



IE Children's Cabinet Final Report

Created for First 5 San Bernardino and First 5 Riverside County
Report by the Inland Empire Community Collaborative
Contract Period: March 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025

This report reflects the first 3-years of funding provided by First 5 San Bernardino and First 5 Riverside County in establishing the Inland Empire Children's Cabinet.

For questions about this report or the IE Children's Cabinet, please contact IECC CEO Susan Gomez at susangomez@ieccnonprofit.org, or, Director of Public Policy and Technology, Brian Thomas Romo, MPP, at brianromo@ieccnonprofit.org.



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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff of the Inland Empire Community Collaborative, whose passion and commitment have been the foundation of our achievements. Deep appreciation goes as well to all members of the IE Children's Cabinet, whose collaborative spirit and steadfast advocacy have propelled this initiative forward.

Our sincere thanks are also due to the elected officials, including Assemblymember and IE Children's Cabinet founding member, Dr. Corey Jackson, who have championed our cause and to the generous funders, including First 5 San Bernardino and First 5 Riverside County, whose support has made it possible to realize our shared vision for the health and well-being of children and families across the Inland Empire.

Together, your partnership and belief in this work have been instrumental in making the IE Children's Cabinet a beacon of progress and hope for our region.

Gracias,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Gomez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Susan Gomez, MA
Chief Executive Officer
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Contract Period: March 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025

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Introduction

The Inland Empire (IE) Children's Cabinet has been dedicated to supporting children, youth, and families in the region by advancing health and racial equity through meaningful policy advocacy and collaboration. This report provides a detailed summary of the key points and achievements of the IE Children's Cabinet Pillar Committees over the past three years for the contract period, March 2023 - June 2025, with First 5 Riverside County and First 5 San Bernardino County.

Executive Summary

The Inland Empire Children's Cabinet, in partnership with First 5 Riverside County and First 5 San Bernardino, has made significant strides in advancing health and racial equity for children, youth, and families across the region. Over the contract period of March 2023 to June 2025, the Cabinet has worked collaboratively through its Pillar Committees: Basic Needs, Health & Wellness, Child & Youth Education, and Child Care, to implement meaningful policy advocacy, foster multisector collaboration, and drive systemic change.

Central to this progress has been the Inland Empire Community Collaborative (IECC), which has served as the backbone support for the Cabinet since early 2021. IECC's role encompasses providing logistical coordination, effective meeting facilitation, maintenance of collaborative platforms such as SharePoint, recruitment and orientation of new members, technical assistance, and the administration of project management tools. Their data-driven approach has ensured robust fiscal and administrative oversight while tracking and evaluating programmatic outcomes.

IECC's efforts have attracted and engaged over 200 community partners from 136 organizations, with Cabinet meetings attended nearly 2,000 times (duplicated) since 2023. The collaborative's capacity-building initiatives have empowered members to successfully advocate for children and families at both local and state levels, including supporting grant applications, budget advocacy, and policy development that reflect the needs of marginalized communities.

The IECC has also played a dynamic role as a regional convener, leveraging relationships with governmental bodies and academic institutions such as the University of California - Riverside to facilitate innovative cross-sector initiatives. These collaborations have mobilized significant resources and amplified the Cabinet's influence, extending its impact beyond county borders and establishing the IE Children's Cabinet as a trusted statewide policy partner. The IE Children's Cabinet's collective work has demonstrated the power of coordinated advocacy, community engagement, and strategic partnership in building long-term systems change for the benefit of children, youth, and families throughout the Inland Empire and beyond.

IECC as Backbone Support

The Inland Empire Community Collaborative (IECC) has been serving as the backbone support for the Inland Empire (IE) Children's Cabinet since early 2021. IECC has faithfully and effectively maintained our role by providing logistical support, engaging in meaningful meeting facilitation, maintaining shared collaboration spaces including SharePoint, slowly and strategically attracting and orienting new members, providing technical assistance to grow the sectors ability to effectively advocate on behalf of children and families, communicate and administer project management tools and resources that maximized fiscal and administrative oversight, and diligently collected metrics for meaningful program evaluation.

As the work has grown, so has the role of IECC. Through this work, IECC has been instrumental in facilitating multi-sector engagement with over 200 community partners while aligning systems and priorities for the health of children and families and centering often marginalized community voices. The work has also expanded to support not only IE Children's Cabinet sustainability efforts, but also ensuring members of the IE Children's Cabinet could successfully secure funding through collaborative grant applications and budget advocacy.

The goal of these efforts is to effectively impact local systems through long-term power building while growing community presence and influence as a trusted source of policy, advocacy, and information. Over the past three years, the IE Children's Cabinet has become a trusted regional partner with an impact extending beyond our county borders, elevating the IE Children's Cabinet as a statewide partner with the proven ability to affect statewide policy.

In addition to ensuring the goals identified by the cabinet were managed and supported effectively, IECC has also played a crucial role as a regional convener and catalyst for new and innovative initiatives that leverage IE Children's Cabinet relationships to meaningfully establish cross-sector collaboration with government entities and public institutions of higher learning, including the [University of California - Riverside](#), to mobilize resources to benefit the region and grow regional policy and advocacy capacity that uplifts children and families across the region.

IECC has not only fulfilled the deliverables associated with this funding but has also significantly surpassed both internal and regional expectations. IECC has demonstrated what a growing coalition of child, youth, and family service entities can achieve when provided with resources for effective collaboration and support.

Meeting Support and Facilitation

IECC provided ongoing logistical support and helped to support the cofacilitation of meetings to ensure effective collaboration. This included developing agendas with co-chairs, sending invitations, regularly updating SharePoint resources, and co-facilitating meetings. Since tracking began in 2023, IECC has helped to coordinate and support over 130 meetings across the core advocacy pillars of Child Care, Basic Needs, Child & Youth Education, and Health and Wellness. All the while our membership has grown to include over 200 members from 136 organizations serving the Inland Empire region with meetings attended nearly 2,000 times (duplicated) with many returning and remaining engaged over the last three years.

We have also coordinated and supported efforts to meet with elected officials representing the Inland Empire on several occasions and have partnered with state legislative leaders and leveraged additional partner funding to research, draft, and support statewide legislation intended to improve the lives of children and families across the state.

Technical Assistance and Communication

Technical assistance and communication were enhanced through orientation and support for committee co-chairs and active and engaged members. SharePoint access and design were improved upon iteratively to better facilitate communication and resource sharing. Office hours were offered for any member requesting technical assistance or SharePoint training and we have seen a steady increase in engagement and utilization of the online platform.

That platform was populated with dozens of resources including a Grant Opportunity Tracker listing over 50 grant opportunities to support IE Children's Cabinet member efforts, California Legislative Trackers that keep members updated on 20-30 bills moving through the California State Legislature in a legislative cycle, links to legislative resources including legislative calendars and committees, links to quickly and easily contact the governor when mobilizing in support or opposition of a bill, data packets, electoral maps, and links to IECC developed web based platforms and databases that allow members to look up their elected representative.

Funding from additional funders also allowed IECC to provide technical assistance and support to members in effectively engaging and mobilizing staff, volunteers, and clients to vote and elevate the status of the nonprofit sector as the powerful voting force through our [Vote IE](#) initiative. IECC also worked closely with [Inland Empire United](#) to provide essential information regarding the dos and don'ts of nonprofit advocacy to ensure nonprofits were civically engaged while maintaining legal compliance of their nonprofit status.

IECC is also working with statewide organizations including [All Children Thrive - California](#), [Funding the Next Generations](#), the [Children's Funding Project](#), and various other statewide partnerships to expand our capacity and ability to establish dedicated children's funds in local municipalities by studying city budgets, tax structures, and revenue streams to propose budgets that prioritize the needs for children and families. These efforts are two-fold as they provide technical assistance and capacity building for IE Children's Cabinet partners as well as parents and youth in traditionally under-resourced and minoritized communities in the region. These capacity building efforts have led to expanded community engagement and regional advocacy to provide place-based systems change opportunities that build community power and address community needs.



Figure 1 IE Children's Cabinet Pillars Matrix

The IE Children's Cabinet is focused on drafting policy solutions in four core areas: Basic Needs, Childcare, Child & Youth Education, and Health & Wellness. All of these pillars are encapsulated by the understanding that the policy solutions recommended by this body will be rooted in advocacy and equity.

Community Engagement and Advocacy

IECC is actively expanding the cabinet structure to establish a Community Table to support parents, youth, and community leaders while complimenting and balancing the work being done by the existing Member Table. To that end, with funding from All Children Thrive (ACT) - California, the IE Children's Cabinet has established the [Youth for Change Alliance \(YCA\)](#). The YCA is a dynamic, youth-led committee supported by IECC and ACT staff that aims to transform current city systems to improve child and family well-being by connecting community members with city staff and elected officials to create policies, programs, and resources that foster child well-being. Specifically, this project is working with 12 youth and 3 adult allies in Adelanto and surrounding high desert communities to collaboratively design a local ballot initiative that earmarks a percentage of cannabis tax dollars for child care and after school programming. As this group becomes more established, there is an intent to replicate the process in other regions across the Inland Empire and spin-off into the IE Children's Cabinet Community Table.

Multi-Sector Engagement

IECC, through the IE Children's Cabinet, facilitated collaboration between various community allies including nonprofit organizations, regional managed care providers including Inland Empire health Plan and Molina Healthcare, school districts, child care providers, government agencies, and many more. Through their continued engagement and support, multi-sector dialogues were held to align organizations and systems and fuel sustainable change.

Theory of Change

The Inland Empire Children's Cabinet was actively involved in developing a comprehensive [Theory of Change](#) to guide efforts in supporting children, youth, and families in the region. Led by Sarah Marschall of Sarah Marschal Strategy, this work aimed to create a strategic framework that aligned with the cabinet's mission to advance health and racial equity through meaningful policy advocacy and collaboration.





Plan for Impact: Theory of Change Developed for the IE Children's Cabinet | 2024-2027
Download the Theory of Change Report at bit.ly/cc2024toc

The process allowed the IE Children's Cabinet to refine the goals and develop specific strategies to collectively achieve them. The cabinet members engaged in collaborative discussions to map out the steps needed to implement the Theory of Change effectively. Additionally, the cabinet was involved in the [IE Vital Conditions Network's](#) efforts to reimagine collective actions to advance equitable well-being in the region.

Legislative Tracking and Policy Advocacy

Beginning in 2023, the IE Children's Cabinet visited Washington, DC, to participate in the Federal GIS conference hosted by Esri. While there, the IECC staff scheduled meetings with all Inland Empire Congressional representatives to discuss issues being addressed by IE Children's Cabinet pillar committees, with an emphasis on child care and the need for Federal investments in subsidizing the costs of child care. This led to subsequent conversations with child care providers and advocates in the region and ultimately

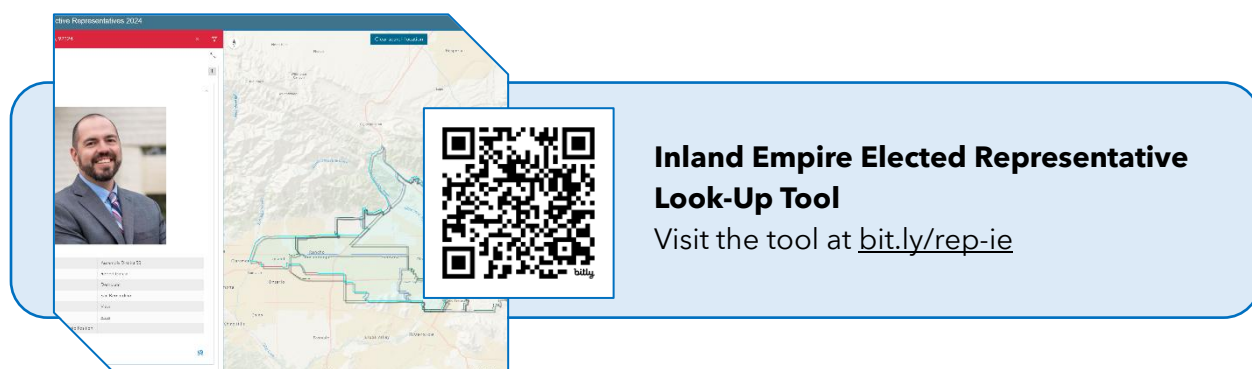
The IE Children's Cabinet tracked and endorsed bills and ballot initiatives related to children's health and well-being. The committee also advocated for equitable policies and funding at the local and state level leading to the endorsement of Proposition 35 (2024): Managed Care Organization Tax Initiative and the endorsement of various pieces of legislation including AB 2496 (Liability Claims: Foster Youth) and AB 1930 (Teacher Credentialing). The IE Children's Cabinet was also instrumental in working with the [Child Care Resource Center \(CCRC\)](#) in creating and passing AB 92 (Reyes): Preschool and child care and development services: family fees. AB-92 significantly reduced family fees for state-subsidized preschool and child care services in California by capping fees at 1% of monthly income starting July 1, 2023, and exempting families earning below 75% of the state median income from paying any fees.

In 2024, the IE Children's Cabinet was invited by Assemblymember Dr. Corey Jackson to provide critical testimony to Sacramento Testimony on the needs of Child Care during the Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Human Services listening session that took place at the California State Capitol in Sacramento.

The IE Children's Cabinet was concerned with supporting legislation that led to nonprofit sustainability and endorsed many pieces of legislation that were a part of the California Association of Nonprofit's Nonprofit Contact Equity Work. This led to the passing of several bills including AB 1039 (Hart) that "required all new grants and contracts administered by state agencies, beginning January 1, 2026, to provide advance payment to nonprofits. The

bill also requires state agencies to include whether advance pay is available and at what rate in any notices about grants and contracts, including on the state’s grants portal.”¹

These approaches have also led to regional investment and support by [PolicyLink](#), a national research and action institute working to strengthen democracy through regional policy and system change that establishes responsive and accountable governing systems and structures. They have provided funding for IECC to support additional IE Children’s Cabinet efforts that elevate the region including the development and continued maintenance of the IE Elected Representative Look-Up tool.



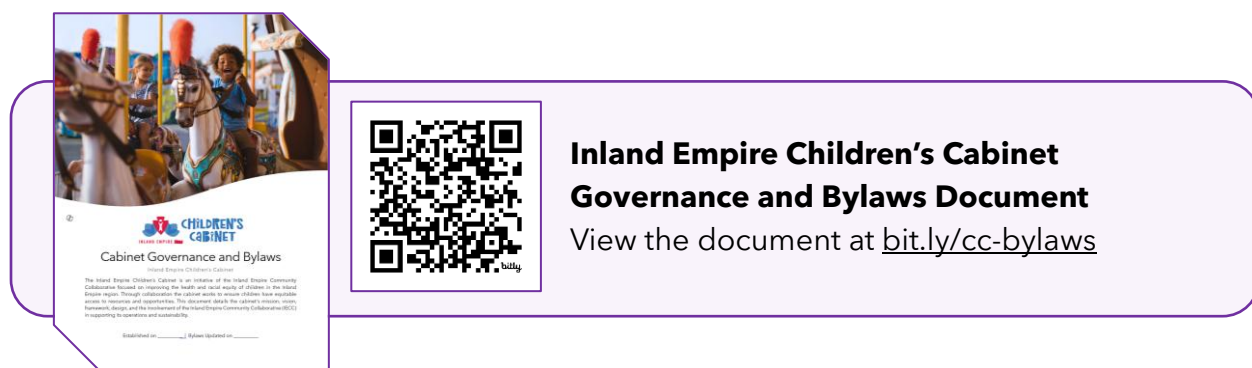
As a result of the work done in the IE Children’s Cabinet, Child Care Committee Cochairs, James Moses of CCRC, and Pamela Robinson, of [Concilio Child Development Centers - Riverside](#), were elected Regional Directors of Leadership and Training for [EveryChild California’s Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) Voices](#). ECE Voices is a network dedicated to ECE providers, advocating for the needs and interests of children and families. This has been an essential component of the Child Care Committee’s success in addressing state and local policy supporting child care.

Finally, IECC has partnered with the University of California - Riverside (UCR), [Center for Community Solutions \(CCS\)](#) to develop an internship program funded by a regional California Jobs First Thrive Catalysts grant awarded to IECC in the spring of 2025. The project aims to recruit 10 UCR School of Public Policy BA/MPP students in the fall and winter quarters to intern with nonprofit organizations in the Inland Empire, primarily with IE Children’s Cabinet members. These interns will help in establishing or advancing the organizational policy advocacy infrastructure while also being provided technical assistance by IECC to enhance nonprofit workforce skills, establishing a higher education to nonprofit pipeline to advance the sector.

¹ California Association of Nonprofits. (2025). CalNonprofits’ 2025 sponsored legislation. CalNonprofits. <<https://calnonprofits.org/calnonprofits-2025-sponsored-legislation/>>

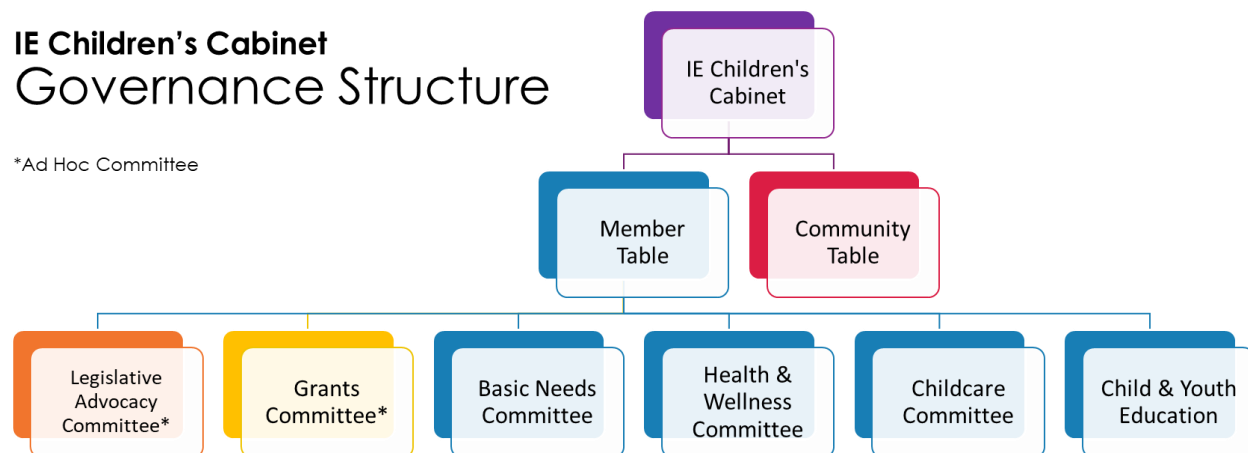
Governance Structures and Sustainability

Over the past three years, the Inland Empire Children's Cabinet has focused on co-developing robust governance structures and bylaws with significant member input. The [IE Children's Cabinet Structure and Bylaws document](#) outlines the governance and operational framework for the Inland Empire Children's Cabinet. It outlines the mission and vision, committees and membership criteria, officer responsibilities, meeting procedures, decision making and endorsement procedures, a framework for collaborative grant proposals, and general bylaw essentials including instructions on voting, adopting, and amending the bylaws while allowing for flexibility to adapt to changing political and timely conditions. Significantly, it states that the IE Children's Cabinet follows a "Margin to Center" co-design framework, ensuring that historically marginalized voices are central to policy design and advocacy. This approach emphasizes the importance of working with organizations led by and serving marginalized communities to ensure policies and initiatives reflect the needs and aspirations of the community, with a focus on health and racial equity.

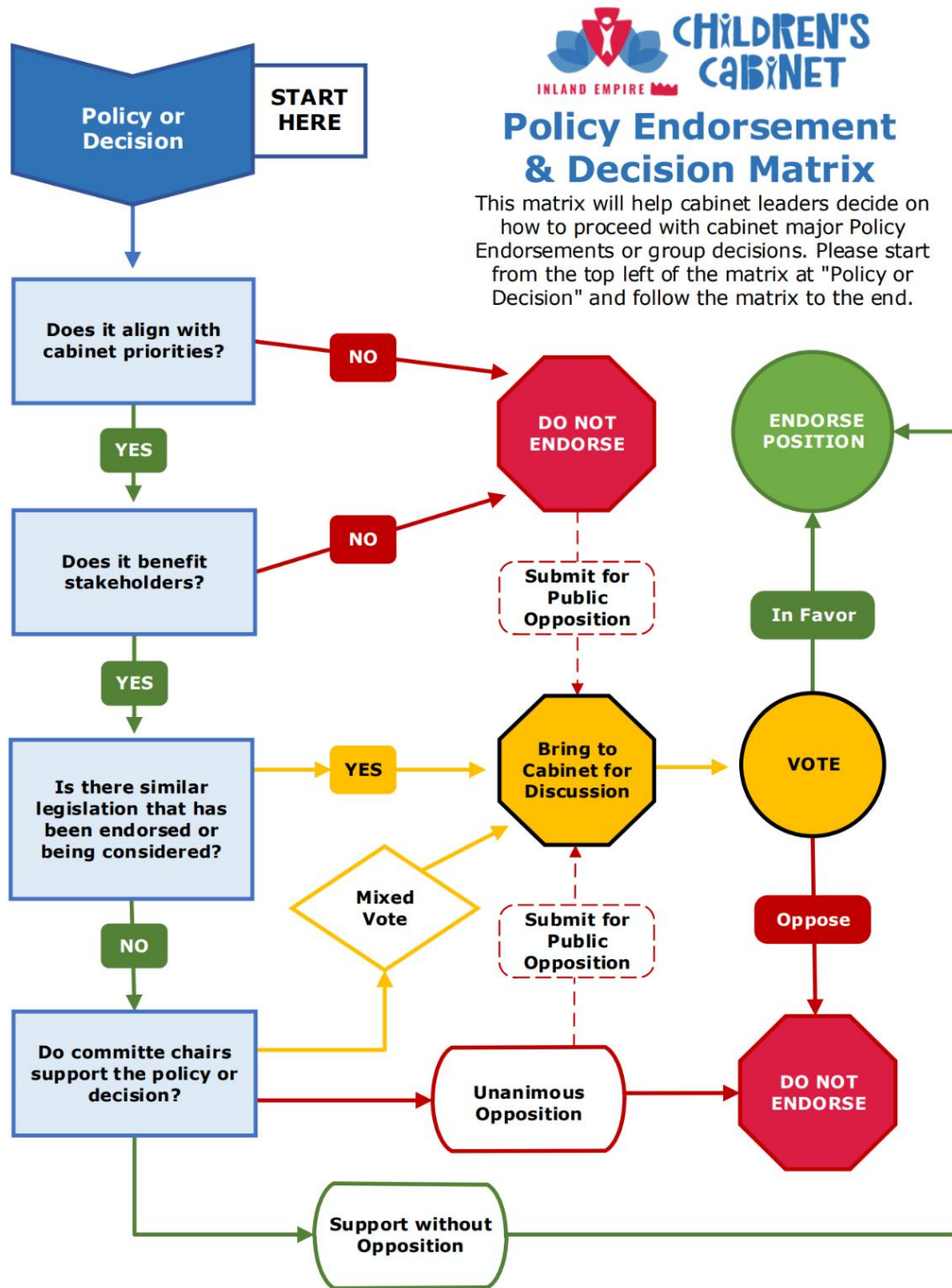


IE Children's Cabinet Governance Structure

*Ad Hoc Committee



IE Children's Cabinet Policy and Endorsement Matrix



Strategic Framework and Goals

Working with Technology of Participation facilitator, Becky Foreman of [Becky Foreman Facilitation & Training](#), the IE Children's Cabinet developed shared, community-wide goals to support children and families by engaging in a strategic planning session. This strategic planning session was conducted to refine goals and overall IE Children's Cabinet project design. Participants worked on developing a strategic framework to improve coordination across both counties around the health needs of children by focusing on the question:

How can we, as the Children's Policy and Action Coalition, over the next three years, expand our capacity to achieve justice and equity for children and families in Riverside and San Bernardino counties through collaboration and advocacy focused on Basic Needs, Childcare, Youth Education, and Health & Wellness?

Through this process, four strategic directions were identified:

- 1) **Standardize Metrics:** This is done by collecting and defining metrics already being used and creating open-source databases for shared impact measurement.
- 2) **Rebrand the Region:** This is done through developing unique regional narratives and increase a positive awareness about the region.
- 3) **Invest In Pact:** This is done by actively working to ensure equitable and sustainable funding is coming to the region while strengthening existing regional ecosystems through collaboration.
- 4) **Unify Systems for Equity:** This is done by building unity by hosting mixers and networking opportunities with organizations with common interests and building equitable power structures that elevate the skills of regional leaders, build trust between nonprofits and government agencies, and encourage youth to stay in the region to support advocacy and economic development efforts.

All these items have been essential in moving the IE Children's Cabinet forward in a clear and meaningful way.



Children's Policy and Action Coalition
Strategic Plan
2023-2026
August 19 & September 30, 2023
Hosted by the Inland Empire Community Collaborative



Inland Empire Children's Cabinet 3-Year Strategic Plan (2023-26)
View the document at bit.ly/cc-sp24

Grant Development and Funding

Continued efforts were made to secure and sustain multi-party funding for continued growth and operation of the Cabinet. Additionally, the Cabinet leveraged previous funding for private foundation and in-kind support to bring the model to scale. Continued funding from the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#) through the [Inland Empire Community Foundation](#), PolicyLink, the [California Wellness Foundation](#), All Children Thrive - California, and others has also allowed us to more meaningfully support advocacy efforts that systemically change the region through policy advocacy and education not initially funded by First 5.

Grant writer Andrea Mitchel has played a crucial role in advancing the Cabinet's funding initiatives by providing opportunities for Grant Champions within each pillar committee to share and discuss potential collaborative grant opportunities. The IE Children's Cabinet has been successful in securing funding through collaborative grant applications. As of this year, 2025, through relationships made and collaborative applications formed in the IE Children's Cabinet, 14 IE Children's Cabinet members have collaboratively brought over \$5,520,000 in grant funding supporting children, youth and families. This includes a \$1,000,000 investment by Congressman Mark Takano through Congressional Community Project Funding to support Concilio Child Development Centers in Riverside to fund ECE Workforce Pathways programs that help support the creation career educators in the ECE and child care sector.

Expansion and Sustainability

Members of the IE Children's Cabinet are now expected to complete a [New Member onboarding survey](#). This survey collects essential information about the organization to support our grant writer and pillar committee grants leads in making more informed decisions about pursuing collaborative grant activities. It has also allowed IECC to map the service area of all allied members to identify gaps in regional services and more narrowly identify potential cabinet partnerships that fulfill the commitment to engage with community using the Margin to Center approach.

Committee Impact

Basic Needs Committee

The Basic Needs Committee has been focused on addressing food insecurity, housing, education, health, and community resources. There was an initial difficulty in defining the exact policy advocacy avenues and issues the committee would address due to the frequently changing and growing nature of regional community needs due to shifting pandemic needs, economic uncertainty, and political disorder. However, the committee identified three overarching goals collaborative efforts do work in favor of accomplishing:

Basic Needs Committee Leadership:

- **Cochair** | Cesar Navarette, Children's Fund
- **Cochair** | Lolofi Soakai, MALO
- **Grants Lead** | Andrea Crawford, Children's Fund

1. We must work towards 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.
2. We must work to ensure laws, policies, and regulations affecting the sector are equitable, consistent, and supportive of organizational capacity to improve sector impact.
3. We must be intentional in ensuring needs-based programs are accessible and inclusive of varying individual and community needs with an emphasis on cultural mindfulness.

The committee has showcased the work of organizations including the [Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective \(IE-IYC\)](#) to highlight the challenges faced by undocumented youth and youth from mixed-status families. They also highlighted [Project Foodbox](#), an organization that fights food insecurity and diet-related chronic diseases through food-as-medicine programs. The committee has also discussed the importance of youth involvement in social justice and advocacy efforts. Additionally, the committee has been working on addressing food insecurity and its long-term impacts, including researching the link between food insecurity and trauma.

By leveraging the strengths of its diverse committees and member organizations, the Cabinet continues to foster meaningful partnerships and advocate for equitable policies that improve access to resources, enhance well-being, and empower the next generation. As the Cabinet moves forward, it remains dedicated to adapting its strategies and deepening its impact, ensuring that every child in the Inland Empire has the opportunity to thrive.

Health and Wellness Committee

The Health and Wellness Committee has prioritized Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and youth mental and behavioral health issues. Early on the committee identified that they would work toward accomplishing their three overarching goals:

1. We must work towards minimizing the exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) in children and youth and improve intergenerational mental health.
2. We must work to improve community health and resilience by promoting systems of care that adopt evidence-based and trauma-informed policies.
3. We must work to improve accessibility and quality of life and care for all children and youth.

Health and Wellness Committee Leadership:

- **Cochair** | Damien O'Farrell, Parkview Legacy Foundation
- **Cochair** | Karla Flores Rosas, John F. Kennedy Foundation
- **Grants Lead** | Erin Brinker, Making Hope Happen Foundation
- **Special Needs** | Kristin Gist, First 5 Riverside County Consultant

Initially, the committee worked on developing and distributing a Community Landscape Survey that highlighted the region's serious lack of infrastructure to effectively identify and mitigate ACEs in young children. Initial findings showed that failed policies and inadequate funding structures have been detrimental to addressing regional trauma, however; an official assessment is still needed. This has led the committee to being active in directing policy advocacy efforts to expand Medi-Cal to more qualified individuals in the region. One of these strategies has also been addressing the challenges posed by California's Same Day Exclusion Policy and supporting Dyadic Care Behavioral Health Services. This policy prevents Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) from billing Medi-Cal for both physical health and mental health services delivered to a patient and/or their parent or caregiver on the same day at rates that are equitable and sustainable. This restriction creates a significant barrier to integrated care, delaying access to critical health services, especially for underserved populations.

The exclusion also strains the capacity of health centers, many of which face resource constraints and workforce shortages. FQHCs and RHCs serve as essential safety nets for millions, yet the inability to bill for same-day services limits their ability to provide comprehensive care efficiently. This policy directly undermines efforts to integrate care models proven to improve patient outcomes and reduce long-term costs.

Ultimately, this policy disincentivizes our Medi-Cal healthcare providers from fully operationalizing dyadic care services that emphasizes holistic, patient-centered care where

mental and physical health services are intertwined for better health results, due to fiscal costs and capacity.

The IE Children’s Cabinet worked closely with California State Assemblymember Robert Garcia’s staff to draft unbacked legislative language to address the Same Day Exclusion Policy with the intent of working with a California state legislator to introduce the bill the legislature. However, the committee met with the [California Primary Care Association](#), who has been working on this issue for the last decade. They have been working directly with the California Department of Healthcare Services to identify the true cost of implementing this policy change. The Health and Wellness Committee has joined their efforts by writing a survey for FQHCs and RHCs to provide written testimonial on the impact of the Same Day Exclusion Policy.

The work of the Health and Wellness Committee stands as a testament to the Cabinet’s commitment to advancing the well-being of children and families throughout the Inland Empire. By tackling critical issues such as Adverse Childhood Experiences and access to integrated health services, the committee is driving policy changes and fostering resilient systems of care. Their dedication to advocacy and collaboration is paving the way for healthier communities and ensuring every child has the support they need.

Child and Youth Education Committee

The Child and Youth Education (CYE) Committee has been working on various initiatives, including the Youth for Change Alliance (YCA), which aims to redirect cannabis tax revenue towards children’s funds. This project looks to be modeled closely to the success found by Sacramento’s [Measure L](#), which successfully saw the city earmark a substantial percentage of cannabis tax dollars to support children and youth.

Child and Youth Education Committee Leadership:

- **Cochair** | Jennifer O’Farrell, Healthy Valley Foundation
- **Cochair** | Khieem Jackson, Black Men for Educational Equity and Mission Strategy Group
- **Grants Lead** | Ann Marie Sakrekoff, Growing Inland Achievement

Early on, the committee decided that rather define specific overarching goals they would define a committee mission, vision, and purpose statement to guide the work.

Purpose Statement

We believe we are here to empower all youth through and within the education system by fostering inclusive environments, 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.

Mission Statement

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

Vision Statement

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.

To that end, the committee is supporting efforts to get more school districts in the region to participate in offering the Seal of Civic Engagement to graduating high schoolers who have been active in policy advocacy and civic engagement work to support at meet the needs in their respective communities. The seal would be prominently displayed on their high school diplomas and transcripts.

The state has also been interested in youth civic engagement efforts. Thomisha Wallace, Executive Director of the [California Youth Empowerment Commission](#) (CYEC), presented to the CYE Committee and offered support in engaging and centering youth voices in the policy making process. The committee is in the process of collaborating with CYEC to host a their regional commission meeting in the Inland Empire.

On various occasions the CYE committee has invited prominent state leaders to inform members of programs and services offered by the state that often go underutilized. The committee introduced Pamela Gibbs, Senior Executive Director of Government Affairs, for the [Los Angeles County Office of Education Civics Engagement and Learning](#). Pamela discussed SB 1094, a bill aimed at encouraging civic engagement among younger children and the importance of involving students in budget workshops. Additionally, the committee invited Diane Lim from the State Treasurer's Office presented the [CalKIDS](#) program, a child savings account program for public students and newborns in California, and discussed eligibility criteria, award amounts, and distribution request process. Matthew Elder from the [Riverside County Office of Education](#) also presented on the [CALSOAP](#) program's Financial Literacy Initiative, which supports youth in being prepared for the future through financial literacy and support in claiming their CalKids account.

The committee has also been active in making sure nonprofits know how to partner with school districts to become approved vendors providing specialized services for children and youth. Michael Wells, CEO of the [Boys and Girls Club of Greater Redlands and Riverside](#), presented on how smaller nonprofits can approach partnering with school districts. He shared the organization's strategy of providing after-school programming to engage and inspire young children while being paid by the district to provide critically necessary services.

Together, these collaborative efforts underscore a shared commitment to empowering youth and children across the region ensuring they not only have access to vital educational and developmental resources but are also equipped to take an active role in shaping their own futures. By fostering partnerships, advocating for policy changes, and elevating the voices of both youth and those who support them, the committee continues to drive meaningful progress that paves the way for lasting impact in the lives of children and families throughout the community.

Child Care Committee

The Child Care Committee has been active with policy advocacy efforts since the conception of the IE Children's Cabinet and has been a model for how the other committees have operated. Child Care was a primary focus during the pandemic as many essential workers lacked critical child care support. It is also an issue that is deeply pervasive in the Inland Empire as the region is only able to meet less than 10% of the

child care needs. The committee quickly identified the three overarching goals that define their efforts that also aligned with statewide collaborative efforts including:

- We must intentionally consider childcare as part of all decision-making processes regarding planning, building, and development.
- We must create a workforce development program to grow, advance, and maintain a quality system of childcare.
- We must 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.

The committee has been exploring potential legislative changes to increase childcare slots and address equity in access to pre-kindergarten services. The committee has also been discussing the importance of community involvement in project development and the challenges posed by workforce shortages for child development associate teacher permit holders in California Head Start.

As the Child Care Committee continues its work, its persistent advocacy and collaborative spirit remain central to addressing the profound gap in child care access throughout the Inland Empire. By prioritizing community engagement, driving workforce development, and championing equitable solutions, the committee is laying the foundation for

Child Care Committee Leadership:

- **Cochair** | James Moses, Child Care Resource Center
- **Cochair** | Pamela Robinson, Concilio Child Development Centers - Riverside
- **Grants Lead** | Rosa Bobadilla, Growing Inland Achievement

meaningful improvements. Their commitment ensures that families and children across the region will be better supported, empowered, and prepared for a brighter future.

Closing

The work accomplished to date is a testament to the collective resolve of individuals and organizations committed to uplifting children and families in the Inland Empire. While significant challenges remain, the achievements serve as both a foundation and an inspiration for continued progress. By embracing innovation, nurturing collaborative relationships, and maintaining a steadfast focus on equity and inclusion, the path ahead holds promise for even greater positive change. The ongoing dedication of all involved gives confidence that the region can continue to evolve into one where every child has the resources and opportunities necessary to demonstrate growth, success, and wellness.

As we reflect on the progress made and the ongoing dedication of so many across the Inland Empire, we are reminded that none of these achievements would be possible without the support of First 5 San Bernardino and First 5 Riverside County, whose commitment and dedication to collaboration has been foundational to every step forward.

It is especially noteworthy that First 5 San Bernardino and First 5 Riverside County, while serving two distinct counties with unique needs and perspectives, have united their efforts to fund this initiative. Our region has demonstrated that transformative change is possible through collaboration and collective action, ensuring that children and families throughout the Inland Empire benefit from a truly regional approach.

With sincere appreciation, we look ahead with hope and determination, knowing that together—through continued partnership, shared purpose, and an enduring belief in the potential of every child—we can transform the region into a place where all children and families can thrive. We thank First 5 San Bernardino and First 5 Riverside County once again for their leadership and trust, and we eagerly anticipate the journey ahead as we work side by side to build an even stronger, more equitable future for all.

Appendix

A. Evaluation of Impact 2022-2025 by Sarah Marschall

To view the document, please visit bit.ly/cc-impact25

B. Inland Empire Children's Cabinet 3-Year Strategic Plan (2023-26)

To view the document, please visit bit.ly/cc-sp24

C. Inland Empire Children's Cabinet Governance and Bylaws Document

To view the document, please visit bit.ly/cc-bylaws

D. Inland Empire Elected Representative Look-Up Tool

Visit the tool at bit.ly/rep-ie

E. Plan for Impact: Theory of Change Developed for the IE Children's Cabinet

To download the document, please visit bit.ly/cc2024toc

Evaluation of Impact Report (2022-2025)



Evaluation of Impact 2022-2025 by Sarah Marschall Strategy

Download the IE Children's Cabinet Progress Report that visually provides key data and metrics that showcase cabinet impact between June 2022 - June 2025.



To view the document,
please visit
bit.ly/cc-impact25
or scan the QR code with
your phone camera.



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

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