

What can we do differently as a community?

Solution Teams are forming around each of the priorities and specific action plans will be developed.

Phase 2 What are Solution Teams?

Solution Teams are made up of average citizens and professionals within the priorities. Each team will develop action plans recommending where to concentrate money, materials and manpower for measured improvement. They will also explore how to generate more resources as needed.

- Solutions will include methods to address both inspiration and opportunity to succeed.
- Solutions will all be research based, with reason to believe improvement will result if action plans are faithfully replicated.
- Recommended solutions will consider existing services to address the situation or condition, the effectiveness of those services, the critical resource mass needed to adequately address the conditions or if another approach is needed.

Will you share your thoughts, ideas and expertise to improve a priority area?

Become involved in Solutions Team. Students, elderly, faith-based groups, government, individuals in the business community, service providers and service recipients — we all can be part of the solution! Anyone interested in a particular priority area is encouraged to visit www.UniteEscambia.com and contact any of the team representatives listed on the Web site.

For general information, call the Unite Escambia VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) at 444-7128.

2006 Leadership Team

Capt. David Alexander
Nora Bailey
Cynthia Blacklaw
Dr. John Cavanaugh
John Clark
Sally Cooley
Walt Cook
Dr. Tom Delaino
Steve Deneke
Kevin Doyle
Michael Duncan
Frances Dunham
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Mark Faulkner
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Larry Maltby
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Rep. Dave Murzin
Jeff Nall
Jean Norman
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Lon Roberts
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Susan Senkarik
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Judy Wallace
Marilyn Wesley
Marcie Whitaker

Founding Partners



See a list of our Solutions Partners at www.UniteEscambia.com

UNITE ESCAMBIA

PHASE 1 SUMMARY REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

www.UniteEscambia.com

This report was originally published May 2007. At that time Unite Escambia was known by its original name, Escambia Community Collaborative.

The Community Vision: A Healthy Community Where All Have the Inspiration and Opportunity to Succeed.

What is our role? What can we do?

Unite Escambia is a community-wide partnership working for improvement of our overall community health. This includes physical, mental, economic, environmental and social health.

Background

Over the years, the Unite Escambia founding partners and others in the community have independently gathered local information to make strategic decisions within their own organizations. Through information sharing, common areas of focus were clear. Connections between physical, mental, economic, environmental and social issues also were clear.

Numerous conditions have improved in

Escambia County. However, there was a need for a cross-sector, coordinated approach to agreed upon priorities and the Escambia Community Collaborative was formed, later to be re-named Unite Escambia.

A Leadership Team including 41 representatives from business, education, government and health and human service sectors came together in the summer of 2006. This team met monthly for nine months in a unique, comprehensive process.

May 2007: Where are we now?

Phase 1 Objectives and Accomplishments

- Develop a community vision
- Identify and agree on priorities
- Within the priorities, identify information on strategic conditions (indicators) that, when measured over time, can evaluate community improvement or show decline
- Establish Solution Teams for Phase 2
- Concentrate effort and resources on improving identified conditions

Selection of Priorities:

The Leadership Team wanted to see where Escambia County lags behind Florida and peer counties.

The Leadership Team placed community priorities where reports agreed with public opinion and where it is believed we can most effectively address a problem at the local level.

A public involved in the decision making process is more likely to play a significant role in making changes for community improvement. Public opinion is vital.

Public opinion and data pinpointed community priorities. They also provided a framework from which the team then crafted a vision for our community. What and where do residents of this community want to be in 10 to 30 years?

All reports and survey results can be found on the Unite Escambia web site: www.UniteEscambia.com

Consider:

In 2006, 51,764 households in Escambia County had annual incomes of \$35,000 or less. That's 43 percent of the 120,100 households in the county.* After payroll taxes and other basic deductions, the take home pay is just over \$1,000 every two weeks.

Could your household of four live on just over \$25,000 a year take home pay?

- Monthly take home pay: \$2,118
- Local rent (basic two bedroom): - \$878
- Average utilities (includes basic phone): - \$162
- Food (family of four): - \$400
- Basic car (incl. insurance, gas and basic maintenance): - \$425
- Child care (one school age and one toddler): - \$520

Source: ACCRA, Quality of Life Index, 3rd Quarter 2006
Child Care: Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

- \$267

The money and the month don't meet.

Not only is nothing left for health care, clothes, etc., which of the necessities do you go without each month? Escambia County, how can we do better than this?

FAQs

Q. What is Unite Escambia?

A. Unite Escambia, originally known as the Escambia Community Collaborative, is a community-wide strategic planning partnership working toward real solutions and action plans for improving overall prioritized conditions in Escambia County.

Q. Who are the partners of the Escambia Community Collaborative?

A. The founding partners are United Way of Escambia County, Escambia County Health Department, and Partnership for a Healthy Community. Nearly 100 other partner organizations and businesses are working with Unite Escambia. See them listed at www.UniteEscambia.com.

Q. What is the community vision?

A. Unite Escambia has established a Vision for Escambia County to become "A healthy community where all have the inspiration and opportunity to succeed."

Q. What is included in overall health of the community?

A. The overall health of the community includes physical, mental, economic, environmental and social health. A strong community is balanced by residents who are physically and mentally healthy, who live in a healthy environment, who benefit from a healthy economy that provides good wages and an education system that helps lift them out of poverty and who are supported by a healthy social system.

Q. Who determined the community's priorities?

A. The 2006 Leadership Team conducted a random survey throughout Escambia County. Public opinion was gathered through phone, paper and electronic surveys. Information was gathered from recent documented reports on area conditions. Where the public opinion survey results corresponded to the research data, the Leadership Team was able to identify six community priority issues with measurable indicators.

Q. What can I do to get involved?

A. Become a member of one of the Solutions Teams and influence small but significant changes in the way you, your family, friends and co-workers live, work and play. Here are a few examples:

- Sponsor daycare for a child living in poverty whose single parent is improving their education to increase their earning power.

- Stay in school, or go back to school to improve your own earning power.
- You work to make money. But learn to make money work for you, and teach it to your children.
- Take advantage of health screenings at area malls and events — usually free, they could improve early detection of a problem.
- Save money and improve your children's health by cooking and eating most evening and weekend meals at home.
- Help an elderly or handicapped neighbor fix up their sub-standard home.
- Piggy-back errand and shopping trips — do more than one thing while in your car and "in the area" to save gas and reduce emissions.
- Clean up after your animals — even if they are in your own yard — you don't want it in your water, do you?

Priority Areas

The 2006 Leadership Team selected six Community Priorities: Economic Development, Education, Environment, Health, Housing and Poverty.

An individual priority can not be effectively addressed or improved without consideration of how it is affected by one or more of the other priorities. The team looked for indicators that could be a factor within several of the priorities. As an individual indicator improves it has the probability of improving conditions in more than one priority area. For example:

- Children who live in secure housing perform better in school.
- People who are healthy perform better and more consistently at work.
- People with a more advanced education are able to earn more.

| Priority | Other priorities affecting this | Other priorities affected by this |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Economic Development | Education, Environment, Health of our labor force and their children | Environment, Education, Health, Housing, Poverty |
| Education | Health of our children, Housing, the economy | Economy, Environment, Health, Poverty |
| Environment | Education, Economy | Health, Economy |
| Health | Education, Environment, Poverty | Economy, Education, Poverty, Housing |
| Housing | Economy, Adult Education, Health, Poverty | Economy, Education, Poverty |
| Poverty | Economy, Education, Health | Economy, Health, Housing |