



ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALIST

QUAD CITIES REGION, ILL. & IOWA

Community Snapshot

The Quad Cities region, situated across two counties in Illinois and Iowa, offers a high quality of life for its population of nearly 400,000 due to a beautiful setting, a commitment to education, art and culture and a thriving business community. Residents live, work and play in our communities of Moline, East Moline and Rock Island, Illinois, and Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa, enjoying the excitement of a big city while appreciating the small-town hospitality. Children in the Quad Cities can grow academically, socially and athletically in the area's many school districts and private schools, and more than 40 colleges and universities.

Community Solutions Action Plan

Quad Cities seeks to create a system of support for existing programs (both within and outside the school districts) that makes it easier to share resources across both district and state boundaries. The area wants to encourage local social service programs with similar missions to work together to serve a larger population of at-risk students and to do so more effectively. Other work includes:

- Coordination of existing resources and collaboration among agencies with similar or complementary missions
- Open lines of communication to reduce duplication of services
- Creation of a "blanket" of support services to provide more children with more diverse and effective services
- Piloting a data system that can track students despite high local mobility rates, improving the ability to assess and measure progress in key areas

Partnerships

The initiative's major partners are Achieve Quad Cities, which is working to expand the data systems and school superintendent partnerships they created to serve the Grade-Level Reading initiative, and United Way of the Quad Cities Area. Other partners include: St. Ambrose University, the Early Childhood Coalition, Scott County Kids, Community Foundation of the Great River Bend, the President of the RiverShare Library Partnership, children's librarians from the Bettendorf, Davenport, Moline and Rock Island public libraries and the Quad Cities Child Abuse Council.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 379,690 residents
- Approximately 60,000 students
- 17,860 students live in poverty
- 70 percent of students read at grade level
- 7.9 percent are English language learners
- 90.8 percent graduation rate
- Summer programming available

GOALS

- Erase achievement gap in third-grade reading by 2020
- Create centralized database where information from all Quad Cities school districts can be stored, aggregated and cross-tabbed
- Reduce excessive absences by 20 percent
- Reduce summer learning loss by 5 percent

"We believe strongly that all parents have the ability to be their children's first and best teachers, so long as they are provided with the materials and support to make it possible."