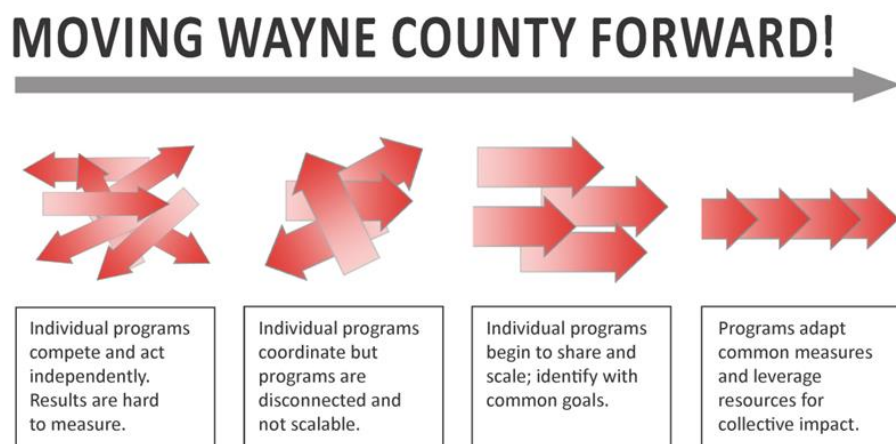




**Forward Wayne County!** is an initiative to better align community resources in order to foster a vibrant economy and promote prosperity. Building on the work of other efforts, it recognizes the twin pillars of Human Capital Development and Quality of Place in attracting, developing, and retaining a highly competitive workforce.

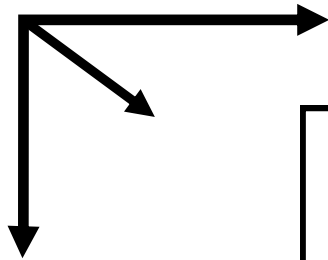
The long-term goals associated with the project seek to address our area’s protracted population decline, below average wealth and income levels, higher than average poverty rates, and low levels of educational attainment. Positive movement on these high-level benchmarks will come from comprehensive efforts to better attract, develop, and retain a highly competitive workforce. This will benefit local businesses and corporations, of course, and in turn create more opportunity for individuals and families – now and far into the future. Local organizations will be affected as well, as the key to the initiative’s success is to align a wide range of community-serving programs and projects to accepted sets of measurable objectives.



# Forward Wayne County!

An Initiative to Foster a Vibrant Economy and Promote Prosperity.

Goals and Objectives:



**Attract, Develop, and Retain  
a Highly Competitive Workforce  
to Meet the Current and Future Needs  
of Our Area's Businesses and Industries**

**Big Picture Indicators of Success by 2025**

- ◆ Hold population decline to less than the projected rate of 2.7%
- ◆ Raise Per Capita Personal Income and Median Family Income to be equal to the state average
  - ◆ That the percent of people living in poverty be equal to or less than the state average
- ◆ That 60% of the population age 25—64 hold quality educational credentials or college degrees
- ◆ That Gross Assessed Valuation increases year-to-year at a rate at least equal to the state average.

**Human Capital Development**

- 1) Early Childhood Success**
  - Focus on Parenting Education
  - Focus on Quality Preschool and Childcare
- 2) Educational Attainment**
  - Focus on the Path from Pre-K to Post Secondary Ed.
  - Focus on Families' Basic Needs and Access to Education
- 3) Employability**
  - Focus on Technical Training
  - Focus on Soft Skills Development
  - Focus on Entrepreneurism
- 4) Health and Wellness**
  - Focus on Mental Health and Substance Abuse
  - Focus on Improved Access to Care
  - Focus on Enhanced Wellness

**Connecting Relationships  
and Communication**

Mentoring, Empowering, and  
Personal Responsibility

Civic Engagement

Leadership Development

Organizational Capacity

Internal and External  
Communication / Marketing

Government Collaboration

A Commitment to Data-Driven  
Metrics and Measures of  
Improvement

**Quality of Place**

- 1) Neighborhood Development**
  - Focus on Individual Engagement
  - Focus on Organizations
- 2) Government and Policy**
  - Focus on Housing
  - Focus on Infrastructure
  - Focus on Downtown Development
- 3) Environment**
  - Focus on Recycling
  - Focus on Physical Amenities
  - Focus on Alternative Transportation
- 4) Arts and Culture**
  - Focus on Greater Levels of Involvement
  - Focus on Cultural Amenities