



**California
Children's
Trust**

A FRAMEWORK FOR BUILDING SOLUTIONS

The California Children's Trust is a coalition-led initiative to reimagine how California defines, funds, administers, and delivers children's behavioral health supports and services. With our coalition of hundreds of community-based organizations, providers, administrators, advocates, and families, we are partnering with state, county, and local entities to confront a statewide crisis in our children's behavioral health. **Together, we are focusing on four strategic areas to build systemic solutions that will improve the well-being of all of California's children, youth, and families.**

While the challenges facing California's behavioral health system impact many children throughout our state, the consequences of our collective failures are disproportionately borne by children of color living in poverty. Given this history of system-driven harm, it is paramount that change be equitable and just. **Being accountable for policies and practices that advance equity and justice starts with community-driven solutions, community-based opportunities for workforce development, and the decriminalization of suffering.**

**Advancing a
Commitment to
Health Equity +
Justice**

The Children's Trust seeks to **align behavioral health approaches and supports across public child-serving systems**, making systems easier to navigate for families, and ensuring that they are accountable to each other and to all Californians. Integrating promising and evidence-based behavioral health approaches into educational and community-based settings, creating shared responsibility for outcomes across systems, ensuring data sharing and integration, and changing

burdensome and inefficient administrative practices for counties and providers are all vital strategies to increase effectiveness and improve quality.

**Ensuring
Quality,
Efficiency, and
Integration**

California's current model of healthcare requires that a child have a covered diagnosis to authorize services. This pathology-driven approach views children in terms of deficits, requires that they demonstrate impairment before receiving intervention, and limits the scope of services to clinical approaches. The California Children's Trust seeks to **improve the clinical model of care, provide preventative, strengths-based approaches, and develop and scale services that serve children proactively, in the context of their families and communities.**

**Increasing Access
to a Broader Scope
of Behavioral
Health Supports
and Services**

**Maximizing
Funding for
Supports and
Services**

California is currently losing out on valuable opportunities to **increase federal, state, and local funding for public behavioral health supports and services.**

Maximizing federal matches, creating new sources of state revenue, and pursuing pooled purchasing and alternative payment models will dramatically increase and improve California's investment in the mental health and well-being of young Californians.