

FY26 Actionable Climate Strategies

Youth & Families Connector

Overview

Families and youth in Medford face ongoing challenges related to accessing resources, navigating school communication, and balancing economic pressures such as affordable housing, food security, and job opportunities.

These needs highlight the importance of stronger bridges between schools, families, and community partners, ensuring that every young person and their caregivers can participate fully in community life and build resilience in the face of social and climate challenges.

Connection to Climate Resilience

This action plan advances climate resilience by meeting pressing needs of Medford's families and youth—populations that are often most vulnerable to climate impacts—through targeted and interconnected strategies. Specifically, it:

- Integrates climate education for youth and families, ensuring that all community members have the knowledge to cope with and adapt to climate threats.
- Strengthens local support networks and partnerships across schools, nonprofits, health, and social service providers, increasing capacity to respond effectively during climate emergencies.
- Delivers essential resources (such as baby supplies, hygiene products, and winter coats) on an ongoing basis, reducing hardship during acute climate events and building day-to-day resilience.
- Expands multilingual access and inclusive communication, so critical climate information reaches all residents, especially those who face language and information barriers.
- Builds youth and intergenerational peer networks—empowering young leaders and families to share knowledge, support one another, and mobilize around community climate solutions.
- Maintains a consistent on-the-ground presence in schools and neighborhoods, making resilience-building resources and information accessible where people already gather.

High Level Strategy + Direction

These focus areas outline how the Children & Youth Connector plans to respond to identified needs, creating stronger connections and support for families and youth across Medford.

<p>Strengthening Partnerships: Build deeper relationships with schools, PTO/PTGs, nonprofits, and community organizations; collaborate with churches and city partners for youth programming.</p>
<p>Family and Parent Engagement: Increase parent participation in school-based activities, ESL nights, and family-centered events.</p>
<p>Multilingual Access: Expand translation and multilingual communication across flyers, social media, and school communications to reduce barriers.</p>
<p>Essential Resources: Provide baby bags, hygiene supplies, and other family supports through recurring drives and distributions.</p>
<p>Cross-Connector Collaboration: Work with partners in financial security, food access, and climate resilience to bring integrated resources into school and youth settings.</p>
<p>Climate Resilience Education: Facilitate workshops for young families and youth that connect everyday experiences with climate preparedness and adaptation.</p>
<p>Community Presence: Maintain a consistent presence in schools and community spaces to meet families where they are and deliver resources directly.</p>
<p>Youth & Parent Networks: Build strong peer and intergenerational networks to share knowledge, provide mutual support, and mobilize around community challenges.</p>

Quarterly Plan

Quarter	Subtask	Project or Initiative
Q1 (July-Sept '25)	15.2a - Welcome to Medford Baby-Items Drive (Welcome Baby Summer) Q1	Baby Bags
	15.3 - Actionable Climate Strategies for Young Families - Approx	<i>This document</i>
	15.5a - Children and Youth Support Systems - Q1	Back School event
		Mobile canoeing event, interact with climate activities

Q2 (Oct-Dec '25)	Sub-task 15.2b Welcome to Medford Baby-Items Drive Q2	Baby Bags
	Sub-task 15.5b Children & Youth Support Systems Q2	Partnering with different connectors to bring resources to schools (seniors, food, financial, etc.)
		Helping lead winter preparedness event + coat drive
		Monthly: MFN distribution of hygiene products + diapers (Portuguese population) Diaper day
Q3 (Jan-Mar '26)	Sub-task 15.2c Welcome to Medford Baby-Items Drive Q3	Baby Bags
	Sub-task 15.5c Children & Youth Support Systems Q3	Partnering with different connectors to bring resources to schools (seniors, food, financial, etc.)
	15.6 - Actionable Climate Strategies for Youth	Presentation on Migration, Climate Change, What are the solutions
Monthly: MFN distribution of hygiene products + diapers (Portuguese population) Diaper day		
Q4 (Apr-June '26)	Sub-task 15.2d Welcome to Medford Baby-Items Drive Q4	Baby Bags
	Sub-task 15.5d Children & Youth Support Systems Q4	Partnering with different connectors to bring resources to schools (seniors, food, financial, etc.)
	Sub-task 15.4 Youth Group Workshop	Youth Summit (May)
Monthly: MFN distribution of hygiene products + diapers		

		(Portuguese population) Diaper day
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Partners & Key Collaborators

- **Schools & PTOs / PTGs** → Central partners for parent engagement, resource distribution, and ESL programs.
- **Medford Family Network** → Collaborator on baby bags, hygiene distribution, and parent resources.
- **Local nonprofits and faith-based groups** → Expand reach for youth and family programming, especially with churches already offering youth programs.
- **Healthcare & social services (CHA, MASSHealth, etc.)** → Continue presence at back-to-school and community health events.
- **Youth Commission / GMAACC** → Co-facilitate youth resilience workshops and leadership opportunities
- **Other Connectors** → Co-facilitate engagements across connector themes

Measuring Progress

- More parents actively engaged in school and PTO/PTG events
- Higher participation in ESL nights and family-centered programming
- Increased use of translated and multilingual communications
- Growing feedback loops from families and partners indicating trust and accessibility
- Sustained attendance and collaboration at community and school-based events
- Stronger youth engagement through workshops, networks, and leadership opportunities