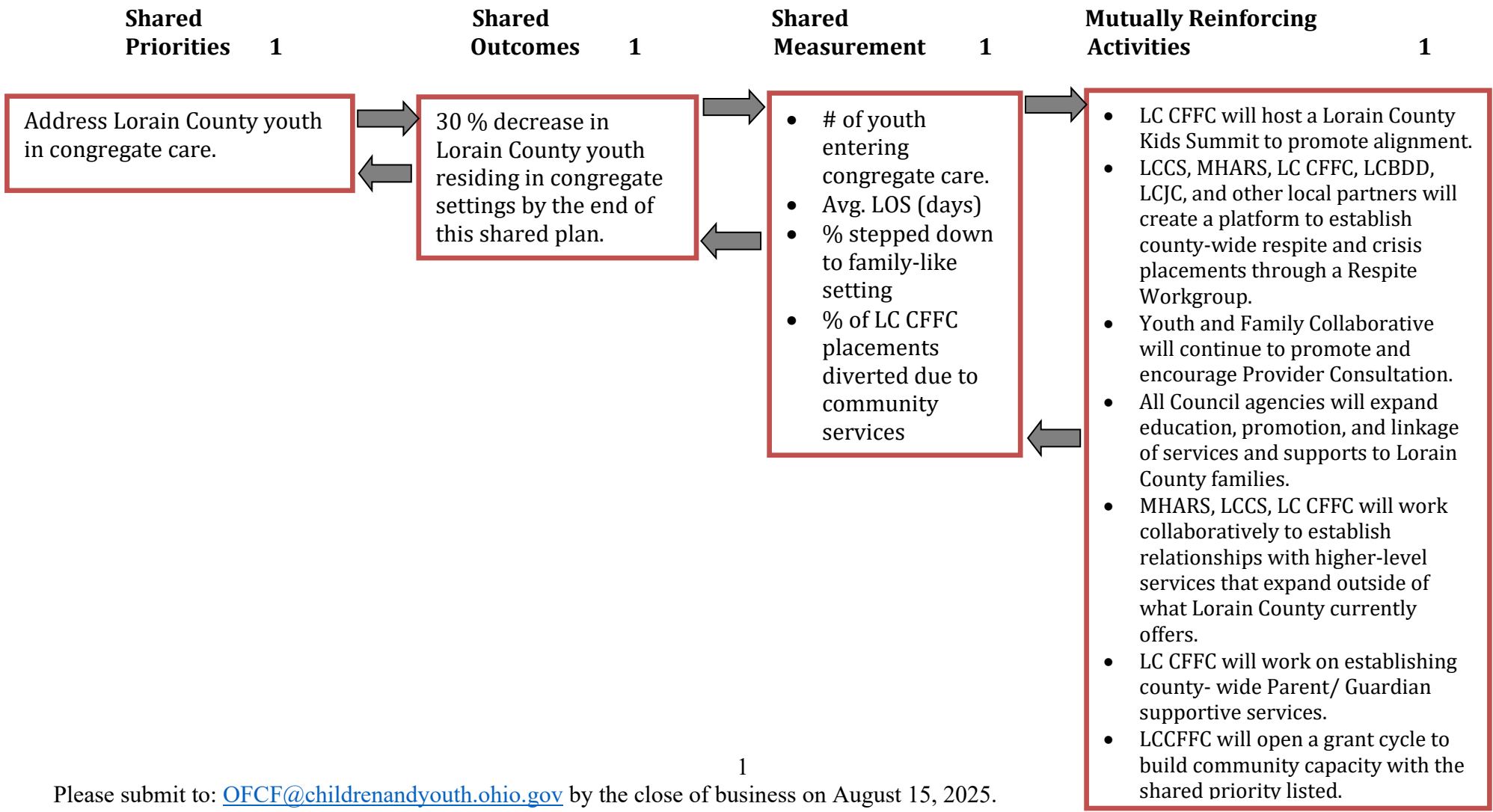
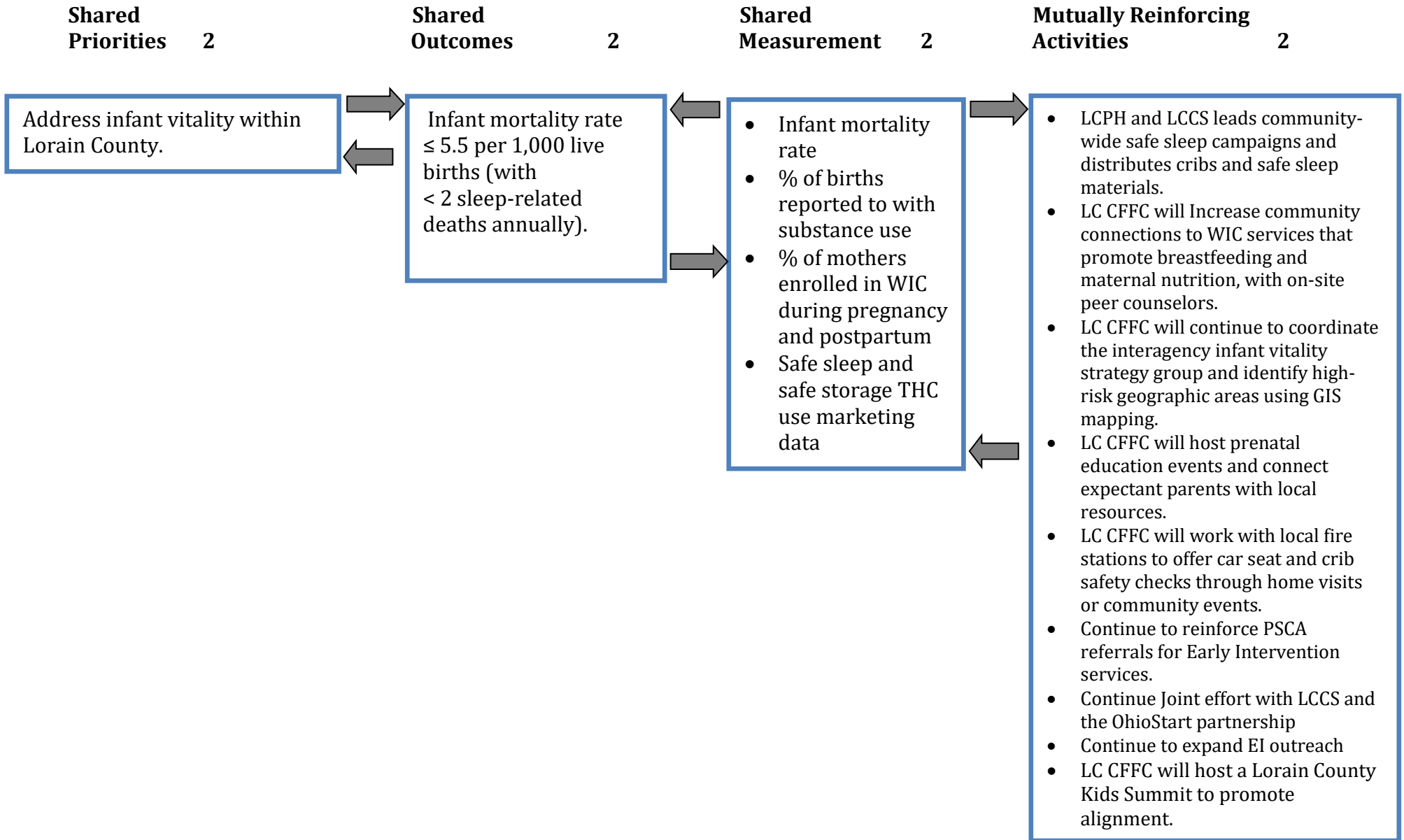


Lorain County Family and Children First Council Shared Plan for SFY 2026-2028

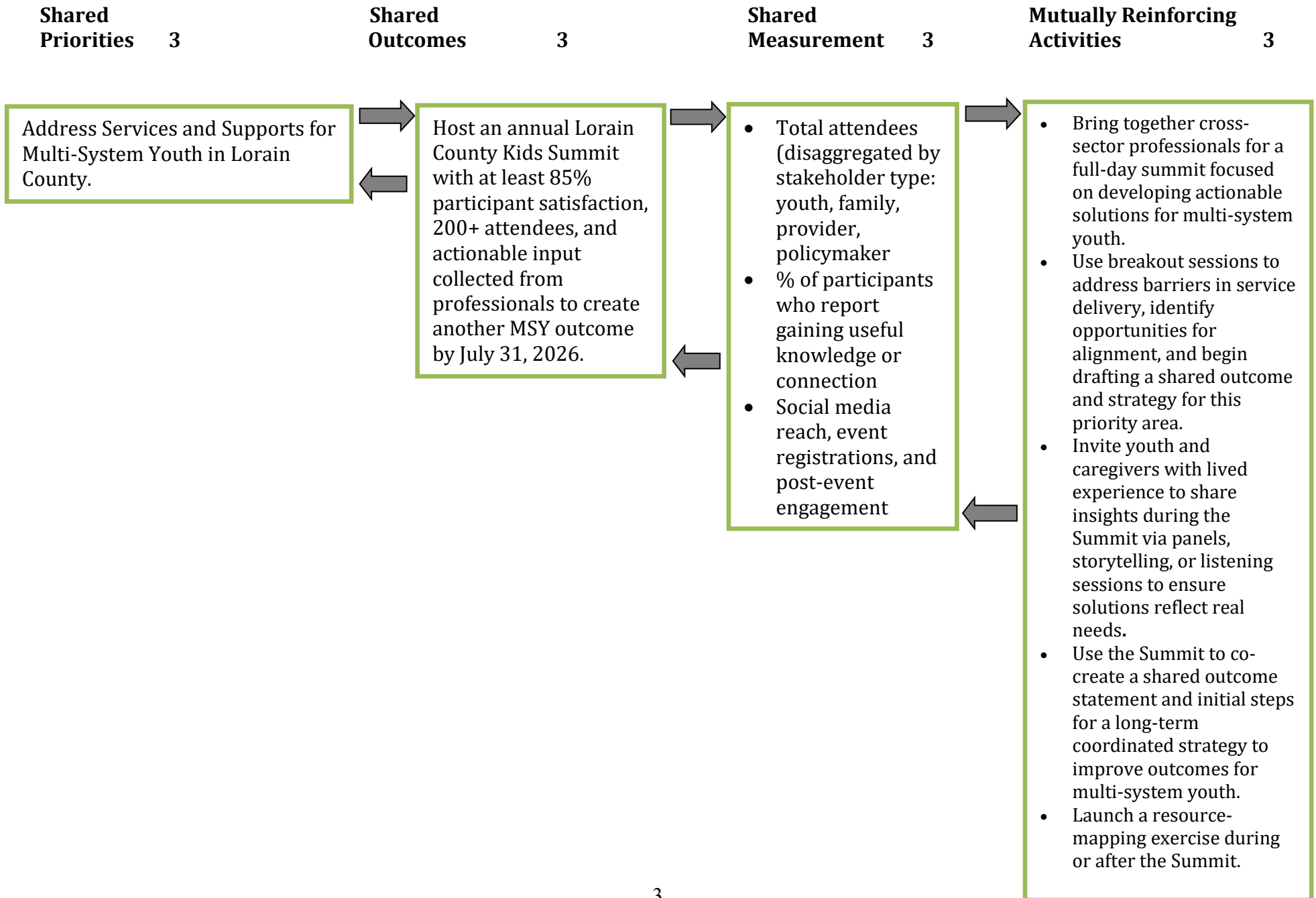
Current FCFC Initiatives: During this reporting period, Lorain County CFFC will focus on four key initiatives: reducing youth placement in congregate care, improving infant vitality, enhancing services and supports for multi-system youth, and advancing school readiness across all age groups.



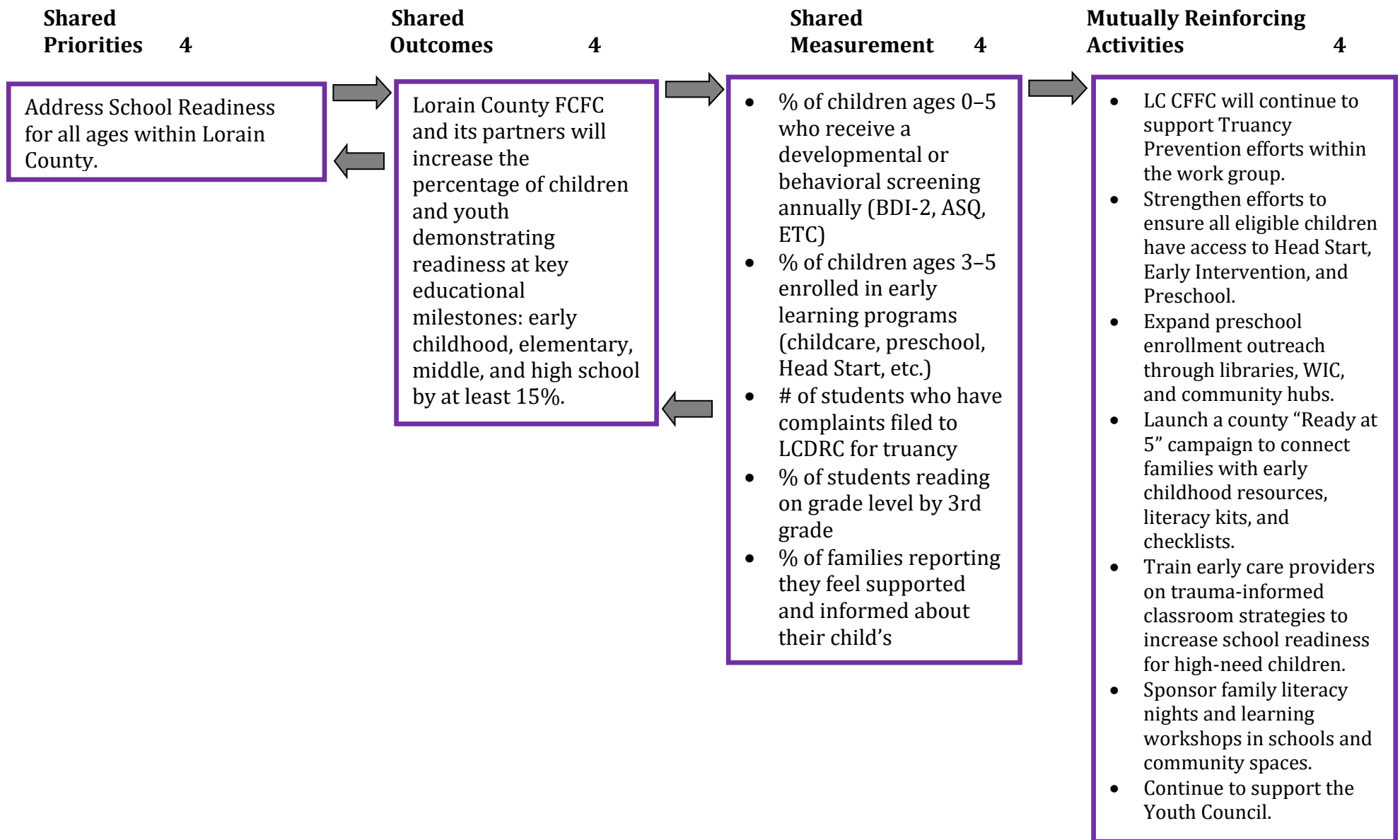
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Needs Assessment

List any community plans that were incorporated into this process. Include only those plans that are written, data-informed, and have identified priorities (e.g. FCE, CCIP, United Way, MHRB plan):

1. Lorain County Truancy Workgroup Mission and Goals
 2. Lorain County Respite Workgroup Mission and Goals
 3. Lorain County Ohio Start Program- LCCS
 4. Lorain County Public Health- Coordinating Supportive Services for Families Program
 5. Lorain County Community Action Agency-Pathways HUB model
2. Identify alternative needs assessment methods or data sets that were utilized to identify the Shared Priorities:
1. Lorain County School District Data Dashboards and Report Cards
 2. Juvenile Court & CSB Case Reviews
 3. Youth and Family Collab Data
 4. Lorain County Congregate Care Data Report
 5. LC CFFC Service Coordination & Wraparound Referral Trend
 6. A2A data on filed Truancy Complaints
 7. Lorain County Juvenile Court Data
 8. Lorain County Early Intervention Bi-Annual Report
 9. LCPH CHIP
3. Identify any barriers experienced in this process (i.e. plan collection, availability of data, language issues, etc.):

Throughout the development of Lorain County's shared priorities, including school readiness, multi-system youth support, infant vitality, and prevention access, LC CFFC and its partners faced several common and priority-specific barriers. Data accessibility and consistency remained a major challenge, as agencies often collect data in silos, use different reporting timelines, or lack disaggregated metrics that highlight disparities by ZIP code, race, or system involvement. Engagement of youth, families, and caregivers, especially those from underserved populations such as BIPOC communities, families experiencing poverty, and non-English-speaking households, was also limited, making it difficult to fully incorporate community voice into planning. For school readiness and MSY supports, coordination across systems (education, mental health, juvenile justice, and child welfare) was often fragmented, with inconsistent service planning and referral practices leading to gaps during critical transitions. Infant vitality efforts were challenged by limited access to culturally responsive prenatal and postpartum care, particularly for Black mothers and those in rural areas. Across all priorities, community partners cited workforce shortages, program capacity limits, and a lack of sustainable, braided funding as barriers to expanding evidence-based programs and reaching all eligible families. Despite these issues, LC CFFC leveraged existing partnerships, shared data, and aligned efforts with broader community plans to ensure a collaborative and adaptable approach to improving outcomes for children and families.

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4. Identify any successes/how this process has worked to strengthen the council and county collaboration

Despite the barriers faced, the shared planning process has significantly strengthened the Lorain County Family and Children First Council and its collaboration with county agencies and community partners. By aligning multiple priorities, school readiness, infant vitality, access to prevention programs, and multi-system youth supports under a unified framework, the council deepened cross-sector communication and reinforced its role as a central coordinating body. The process led to stronger partnerships between school districts, health providers, early childhood agencies, and behavioral health systems, promoting more consistent data-sharing practices and collaborative problem-solving. Agencies previously operating in silos began co-developing strategies, sharing resources, and aligning initiatives with broader community plans. Community partners also reported a greater sense of ownership and collective accountability, especially as shared indicators and mutually reinforcing activities helped clarify roles. Most importantly, the council elevated equity, prevention, and early intervention as central themes across systems, laying the groundwork for more coordinated, family-centered support structures that prioritize lifelong outcomes for children and youth in Lorain County.