THE MCLENNAN COUNTY CHILD WELL-BEING MOVEMENT

Powered by United Way of Waco-McLennan County

UNITED WAY Waco-McLennan County

In measuring the health of a community, there is probably no more accurate barometer than the well-being of its children.

In 2021, United Way of Waco-McLennan County released *Are the Children Well?*, a report gauging the well-being of local children aged 5 years and younger. Based on the surveys of almost 400 residents, the report brought to light the lack of resources, such as affordable childcare, and an absence of connectedness in the community. In response, partners of the McLennan County Child Well-being Movement collaborated with residents to develop the *McLennan County Child Well-being Community Action Plan.*

The plan addresses five main areas of focus:

- **Ensure Access to High-Quality Childcare and Educational Opportunities**
- **Meet the Basic Needs of Children and Families**
- **Increase Access to Resources**
- **Create More Connectedness and Address the Racial Divide**
- **Take Action**

Where We Are Now

Workgroups made up of local service agencies are now actively seeking to identify and promote resources that help bridge gaps in services identified in the plan. The plan also takes a two-generation approach: while the focus is on children, when their families are well-supported children are more likely to thrive.

LOCAL FAMILIES AT A GLANCE

McLennan County is a good place to raise a family, but many local families still struggle. The numbers below point to the urgency of advancing the *McLennan County Child Well-being Community Action Plan.*

20%

McLennan County ranks in the bottom 20% nationally in overall social capital (measured by family stability, community cohesion, social organization, etc.)

26% **of county residents live above the poverty level, have jobs, and *still struggle to meet their families' basic needs.*** They are "**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, and **E**mployed" (ALICE).

55% of families live above the ALICE threshold

18% of families live in poverty

27% are ALICE households

Language barriers play a role in child well-being.

18% **of county residents speak a language other than English at home**

> **"Failure to provide for the children frustrates the efforts of many capable family members to participate in the region's economic bounty and limits the lifetime opportunities of the affected children."**
>
> **Dr. Ray Perryman**
> President and CEO
> *The Perryman Group*

Get Involved

Watch a video *The Child Well-being Movement*

Scan to join the movement!

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