The Wayne Together Collaborative (WTC) began in 2014 as a partnership between the Wayne State University School of Social Work, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and private provider agencies in Wayne County. Students are financially supported through a stipend and mentored through the successful transition to a professional career in child welfare.

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What are our objectives?

- Increase the number of competent M.S.W. graduates specializing in practice with child welfare populations impacted by poverty and trauma in metropolitan Detroit
- Increase DHHS workforce retention rates by focusing on factors that influence recruitment, retention and competencies
- Build the capacity of the WTC to support the transition of student to child welfare professional and long-term careers

What strategies are we using?

**WSU Students**
- Child welfare courses
- Field placements with rotations in different settings
- Monthly lunch & learn
- Individual development plans
- Group mentoring

**WTC Steering Committee**
- WSU team
- DHHS representatives
- Private provider agencies

**DHHS Workforce**
- Professional development
- Team building
- Understanding and addressing regional factors that impact child welfare practice

What will we achieve?

- 75 students with child welfare knowledge and skills prepared for practice
- 100% of students remain in child welfare
- Over 75% of DHHS workers impacted by the WTC programs

What are our next steps?

- Pre-education and recruitment pipeline
- Information sharing via the web and social media
- Supporting and connecting our WTC graduates through 2025
- Continued collaborations with agency partners