

Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council 2017 Policy Agenda for Children and Youth

The Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council (ICPC) engages in cross-system collaboration by improving interagency communication, developing child-friendly policies and practices, and initiating systems changes that result in healthy, safe, and thriving children and youth throughout Alameda County. Comprised of County department directors and leaders, ICPC provides advocacy and leadership to improve and enhance service delivery and outcomes for children and youth.

Priorities for Policy and Legislative Advocacy

ICPC is guided by the vision that Alameda County has positive and equitable outcomes for children and youth. As such, ICPC supports and advocates for legislative and policy action that ensures that children and youth in Alameda County are **healthy, safe, and thriving**. As a collaborative of public agencies, we advocate for increased fiscal and administrative flexibility that supports innovation and increases the efficiencies of public systems and their ability to act as catalyst for improving the lives of the children, youth, and families in our communities.

Overarching Principles

Our legislative and policy advocacy is guided by a set of overarching principles that emphasize equity, upstream investment, and interagency collaboration. ICPC supports legislative actions that:

- Address and change the policies, programs, and practices that perpetuate racial inequities;
- Recognize and mitigate systemic inequities in all public systems;
- Prioritize the health and wellbeing of children, youth, and families;
- Support evidence-based policies and programs to ensure healthy, educated children, stable families, and safe and supportive communities.
- Bolster, enhance, and innovate safety net programs that serve our most vulnerable populations;
- Address income and wealth inequality by providing equitable access to economic opportunity and self-sufficiency for all Alameda County residents;
- Remove barriers to public and private interagency collaboration; and
- Preserve and increase funding streams dedicated to upstream and preventative investments in children and youth.

Our vision for healthy, safe, and thriving children, youth, and families includes ensuring the following priorities are addressed. ICPC advocates for policy change and legislative action that increases equitable outcomes across the following domains:

Healthy

- Ensure all children are born healthy;
- Give families and caregivers adequate support they need to care for young children;
- Support consistent access to quality medical, dental, and behavioral health care;
- Support prevention of childhood obesity and increase overall family health;
- Ensure access to safe spaces for physical activity within children's own communities;
- Ensure access to quality nutritious foods in schools and communities; and
- Guarantee access to safe drinking water in schools and communities.



Safe

- Strengthen all families to ensure all children and youth live in safe and stable environments;
- Ensure safe, affordable housing for all families with children and youth, and unaccompanied transitional age youth;
- Prioritizes prevention, diversion, and restorative justice practices that impede youth involvement in juvenile justice systems;
- Support children and youth who are victims of crime and sexual violence through provision of services and support and preempt criminalization of child and youth victims;
- Guarantee freedom from mistreatment, abuse, neglect, and violence; and
- Address and mitigates the impacts of trauma on children, youth, and families.

Thriving

- Ensure all families have the ability to meet basic needs—nutritious food, shelter, clothing, health care, and accessible transportation;
- Enable all caregivers to participate fully in the workforce and contribute to the economic wellbeing of their families and Alameda County;
- Support the healthy social-emotional development of children and youth;
- Guarantee that all children—beginning in early childhood—have equitable access to a 21st century education that promotes success in life and future careers; and
- Provide robust resources that enable county-involved youth to achieve self-sufficiency, academic success, and reach their professional goals; and
- Ensure children and youth have the right to a voice and representation in matters that affect them.

