



Family Focused Initiative

Integrated Pilot Embraces New Approach

Continuing challenges in the economic climate necessitates change in approaches . . .

“While families may be served by many programs simultaneously, the needs that propel them toward long-term dependency often go unaddressed due to insufficient resources, lack of coordination, and the inability to access flexible funds that target their immediate needs not otherwise met by current programs,” . . .

says Alan Robichaud, Community Development Director for Lakes Region United Way.

Lakes Region United Way under the leadership of its Financial Stability Steering Committee with members from all sectors of the community has created a new and unique pilot focused toward families in need via the Free & Reduced Lunch program within the Laconia School district.

The intentional narrow scope of the pilot is to provide high-impact, outcome driven successes in stabilizing family cohesiveness, preventing long-term dependency in social services programs and improved coordination of the broad array of services from a family or parent perspective.

Pilot Snapshot

The Free & Reduced Lunch program within the SAU 30 School District has a high participation rate ~ 64%, the highest in Belknap County and considerably higher than the state-wide average of 50%

Participation rate at the elementary student level is increasing at greater than 3% year over year

Selective Goals:

Avoid long-term dependency & restore families’ economic stability by maximizing capacities of local services.

Facilitate a family centric coordinated system tailored to specific family needs.

Organizing for Action . . .

Times are challenging, non-profit community services are under continuing financial pressure, but as with any challenge often new discoveries can be made.

The Steering Committee comprised of numerous organizations in our community, both private and public has developed this new coordinated approach in an effort to increase impact, begin with the family-in-need perspective and attain high success rates in preventing long-term dependency for social services.

This new approach may serve as a fundamental change in the way United Way and all of the Community Partners improve efficiency and collaborate for impact. We need and seek your help in making this initial pilot a success. We look forward to your support.

LRUW Stimulates Investment:

- LRUW establishes \$25,000. fund to stimulate key Coordinator role
- Success and sustainability hinges on additional support.





Why Change? Why Now?

Families need support in making their way through the maze of programs and services often duplicating efforts and finding dead ends along the way.

Ofentimes they only need the right resource at the right time to quickly get back on their feet. Instead they find it difficult to pinpoint the one connection that will get them back on the road to self-sufficiency.

Today, the safety net is shrinking and resources are diminishing. This scarcity demands direct and rapid response to families' in need. They cannot languish on waiting lists waiting for services that may never come. They need dignity, pride and self-respect. And they need access to asset-building relationships that redeem their self-sufficiency.

"Scarce economies either increase the number of low-income households or hit them the hardest."

*~ Jack Terrill,
President, Lakes Region United Way*

Family Centric Approach . . .

