



DDD vantage Community Needs Assessment



A Message from DDI Vantage

DDI Vantage is proud of our strong foundation as an established Utah business since 1971, including the addition of Early Head Start (EHS) services as of 2002. Two program options are available within DDI Vantage EHS services in Salt Lake and Tooele counties: Home-based and Child Care Partnerships. The services provided to families enrolled in EHS at DDI Vantage comply with the Office of Head Start, the Head Start Act, and the Head Start Program Performance Standards. Their efficacy has been proven over the fifty-plus years Head Start programs have been working across the nation. DDIV EHS staff work to support families with their efforts to equip their children with the needed skills to keep them on a path to success in school and for later learning throughout life.

To better serve the parents and children within the Early Head Start program, as well as help fulfill the DDI Vantage mission to empower children, adults, and families to reach their full potential, DDI Vantage partnered with Pathway Associates to complete a Community Needs Assessment (CNA). This collaboration ensured that DDI Vantage would receive a comprehensive and well-implemented assessment utilizing the expertise and resources of Pathway Associates to make sure a thorough review of needs was collected, gaps identified, and data was analyzed in-depth. DDI Vantage plans to use this information to guide our work and planning for the future.

At DDI Vantage, we understand that the communities we work with are evolving, and it is our responsibility to adapt our services to meet the ever-changing needs of the children and families we are privileged to support. We extend our appreciation to the families, partners, stakeholders, and community members who took the time to provide their input to this process. With the invaluable information provided throughout the assessment, DDI Vantage is well-equipped to plan and support those who benefit from our services in the future.

With warm regards,

Jennifer Kelsey DDI Vantage Executive Director Martha Velasco DDI Vantage EHS Program Coordinator







Executive Summary

In alignment with their steadfast commitment to enhancing Utah's children's well-being and educational success, DDI Vantage (DDIV) undertook an extensive Community Needs Assessment. This study, conducted in collaboration with Pathway Associates, spanned from July to September 2023, with the overarching goal of identifying and comprehending the distinct needs and challenges encountered by families and children in Salt Lake and Tooele County.

The Assessment's Core Objectives:

The primary aim of this assessment was to gain insights into the specific needs of our community. These encompassed economic, health, social, educational, and environmental needs. The information gathered in this assessment will be instrumental in shaping future decisions related to resource allocation, program development, and overall service delivery for DDI Vantage.

Continuous Assessment:

DDI Vantage is committed to proactively understanding the evolving needs of the communities we serve. This initiative represents another stride in our ongoing mission to ensure that our programs remain responsive and impactful in empowering vulnerable children, adults, and families to reach their full potential.

Collaborative Effort:

In our pursuit of a holistic understanding, we engaged with a wide range of individuals. Over 100 community members participated in individual interviews, focus groups, and surveys. These assessment tools ensured a comprehensive representation of voices from all walks of life, emphasizing our current clients.

Promoting Equity:

DDI Vantage is firmly committed to promoting equity. The information gathered will play a pivotal role in identifying disparities and inequities within the community DDI Vantage serves. This information will help to better equip the DDI Vantage team members in tailoring services to effectively meet the needs of our increasingly diverse and growing demographic population.



Planning for the Future:

The findings of this assessment will serve as a strategic compass, guiding our efforts to meet communities where they are. We aspire to tailor our services to address the unique needs and challenges faced by the families we serve, ensuring that our programs and outreach align with the diverse requirements of various communities.

Community Engagement:

The success of this endeavor hinged on the participation and insights of all sectors of our community – local leaders, parents, staff, and partners. Participants provided invaluable feedback, allowing us to create this road map for future needs and potential future programming initiatives to serve our changing community better.



Overview of the Community

DDIV's Head Start Program serves families in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties. Salt Lake County is nestled between the East's Wasatch Mountains and the West's Oquirrh Mountains. The county is the 37th most populated county in the United States and poised for significant growth, with projections of being the most populous county, adding almost 600,000 residents by 2065.¹

Tooele County is located West of Salt Lake County and has 80,000 residents. It is projected that within the next 50 years, Tooele will see a 112% growth rate in our population, making Tooele the 6th most populous county in the State. It is projected that within the next ten years, Tooele will see an influx of 25,000 additional residents.

The 2023 Anne E. Casey Kids Count Report ranks Utah as 2nd in the nation for the overall child well-being of children in a state-to-state comparison. Utah ranked in the top six in education, economic well-being, family, and community. In health, Utah was ranked in the top 18, putting it into what is labeled as the better category compared to other cities.

When looking at births in Salt Lake County, the Utah Public Health Indicator Data Resource System indicates that for every 1,000 residents, there were 12.8 births in Salt Lake County in 2021 and 14 births for every 1,000 residents in Tooele County during that same period. If you look back at the prior ten years, you will see that both the Salt Lake County and Tooele County births and the state-wide births have declined.²

While Utah ranks high in overall child well-being, we still see an increased number of unhoused families. With that, we are seeing a higher rate of unhoused children. In 2022, Crossroads Urban Center released data showing that 875 children under 6 received homeless services in Utah. It is noted that the most common time for an individual to receive homeless services is in the first year of their life. The Crossroad report states that the second most common is between 1 and 6 years old.³

The 2023 State of Babies Yearbook reports that Utah has 139,668 babies, representing 4.2 percent of the state's population. Of that population, 31.9% live in households with less than twice the federal poverty line in 2021. Approximately 69.1 percent of all babies born were White, and about 20.5% were Hispanic. Of those infants and toddlers in poverty, about 9.5% were White, and 13.8% were Hispanic. 6.5% of those babies were reported as multiple races.⁴



Population Data

The following charts represent some of the service area demographics for areas served by DDI Vantage.

overall Population⁵	Utah	Tooele County, Utah	Salt Lake County, Utah
Population Estimates, July 1, 2022	3,380,800	79,934	1,186,257
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	3,271,616	72,698	1,185,238
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	2,763,885	58,218	1,029,655

Poverty Statistics	Utah	Tooele County, Utah	Salt Lake County, Utah
Persons in Poverty (Percent)	8.6%	5.6%	8.8%

Children Under Age 5 ⁷	Utah	Tooele County, Utah	Salt Lake County, Utah	
Male under age 5	116,718	2,729	39,248	
Female under age 5	111,746	2,496	35,320	



Population Data Cont.

Race and Ethnicity [®] (Percent)	Utah	Tooele County, Utah	Salt Lake County, Utah
Black or African American alone	1.6%	1.1%	2.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native, alone	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%
Asian, alone	2.8%	0.9%	4.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, alone	1.2%	1.1%	1.9%
Two or More Races	2.9%	2.7%	3.1%
Hispanic or Latino	15.1%	15.0%	19.7%
White, alone, not Hispanic or Latino	76.7%	79.4%	68.9%

2 of every 1000 children in Utah will enter foster care





31.9%

of Utah babies live in households with less than twice the federal poverty line

Population Data Cont.

Disability Characteristics ⁹ for Children under 18 Years	Utah	Tooele County, Utah	Salt Lake County, Utah
Hearing difficulty	4,599	326	1,510
Difficulty with vision	3,864	88	892
With cognitive difficulty	28,552	1,326	10,369
With ambulatory difficulty	4,728	93	2,787
With self-care difficulty	7,002	1,392	3,095

Children in Foster Care in the State of Utah¹⁰

Total children served in foster care in FY23	3,376
Children aged 0-5 served by foster care in FY23	1,087
Median time in care for children who exited foster care in FY23	13.8 months



Summary of Assessment Process

In early August, a DDI Vantage representative emailed approximately 300 community members, 38 staff, and 30 partner organizations, asking them to participate in the Community Needs Survey. Pathway also contacted 50 individuals, asking them to participate in a focus group and/or for an individual phone interview. It set up confidential interviews and focus groups and collected survey responses. Following the email, appointments were established, and Pathway conducted three focus groups and eight interviews during August and September.

Interview and focus group participants are listed at the end of the report. Pathway received 102 responses to the community needs survey open from August 4 to August 25.

We are thankful to the DDI Vantage Executive Director and the Early Head Start team for providing background, questions, and support throughout the project. We also appreciate the time spent reviewing materials and sharing data when requested.



In-depth Interview and Focus Group Participants

Major Findings

Pathway asked interviewees for their insights and impressions concerning the following topics:

- O What are the main strengths of our community??
- O What are the most pressing needs within our community?
- O Are there any areas where you believe our community lacks essential services or resources?
- Are you aware of any areas or groups in the community that are underserved by our programs?
- What concrete steps or actions do you think our community should take to address the identified needs and challenges?

Here are the summaries of the primary themes we uncovered:

Community Challenges:

Within our community, numerous substantial challenges persist, affecting the ability of individuals and families to lead safe, healthy, comfortable, and interconnected lives. These hurdles are not confined to our local vicinity but extend far beyond, permeating various regions. Furthermore, the roots of these issues are intricate and multifaceted, eluding resolution through simple or isolated measures. They necessitate a concerted, collaborative effort to forge pathways toward meaningful change and progress. The following issues were most mentioned throughout the course of our assessment.

Awareness and Accessibility to Community Resources

There exists a notable gap in the widespread dissemination of information concerning the variety of resources available within the community. Typically, newcomers discover these services through personal recommendations or referrals from affiliated organizations, a method that, while effective, may leave many unaware of the resources available to help them. Amplifying the general awareness of these resources could bring substantial benefits to numerous families and individuals in the community.

Unfortunately, conventional awareness campaigns—such as email newsletters, social media updates, news features, or text message notifications—tend to miss the mark in reaching the segments of the population in the greatest need of these services. Developing innovative strategies to bridge this informational divide can be critical in ensuring that assistance reaches every corner of our community.

Basic Necessities - Food, Housing, Transportation, and Employment

Our community is grappling with urgent demands for essential resources, including sustainable food supplies, stable housing, dependable transportation, and opportunities for higher-wage employment.

Members of our community repeatedly express deep concerns about housing affordability. Many recount unsettling narratives of the relentless rise in rent prices forcing them to relocate often, cohabitate with multiple families or extended relatives in confined spaces, and constantly battle the looming menace of becoming unhoused.

Moreover, the specter of food insecurity looms large within the community. Although there is a notable presence of generously stocked food banks throughout the region, they fall short in offering access to fresh meat or produce, fundamental components for maintaining a nutritious and balanced diet.



Simultaneously, while there has been a steady enhancement in the public transportation networks, numerous families find themselves encumbered when trying to access essential services without the availability of a personal vehicle. Relying on public transportation can necessitate meticulous preparation, consume a significant chunk of time to reach desired destinations, offer inconsistent service schedules, or pose safety concerns, making it a less viable option for many individuals and families.

Addressing these core issues with innovative and inclusive strategies can pave the way for a more resilient and prosperous community.

Federal program eligibility not aligning with inflation

There is a critical necessity to amplify the range and extent of support available to lower-income families, especially catering to those who, despite failing to meet certain criteria, are in pressing need of essential items such as diapers.

In recent times, the economic climate has escalated living expenses dramatically, thereby undermining the ability of individuals and families to satisfy their fundamental needs. While there appears to be an upward trajectory in wage increments, it pales compared to the skyrocketing costs associated with maintaining a standard quality of life.

Regrettably, the official benchmarks delineating poverty levels have not been adjusted to mirror these changes, creating a scenario where a sizable segment of the population does not qualify for essential services despite finding themselves in critical circumstances.

In light of these developments, it is imperative to reassess and recalibrate the existing structures and criteria for aid, fostering a more inclusive and responsive support network that can effectively address the genuine needs and challenges many families and individuals face today.





Mental Health and Well-being

In the aftermath of the pandemic, there has been a heightened alarm concerning the mental health ramifications, marked by escalating rates of stress and burnout, notably amongst parents.

Despite the availability of mental health services through various organizations, a considerable number of individuals find the discounted rates still unaffordable and are often met with prolonged waiting lists. While these services prioritize individuals and families facing critical conditions, facilitating rapid assistance inadvertently creates a gap where minor to moderate mental health challenges escalate, sometimes significantly, before adequate resources and assistance become accessible.

This scenario underlines the urgent necessity to rethink and expand the current mental health support frameworks. A more encompassing strategy that can swiftly respond to a broader spectrum of mental health issues before they intensify needs to be fostered. By creating more affordable, immediate access routes to mental health support, we can work towards fostering a community where no individual's mental health concerns are left to escalate unchecked, nurturing a healthier, more resilient society in the long run.

Quality and Affordable Childcare

The pressing demand for quality and affordable childcare continues to be a persistent concern for many families. Childcare centers are grappling with the significant challenge of recruiting staff members who are not only qualified but are also adept at offering enhanced levels of attention, education, and safety, particularly when caring for children with disabilities or developmental delays. Unfortunately, the substantial costs associated with hiring proficient staff often translate to exorbitant childcare fees, rendering such services financially inaccessible for a vast segment of the community.

To better serve families, there is a growing imperative to develop innovative solutions that bridge this gap. By fostering partnerships with educational institutions and initiating specialized training programs, we can work towards cultivating a pool of skilled childcare professionals. Additionally, rethinking the funding models and exploring subsidies or grants can potentially help alleviate the financial strain on families, making quality childcare a reachable reality for all.



Community Strengths:

In the face of a myriad of complex challenges, our community stands resilient, showcasing remarkable strengths that enable families and individuals to weather adversity. Our respondents highlighted a dominant trait among these strengths - a deep-seated culture of generosity that pervades our community. This culture fosters a readiness to extend support and assistance, nurturing solidarity and a mutual aid network that binds us all. The specific aspects of our community strengths are outlined below:

Federal program eligibility not aligning with inflation

Numerous responses highlighted the deep-rooted sense of community solidarity, showcasing how members rally behind one another, particularly during challenging times. The aftershocks of COVID-19 have profoundly affected the mental, physical, emotional, and financial well-being of many in our community. Yet, respondents have often cited that the unwavering support from family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and others has fostered a culture of resilience.

Expressions of love, respect, and unity frequently surfaced, underscoring the harmonious bonds that intertwine our community members.



The vibrant celebration of cultural events and festivals, along with a genuine appreciation for ethnic diversity, stands out as a testament to our community's multicultural richness and inclusivity. Beyond mere celebrations, these events serve as pivotal gathering points, enabling families to forge connections, deepen engagements, and cultivate enduring bonds of support and friendship.

Resources and Services

Respondents expressed gratitude for the rich tapestry of community resources available, highlighting the county library system, healthcare centers, and invaluable services offered by DDI Vantage.

Moreover, many underscored the importance of food distribution initiatives and complimentary public services, such as dental clinics, as pillars of community strength and support.

Safety and Security

While a few raised concerns about public safety, a significant number of respondents emphasized the safety and security of their community as a standout strength, making it an ideal setting for nurturing and raising children.

Positive Environment for Children

Responses underscored a deep commitment to children's well-being, punctuated by numerous references to child-centric activities, programs, and services.

The community places a high premium on education and proactive parental engagement in fostering their children's growth and development.

Community Engagement and Activities

Many respondents highlighted the vibrant community engagement manifesting through festivals, markets, and public gatherings.

Initiatives led by DDI Vantage, along with other structured activities, are recognized as fortifying community bonds and facilitating the reintegration of individuals into communal life, particularly in the post-COVID era.



Recommendations for Addressing Needs



The critical pathways that have emerged as primary avenues to address the urgent needs within our community encapsulate the realms of legislative action, the reformulation of grant policies, and the fostering of enhanced partnerships.

At the heart of these transformative efforts lies a concerted push for legislative intervention at local, state, and federal levels. A glaring issue on the radar is the rising tide of unhoused individuals and families, a pressing concern that calls for a holistic approach. This should involve not only constructing affordable housing options but also conceptualizing assistance programs to shield families from the economic pressure of escalating rents. This calls for a recalibration of focus with a dedicated influx of funding aimed at the development and sustenance of housing affordability initiatives.

On a federal scale, there is an emergent need to reassess the poverty threshold, a critical index that underpins the eligibility criteria for numerous assistance programs. It is imperative to ensure that these benchmarks genuinely reflect the economic realities faced by contemporary society, guaranteeing that assistance reaches all those in genuine need without leaving anyone behind in a bureaucratic gap.

Further, fostering expansive partnerships stands as a viable strategy to bridge the existing gaps in services, allowing for a wider outreach through referral services and fostering a more cohesive understanding of the prevailing community issues. This collaborative approach could potentially lead to the formulation of more targeted strategies to effectively address and alleviate the complex challenges our community faces, ultimately fostering a healthier, more harmonious society.

Other Findings

Potentially Underserved Populations or Groups:

- Refugees
- Communities of color, particularly those identifying as Hispanic/Latinx, African, and Pacific Islander
- · Mothers in early stages of pregnancy
- . Foster families
- · Children with one or more incarcerated caregivers
- · Families with same-sex parents
- Low-income families making too much to qualify for some assistance programs
- · Families without reliable transportation (e.g., a car)

Typical Schedules of Caregivers:

Shift Work:

Some respondents indicated shift work, with timings either in the evenings, nights, or rotating shifts. This suggests a portion of the community might be involved in jobs requiring round-the-clock operations.

Flexible or Work-from-Home Schedules:

A few respondents mentioned having flexible work schedules or working from home, which allows them to manage their time more freely, possibly hinting at adaptations due to recent trends in remote work.

Traditional Work Hours:

Several respondents indicated having traditional work hours, usually between 8 am and 5 pm. These schedules could be related to standard office jobs or school timings for children.

Stay-at-home Parents:

A notable number of respondents mentioned being stay-at-home parents, either explicitly mentioning taking care of their children or having no specific work schedule.

School Schedules:

Many respondents indicated the school timings of their children, with schedules usually starting from early morning to mid-afternoon, aligning with traditional school hours.

Varied Family Schedules:

Some respondents described complex family schedules, involving both parents and sometimes grandparents, indicating a collaborative effort in managing work and childcare responsibilities.

Other Developmental Daycare Options:

The majority of respondents indicated that their primary interaction with daycare services has been through DDI Vantage. However, a subset did share their experiences with the following resources:

The Children's Center:

Specializes in family therapy, assisting caregivers of children exhibiting socialemotional delays. They also offer therapeutic preschool services tailored for children aged 2-5.

Family Support Centers of Utah, Crisis Nursery:

Provides complimentary, temporary nursery and shelter facilities for children up to the age of 11.

Statewide Early Intervention and Head Start Programs:

Aside from DDI Vantage, some respondents have engaged with various Early Intervention and Head Start providers across the state.

Privately Owned Daycare Centers:

Several respondents have experience with private daycare facilities. They frequently note these centers as costly and often lacking the requisite resources to cater to children with pronounced disabilities or developmental delays.





References & Appendix

References & Citations

1 State and County Population Estimates | Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute. (2023, October 16). Retrieved from https://gardner.utah.edu/demographics/state-and-county-level-population-estimates

2 Current Census Bureau Estimates | Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute. (2023, October 16). Retrieved from https://gardner.utah.edu/demographics/current-censusbureau-estimates

3 Of Health, D. (2023, February 01). IBIS-PH - Complete Health Indicator Report -Birth rates. Retrieved from https://ibis.health.utah.gov/ibisphview/indicator/complete_profile/BrthRat.html

4 Fredde, A. (2023). Has Utah increased in children experiencing homelessness? Deseret News. Retrieved from https://www.deseret.com/utah/2023/2/23/23611795/new-report-shows-increase-utahhomeless-children

5 Utah (UT) - State of Babies Yearbook 2023. (2023, March 06). Retrieved from https://stateofbabies.org/state/utah

6 US Census Bureau (2023, October 23). S1701: Poverty Status in the Past ... -Census Bureau Table. Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1701? g=040XX00US49_050XX00US49035,49045

7 US Census Bureau. (2023, October 23). S0101: Age and Sex - Census Bureau Table. Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S0101? g=040XX00US49_050XX00US49035,49045

8 US Census Bureau (2023, October 23). B02001: Race - Census Bureau Table. Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2022.B02001? g=040XX00US49_050XX00US49035,49045

9 US Census Bureau (2023, October 23). S1810: Disability Characteristics - Census Bureau Table. Retrieved from https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1810? g=040XX00US49_050XX00US49035,49045

10 FY23 annual report - DCFS - Final. (n.d.). Utah DCFS. Retrieved October 23, 2023, from https://dcfs.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/FY23-annual-report-DCFS-Final-5.pdf

Demographics of Survey Participants

Our survey successfully engaged a broad spectrum of community members across Salt Lake and Tooele counties, encompassing various racial and ethnic backgrounds, multilingual families, and those with children both within and beyond the EHS age bracket. Notably, over half of the respondents have children experiencing a disability or developmental delay.

Such rich diversity bolsters our confidence in the shared perspectives on community challenges, strengths, and the proposed solutions to address the most urgent community needs.

The following graphs visually depict the identities of our respondents.



Languages Spoken by Survey Respondents





Though most respondents self-identify as white/Caucasian, our data represents the voices of several racial and ethnic identities.



Ages of Respondents' Children

Our respondents have children at various stages of development and need.



Over half of our respondents have children with disabilities or delays, requiring different types and levels of attention and support.

Salt Lake County

Geographical Representation of Respondents

DDI Vantage Early Head Start program operates in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties. Our respondents represent areas across both counties.

List of Interviewees & **Focus Group** Participants



Conducted 10 individual in-depth interviews.



Collected responses from 102 individuals via an anonymous survey.



Conducted 4 one-hour focus groups.

Interviewees and Focus Group participants:

- Stephanie Ames
- Annie Barrett
- David Bird
- Cecily Blakey
- Meghan Boyd
- Amanda Briggs
- Jedda Carrell
- Maribel Colorado

- Jill Connor
- Angie Garcia
- Liz Garcia-Reynolds
 Laura Richardson
- Jennifer Green
- Kim Jeffrey
- Jennifer Kelsey
 - Kellie Lyon
 - Dan McQuarrie

- Autumn Parsons
- Brianna Price
- Carrie Sanders
- Iris Velandia
- Martha Velasco
- Merissa Winrow
- Delayna Zaelit

List of Survey Questions

Parent and Advisory Council Survey

- . What is the age of your child/children?
- · What is your current employment status?
 - Not employed currently seeking opportunities
 - Not employed not seeking opportunities
 - Employed part-time
 - Employed full-time
 - Retired
 - Prefer not to say
- What is your current annual household income? This is the total amount each individual in your home made within the last year.
 - 。Less than \$25,000
 - Between \$25,000-\$75,000
 - Between \$75,001-\$125,000
 - More than \$125,000
 - Prefer not to say
- · What area do you live in?
 - · Salt Lake County Please enter your zip code
 - Tooele County
 - Duchesne County
- · Which race or ethnicity best describes you? (Select all that apply)
 - White/Caucasian
 - Black or African American
 - Asian
 - Latinx or Hispanic
 - Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - American Indian or Alaskan Native
 - Prefer not to say
 - 。Other (please specify)

List of Interview Questions

Interview questions were prepared in advance as a guide. Respondents were asked a version of all of the below questions but may have also been asked follow-up or clarifying questions to ensure depth of understanding.

Questions asked all interviewees:

- Can you share your overall impression of the DDI Vantage Early Head Start program?
- In your opinion, what are the key strengths of the DDI Vantage Early Head Start program?
- . Where do you see room for improvement in the Early Head Start program?
- How well do you feel the program meets the specific needs of the community it serves? What gaps do you see?
- In your opinion are there enough child care programs to serve the community you live in? If no, why?
- What else do you think we should know or consider as we plan for the future of the Early Head Start program?

Questions asked of parent interviewees:

- · What are the top five needs for families in your community?
- Can you tell me about an experience with the Early Head Start program that positively impacted you or your family?
- What kind of impact do you think the program has had on your child's/children's development?
- Are you aware of all the services and resources that the Early Head Start program offers? If not, how could we improve our communication about these services?
- Are there barriers related to the program that have prevented you or others from accessing the services provided by the Early Head Start program?
- As you think about the future, what services could Early Head Start provide that would better serve you or families you know who might need their services?
- If you were to rank the Early Head Start Services provide to your family on a scale of 1-10 (10- Exceptional and 1 Very Poor) how would you rank them?

Questions asked of partner interviewees:

- . What are the top five needs you see for families that you serve?
- Are there any potential threats or challenges you believe the Early Head Start program should be aware of or prepared for?
- Can you tell me about an experience working with the Early Head Start program that had a positive impact on you or your organization?
- . Can you describe DDI Vantage's flexibility and responsiveness as a partner?
- Are there ways DDI Vantange Early Head Start program can collaborate with you or others to better meet the needs of families?
- Based on your experience of EHS: If you were to rank the Early Head Start Services provided to the community on a scale of 1-10 (10- Exceptional and 1-Very Poor) how would you rank them?

List of Focus Group Questions

IFocus group questions were prepared in advance as a guide. Respondents were asked many of the questions below (as time allowed) but may have also been asked follow-up or clarifying questions to ensure depth of understanding.

- Introduction and Icebreaker:
 - Can each of you briefly introduce yourselves and share a little about your connection to this community?
 - . What are some of the strengths you see in our community right now?
- Community Challenges:
 - In your opinion, what are the most pressing challenges or issues our community is currently facing?
 - Can you share any personal experiences or observations related to these challenges?
- Service Gaps and Needs:
 - Are there any areas where you believe our community lacks essential services or resources?
 - . What specific needs do you feel are not being adequately addressed?
- Community Assets:
 - What are the positive aspects of our community that you think can be leveraged to address challenges and meet needs?
 - Are there any untapped resources or talents that we could use to improve the community?

- Community Engagement:
 - How connected do you feel to your fellow community members?
 - What opportunities do you think could enhance community engagement and collaboration?
- Accessibility and Inclusivity:
 - Are there any groups within the community that might be underserved or face barriers in accessing services and resources?
 - How can we ensure that our services are accessible and inclusive to everyone?
- Future Vision:
 - Looking ahead, what changes or improvements would you like to see in our community over the next few years?
 - · What would a thriving community look like to you?
- Communication and Outreach:
 - How can we effectively communicate with community members to keep them informed about events, initiatives, and opportunities?
 - Are there specific channels or methods of communication that work best for you?
- Collaboration and Partnerships:
 - Are there organizations, institutions, or businesses that you believe we should collaborate with to address community needs?
 - What potential partnerships do you think would be beneficial?
- Prioritization:
 - From the issues and needs discussed today, which ones do you believe should be top priorities for our community to address?
- Feedback on Existing Services:
 - Are there any existing services or programs that you think are particularly effective? Why?
 - Are there any areas where you think existing services could be improved?
- Suggestions for Action:
 - What concrete steps or actions do you think our community should take to address the identified needs and challenges?
- Final Thoughts:
 - Is there anything else you would like to share or any questions you would like to ask the group?

Thank you!



Our Mission

DDI Vantage, Inc. empowers vulnerable children, adults and families to reach their full potential.

Our Values

As employees of DDI Vantage, we are proud to share these values:

- Coachable
- Hardworking
- . Dependable
- Good communication
- Positive attitude

As a qualified non-profit organization under 501(c)(3), DDI Vantage has been serving the community since 1971 through its programs, Adult and Youth Services, Early Intervention, Early Head Start Home-Based, and Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships.

Website: ddivantage.org Email: ddivadmin@ddivantage.com Phone: (801) 266-3979 Address: 670 East 3900 South Suite 210 Salt Lake City, UT 84107