CONNECT: What are "the moving trains" that could be harnessed?

Change horsepower can come in many forms. It is sometimes useful to look for the "moving trains" that have already taken on an issue, such as early childhood education, AIDS education, literacy, child abuse or even economic development or community safety. "Moving trains" are organizations, coalitions or initiatives with the capacity, motivation and resources to create change.

Directions: Think of two or three major "moving trains" in your community. Write them in the numbered boxes across the top of the chart below (starting with one you are actively engaged in). Quickly check off what you know about their focus on this page. On the back of this page, check off what you know about their primary stakeholders and strategies. As you work, refer back to the Big Picture Goals categories. This tool will help you create a database of the initiatives in your community and help you identify ways to link them.

MAPPING COALITIONS, NETWORKS & OTHER "MOVING TRAINS"					
	DESCRIPTORS		COALITIONS, NETWORKS, INITIATIVES		
			1.	2.	3.
	Type of Structure	Coalition			
		Provider network			
		Task force			
		Initiative			
		Partnership			
		Coordinating body			
		Intermediary			
	Age Group	Early childhood			
		Middle childhood			
		Preadolescence			
		Adolescence			
		Young adults			
		Young/New parents			
		Mid-career adults			
		Seniors			
		Families			
	Outcomes	Learning			
		Working			
		Thriving			
		Connecting			
		Contributing/Leading			
	Levels of Impact	Improve individual and family access			
		Improve community/neighborhood conditions			
		Improve systems			
	Geographic Area	Neighborhood			
		City			
		County			
		School district			
		Region			
		State			

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MAPPING COALITIONS, NETWORKS & OTHER "MOVING TRAINS" (CONTINUED)

BIG TENT PARTNERS

DESCRIPTORS		COALITIONS, NETWORKS, INITIATIVES		
		1.	2.	3.
Professional Roles	Public policy makers			
	Media/Communications/Public opinion			
	Researchers			
	Advocates/Organizers			
	Practitioners			
	Philanthropists/Funders			
	Labor			
	Business			
Community	Children & youth			
	Families			
	Cultural/Community context			
Services & Systems	Early care & development			
	After-School & Youth organizations			
	K-12 education			
	Higher education			
	Employment			
	Health care			
	Prevention programs			
	Civil rights			
	Community service			
	Faith-based communities			
	Libraries & museums			
	Parks & recreation			
	Social services & child welfare			
	Public safety & justice			
Improving Systems & Settings	Program services coordination			
	Workforce strengthening			
	Capacity building & technical assistance			
	Improving quality			
	Performance measurement/evaluation			
Aligning Policies & Resources	Needs/assets inventories			
	Coordinating policies & practices			
	Establishing funding priorities			
	Exploring Funding Alternatives			
	Assessing, changing & creating policies			
Increasing Demand	Constituency building			
	Public awareness/education			
	Opinion polling			
	Collecting, using & sharing data			
	Public outreach			
	Advocacy & organizing			
Engaging Youth, Families & Community Members	Skill/Leadership development			
	Volunteer service			
	Governance/Organizing/Advocacy			
	Philanthropy			
	Entrepreneurism			
Use of Data	Collecting data			
	Sharing data			
	Using data to guide action policy			
	Using data to improve quality			
	Using data to evaluate impact of efforts			