



Community Council Charter

The Achieve Brown County (ABC) Community Council is an essential part of the ABC structure, a cornerstone to achieve our vision of “a Brown County where cradle-to-career systems are equitable for every young person, regardless of race, income, zip code or circumstance.” Success for the ABC Community Council means the work of ABC aligns with the needs of the community.

I. Primary Purpose of the Council

The primary purpose of the Community Council is to ensure that power is shared across sectors and levels within the ABC Partnership. The Community Council will achieve this by:

- A. Ensuring the Council is made up of influential voices from Brown County—youth, parents, organizational leaders.
- B. Ensuring these influential voices shape and affirm shared community vision in alignment with ABC’s mission “to use data and rally community to co-create equitable conditions so every young person can thrive.”

II. Secondary Purpose of the Council

Community Council members are volunteers who represent the communities of Brown County and the various organizations that serve the county. Secondary purposes of the council include:

- A. The Community Council brings together data, community voice and the mission and vision of ABC.
- B. The Community Council’s members engage, listen, review the work of ABC, and provide the focus needed to sustain and drive collective impact.
- C. The Community Council regularly reviews the outcomes dashboard and ensures that the work of ABC aligns with the needs of the community.
- D. The Community Council puts forward the needs of Brown County’s residents.

III. Collaboration with the Board of Directors, Other Committees, and Community Stakeholders

For change to truly occur in our community, it is crucial to include community stakeholders (parents, youth, residents, organizational leaders) in conversations that occur across community sectors.

- A. The Community Council is a committee of the Board of Directors. It is co-chaired by Board Members and will give updates on its work at board meetings.
- B. Community Council members listen to the needs of Brown County residents, advise ABC on the collection of resident perspectives, and provide recommendations to the Board of Directors and ABC staff and leaders about needed areas of focus.
- C. Members of the Community Council voice their perspectives and listen carefully to the voices of other Council members to ensure the current and future focus areas of ABC reflect the needs of the communities.
- D. The Community Council hears from action teams engaged in ABC’s current work, guiding their work and ensuring their work is advancing ABC’s strategic priorities.

IV. Commitment and Expectations

- A. Meetings are facilitated by ABC Staff (Director of Continuous Improvement, Community Mobilizer, Executive Director and other staff as needed) and the Community Council Co-Chairs. The Community Council Co-Chairs are appointed by the Board of Directors and serve on the ABC Board of Directors. One Co-Chair must have lived expertise and one learned expertise. The ABC Chair provides additional guidance to the Council.
- B. Typically, the Community Council will meet 3-4 times per year. Meetings may occur on evenings or weekends to ensure that youth and parent voices are present.
- C. Each year, the Community Council meeting schedule (type, timing, etc.) may vary to ensure the meeting schedule matches the needs of the work at that time. Meetings may include:
 - workshops (ie: data walk),
 - listening sessions,
 - focused small-group work based on sector (ie: parents only, Superintendents only etc.),
 - learning opportunities, and
 - design-thinking sessions.
- D. Members are also asked to participate outside of regularly scheduled meetings as needed to advance the strategic priorities of ABC.
- E. At a minimum, this charter is reviewed annually by this Community Council and ABC leadership, ensuring alignment with community needs and ABC's directions.

V. Council Members

- A. At the core of the ABC Community Council and present at all meetings when possible are:
 - 3-5 parent voices and
 - 3-5 youth voices (may be individuals or connected to parent voices above)

Note: Because youth and parent voices are usually not tied to a work commitment as part of their expertise on the Council, they are given a stipend for their time and expertise shared.
- B. Additionally, at least 15 key cross-sector community voices represent the sectors below. Meeting attendees from these sectors may vary based upon the topics discussed.
 - Oneida Nation
 - Healthcare
 - Public schools
 - Private schools
 - Higher education
 - Early childhood education
 - Identity-based resource centers
 - Government (city and county)
 - Non-profits supporting young people
 - Faith communities
 - Housing organizations
 - Business/Industry sector
 - Philanthropy
- C. If a member represents an organization, they may send an alternate to meetings either to ensure their voice is represented and/or to ensure the person in attendance best meets the needs of that particular meeting and its work.
- D. ABC Staff and Leaders, the Community Council Co-Chairs, and the ABC Chair/Executive Committee ensure that membership of the Community Council includes those who:
 - represent, reflect, and value historically marginalized groups present in Brown County,
 - have close-to-practice experiences relevant to focus area of ABC,

- represent, acknowledge, and value lived and learned expertise,
- know what measures are being taken now to address the focus area of ABC, and
- drive the communities of Brown County forward.

VI. 2024 Goals

- A. Engage:
 - i. Recruit key stakeholders to represent a broad range of community voices.
 - ii. Establish this year's meeting structure that advances the purpose and aligns with the strategic directions.
- B. Launch the Community Council:
 - i. Level set and learn about collective impact and the ABC Collective Impact Partnership.
 - ii. Establish what is unique about the ABC Community Council and how we will approach work together.
- C. Listen and Review:
 - i. Conduct an orientation to develop capacity for collaborative action across sectors, what to expect in the work of the Community Council, and how to participate effectively.
 - ii. Focus on conversation/dialogue/listening across sectors.
 - iii. Review current work and focus
 - i. Reading for the Future Initiative (current collaborative action work)
 - ii. Data dashboard and current measures

ABC's Community Council is built on the StriveTogether® Theory of Action™

"Cradle-to-career partnerships are formal groups consisting of cross-sector organizational and system leaders (e.g., education, business, government, nonprofits, etc.) as well as grassroots organizations, neighborhood leaders and individual members of affected populations, especially youth and families who come together around a shared community vision. With support from backbone staff, the partnership group works together to define population-level challenges, develop, and implement strategies to address those challenges, and hold systems accountable for results."