

Strategy: Homelessness

Provide supports and services to homeless children and their families to increase academic achievement.

Target Population:

Homeless students attending Cartersville City and Bartow County School Systems and their families.

Benchmark Objectives:

- Decrease the percentage of children living in poverty from 18.7% in 2009 to 17.1% in 2017.
- Increase the number of 5th Grade homeless students meeting or exceeding state standards on CRCT promotional test in Reading from 82% in 2010-2011 to 87% to 2016-2017.
- Increase the number of 5th Grade homeless students meeting or exceeding state standards on CRCT promotional test in Math from 80.5% in 2010-2011 to 89% to 2016-2017.
- Increase the number of 3rd Grade homeless students meeting or exceeding state standards on CRCT promotional test in Reading from 96% in 2010-2011 to 100% to 2016-2017.
- Increase community in-kind support for Back Pack Buddies Program from 82% in 2012-2013 to 90% 2016-2017.

Programs:

Adult Education Services

English as a second language, GED preparation classes, and certified GED testing centers are offered through Chattahoochee Tech. English as a Second Language is taught at Summer Hill, St. Francis, Cartersville Library, Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter, and Cartersville-Goodwill Career Center.

Attendance Support Meetings

Truancy intervention/prevention resources target Bartow County and Cartersville City Schools homeless children.

BackPack Buddies

Weekend food program provides support to hunger deprived students, grades 1 through 12.

Bartow County Resource Directory

Bartow Collaborative facilitates the annual update, reprint, and distribution of community Resource Directory to service providers.

Bartow Give a Kid a Chance

Annual back-to-school assistance provides backpacks, school supplies, clothing, haircuts, and screenings for dental, vision, and hearing to children at need.

Child Care Assistance

Referrals are offered for parents, inclusion services are provided to children with special needs, and training and technical assistance is available for child care providers through Quality Care For Children; Rollins Learning Center offers an affordable and innovative opportunities for children and families; child care centers, group-based and family day care centers receive free professional development, technical assistance, and financial incentives through the Quality Rated Childcare Program.

Communication Hub

The Bartow Collaborative serves as a communication hub for local agencies and organizations to share news, trainings, events, fundraisers, volunteer opportunities and donations needs through weekly eblast and monthly meetings.

Coordinating Intake

The Bartow Collaborative is exploring methods for partner agencies to make better, more effective referrals and coordinate usage of services and programs in the community.

Data Tracking System

Strategy Team Leaders provide quarterly reports and input to Bartow Collaborative describing activities such as number of youth served, number of back packs delivered, number of programs provided, etc.

Employment Services

Services are offered by Georgia Department of Labor, Cartersville-Goodwill Career Center, and Tallatoona CAP, Inc.

Food Distribution

Ongoing service delivery is provided by a wide variety of community and faith-based food pantries, as well as the Atlanta Food Bank.

Government Assistance Programs

Bartow County Health Department offers WIC for qualified families while Bartow County Department of Family and Children Services provides TANF, Food Stamps and Medicaid to eligible families.

Imagination Library

Bartow Collaborative provides support to Cartersville Noon Day Rotary Club in supplying free books to newborn children in the community.

Interfaith Network

Bartow Collaborative is working with Family Promise Inc. to establish an Interfaith Hospitality Network which would allow 13 or 14 churches to partner together to provide housing to up to four families once per quarter.

Rapid Rehousing

Bartow Collaborative is working to identify and support a partner agency that will apply for and host Rapid Rehousing dollars locally.

Shelter Services

Adolescent shelters are provided at Flowering Branch, Adult Women and children services are offered through Tranquility House, and Shelter Services for Adults and Families are provided by Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter.