

Madison Parish Ready Start



Blueprint

2/03/2020

Introduction

Currently Madison Parish Ready Start is a community coalition comprised of early care and education programs; Delta Head Start/Early Head Start, Madison Parish School System, Madison Parish Retire Teacher Association, University View-Tallulah Campus, Delta College-Tallulah Campus, and childcare providers committed to creating and implementing a vision to improve opportunities and inspire change for children birth to five in Madison Parish.

The Madison Parish Early Childhood Lafayette Parish Network consists of 3 Type III Early Learning Centers, forty-two (42) LEA-4 Pre-K classrooms at one elementary school, twenty (20) LEA for at a charter school, and two Head Start and one Early Head Start sites. As of October 2019, in total, 241 children, birth to age five, are served through public funds in the community.

Madison Parish future is dependent on the success of its children and families, together we have an opportunity to transform the future of our parish in one generation. Access to quality early care and education programs ensure parents keep working or complete higher education and that children are on track to a brighter future.

The following are the preliminary changes of 2019-2020 Madison Community Wide Assessment:

According to the 2019 U.S. Census update, since 2019, the population continues to decrease in Madison Parish.

Table 1: Geographic	U.S. Census Population by Parish									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Madison	12,100	11,972	12,206	11,899	11,805	11,575	11,528	11,528	11,161	

U.S. Census Bureau, "Louisiana Quick Facts"	Louisiana	Madison
Population 2019 estimates	4,681,666	11,161
The Percentage of the Total Population in Poverty	20.2%	38.4%
Under Age 5	30.9%	61.2%
Under Age 18	27.7%	53.4%
Age 65 or Older	12.8%	23.9%
Married Couple with Children Under 5	7.1%	43.9%
Female Headed Household with Children Under 5	55%	76.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2019 update

Poverty rates are higher in Louisiana than in the nation falling behind New Mexico and Mississippi. The 2019 U.S. Census update report estimated nearly 888,280 of Louisiana's

4.4 plus million residents lived below the federal poverty line, about \$26,200 for a family of four. As of July 2018, Louisiana had four parishes with more than 32% of their population living in poverty¹.

East Carroll, 48%	Lincoln, 32.1%	Tensas, 35.4%
Madison, 38.4%	Richland 20.9%	

Poverty is also disproportionately concentrated along the Mississippi River’s rural communities and among African Americans. Child poverty, particularly among very young children, is also significantly higher in Louisiana than in the nation as a whole. Louisiana ranks 47 in the nation in its percentage of children living in poverty. Also, the state ranks 49 in the nation in its percentage of families with children living in single-parent households². The above data reflects that Madison Parish is one of those parishes with a significant amount of poverty.

The Analysis Access in Ready Start Madison Parish.

The LDOE data above reflects that investing in early childhood ensures children will have the foundation they need to learn and succeed. Further, the State overall system have the continued need of the Early Childhood to improve children score in Madison Parish.

Limited day care facilities are available for the care of infants/toddlers and pre-school age children at locations throughout Madison Parish. Currently there are children receiving kinship care, state child care, foster homes, family day care homes and private day care as shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Children Enrolled in Public Funded Child Care and Family Day Care		
Parish	Family Day Care Homes	Publicly Funded Child-Care
Broadway	-	-
Gultery	-	9
Kids Planet	-	15
Delta CAA	192	-

Source: 2019 Coordinated Enrollment - Oct 1 Child Count – Delta CAA Data

The following is the current enrollment for Head Start, Early Head Start, Charter School and Public School:

¹ 2019 U.S. Census Update Poverty

¹⁰ Kids Count Data Center, 2019

Table 3: Service Area Pre-K Enrolled				
Parish	Head Start	Early Head Start	Charter Schools	Public School Pre-K
Madison	114	19	16	68
Total	114	19	16	68

Source: 2019 Coordinated Enrollment - Oct 1 Child Count

Local community enrollment data indicates that only 2 Infants, 16 Ones and 17 Twos are currently enrolled in early care and education program in Madison Parish. This is important because 90% of brain development before age five. That means that if we are waiting to provide quality early care and education experiences until children arrive to preschool and/or kinder, we have missed out on the most critical period of the child development.

Current state percentage of each age group based on need:

Table 4: Total Publicly-Funded Children by Age				
Measure	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2016 to 2019 Change
Total Publicly-Funded Children	305	281	298	-7
Infants Served	3	2	4	1
Ones Served	15	13	9	-6
Twos served	17	20	21	4
Threes Served	110	110	150	40
Fours Served	160	136	114	-46

Source: Louisiana Department of Education

Trends –

The total number of children served by Madison School Boards, Delta HS/EHS, Kids Planet, Gultery Day Care and Broadways Day Care, Family Day Care Homes, Kinship Care and Charter Schools indicates that the majority of eligible pre-school age children are being served. However, based on the above data, approximately 62 infants/toddlers are not being served in Madison Parish

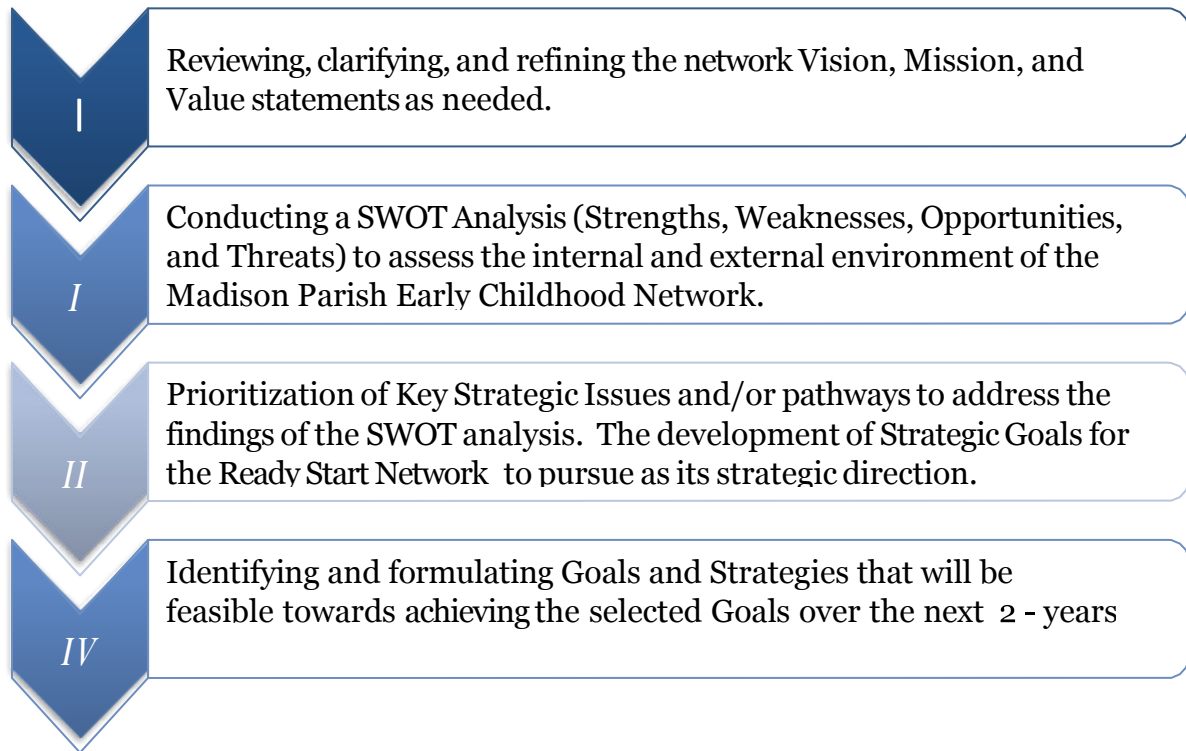
The following are common themes that continue to emerge across Madison Parish:

- Decrease in population (out-migration).
- Gaps in Infant and Toddler care.
- Decrease of one pre-k classroom by Tallulah Charter and Tallulah Elementary.
- Decrease in 3 & 4-year-old population in Madison.
- Lack of transportation.
- Lack of Jobs.
- Decrease in number of individuals able to meet job requirements.
- Migrant workers are being hired to work in agriculture industry.
- Declining retail establishments.

- Increase in drug/alcohol abuse and loss of local recovery center funding

Overview of the Strategic Planning Process

The process adopted by Madison Parish Ready Start Networks in the development of a 3-year Strategic Plan for implementation from 2019-2021 included four phases:



Guiding Statements

Vision:

Our vision is to educate Madison Parish children ages birth to five through unified efforts.

Mission:

Madison Parish Ready Start will engage the community to help provide high quality education in a safe, respectful and inclusive environment to enrich the growth and development of young children, which builds a foundation for life-long learning.

Core Value Statements

Affirmed by the Madison Parish Ready Start Network Stakeholders

- Madison Ready Start Network believes a well-trained and committed early childhood care professional is best able to serve children birth to 5. Madison Ready Start Network continuously works on the personal and professional growth of each member of Delta Connection Early Childhood Network.

Strategic Plan

Goal 1: To increase access to early care and education opportunities for Infants/Toddlers (I/T) in Madison Parish by 5% per year for 2 years.

Strategy

1. Evaluate availability of current slots by age and early childhood center location.
2. Identify potential facilities to add additional slots.
3. Submit a Coordinated Funding EHS funding opportunity.
4. Delta HS/EHS will submit an EHS funding opportunity, when funds are available.

Resources:

Existing: Madison Parish currently has 3 Type III child care centers and 2 Head Start Centers and 1 Early Head Start Center serving economically disadvantaged children.

Performance Metrics: Measurement of number of seats served with public funding using October 1 and February 1 Child Count Reports compared to the Federal Poverty Line.

Goal 2: Each funding year, improve quality of the early care and education opportunities for lead teachers.

Strategy

1. Increase the skills and knowledge base of Early Childhood professionals.
2. Ready Start Coach for all public funded programs (CLASS, Curriculum, TS GOLD).

Resources:

- Intentional professional development on the curriculum is provided at least 2 times per year, but is needed more often. Coaching for daycare centers is provided by Resource and Referral, but needed more often.
- Classrooms are not as well equipped in childcare centers as in schools. More science math, and literacy materials are needed in childcare centers.
- Existing: Two Education expert providing best practice approaches to the network.
- Needed: Mentor Coach that will offer childcare technical are needed in all areas of CLASS, Curriculum and TS GOLD.

Performance Metrics: Analyze Performance Profiles and teachers' CLASS scores to track the number of centers rated proficient or above.

Goal 4: Find and develop funding to support strategy implementation

Strategy

1. Work with a professional fundraising group
2. Develop and execute fundraising plan
3. Increase marketing of School Readiness Tax Credits to community
4. Assess outcome results

Resources:

- Existing: None
- Needed:
 - Increased community support through local partnerships
 - Marketing budgets funding or tactics

Performance Metrics: Funding budget measured annually through local and School Readiness Tax Credit donations

Goal 5: Increase community awareness of early childcare in Madison Parish to increase resources

- Improve the Madison Early Childhood Network website
- Utilize social media
- Coordinated enrollments events throughout the year

Resources:

- Existing: Madison Early Childhood Network currently holds one coordinated enrollment event per year. The event is held during the month of March at each partners location with daily reports to Lead Agency.
- Needed: A Ready Start Network website created by a web designer updated frequently by a social media specialist responsible for developing and implementing marketing and customer care strategies through the use of social media. The specialist would be responsible for maintaining the public image of early childcare on the Internet through mediums such as Facebook.

Performance Metrics: Track childcare centers, Head Start/Early Head Start, Charter School and school site enrollment monthly to see if social media and recruitment events are attracting more children.