



REGION 21 SNAPSHOT INFOGRAPHIC

Using a Collective Impact Model, between September 2022 and June 2023, we led our Action and Family Councils through data discussions to identify gaps and needs for children and families.

We coordinated focus groups, interviews, and surveys to gather input from community members across the Region.



8,982

Children Under
the Age of 6
in Region 21



4,236

Children 0-5
at 200% Federal
Poverty Level



4,746

Children 0-5
Without Publicly
Funded ECEC Slots



Three out of four children do not have access to Birth to Three programs and/or services.

"There are only 38 slots for children ages birth to three in my county. I cannot even fathom the fiscal and emotional stress of having to try and raise a child in Johnson County if family was not an option."
- Parent, Johnson County

After identifying the most common and pressing Early Childhood Education & Care (ECEC) needs of their communities, Regional Councils made recommendations for how best to meet them.

REGION 21 NEEDS

1. Families need more information about the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), including family and provider eligibility.
2. Families need access to more Birth to Three services.
3. Early Childhood educators need competitive, livable wages along with benefits (health, retirement, paid time off, holiday pay).

REGION 21 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase utilization of the CCAP by increasing promotion and education for families.
2. Expand Birth to Three services in the entire Region. No county in the Region services more than 29% of its children.
3. Share information about the State's current workforce initiatives, educate the public about the need for more teachers, and advocate for increased public dollars that support adequate compensation.



“Access to quality, affordable early learning opportunities is imperative for rural Southern Illinois. When parents can go to work, the local and state economies can thrive, and we are laying a foundation for child success.”
- Business Leader, Williamson County