



Rock Families First

What are we talking about?

Did you know: While Black people comprise approximately **7% of the Rock County population**, they represent **22% of all entries into foster care**. Nationally, it is estimated that 1 in 2 Black children/youth will experience CPS intervention in their lifetime. There is overwhelming data to conclude that they do not fare any better in foster care.

The Rock Families First movement was designed to **eliminate racial disparities in CPS, reduce the total number of out-of-home placements, and increase satisfaction in engagement for Black families living in Beloit**. In partnership with Rock County Human Services, Black parents in Beloit are **co-designing a new way forward**. Through several integrated efforts and the collaboration of parents and Rock County staff, an “IdeaBook” was created in 2022. We are developing a new approach to CPS intervention that **strengthens engagement with parents** guided by the federal Family First policy. We are working together to **uncover the natural supports within the Black community** in Beloit so that a report to CPS is not needed. We are educating mandated reporters to know how they can **support first**, and we are **building increased partnerships** to sustain this work in the community long-term.

We know without a doubt that families are better together! By sharing power in a system that has historically harmed generations of Black families, Rock Families First will work to accomplish this new way by empowering Beloit’s Black community network. Together, we are shifting the way we think about the importance of family connection and belonging.

#HealingGrowthHope

In Partnership with: 