



## FOCAL AREAS AND STRATEGIES 20201-22

*ON partners develop infrastructure, community capacity, and partnerships to improve quality and provide equitable access to programming in the five ON focal areas. Possible strategies for each focal area are included below.*

### **Focal Area 1: Inclusive and connected community**

*Youth and families are empowered to be active leaders and to contribute and benefit fully from a community that supports and encourages them to thrive*

1. Help identify and prioritize community needs
2. Support youth, families, and individuals as they connect with each other, share knowledge of community services and resources, and provide each other with social and emotional support
3. Advocate for youth, families, and individuals
4. Promote and ensure access to opportunities for civic engagement and empowerment to lift the voices of under-represented youth, families, and individuals.
5. Promote opportunities to develop leadership skills for youth, families, and individuals to support community development and engagement and communicate needed improvements in civic infrastructure to policy makers

### **Focal Area 2: Connected and motivated youth**

*Youth are plugged in to a comprehensive network of caring adults that encourage and guide their positive academic and personal goals*

1. Promote out-of-school learning and academic support to youth and families
2. Connect children and youth to out-of-school time activities
3. Promote and support mentoring to children and youth
4. Coordinate support networks for youth
5. Facilitate opportunities for participating in community service activities for youth, families, and individuals

### **Focal Area 3: School readiness and early childhood education**

*Children and adults have access to an array of evidence-based, quality resources that prepare them for and address barriers to lifelong learning*

1. Establish meaningful partnerships with families to grow school readiness opportunities in all communities and support children's optimal development in all settings
2. Foster quality and effective professional learning in all early childhood programs and services
3. Coordinate the work of partners in support of school readiness efforts
4. Reinforce families' annual school readiness efforts by providing access to resources when needed

### **Focal Area 4: Wellness and family stability**

*A continuum of supports allows youth and families to identify their goals for health, safety, stability, and self-sufficiency, and to access resources for reaching them*

1. Facilitate opportunities for skills development and progress toward self-sufficiency for youth, families, and individuals
2. Connect service providers through partnerships that help to leverage resources and eliminate gaps
3. Provide youth, families, and individuals with referrals and information about available services
4. Promote trauma awareness and access to physical, mental, and behavioral health services for youth, families, and individuals
5. Link youth, families, and individuals to case management services
6. Coordinate equitable access to basic needs assistance including food, housing, economic assistance, safety, and legal assistance and communicate gaps in services and barriers to services to leaders

### **Focal Area 5: Workforce readiness, student career preparedness, and family literacy**

*Students and parents are empowered to take advantage of the academic and career preparatory resources that are best tailored to their personal skills and assets*

1. Facilitate preparation for and access to advanced learning, STEAM, college readiness, and career and technical training for students
2. Provide support in career preparation for youth, families, and individuals
3. Promote workforce development classes for youth, families, and individuals
4. Facilitate preparation for and equitable access to employment opportunities for youth, families, and individuals
5. Coordinate support to increase financial literacy for youth, families, and individuals
6. Offer a variety of literacy development opportunities across the age spectrum