

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

2022

A collaborative, community action plan for the next generation of Falmouth students and their families.



FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS



OVERVIEW

GRANTEE COMMUNITY

Town of Falmouth

LEAD AGENCY

Falmouth Public Schools

GRANT COORDINATOR

Bethany Gay

PRIORITY STRANDS SELECTED

Priority Strands 1 & 2

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PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

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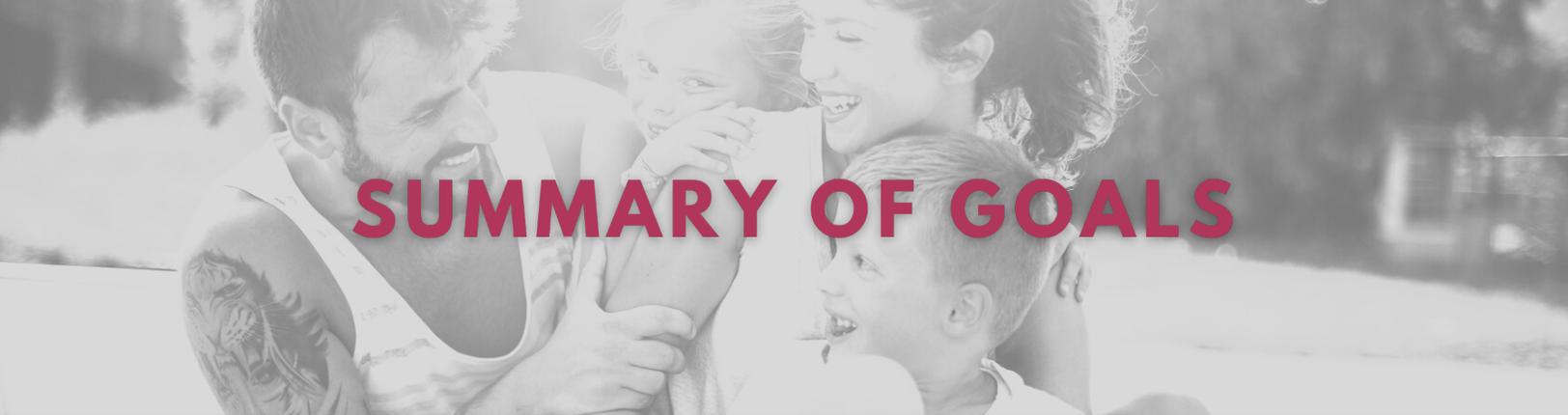
Director, Cape Cod Community College Director of Early Education and Care Pathways Grant

LYNN CAMPBELL

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BETH GAFFNEY

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SUMMARY OF GOALS

This CPPI grant is currently at the **initial, planning stage** of programming implementation.

During the Winter and Spring of 2021-2022, The Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative surveyed and met with families of young children (birth-5yo) and Early Education and Care Providers across Falmouth in an effort to gain insights into these families' experiences when seeking childcare, as well as, other barriers to programs and services.

Our goal was to determine current providers, what is working, what isn't, where there are barriers to participation, and what early education opportunities families would like to see more of in the community.

A total of 159 families and 11 licensed early education and care providers participated in this study, including 25 focus group participants reflecting the full spectrum of socioeconomic, racial and ethnic diversities in Falmouth (See Appendix A).



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Falmouth families and early education and care providers participated in surveys and focus groups which revealed several obstacles, barriers and opportunities. After reviewing the results were able to identify five main areas of focus: **Enrollment Slots, Affordability, Social-Emotional and Behavioral Concerns, Workforce Development and Hours of Operation.**

We realize that we will not be able to implement future CPPI Grants alone, and that stakeholder and community involvement will be paramount to our success. We have chosen a well-rounded leadership of governance team with individuals who are willing to help us achieve our goals of providing, affordable, accessible and equitable early education and care to Falmouth families.

With this strong governance team, and steered by data from our needs assessment and focus groups, we anticipate fulfilling the needs of Falmouth families with additional funding opportunities and resources. For example, we hope to apply for the next round of CPPI Cohort 3 funding.



FACT-FINDING & DATA COLLECTION

Fact-Finding and Data Collection:

Through focus groups and surveys of Falmouth families, we were able to determine that access to early education and care is one of the main barriers. We found that while there are early education and care provider options within the District, many of these programs have waitlists. Some of these providers are not able to open additional slots due to staffing shortages.

For other families, affordability of care is another glaring issue. On Cape Cod, the average cost of preschool is \$15,000 per year and \$21,000 per year for infant care. Massachusetts families earning the state median income may spend up to 39% of their gross income on early education and care.

Furthermore, 36% of families surveyed indicated that their needs were not being met, with Affordability & Availability representing 51% of that group, and Hours of Operation, Quality Concerns, Social-Emotional and Behavioral Supports, Cultural and Diversity Needs and Health Supports rounding out the rest (See Appendix A).



PRIORITY STRAND 1

Action Steps

I. Presentation: Town of Falmouth Human Services Committee
August 2, 2022

II. Continue to work with CommonStart passing legislature to help families afford childcare

III. Apply for CPPI Implementation Grant to expand affordable, accessible and equitable early education and care in Falmouth

IV. Continue to work with local education organizations to provide opportunities to support more early education and care workforce development

A photograph of three young children sitting on the floor, playing with colorful blocks. One child is on the left, another in the center, and a third on the right. They are all focused on their play. The image is in grayscale with a light blue overlay at the bottom.

PRIORITY STRAND 2

Action Steps

- I. Provide ASQ assistance to all licensed early education and care providers in Falmouth
- II. Provide asynchronous Wee Thinkers videos for early education and care providers for support with social-emotional curriculum childcare
- III. Work with Falmouth High School Early Education Vocational program to expand hours and training for potential teachers
- IV. Develop PD to assist early education and care providers to align with Falmouth Public Schools
- IV. Provide trainings to parents on the social-emotional learning in alignment with the schools for kindergarten readiness



APPENDIX A

Survey Results (Care Providers)

https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-sH4xYE92p3GgUYAzeVlcqg_3D_3D/

Survey Results (Falmouth Families)

https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-YZSNfv57GxIYP1vKa2qIMg_3D_3D/

Summary Report

(Attached)