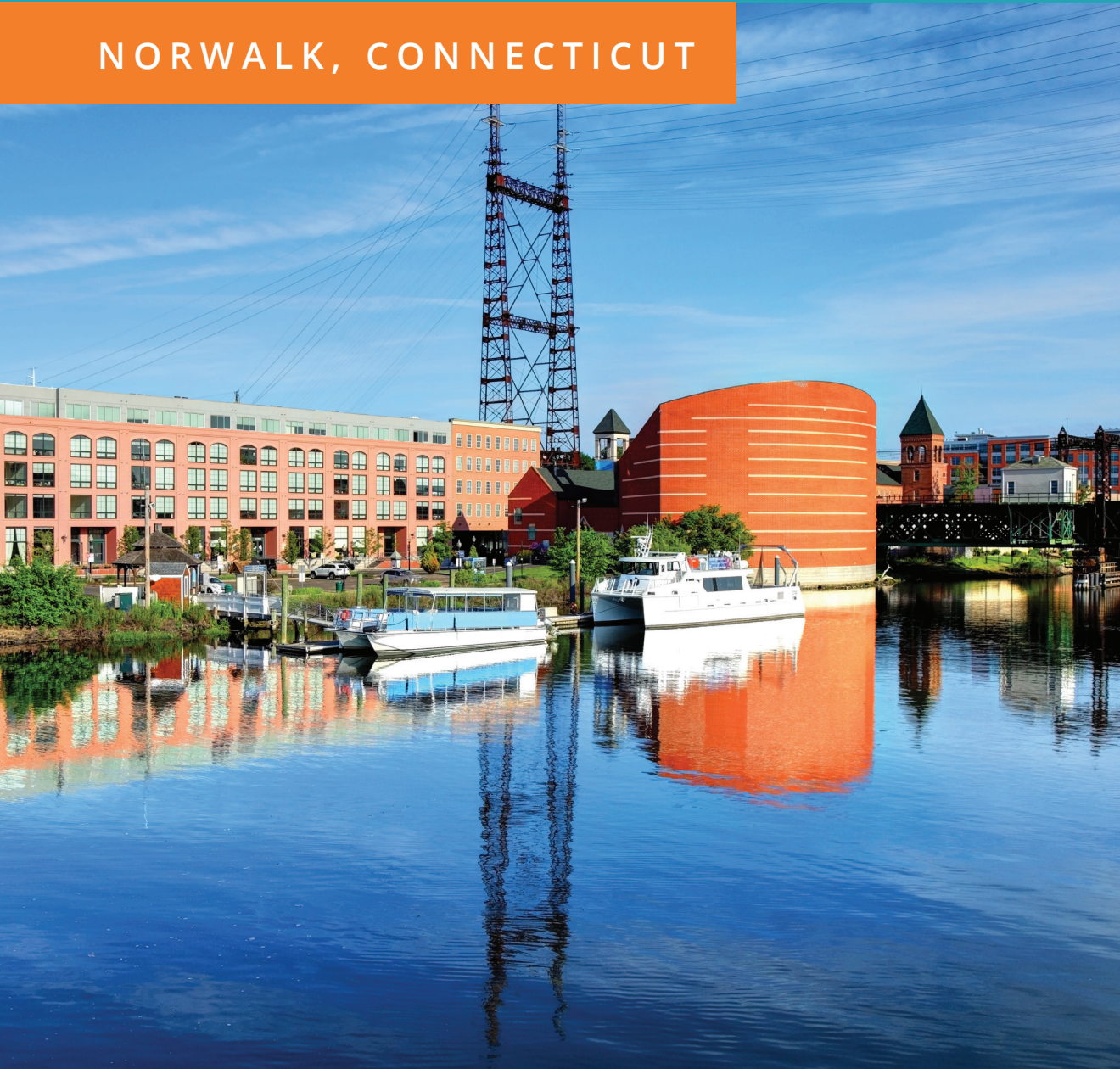


using data to improve outcomes

NORWALK, CONNECTICUT



Norwalk ACTS

Norwalk ACTS use of data is critical to ensuring children entering kindergarten are ready to learn. This case study shows how Norwalk ACTS and local partners took part in StriveTogether's Prenatal to 3 Impact and Improvement Network, developing strategies and partnerships to empower parents to support their children's early development.

Impact and Improvement Networks (IINs) offer communities special support to tackle common issues through opportunities to incubate ideas and build skills in StriveTogether's continuous improvement methodology, called collaborative improvement.

Norwalk ACTS focused on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ), a screening tool that pinpoints developmental progress in children. Norwalk ACTS' goal was to increase the use of ASQ to support early childhood development, including working alongside parents. The process included studying data to better understand the challenges parents of young children faced in completing developmental screenings and designing steps for intervention.



[Click here to watch video](#)

NORWALK ACTS

Maya and Jeremiah

One Norwalk parent supported by this effort is Maya Donald. When she was pregnant with her first child in 2015, she threw herself into parenting books in preparation for her new role as a single mother. But in the hospital after giving birth to her baby boy, Jeremiah, reality set in.

That's when a Family & Children's Agency outreach worker stopped by her hospital room to talk about support for Donald and Jeremiah in navigating their new life together. Donald began meeting with a home visitor, Yadira Morales, on a weekly basis.

"Yadira brought professional expertise and personal experience as a mother herself. I

had no idea what to look for in Jeremiah, but she did. For each stage, she taught me about toys that I could make at home to jumpstart his learning, stimulate his motor skills and bond together," said Donald.

Jeremiah is now 5 and thriving. With a goal of ensuring that children like Jeremiah enter kindergarten ready to learn, Norwalk has engaged 23 community partners at each developmental touchpoint to complete ASQ screenings with children and their parents. These partners provide tiered interventions to ensure that children are on track.

Norwalk ACTS' data use, cross-sector collaboration and collaborative improvement strategies have been effective: The number of children in the community who started kindergarten ready to learn increased from 67% (2018-19) to 74% (2020-21).

kindergarten readiness

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