

Contra Costa Children’s Leadership Council (CLC): Framework for Collective Action

Purpose of the CLC

To intentionally **develop and strengthen the ecosystem** that builds child, youth, family, and community **resilience and well-being**.

Vision of Success

In every region of Contra Costa County,

- **Our children and youth** are safe, healthy, loved, educated, and have the social-emotional skills to thrive throughout life.
- **Our families** are resilient, connected, and have the social and economic resources to raise thriving children and youth.
- **Our neighborhoods** are safe, just, and vibrant places for families to raise children and youth.
- **Our partners** in public, non-profit, private, and community-led groups and systems create the community conditions for resilience through collective action and “upstream” investments in children, youth, and families.

Values and Guiding Principlesⁱ

1. Equity

We change systems, policies, and practices to ensure all children, youth, and families have equitable opportunities. We address structural inequities so that differences in life outcomes cannot be predicted based on race, ethnicity, income, ability, gender, sexual identity, geographic region, and other demographics.

2. Community Voice and Partnerships

We develop and implement solutions in partnership *with* the community, rather than *for* the community. We center our work and partnerships around the voices and lived experiences of community members.

3. Data for Continuous Improvement

We use data to continuously learn, adapt, and improve. Whenever possible, we disaggregate community-level data by subregion, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and other demographics in order to call attention to systemic inequities that contribute to opportunity gaps and inequitable outcomes. The lived experiences of children, youth, and families provide essential context that drives our community-centered solutions.

4. Integrated, Sustainable Investments in Prevention

We acknowledge the complex and intertwined roots of “the Pair of ACEs” – adverse childhood experiences and adverse community environmentsⁱⁱ. We work across sectors and systems to break down siloes, implement systems-level changes, and invest in prevention strategies that build protective factors and community resilience.

What We Do

- Educate and engage partners in the CLC
- Convene CLC partners to learn, plan, and take action together
- Synthesize local data in a Child and Youth Well-being Index
- Coordinate system-wide changes and improvements that embed “children in all policies”
- Align and leverage initiatives and resources focused on children, youth, and families
- Coalesce around common goals for policy, advocacy, and systems changes

ⁱ Adapted from Building Healthy Places: <https://buildhealthyplaces.org/principles-for-building-healthy-and-prosperous-communities/> and Collective Impact Forum: <https://www.collectiveimpactforum.org/resources/collective-impact-principles-practice>

ⁱⁱ Building Community Resilience: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/departments/redstone-center/resilient-communities>