

United Way of Racine County
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Abstract

United Way of Racine County (UWRC) and Racine Unified School District (RUSD) are pleased to partner to implement Link and Inspire for Tomorrow (LIFT) Full-Service Community Schools at Knapp Elementary and Julian Thomas Elementary.

This FSCS partnership serves two K4-grade 5 Title I elementary schools in Racine, WI. The target population is the students, families and community members who live in the Knapp and Julian Thomas neighborhoods. Eighty five percent of Knapp students and 82.4% of Julian Thomas students are economically disadvantaged. Academic achievement among students is extremely low, and very few are proficient in reading or math. The families and community members face unemployment and underemployment. A quarter to a third of the adults in the community lack a high school diploma. Both school neighborhoods are food deserts.

LIFT has five major goals:

- Students are starting kindergarten ready to learn.
- Students are achieving academically.
- Students are healthy physically, socially and emotionally.
- Families are positively engaged with their children's education.
- Adults are utilizing services that put them on the path to upward economic mobility.

To achieve these goals, our project will:

- Expand coordination, infrastructure and our community schools professional learning community by adding two full-time community schools coordinators and a part-time walking school bus coordinator.
- Expand school-based mental health services.
- Implement a walking school bus.
- Empower parents as leaders through the COFI model.
- Increase adult education through an HSED program, employment and employability programs, and financial stability support programs.
- Increase quality out-of-school time programs, nutrition programs, and intergenerational programs.

We expect to serve nearly 800 students, their families, and community members for five years. UWRC and RUSD will collaborate with several partners to coordinate and provide services. These partners include Focus on Community, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin the Racine Family YMCA, YWCA Southeast Wisconsin, Gateway Technical College, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, and University of Wisconsin- Extension. In addition, our FSCS consortium is supported by Community State Bank, Modine Manufacturing Company, the Mayor's office, the Public Health Department, the County Executive's office, the Racine Police Department, members of the faith-based community, the Racine Literacy Council, Higher Expectations for Racine County, and a variety of school district departments, including extended learning, communication, and family and community engagement.