

Our Mission

Building a community where no adult or child is isolated or left behind due to poverty, inequality, or lack of opportunity.

Our Values
Family
Opportunity
Equity
Community
Mobility
Security
Voice

Want to make a difference?

We need your voice to create opportunities and build a community that works for ALL!

- Become an SPK Ambassador and help talk about SPK to others
- Host an SPK educational session/lunch 'n' learn at your organizations or home
- Help design ways to increase community collaboration
- Recruit neighborhood residents to participate in creating solutions to strengthen families
- Attend SPK partner meetings to stay informed of all the great work happening in our community

If you are interested in getting involved or supporting the vision of SPK, please contact the Shared Prosperity Coordinator at spk@kalamazoocity.org for more information.

Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo



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Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo

Shared Prosperity Kalamazoo (SPK) is the City of Kalamazoo's initiative to improve prosperity for everyone in the city. SPK is working towards a community where no adult or child is left behind due to poverty or lack of opportunity. SPK works with residents and neighborhoods to create ways for all to thrive.

SPK expects to reduce poverty and build a community that works for all. This will come from focusing on families, youth, and jobs. SPK's goals promote strong families and the healthy growth, development, and learning of children. It also has a goal to increase access to good jobs.

Family

promote strong and economically secure families

Youth

foster the healthy growth, development, and education of youth

Jobs

increase access to good jobs

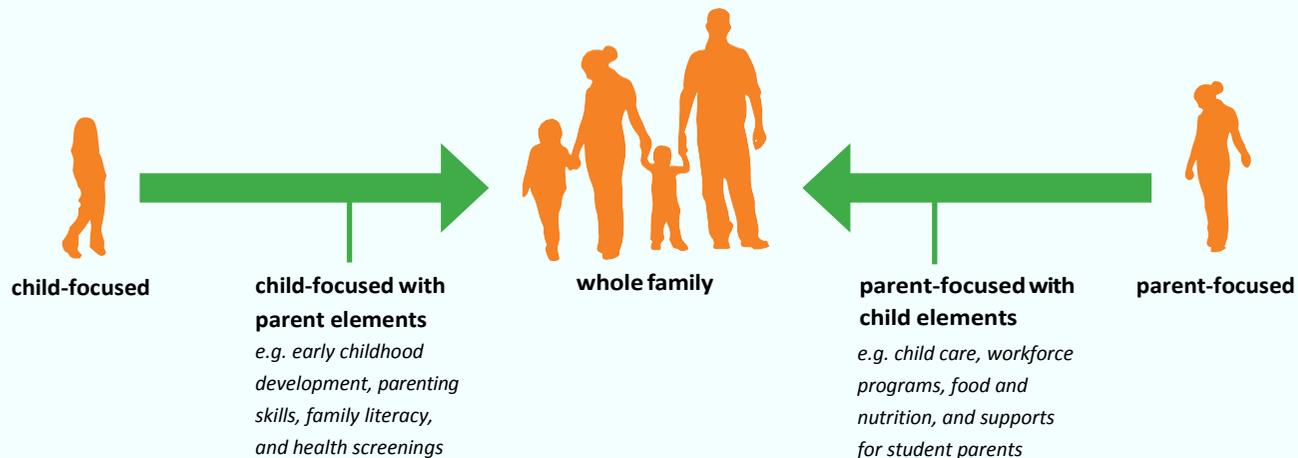
Organization

The SPK initiative is guided by a Shared Prosperity Coordinator, a staff member of the City of Kalamazoo, the SPK Organizing Committee and Goal Teams. These are made from community members with experience addressing the issues that create barriers to prosperity or prevent residents from taking advantage of opportunities that are available. The members of the SPK Organizing Committee are approved by the Kalamazoo City Commission.

Two-Generation Approach

SPK uses a Two-Generation Approach, which applies SPK focus areas to the whole family. Two-Generation Approaches focus on creating opportunities for and addressing the needs of both children and the adults in their lives together.

The Two-Generation approach can be found along a continuum, with starting points and relative emphasis shown below:



There are 5 Key Components of the Two-Generation Approach:

social capital

peer and family networks, coaching, and cohort strategies

early childhood development

Head Start, Early Head Start, child care partnerships, pre-K, and home visiting

postsecondary & employment pathways

community college, training and certification, workforce partnerships

health & well-being

mental, physical, and behavioral health, coverage and access to care, adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress

economic assets

asset building, housing and public supports, financial capacity, transportation