

Goal: To encourage innovation, collaboration, and cross-sector solution-seeking that would benefit children and families.

Scenario 1

Setting: Rural area with need for updated starter/retirement housing on edge of largest town in the county

Proposal: Developer purchases land to build 4 single-story duplexes with plans to sell to 6 families and maintain ownership of one fenced in duplex property for affordable rent-to-own for child care provider willing to operate attached unit (other half of duplex) as family child care for infants and toddlers. Teacher will also offer student volunteer or job shadowing opportunities to young people interested in the early care and education field.

Scenario 2

Setting: Small city that has recently lost manufacturing company that employed residents

Proposal: City purchases land and buildings at site of former company, consisting of office space and a large warehouse. City partners with economic development agency to offer tax incentives and moving/ start-up costs to any company willing to occupy warehouse, hire local staff and rehabilitate part of office space as a child care center for its employees first and additional community members if possible.

Scenario 3

Setting: Urban low income apartment complex on bus line facilitating parents' access to education/employment

Proposal: City enters into partnership with a local philanthropist and small businesses that are located near low income apartments. The philanthropist commits to pay 5 years of rent payments for parent(s) living in the apartments who are willing to complete entry level coursework and open family care for infants and toddlers. The rent is covered for their living space and the space next door to operate their child care. In large complexes, two or three child care spaces may be warranted. Area small businesses contribute to purchase slots for young children also living there to attend the family child care start-up(s) at no out-of-pocket cost to them. The philanthropist will also pay a family navigator salary in the nearby health/community center to direct families to a range of needed services. Funding rotates to area of the city every 5 years with a sustainable business plan in place for previous recipients.

Think Tank Questions:

1. What are your initial reactions to the viability of these models?
2. Which of these scenarios could be enhanced by programs in your agency or in local communities? How?
3. What additional state/community opportunities might be connected to these scenarios to increase their impact?
4. Where have similar collaborative endeavors taken place that could serve as successful models? They do not need to be focused on early care and education.