

Region 24 Discussion Notes

Grundy, Kendall

General Comments

- Not surprised how many families are living under the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- FPL seemed accurate.
- There are no Head Start programs in the region.
- Map – noticed that services are all clumped together along the edge of the region.
- Head Start in Morris had to close due to COVID and the funding was removed because they didn't meet the number of families requirements to stay open. There were too many families above the income bracket.
- The Plano area is trying to expand the services offered in the school district to the entire region.
- Trying to make Head Start equitable to all children because of the services and resources the program would offer to all children.
- We need better transportation in rural areas to get children where they need to be.

Strengths/Assets

- Areas with a higher income level have the resources to support children.

Needs/Challenges

- Family engagement.
- Special needs assistance – need resources in all parts of the region.
- More providers are needed for all areas.
- There are long waitlists for spots.
- Family assistance isn't consistent.

- Child Care Assistance Program – the cutoff is causing parents to question whether to quit their jobs because they technically make too much to qualify, but they are using their entire paychecks to cover child care and keep their families afloat.