



Progress Report

June 2022 - June 2025

Report Created for the
Inland Empire Children's Cabinet

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Sarah Marschall Strategy

Funded by:



The IE Children's Cabinet is an
initiative of the **Inland Empire
Community Collaborative**

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Impact Summary

The Inland Empire Children's Cabinet was formed in 2022 as a coalition of nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, and community leaders with the purpose of demanding justice and equity for underserved and marginalized children and families in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Their vision is a healthy and just Inland Empire for children and families. In its startup years, the Children's Cabinet has brought together partners and demonstrated the ability to shift regional power for health and racial equity, with a focus on children, youth, and their families.

The Children's Cabinet upholds a principle: that all children and families — regardless of background—deserve to thrive. **Working together across sectors and centering those most impacted is the path to affect the systems, policies, and context for people in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.**

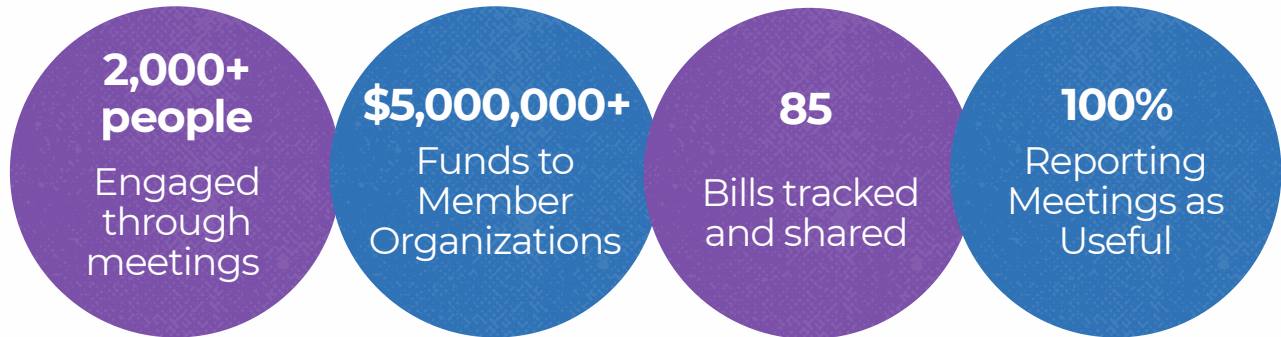
By the Numbers

- **211** active members
- **136** member organizations
- **136** grant opportunities shared
- **14** organizations reported new funding and attributed it to participation in the Children's Cabinet
- **5** collaborative grant applications completed and funded, involving multiple partners and consortia
- **\$5 million+** brought into the region through the Cabinet and partners
- **85** policies tracked and shared since 2022
- **24** bills are currently tracked and shared.
- **4** active committees
- **1** new community table - elevating the voice of youth
- **100%** of Cabinet Meetings rated as useful by participants



Key Impact Metrics

The foundation of the Inland Empire Children's Cabinet is an equitable, data-driven policy that improves outcomes and quality of life for children in the region.



Strategy Milestones

Goal 1 Powerful, values-aligned, and sustainable Children's Cabinet with membership, governance, and resources to influence policies and systems for children and families.	Process - Members and committee co-chairs engaged - Bylaws adopted - Theory of Change completed - online collaboration spaces created and used - Committees meeting regularly
Goal 2: The Children's Cabinet is a trusted resource for knowledge and information and actively communicates important information to influence improvements for children and families.	Process - Bills are tracked and shared with members. - Members and guests sharing information through presentations and meeting summaries - Resources shared through grant opportunities
Goal 3 Family and youth champions have informed a policy platform in coordination with the IECC Children's Cabinet and are engaged in advocacy for the policy platform in coordination with the IECC Children's Cabinet.	Process - Youth table launched - Committees working on policy platforms
Goal 4 Inland Empire Children's Cabinet has demonstrated impact through influence at the local, regional, and state levels.	Impact - Advocacy trainings completed - Testimony provided at the State Legislature - Legislation drafted and passed

Introduction: Who We Are

The Inland Empire Children's Cabinet is a coalition of nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, businesspeople, and community leaders, comprising youth and parents who demand justice and equity for underserved and marginalized children and families in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Our vision is a healthy and just Inland Empire for children and families. The Children's Cabinet brings together partners to shift regional power for health and racial equity, with a focus on children, youth, and their families. The Inland Empire Children's Cabinet aligns with the values of justice, equity, and collaboration to guide our work.

This report marks a significant milestone: three years of work together, moving from planning the Children's Cabinet to a vibrant coalition with working committees and a Theory of Change to guide our work into the future. This summary highlights successes and integrates learning from our startup to continuously improve.

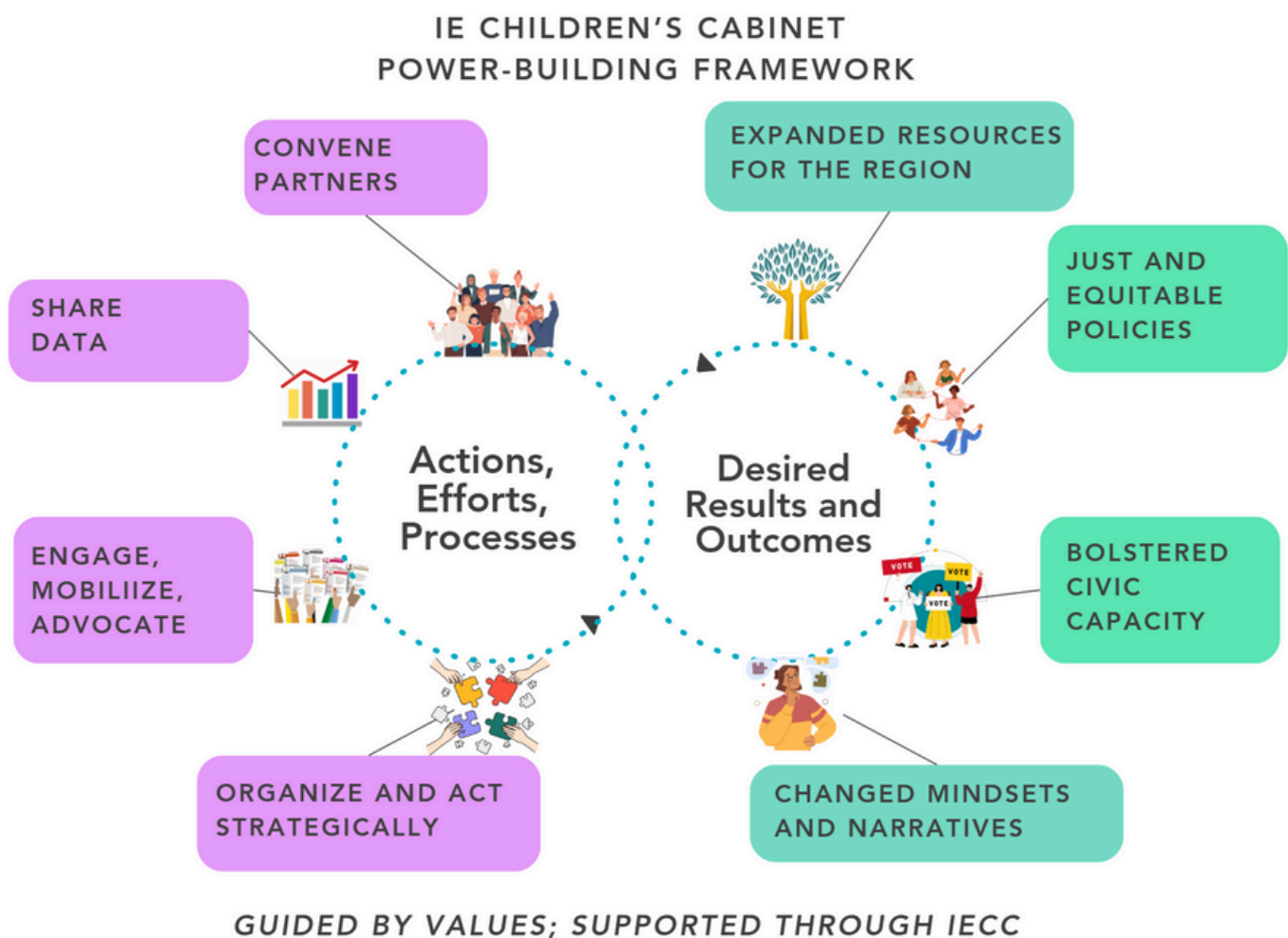
The IE Children's Cabinet is a project of the Inland Empire Community Collaborative, serving as a backbone organization to amplify the collective power of individuals and organizations across the region. The IECC has developed considerable infrastructure for its operations and leveraged its connections and membership to build a network of partners. Committee chairs are working on specific functional areas - Health and Wellness, Childcare, Child and Youth Education, and Basic Needs. The work is also complemented and integrated with All Children Thrive, a project that shifts power to youth and brings much-needed financial resources to a city in San Bernardino County through taxation on Cannabis revenue. There is synergy among the parts, with committees working on both specialized and shared aims for children and their families. Work is aligned to the Vital Conditions Framework, with a focus on areas of basic needs for health and safety and lifelong learning.



Who We Are is How We Work

The work of the Children's Cabinet is made possible by the participation, in-kind, by numerous organizations, and through the work of the IECC, who provide the structure, support, and relational framework to support regional change. To continue to build power in the region, we need to continue to build on the relational fabric and expand the table. Funding for this work is also needed to maintain momentum and meet the challenges of the moment..

Building power for the region



Values in Action

Youth for Change Alliance – City of Adelanto, CA

Children’s Cabinet members defined their values: Compassion, Respect for ourselves and communities, Creating abundance, Courageous Service, Forward thinking, Commitment and Tenacity, Teamwork, Engaged Community, and Authenticity.

These words come to life in small and large ways. Through collaboration and leveraging of ACT, members of the Children’s Cabinet are part of the early steps to bring forward new leadership among youth in Adelanto, and also uncovering and making available new financial resources through dedicated funds for children and youth. With youth as the decision-makers, there are shifts from “the way things have always been” to ways that truly support the community’s residents.

This work is moving forward with and in coordination with the regional Children’s Cabinet. Members of the Cabinet are contributing to success by sharing contacts and information; longer term, the youth in Adelanto can help build regional youth power as other communities seek to replicate the work of both identifying dedicated funding during difficult times and looking to the people most impacted to guide the changes we need to see in our communities.



System Challenges to Solutions

Members of the Children's Cabinet met to identify underlying issues that are critical for the Cabinet to consider and work to address. These issues take time and collaboration. Below are some of the ways we are effecting change.



01. Fractured Systems of Collaboration and Support

The service system is siloed. The geographic size and spread of the region challenge people in receiving services. There is competition for resources and funding. Mistrust can be the norm. Coalition members are at capacity and often feel burned out and not able to take on more.



02. No or Limited Unified Shared Metrics

There is a technology gap within and among organizations as well as for the people served. There are insufficient or misaligned data collection strategies. As a result of these issues, we do not have shared measures of need or impact.



03. Inequitable Power Structures

Political funding priorities and a divisive political landscape prevent positive change. Service organizations are challenged to add advocacy and policy work. The region is limited by cultural and generational beliefs.



04. Invisibility and Undervalued

There is limited unrestricted revenue for startups, innovation, and scaling, and inadequate public and private money entering the region. We have vulnerability to changing economic conditions, i.e., funding is substantially less in comparison to other areas, while there is considerable need.

Toward Collaborative Action and Collective Impact

The Children's Cabinet has engaged over 200 members and more than 130 organizations to collaborate. As the first 20-county Cabinet in the State, they can have a significant impact on the region. Through regularly and systematically sharing grant opportunities, they are dismantling the idea of scarcity and, through encouragement and support of collaborative proposals, building collective strength.

Toward Shared Data Sets and Ongoing Assessment

The Theory of Change and work of committees determined internal, important metrics to track progress as a Cabinet, and committees have also set up their goals. The Cabinet also decided to align with and uplift the Vital Conditions, working to integrate data for overall improvements in social determinants of health across the region.

Toward Distributed Leadership & Shared Power

The Children's Cabinet has helped individuals and organizations step into policy and advocacy more firmly through training, developing helpful resources, and tracking bills that impact children and families in the region. Through the work of co-chairs and grant leads, leadership is distributed, and work to stand up a youth member table is an essential step to centering people most impacted in decision-making roles.

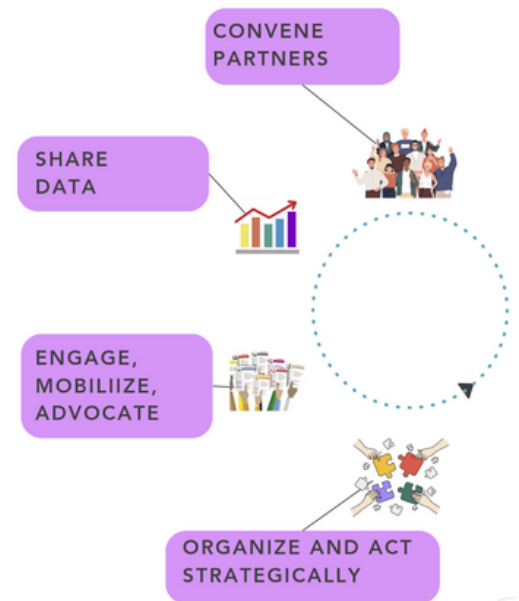
Toward Established and Recognized Expertise & Leadership

The Cabinet as a whole is showing up as a regional leader, drafting policy, mobilizing engagement, and standing together at the State Legislature. They are participating and being featured in national conversations and conferences.

**INLAND EMPIRE CHILDREN'S CABINET
2024-2027 PROGRESS REPORT**

Process in the Theory of Change

The Children's Cabinet is **building power for children and families in the region**. They achieve this by convening partners, developing and sharing meaningful data, engaging with, mobilizing, and advocating for people in the region who have lived expertise, and organizing and acting strategically. As they are successful in these efforts, they expect to see expanded resources for the area, just and equitable policies created or maintained, bolstered civic capacity as people see their power and resources, and changes in mindsets and narratives that benefit the children, youth, and families in the Inland Empire.



01. Convene Partners

People are the power in the movement. To date, the Cabinet has convened **130** meetings with **attendance of 2000**, and brought together **over 200 active members** and over **130 organizations**.



02. Develop and Share Data

The Children's Cabinet has guided data development, including both quantitative and qualitative information, through mapping assets in the region and compiling information about member organizations.



03. Engage, Mobilize, Advocate

Clarity on issues leads to action. The Children's Cabinet now hosts engagement tools that enable members to easily mobilize and advocate for policy and system change in alignment with their values.



04. Organize and Act Strategically

Four committees strategically focus on differentiated action in areas of child care, education, health and wellness, and basic needs.

Outcomes in the Theory of Change

As we are successful in our efforts, we expect to see expanded resources for the region, just and equitable policies created or maintained, bolstered civic capacity as people see their own power and resources, and changes in mindsets and narratives that benefit the children, youth, and families in the Inland Empire.

01. Expanded Resources for the Region

Through shared grant opportunities and focused support, the Children's Cabinet is supporting resourcing for individual organizations, collaboratives, and the sustainability of the Cabinet. More than 130 funding opportunities were shared; 14 organizations attributed new funding to the IE Children's Cabinet; 5 collaborative proposals were funded, with a low estimate of \$5 million in awards associated with the Cabinet.

02. Just and Equitable Policies

The Children's Cabinet works toward just and equitable policies that support children and families in our communities. Over the 3-year period, 85 bills were tracked and shared; cabinet members contributed to new legislation and testified at the state level on issues such as child care.

03. Bolstered Civic Capacity

People in the community with lived experiences should be influencing the work and changes that take place. Resources built to share information about how to connect with lawmakers, how to vote, and more, and shared with the Cabinet Members. A new member table, made up of youth, has been launched and will help to guide decision making in Adelanto.

04. Changed Mindsets and Narratives

The Children's Cabinet is working to change the mindset and narratives through changes in conditions and perceptions. Examples of key successes include collaborations with statewide organizations, such as [All Children Thrive – California](#), [Funding the Next Generation](#), and the [Children's Funding Project](#), which established more effective models for revenue and budget planning that focus on the needs of children and families.

Learning & Improving

Progress is not only about successes. The Children's Cabinet assesses challenges and also seeks feedback on what to prioritize. **When asked about priorities, Cabinet members suggest continued and sustained focus on:**

1. Collaboration and Partnership: Many responses emphasize the importance of working with other counties, coalitions, and local representatives.

2. Funding and Grants: A significant number of responses highlight the need for increased funding. Examples include "Advocacy, grants and funding for non-profit, additional options to the stated funding," "Collaborative grants," "Mapping and collaboration on grant funding for the region."

3. Policy and Legislation: Several responses directly address policy and legislative efforts. "Policy understanding and helping our communities understand why it's important" emphasizes the educational aspect of policy.

4. Advocacy and Outreach: The core theme of "Advocacy" is present throughout, with specific suggestions on how to improve it. "Creating actionable advocacy opportunities," "Local advocacy efforts," and "Advocacy for the IE" are directly stated.

5. Data and Information Sharing: The importance of data and clear information flow is mentioned. "Legislation updates are important, funding opportunities, and walking us through the SharePoint" also points to the need for accessible information.

6. Strategic Planning and Focus: Responses suggest a need for clear objectives and a strategic approach. "Strategize a plan for our campaign endeavors in Adelanto, CA" are examples.

7. Community Engagement and Awareness: "Connect with SBC Community Vital Signs work" and "Increasing engagement" point to the need for broader community involvement. "Collective messaging to impact public knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors" aims at raising awareness.

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3 Year Goals

Goal 1

Powerful, values-aligned, and sustainable Children's Cabinet with membership, governance, and resources to influence policies and systems for children and families.

Goal 2

The Inland Empire Children's Cabinet is a trusted resource for knowledge and information and actively communicates important information to influence improvements for children and families.

Goal 3

Family and youth champions have informed a policy platform in coordination with the IE Children's Cabinet and are engaged in advocacy for the policy platform in coordination with the IE Children's Cabinet.

Goal 4

Inland Empire Children's Cabinet has demonstrated impact through influence at the local, regional, and state levels.

Values Aligned: Justice Equity Collaboration

Goal	Activity	Early Measures
Goal 1: Powerful, values-aligned, and sustainable Children's Cabinet with membership, governance, and resources to influence policies and systems for children and families.	Maintain and grow active membership by numbers and representation to garner people power, learn together, and build relationships in alignment with the Cabinet's vision, mission, and values.	• Annual Meeting Participants • Meeting Usefulness • Resources for Cabinet • Demonstrations of Collective Impact
Goal 2: The Inland Empire Children's Cabinet is a trusted resource for knowledge and information and actively communicates important information to influence improvements for children and families.	Establish a data dashboard on the region and by committee that communicates important information to partners and the community about needs, assets, in alignment with the Cabinet's vision, mission, and values.	• Committees Using Data Regularly • Committees Engaged in New Data Collection • Metrics on Data Dashboard Data Stories Informing Change
Goal 3: Family and youth champions have informed a policy platform in coordination with the IECC Children's Cabinet and are engaged in advocacy for the policy platform in coordination with the IECC Children's Cabinet.	Engage youth and community voices in development of policy platforms.	• Committees with a Policy Template Brief informed by Racial Equity • Policy or System Wins
Goal 4: Inland Empire Children's Cabinet has demonstrated impact through influence at the local, regional, and state levels.	Provide visible and impactful action at local and state levels.	• Committees with Policy Platform • Policy Wins • New Resources • Policy or System Wins

Aligned Action

Hopefulness, Compassion, and Respect for Ourselves and Community, Forward Thinking, Change Making Action; Creating Abundance; Sharing Resources, Authentic, Courageous Service; Commitment and Tenacity, Teamwork and Trust for Collective Good; Engaged Community.

Goals, Objectives, and Metrics

200 Target for growth

2024-27 Convene Goal

Maintain and grow active membership by numbers and representation to garner people power, learn together, and build relationships in alignment with the Cabinet's vision, mission, and values.

Objectives

1. By 2027, maintain existing members and increase membership by both number and diversity to at least 200
2. By 2027, fully fund the IE Children's Cabinet with an annual and renewable budget

Strategies

- Develop materials and talking points about the IE Children's Cabinet for members to share
- Identify individuals or organizations that are missing – and focus engagement efforts.
- Build relationships with political figures and decision-makers
- Connect with parent and family participants

Key Measures

- Annual Meeting Participants
- Percent Reporting Quality and Usefulness of Meeting
- Resources for Cabinet
- Demonstrations of Collective Impact

Studies have shown that young people who are involved in community issues are more likely to vote, volunteer, and become active citizens in the future.

2024-27 Data Development Goal

Establish a data dashboard on the region and by committee that communicates important information to partners and the community about needs and assets in alignment with the Cabinet's vision, mission, and values.

Objectives

1. By 2027, all committees have identified critical information to collect and have identified sources for this data.
2. By 2027, the IE Children's Cabinet is sharing information that influences equitable policy in the region.

Strategies to Accomplish Objectives

- Apply for funding to support the database system and IE staff support for data
- Define what metrics need to be tracked by the committee
- Assess the current state of the data
- Identify baselines and benchmarks
- Continue geo mapping /needs and strengths
- Publish data
- Provide members and the community with opportunities to understand how to use the data dashboard
- Develop a definition of data points

Practices

- Include data as a standing item in committee and cabinet discussions
- Track and highlight available data as well as unanswered questions and data gaps
- Increase the comfort and confidence of members to use both quantitative and qualitative data for advocacy

Data provides evidence-based insights to inform policy decisions. By analyzing data, we can help policymakers to identify trends, patterns, and areas of need, leading to more effective and focused policies.

2027 Engage, Mobilize & Advocate:

By 2027, family and youth champions have informed a policy and are engaged in advocacy for the policy platform in coordination with the IECC Children's Cabinet

Objectives

1. Maintain or expand funding for All Children Thrive – Cannabis tax for early childhood and afterschool programming.
2. Establish a community table to build and strengthen community capacity to engage with policy.

Strategies to Accomplish Objectives

- Strengthen communication platforms for advocacy, including those for early childhood funding.
- Invite legislative aides by focus area & by county
- Leverage committees to develop potential parent/family/youth advocates outside of regular membership to engage (Eg, ECE voices)
- Develop a policy template research and briefs
- Develop a process template for community conversations with the public & with decision-makers

Practices

- Engage families and youth with attention to inclusivity and representation (e.g., race, ethnicity, disability, geography)
- Use governance for transparent and effective decision-making within the Cabinet and Committees.
- Develop clear policy goals for each committee annually or as relevant to the policy cycle; regularly align and inform the cabinet of committee work for alignment and synergy.
- Establish communication and practices to connect to local issues – and turn out.
- Participate in community advocacy events, e.g., Dia de Los Ninos / Day of the Child.
- Provide opportunities for community members to gain confidence and support to use their voices.
- Attend to where we can have an impact aligned to the mission

2027 Demonstrated Impact:

Inland Empire Children's Cabinet has demonstrated impact through local, regional, and state influence.

Objectives:

1. Policy platform for each of the four fully supported committees
2. One committee-defined "win" annually

Strategies:

- Continue the work of four fully supported committees, meeting regularly to understand the regional strengths and needs and engage in action.
- Map systems of power
- Focus groups to identify obstacles and barriers
- Establish resource mapping
- Draft an organizing plan around the results of previous steps

Practices:

- Learning agenda: Organizing and power building
- Develop and track specific goals and objectives by committee
- Develop a clear policy agenda for each committee annually or as relevant to the policy cycle
- Policy and resource tracking
- Engagement with the broader community
- Communication with the community – needs, assets, actions, wins

Youth are not yet engaged. This is a huge opportunity to catalyze within the region.

Basic Needs Committee Focus

The Inland Empire faces significant challenges, including high rates of food insecurity due to poverty, unemployment, and limited access to grocery stores. The region is also grappling with a housing crisis, rising homelessness, and limited access to affordable healthcare. Additionally, the lack of reliable public transportation in many areas creates barriers to accessing jobs, healthcare, and other essential services.



01. Safe, Healthy, Inclusive Communities

Building safe, healthy, and inclusive communities with stable access to housing, food, education, resources, and other essential needs to improve the quality of life for children and families.



02. Equitable, Consistent Laws

Ensuring laws, policies, and regulations affecting the sector are equitable, consistent, and supportive of organizational capacity to improve sector impact.



03. Inclusive and Culturally Mindful

Intentional in ensuring needs-based programs are accessible and inclusive of varying individual and community needs with an emphasis on cultural mindfulness.

Child Care Committee Focus

The Inland Empire faces significant childcare challenges that impact families, particularly those with low incomes. These challenges can lead to difficulties in balancing work and family responsibilities, as well as negative impacts on children's development. The Child Care Committee is focused on policy actions informed by the community.



01. Childcare Oriented Decisions

Intentionally consider childcare as part of all decision-making processes regarding planning, building, and development.



02. Strong Workforce

Create a workforce development program to grow, advance, and maintain a quality system of childcare.



03. Informed by Parents and Families

Adjust to the needs of local communities to ensure that all families have equitable access to childcare by consistently engaging parents and childcare providers to elevate their voices in decision-making processes.

Health and Wellness Committee Focus

Children and youth in the Inland Empire experience considerable health disparities. These include but are not limited to obesity and diabetes, asthma, mental health issues, dental health issues, and injury and violence. Factors include limited access to professionals and factors of chronic stress that are the result of a lack of investment in people and communities. The Health and Wellness Committee is working on root causes, including prevention and mitigation of Adverse Childhood Experiences.



01. Well-Being of Children and Youth

Ensure the equitable physiological and mental well-being of children and youth from all experiences and backgrounds in the Inland Empire through advocacy, information and resource exchange, mutual support, and collaboration.

Working at multiple levels:

- Systems Change
- Policy Change
- Community Change
- Organizational/Institutional Change

Child and Youth Education

Key educational disparities in the Inland Empire include gaps in educational achievement and outcomes, with factors such as lack of investment and fewer resources within schools contributing to differences.



01. Well-Being of Children and Youth

We Believe...

we are here to empower all youth through and within the education system by fostering an inclusive environment, providing tailored support, and cultivating pathways for personal and academic growth, ultimately enabling them to unlock their full potential and thrive in a rapidly changing world

We Envision....

a world where youth have equitable access to resources, support, and opportunities they need to nurture and unleash every child's full potential for success.

Our Mission....

is to collaborate with each other and regional partners, to create a positive impact for children and youth, through leadership and advocacy, to promote equity and access to educational resources and opportunities



Join us in lifting up the Inland Empire and supporting just and equitable futures for all children and families.

Justice

We value justice and work to shift power to people in our communities.

-
- Learning
 - Educating
 - Engaging

Equity

We strive for a world where everyone has equal opportunities and outcomes, regardless of background.

-
- Data
 - Stories
 - Sharing

Collaboration

We are better together. We work together in mutual support and shared goals.

-
- Convening
 - Supporting
 - Growing

Acknowledgements

The Inland Empire Children's Cabinet is possible through funding from the California Endowment, First 5 San Bernardino, and First 5 Riverside. It exists through the participation of 169 total members across 107 organizations in the Inland Empire who are committed to improving communities through collaboration.

- A Coming of Age FFA
- A Greater Hope
- Allie's Allys
- AM Development Group
- Asian Real Estate Association of America Inland Empire Chapter
- Autism Heroes
- Autism Society Inland Empire Inc
- Black Men for Education Equity
- BLU Educational Foundation
- Blue Shield of California
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Coachella Valley
- Building Resilient Communities
- California Health Medical Reserve Corps
- Center for Social Innovation, UC Riverside
- Children and Family Services
- Children's Fund
- Citrus Counseling Services-Family Service Agency of San Bernardino
- Community Action Partnership of Riverside County
- Consortium for Early Learning Services
- Copper Mountain College
- Diversity Uplifts, Inc. - Maternal Health
- Early Explorers
- El Sol
- Family Assistance Program
- Family Service Association
- Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco
- First 5 Riverside County Children & Families Commission
- First 5 San Bernardino
- Gateway College and Career Academy Riverside City College
- Giving 365, Inc
- Governmental Relations Division, Riverside County Office of Education
- Growing Inland Achievement
- Healthy Valley Foundation
- Inland Empire Autism Assessment Center of Excellence
- Inland Empire Autism Society
- Inland Empire Community Collaborative (IECC)
- Inland Empire Community Foundation

- Inland Empire Health Plan
- Inland SoCal United Way
- JFK Memorial Foundation
- KMC Social Impact Strategies
- Leaps and Bounds
- Leaps and Bounds Pediatric Therapy
- Lina Paredes Consulting
- Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF)
- MALO Motivating Action Leadership Opportunity
- Mending Hearts Family Counseling Center
- Molina Healthcare
- Molina Healthcare California
- Mom and Dad Project
- Moreno Valley Unified School District Early Childhood Learning
- Oak Tree Learning Center
- Pacific Clinics
- Parkview Legacy Foundation
- Partnership for Children & Youth
- Policy Program Office for Early Care and Education San Francisco Low Income Investment Fund
- REACH
- Reach Out
- Riverside County Office of Education
- Riverside University Health System
- RUHS Foundation
- San Bernardino County – Superintendent of Schools
- San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Nutrition Program
- San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
- San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools – Early Education and Development
- San Bernardino Valley College
- SBX: Sigma Beta Xi – Youth & Family Services
- Speech and Language Development Center
- The Child Care Resource Center (CCRC)
- The Living Museum of California First Peoples Cultural Heritage Foundation
- The Mom and Dad Project
- United Cerebral Palsy of the Inland Empire
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, Riverside, Early Childhood Services
- University of Colorado Denver
- USCB
- Voices For Children
- Workforce Development Department (Riverside)
- Youth Action Project



**Supporting nonprofits to collectively
advocate in making the region more
equitable, diverse, and just, through capacity
building strategies and collaboration.**



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