Framework for Building Solutions

The California Children’s Trust is a coalition-supported initiative to reimagine how California defines, funds, administers, and delivers children’s social, emotional, developmental, and mental health supports and services. With our coalition of hundreds of community-based organizations, providers, administrators, and advocates, we are turning to state and local leaders and communities to address the crisis in our children’s health and well-being. Together, we are focusing on four strategic areas to co-design systemic solutions that will improve the well-being of all California’s children, youth, and families.

Advance Health Equity + Justice

Any transformation of California’s behavioral health and child-serving systems must address racism and center youth and family-lead solutions that honor, restore, and nurture the human relationships children, families, and communities rely on to survive and thrive.

Maximize Funding Across Child-Serving Systems

California currently ranks 48th in the nation in spending per Medicaid beneficiaries despite having the highest tax base in the country. Maximizing federal match, creating new sources of state revenue, and pursuing alternate payment models can dramatically increase our state and county investments in our children and youth.

Ensure Accessibility, Transparency and Shared Accountability

Sharing accountability for the well-being of our children and families requires broad transparency, improved accessibility, aligned and simplified system navigation, and relationship-centered approaches to family engagement.

Broaden the Scope of Supports and Services

California’s current model of care defines children in terms of their deficits, requires a child demonstrate an impairment before receiving intervention, and limits the scope of supports to clinical care. Extending supports and services to caregivers and allowing parents and peers to be reflected in the behavioral health workforce can address intergenerational drivers of inequities and mitigate critical workforce gaps that disproportionately affect Black, Latinx, and Indigenous youth.