



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the United Agenda for Children?

The United Agenda for Children is an innovative coalition of citizens, civic leaders, businesses, government and community agencies who have united to make sure every child in Henderson County is safe, healthy and well educated.

When is it?

The United Agenda for Children is a three year process; however, the community gathering, **Speak Out for Kids** event takes place on **Saturday October 20, 2007** from 8 am–4 pm at North Henderson High School. Pre-registration is required.

Who is planning this?

(A link to a list of all involved may be found on the “About” page.)

Children and Family Resource Center has been asked to serve as the lead local agency for this coalition. The Children and Family Resource Center is a non profit organization whose mission is to promote the well being of children and their families through advocacy, coordination and collaboration among children’s services and by providing programs and services to meet their needs. For more information, visit www.childrenandfamily.org.

Technical support has been provided by the Lee Institute, a non profit organization which promotes collaboration for the public good. For more information, visit www.leeinstitute.org.

What is Speak Out for Kids?

A community gathering where we will **learn** about the current state of the child in Henderson County, **share** our ideas and thoughts about the issues affecting children in our community and prioritize which issues need to be addressed; and join together to **act** on those priorities.

How does it work?

- All participants will work with a group of 10, seated comfortably at a table guided by a facilitator
- Everyone will have information that has been gathered about the community to help inform your discussions.
- Have an easy to use keypad to record your personal thoughts and ideas.
- As a group, your table will record and submit its collective ideas.
 - The ideas of all tables are collected and presented back to everyone in the room.
- You use your keypad to record your reactions and ideas about the work from the whole room.
 - At the end of the day, the final set of recommendations is organized into a report.
 - You walk out with the report you helped to write.
 - The report is the basis for the work that takes place over the next two years to make sure every child in Henderson County is healthy, safe and well-educated

What is the goal?

The goals for the United Agenda for Children are to:

1. Create systemic change in the way key systems and organizations in Henderson County address the broad issues associated with the well-being of children through the development of a shared vision and a collaborative, synchronized plan with measurable results.
2. Incorporate the use of a dynamic, ongoing community engagement process that will allow a representative group of citizens to identify and set the operational priorities for all agencies and organizations engaged in providing services to youth in Henderson County.
3. Form an institutionalized collaboration that is *accountable* for community-wide progress towards objectives that ensure the health, safety and education of our community’s children using a standardized mechanism for reporting and measurement.

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Why will it work?

1. Because the community will come together to set the priorities – it is the community’s voice.
2. The results of the work will be compiled into a report that will be widely distributed throughout the county—giving accountability to action teams that will be developed to address the priorities that the citizen’s set.
3. Action teams will be created that include representatives from government and community agencies, as well as individuals and community partners. These action teams will work over the next two years to implement the priorities established by citizens during the Speak Out for Kids.
4. The time is right for Henderson County because new leadership is in place in many of our key systems, bringing new energy and fresh ideas. This project is in line with the County Manager’s wish to see a system of accountability among local government and human services agencies. However, the most important reason may be because our children deserve and need a collective voice in a county known for its tourism and large retiree population.
5. Other community wide planning initiatives have failed because special interest groups dominate; experts dominate; good outcomes and good action steps lack political power or political will; no one is accountable for the results; or the group gets tired of the process after a big event and ceases to follow-through. This project is different because we are planning with the end in mind. Key leaders have been involved from the beginning; the citizens’ voice will be heard and citizens will be involved; and collectively we will be accountable for making quantifiable changes in the overall well-being of children

SPEAK OUT FOR KIDS – October 20, 2007 ACTIVITIES:

When is it?

It is a three year process, but **Speak Out for Kids** takes place on Saturday October 20, 2007 from 8 am–4 pm.

Where is it?

North Henderson High School, 35 Fruitland Road, Hendersonville, NC

Directions from I 26:

From Interstate 26 take exit 49A (18A with old numbering) toward Bat Cave (Hwy 64 East—Chimney Rock Highway).

Follow the exit ramp to the right onto Highway 64 East.

Turn left at the fourth traffic light (about 1 mile) onto Fruitland Road.

The first drive on the left is the entrance to the school.

Directions from Downtown Hendersonville (from Main St.):

Take Hwy. US-64 East (toward Edneyville/Chimney Rock), travel 3.8 miles

Turn Left onto Fruitland Road

First drive on left is the entrance of the school.

How many people will be participating?

We expect 300 participants reflecting the diversity within Henderson County. There will be additional volunteers and facilitators to assist in the Speak Out for Kids process.

Why should I come?

If you aren’t there, your voice can’t be heard on your priorities for children.

Does it cost to participate?

No, not at all. We just ask for your commitment to participate from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the day of October 20, 2007. Please do not register if you are not able to participate in the entire day. Your commitment will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch and child care for children under age 12 and under will be provided.

Is there compensation?

No, there is no compensation. However, lunch is included and there is free childcare for children 12 and under.

What should I wear?

Just wear clothes you will be comfortable in.

Do I need to bring a lunch?

No. Lunch will be provided.

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Do I need to come for the whole day?

Yes, because each part of the day builds on the others.

(If you are not able to come for the whole day, you might consider registering to be a volunteer. You can take a shift the day of or you can provide assistance prior to the event.

SKILLS:

Do I need to know how to use a computer?

No – you will have an easy-to-use keypad to record your reactions

I'm not a public speaker, should I sign up?

Yes! Public speaking is not required to be involved, just your ideas and opinions which will be shared at tables in groups of 10.

REGISTRATION PROCESS:

Do I have to register?

Yes, advance registration is required.

How do I register?

By mail, website, fax, phone ...

Register online at www.unitedagendaforchildrenhc.com

Fax the downloadable form found on the "Get Involved" page to 828-698-5532

or Mail the downloadable form to:

United Agenda for Children
c/o Children & Family Resource Center
P.O. Box 1105
Hendersonville, NC 28793

or Call: Cammy Taylor at 828-698-0674 x110

Why do you need to know my personal information?

In order to make this community gathering accurately represent the voices of Henderson County, we are matching the demographics (place of residence, race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, and age) of the County to participants at Speak Out for Kids. It is required. If we do not receive this information, the gathering will not represent the voice of Henderson County.

(We will also be sending confirmation of your registration and reminders.)

SPECIAL NEEDS:

I need some special assistance. Should I plan to come?

Yes! North Henderson High School is fully accessible and we will make every effort to address any assistance you may need. Just check special needs on the registration form and we will follow-up to make sure your request will be accommodated.

Can you help me with childcare?

Yes, free childcare will be available for children under the age of 12. Just check off that box on your form and someone will follow-up with details.

Can you help me with translation?

Yes, we will provide assistance with simultaneous interpretation. Be sure you check the special needs box on the registration form and mark what language the registrant will need translation assistance in.

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INVOLVEMENT:

How can I be involved?

You can serve as a participant to discuss your ideas and thoughts at a table of 10 people. This is the most crucial place for discussion of your opinions on the priorities of children in Henderson County.

Are there other ways to get involved?

We also need facilitators and volunteers. If you have prior facilitation experience, please consider being a table facilitator for groups of 10. If you would like to provide assistance on October 20 or prior to the event, please register as a volunteer.

If you would like to be a Facilitator you will need to attend training prior to October 20. Please contact Noah Wood at 698-0674 for more details.

If you want to be a volunteer, please complete the online Volunteer Registration Form (see “Get Involved” page) or contact Bob Kemp at 698-0674.

Do I have to live in the county?

Yes, your primary place of residence should be Henderson County, NC.

It is critical to have people from every part of the County. One of the ways that people look at issues in different ways is because of where they live.

How can I be involved if I don't live in Henderson County?

If you don't live in Henderson County, we would love to have you involved as a facilitator or volunteer. If you have prior facilitation experience, please consider being a table facilitator for groups of 10. If you would like to provide assistance on October 20 or prior to the event, please register as a volunteer.

If you would like to be a Facilitator you will need to attend training prior to October 20. Please contact Noah Wood at 698-0674 for more details.

If you want to be a volunteer, please complete the Volunteer Registration Form (see “Get Involved” page) or contact Bob Kemp at 698-0674.

I want to help but I can't come for the whole day. How can I be involved?

If you are not able to come for the whole day, you might consider registering to be a volunteer. You can take a half day shift (either from 7 am–12pm/11:30am–4:30pm) the day of October 20 to help with numerous essential tasks. We also have need of assistance prior to October 20 if you would be interested in helping behind the scenes. Please complete the Volunteer Registration Form (see “Get Involved” page) or contact Bob Kemp at 698-0674.

Do I have to be a parent?

No, this project is to include all voices of Henderson County

RECRUITING:

I'd like to bring some other interested people, can I recruit a group?

Absolutely! Registration must be completed for each individual though.

I would like to have someone come speak to my group, organization, or church. Who do I contact?

Please contact Maureen Adams or Elisha Freeman at 698-0674 to schedule a speaker.

How can I find more information?

Website: <http://www.unitedagendaforchildrenhc.com>

Person: Elisha Freeman, Children & Family Resource Center 698-0674x104 or elishaf@childrenandfamily.org