



FY26 Plan At A Glance: Network Capacity Initiative

Youth Crossroads –

Network: Cicero Berwyn

Network Capacity		The Network Capacity Initiative focuses on building the collaborative capacity and structure that is needed to improve the system and enhance outcomes for children and families. By building their network capacity, AOK Network partners become more capable of creating powerful and sustainable system improvements. AOK Network partners work together to build their collaborative capacity by focusing on four core areas: Shared Agenda, Collaborative Leadership and Engagement, Continuous Learning and Adaptive Action, and Network Governance.		
Overall Result Desired:		The AOK Network partners have an agreed upon shared agenda and Network governance. Partners have the capacity through improved collaborative leadership and engagement to generate changes to improve the early childhood system. The Network partners understand the importance of collective learning and adapt well to changing conditions in the community.		
Objectives		Approaches/Strategies		Outcome
1.5	Enhance Family Engagement By June 30, 2030, Parent Ambassadors annually increase their confidence and capacity to participate as equal Network partners as a result of approaches list below.	1.5.1	Parent Ambassador Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight Parent Ambassadors will deepen their knowledge of early childhood development and social-emotional skills, strengthen their ability to collaborate and connect with others, and build leadership skills to effectively engage families in the community.
		1.5.2	Parent Ambassador Engagement Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight Parent Ambassadors regularly contribute their perspectives, experiences, and community knowledge at Parent Ambassador meetings with AOK Local Staff, ensuring that the AOK Network’s strategic plan reflects community-informed, equitable, and family-centered priorities.
1.4	State Contract Requirement By June 30, 2026, AOK local staff will meet 100% of the Performance Standards outlined by the Illinois Department of Human Services as evidenced by AOK Connect reports and the semi-annual PPR as the approaches described below.	1.4.1	Resource Directory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to accurate and up-to-date community resource information.
		1.4.2	Website and Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in community awareness of AOK Network efforts and community supports and services.
		1.4.4	Network Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key areas identified for improving collaboration within the Network.
		1.4.3	Local Staff Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Staff Professional Development
1.6	Network Partner Community Response	1.6.1	Community-Led Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased knowledge and confidence in supporting families on the topics covered.



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	<p>By June 30, 2026, AOK Local Staff and Network Partners host, participate and engage community service providers in essential trainings and workshops focused on key topics impacting families in the community. These efforts aim to increase community awareness and establish sustainable structures that ensure families have safe and efficient access to information and basic needs items.</p>	<p>1.6.2</p>	<p>Community Needs Structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers have a safe process to distribute needed items. • Families feel safe to request basic needs. • Partners increase donation to community needs request.
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