **2007 goal:** 34 new homeowners

Initiative	Change Level	Description	Desired goals & outcomes	Partners (in addition to MC)
<b>Iowa Works Campaign</b>	S	A coalition of diverse organizations seeking consensus solutions to Iowa's economic challenges that benefit workers, businesses and communities alike.	A more educated and skilled workforce to ensure Iowa's future economic success	The Workforce Alliance, a statewide, non-partisan coalition of over 40 diverse organizations, including CFPC, DMACC, GDMP, ISED, and UW
<b>Comprehensive workforce system for Central Iowa</b>	S,P,I	Reforming workforce system and fully integrating system components to more effectively connect individuals (adults and youth) who need jobs (or will in the future) to the skills they need to be gainfully employed.	Improve business productivity and help low-income individuals not only find a job, but advance over time so that they can support themselves and their families.	DMACC, IES, IWD, DMPS, CBOs, ISED
<b>Workforce Pipelines (Regional)</b>	S,P,I	Working with sectorial boards organized to address long-range industry-and business-specific workforce issues and needs to help unemployed and underemployed individuals secure gainful employment in such arenas as financial services, construction, health care and others.	Create pathways that move unemployed and underemployed residents in MC neighborhoods from skill identification to education and training to job and career opportunities with major workforce regional providers	GDMP, Business & Industry Sectorial Boards, Regional Strategic Workforce Intermediary Board, IES, DMACC, CBOs, ISED

<b>Workforce Pipelines – Construction &amp; Health Care</b>	P,I	Continue supporting efforts to secure apprenticeship and employment positions in the building trades and health care sectors	Create pathways that move unemployed and underemployed residents in MC neighborhoods from skill identification to education and training to job and career opportunities	ISED Ventures, construction trades, health care institutions
<b>Making Connections office in Iowa Employment Solutions @ DMACC</b>	P,I	Establishing a physical location for a “pipeline within a pipeline” especially for MC residents and using specially-trained “service navigators” to network residents to workforce system and other supports.  Links to Strong Families Cohort work.	Connect more individuals in MC neighborhoods, especially individuals in the at-risk groups of youth age 14-21; adult males, primarily ex-offender and young African American males; and women who are at risk of going on welfare – to jobs that pay a sustaining wage. In 2007, goal is to place 525 MC residents into jobs through this office.	DMACC, IES, ISED Ventures, future partners to be determined
<b>Ford Foundation “Supporting Work” Grant</b>	S,P,I	Facilitating eligible employees receiving public benefits through the worksite.	Improve process for eligible persons to receive public benefits through employer sites.	UW, DHS, DMACC, Iowa Health Systems, Mercy Hospital, ISED, CFPC
<b>Making Connections FES Workgroup</b>	S,P,I	Mobilizing residents in MC neighborhoods to work for change on issues related to employment (access to jobs and pipelines to better paying jobs), building assets, and affordable housing (increasing the amount and quality of housing units available for rent or purchase in MC neighborhoods).	Empower residents to work for change.	ISED Ventures, MC residents and consumers
<b>EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) campaign</b>	S,P,I	Designed to help individuals build wealth by taking advantage of the EITC provided by the U.S. government through income tax filing and positively impact state policy on EITC. Free tax filing services offered during tax season January-April each year.	Increase number of individuals filing for the EITC, increase assets, and decrease effects of predatory practices.	Asset Building Coalition of Des Moines
<b>Financial literacy course development</b>	S,P	Customizing financial literacy courses and services and developing system-change strategic plan	Reduce debt, increase savings for MC residents	CCI-DM, ISED Ventures, ABCD, Neighborhood Finance Corporation, UW, financial institutions, MC residents
<b>Financial product development</b>	S,P	Working to identify ways financial institutions can better serve needs of MC residents and develop financial products that meet those needs	Increase assets	ISED Ventures, CCI-DM, Iowa Finance Authority, ABCD, CFPC, financial institutions, UW
<b>Youth Savings Accounts</b>	P	Providing youth, primarily juniors and seniors, with the opportunity to establish a small savings account, usually IDAs, and participate in a savings club	Help youth prepare to succeed as adults and be economically self-sufficient. 2007 goal: 100 youth participating.	DMPS, Jim Casey Youth, IDA program, ISED Ventures
<b>Predatory lending monitoring and prevention</b>	S,P,I	A broad collaborative effort to address impact of predatory lending on many fronts – from monitoring sub-prime lending practices so that sub-prime lenders do not become predatory lenders to launching anti-predatory lending public policy efforts, and organizing homeowners in or being threatened by foreclosure and neighborhoods negatively affected by foreclosure to sharing stories with elected officials, the media and others	Increase opportunity for family economic security, reduce debt and increase assets	CCI-DM, Coalition against Abusive Lending, ABCD, Iowa Attorney General's office, Iowa Credit Union League, Allied/Nationwide Insurance, Iowa Appraisal Advisory Council, Iowa Chapter National Association Master Appraisers, Fannie Mae-division of Banking, Iowa Bankers Association, Iowa State Bank, Bankers Trust, Des Moines City Council members, First American Bank, Spectrum Resources, Building Together, Habitat for Humanity, St. Paul AME, Corinthian Baptist Church, Amazing Grace Church, ISED Ventures, CFPC
<b>Coordination of housing activities</b>	S,P	A collaborative effort to address issue of lack of affordable housing options for income groups that include MC residents. Looking at the areas of homeless outreach/supportive services, emergency shelters, transitional shelters, permanent rental, and homeownership.	Increase affordable housing options for low-income households	Polk County Housing Continuum, City of Des Moines, Polk Co., UW
<b>Women on the Move</b>	I	Group of women who sought job coaching and now work together to mentor to other women and help them address barriers to better employment opportunities	Build self-esteem and skills needed to secure jobs that pay self-sustaining wages	ISED Ventures, MC residents and consumers
<b>Technical Assistance (TARC)</b>	S,P	Workforce Systems & strategies-consultation		DMACC, IES, GDMP
	S,P	Center for Working Families		DMACC, IES
	S,P	Benefit calculator assessment-consultation		UW
	S,P	Food stamp federal match-consultation		

Health Initiatives

Increase the number of eligible children enrolled in S-CHIP (State Health Insurance Program for Children), decrease numbers who disenroll, and maintain 100% coverage for those eligible for Medicaid. **2010 Goal:** 95%. **Baseline:** (2001): 29%

Increase the percentage of women accessing prenatal care in their first trimester. **Baseline** (1999-2000): 87.69%  
 Increase the number of people who have access to low cost pharmaceuticals.

Initiative	Change Level	Description	Desired goals & outcomes	Partners (in addition to MC)
Neighborhood Health Initiative	S,P,I	Peer-to-peer outreach program that seeks to identify hard-to-reach individuals and families who have health needs and provide them with information, education, referrals and assistance to meet their health care needs	Increase health and health outcomes for families and children	Iowa Health Systems, Iowa Health Foundation, UW, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, group of anonymous donors
Safety-net medical information system	S,P	Using health data collected on uninsured residents to link hospital emergency rooms with free and subsidized clinics	Reduce barriers to health care for uninsured residents	HAP, Iowa Health Des Moines through the NHI, VNS, Primary Health Care, Inc., Wellmark Foundation
SCHIP (hawk-i) outreach and enrollment	P,I	Iowa's health insurance program for children.	Increase number of children covered by the state's health insurance program for children to ensure greater access to health care	Health Care Coverage for Kids Coalition, VNS, Polk County Empowerment, UW, HAP, DHS, Maximus, Head Start
Prenatal care access	P,I	Focus represents a variety of initiatives underway, including having multi-cultural, bilingual, grassroots community health advisor (CHA) staff based in MC neighborhoods, maintaining a storefront in a MC neighborhood with drop-in availability, providing training for outreach staff in topics such as health realization and navigating financial assistance procedures with health providers, and maintaining outreach to prisons to link inmates who are nearing re-entry to health services for themselves and family members.	Reduce barriers to prenatal care and health services	HAP, Iowa Health Des Moines through the Neighborhood Health Initiative, Iowa Health Des Moines through the NHI, VNS, Primary Health Care, Inc., Polk County Empowerment, UW, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, Greater Des Moines Community Foundation, Polk County
Access to affordable pharmaceuticals	P,I	Marketing pharmacy services to the safety net health care providers and other human service providers in the community. Expand pharmacy services to include bi-lingual health education on chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes.	Increase the number of people who have access to low cost pharmaceuticals.	Primary Health Care, Inc., HAP, Broadlawn Medical Center, Mercy Medical Center, Iowa Health Des Moines, Drake University College of Pharmacy

Resident Engagement Initiatives

Increase people who are actively participating in local organizations. **2010 Goal:** 54.1% or 12,117  
**Baseline** (2002): 46.7%, 10,460

problems. **2010 Goal:** 34.8%, 7,795 people  
**Baseline** (2002): 27.6%, or 6,182

Increase percent of residents getting together with neighbors to solve

Increase percent of residents who have gained experience in volunteer efforts or taken leadership roles. **2010 Goal:** 53.6%. **Baseline:** 46%.

Initiative	Change Level	Description	Desired goals & outcomes	Partners (in addition to MC)
Actions				
Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods	P,I	Thrivent Financial grant application process for a neighborhood action plan of up to \$1 million for King-Irving and Mondamin Presidential neighborhoods. Grants for housing, programs, and services for families in the neighborhoods.	Increase resident participation and success in neighborhoods, family success and youth outcomes.	Thrivent Financial, Habitat for Humanity, City of Des Moines, King-Irving and Mondamin Presidential Neighborhood Associations, Des Moines Neighbors, House of Mercy, King School, Grubb YMCA, Rebuilding Together, HOME, Inc., Neighborhood Finance Corporation, CHDC, Shalom Zone, Anawim, UW, and Polk County.
Residents Called to Action	I	Residents from MC neighborhoods working in concert with the Leadership Council on the local management transition design. Also meeting regularly to address ongoing issues of their neighborhoods and community.	Improve neighborhoods, strengthen families, build community	LC, MC residents and consumers
Active Resident Organizer (ARO) outreach	S,P,I	Using trained personnel and intensive outreach efforts and one-on-one meetings, identifying new and creative ways to help individuals connect to the work where it is most meaningful to them and helping them understand the power of their own voice.	Build social networks, link residents and resident organizations to resources, and identify resident leaders, address social justice issues by helping groups form around them, and engage residents in specific result areas	AMOS, CCI-DM, NHI
Faith leaders collaboration	S, P, I	Building capacity within the African American faith community to lead their congregations and neighborhoods in efforts for political action and policy change that would improve their outcomes	Strengthen sense of community and ability to collaborate on common issues, ease process for individuals re-entering society after prison	More than a dozen faith leaders in MC neighborhoods
Men of Faith	I	Individuals from MC neighborhoods working together for community.	Build community, strengthen neighborhoods	Lay leaders of MC neighborhood churches, AMOS

Support group for parents of bi-racial children	P,I	Supporting the formation of a group of parents as they seek to work with issues faced by their bi-racial children, including developing self-identity, teaching history, connecting with a bi-racial background, unique racial discrimination, and hair care.	Strengthen families and provide families access to supports they need	DMACC, MC residents, others in Polk County
TimeBank (formerly Time Dollar)	P,I	A program that empowers people to convert their personal time into purchasing power by helping others and by rebuilding family, neighborhood and community. One hour helping earns one Time Dollar that can be redeemed for one hour of service or help from someone else.	Aid in family self-sufficiency, strengthen families and neighborhoods	TimeBank USA
Facilitators for Family Team Meetings	S,P,I	Using trained facilitators, including some from MC neighborhoods, to guide the Family Team Meetings (FTM) set up by DHS to resolve conflicts within a particular family unit related to the potential removal of a child or children from the home. FTMs are gatherings of family members, friends, community resources and others who join together to help a family when facing a crisis.	Strengthen the family by helping them build trust, manage conflict and produce a plan that they can agree to and give parents greater say and input into the process.	DHS
Capacity building				
Resident Leadership Certificate Program	P,I	Establishing a formal certification process for emerging resident leaders	Increase MC neighborhood residents' capacity to lead or participate as leaders in initiatives that have the potential for positive impact on the lives of families and children	DMACC, City of Des Moines, ISU Extensions, Des Moines Neighbors, MC residents
Resident Leadership Facilitation	I	Helping residents increase their skills to effectively design and run meetings, create and use agendas, ask effective questions and use listening skills to stay neutral.	Empower residents to get involved in groups or speak to issues that affect their lives.	MC residents
Leadership Training	I	Helping persons active in MC neighborhoods develop leadership skills to train others.	Empower residents to share the leadership skills they've acquired with others.	MC residents
Small Grants for Growth	P,I	Providing up to \$1,000 for qualified community-led projects designed to help bring residents together for building social networks	Build community, strengthen social networks	UW, MC residents
Technical Assistance (TARC)	S,P,I	Social networks- capacity building		
	P,I	Resident leadership certification- capacity building		
	P,I	Philanthropy -consultation		
	P,I	Organizational development-capacity building		ICUD

Cross-Results Supports & Capacity Building for Sustainability (General Overview)

Service Area	Initiative or Activity	Results Area	Partners
Communications	Leveraging the MC initiative and informing, connecting and mobilizing MC residents and community partners by telling the MC story in consistent and dependable ways through weekly ebulletins, community calendars, quarterly newsletters, and enhanced Internet site	All	Community partners
	"Way of Work" - telling the story of Making Connections and the Des Moines community	All	
	Transition to local management communications	All	
	Empowering engaged residents in using communications and telling their own stories to advance the work of strengthening families and neighborhoods and closing the gaps in outcomes. Efforts include development of online toolbox, resources catalog, and print-on-demand guide sheets, mini-clinics, one-to-one consultation, strategic frame analysis training, media equipment lending service, citizen journalism opportunities, communications resource identification, and more	RE	AECF, UCLA-Center for Communications & Community
	"Rosevelt's America" media outreach opportunity. Geared to address FES issues primarily of "non-thriving" refugee populations living MC neighborhoods, including those from Southeast Asian and African countries	FES, RE	New Iowans/IWD, Lutheran/Catholic Refugee Cooperative Services, Mercy College, World Refugee Day Coalition, AECF, Outreach Extensions
	"Critical Condition" media outreach opportunity. Focused on the effects of medical debt timed to coincide with national media spotlight on Iowa before the January 2008 caucuses.	FES, health, RE	AMOS, IPTV, AECF, Outreach Extensions

<b>Data &amp; Evaluation (LLP) - co-lead with UW</b>	Sustaining and building on integration of Results Based Accountability (RBA) into community change partners' work	All	UW
	Producing relevant community data scans and analyses (e.g. parenting education and support programs for school readiness, workforce training and family economic success, crime data, corrections data, TANF, Promise Jobs data, etc.)	All	
	Collecting and analyzing fiscal data of overall public spending on children and families in Polk County	All	
	Strong Families Cohort – data collection	All	ECP, UW, Resident Outreach Workers
	Analyzing data MC Cross Site/Wave 2 Survey	All	ISU
	Updating school data analysis regarding kindergarten assessment, third-grade reading scores, elementary attendance, early care education & pre-school programs	CHAPSS	CFPC
	Analyzing birth records related to low birth weight, early entry in prenatal care, adolescent parenting and single parenting	CHAPSS, health	CFPC
	Updating data regarding housing through HMDA and assessor data	FES	
	Supporting process evaluation work	All	Drake University, Mary Achatz
<b>Diarist Project</b>	Documentation of the MCDM initiative in real time, through the eyes of the individuals engaged in the work. Includes both shorter reflections and longer stories that ask these individuals to reflect on a particular strategy, challenge, success, or shortcoming. The goal is to better understand and document the long and challenging process of implementing an ambitious project or initiative like MCDM for future learning.	All	AECF, Charitable Choices
<b>Funding -- Grant Writing/ Investment/ Philanthropy</b>	Central Iowa Funders Forum	All	
	Greater Des Moines Community Foundation—providing technical assistance to aid in development of the Foundation's long-term strategic plan to build funding capacity and impact for Des Moines.	All	Greater Des Moines Community Foundation, The Philanthropy Initiative of Boston, AECF
	Social Venture Partnerships to align innovative philanthropists with a cause important to them by contributing their time, business acumen, entrepreneurial spirit and seed capital. Embodies creative collaboration, hands-on involvement of investing partners, and micro-enterprise models combining entrepreneurial business practices with a nonprofit mission	All	UW, others
	Grant- Buy Into the Circle	FES	GDMP
	Grass-roots Philanthropy	RE	

## Keys

### Change-level Key

S	=	Systems changes – policy & practice
P	=	Programmatic and provider changes
I	=	Individual, neighborhood or community level changes

### Results-areas key

CHAPSS	=	Children Healthy & Prepared to Succeed in School
FES	=	Family Economic Success
RE	=	Resident Engagement

### Partners Abbreviation Key (not all partners listed here, just those whose names have been shortened in the charts)

ABCD	=	Asset Building Coalition of Des Moines
AECF	=	Annie E. Casey Foundation
AMOS	=	A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy
CBO	=	Community-based organization
CCI-DM	=	Citizens for Community Improvement-Des Moines
CFPC	=	Child & Family Policy Center
DHS	=	Iowa Department of Human Services

DMACC	=	Des Moines Area Community College
DMARC	=	Des Moines Area Religious Council
DMPS	=	Des Moines Public Schools
DOC	=	Iowa Department of Corrections
ECP	=	Early Childhood Partnership
FCA	=	Fellowship of Christian Athletes
GDMP	=	Greater Des Moines Partnership
HAP	=	Health Access Partnership
HER	=	Hispanic Educational Resources
IES	=	Iowa Employment Solutions at DMACC
IPTV	=	Iowa Public Television
IWD	=	Iowa Workforce Development
LC	=	Making Connections Leadership Council
LLP	=	Local Learning Partner
MC	=	Making Connections Des Moines
NHI	=	Neighborhood Health Initiative
TDC	=	The Directors Council
UW	=	United Way of Central Iowa, including Emerging Leaders, Social Venture Partnerships, Women's Leadership Connection
VNS	=	Visiting Nurse Service



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