

# All Children Thrive (ACT)

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February 28, 2022



# WHAT IS ACT?

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Statewide campaign helping CA cities prevent and mitigate the effects of childhood trauma, including **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**.

- Bringing together residents, youth, city officials and community leaders to **identify priorities** and **co-design solutions**.
- **Building networks** of people and places throughout CA to **change policies** and **transform systems** shaping child wellbeing.
- Led by **Public Health Advocates** and **UCLA School of Public Health**.
- Overseen by 15-member **Equity Advisory Group**



**Pilot:** \$10M in MHSA Admin (Jan '19 – Dec '21)

**Expansion:** \$25M Gen Fund (Jan '22 – Dec '26)



# ACT Pilot

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**1. Establish Equity Advisory Group**

**2. Hold town hall meetings and conduct public opinion poll to identify priority issues**

**3. Conduct literature review to identify evidence-based strategies to address priority issues**

**4. Recruit and support pilot cities, test and refine the ACT model, prepare for statewide expansion**



# Equity advisory group developed **ACT VALUES**

- **Prevention:** Be proactive rather than reactive
- **Equity:** Focus on the needs in historically disadvantaged communities
- **Youth leadership:** “Nothing about us without us”
- **Courage:** Take risks, stand up for what’s right, address challenging situations
- **Collaboration:** Bring cities together statewide to share, learn, and develop innovative solutions
- **Power Shift:** Embed community voices into policy development, systems change, and program planning



# Town hall meetings and public opinion polling → “Community Action Areas”

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**CREATING PROTECTIVE  
ENVIRONMENTS**



**STRENGTHENING  
ECONOMIC SUPPORTS**



**PROMOTING HEALTHY  
CHILD DEVELOPMENT**



**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**



**ACCESS TO SAFE AND  
STABLE HOUSING**



**MENTAL HEALTH AND  
WELLNESS**

# Literature Review → Policy Toolkit

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## All Children Thrive-California

Partner Toolkit





# Recruit & Support Cities



1. **Recruit cities** through partnership with the League of CA Cities
2. **Establish a Core Team**
  - 2+ residents
  - 2+ city officials/staff
  - 2+ child-focused CBOs
3. **Establish a Youth Design Team**
4. **Provide an ACT coach**
5. **Provide planning grant (up to \$50K)**
6. **Expand the Core Team to include broad representation of youth, residents and organizations**
7. **Join a *Learning Community***



## 16 Pilot Cities

- Antioch
- Bakersfield
- Boyle Heights
- Coachella
- Fresno
- Lakeport
- Maywood
- Mendocino Rancheria
- Modesto
- Oxnard
- Pomona
- Sacramento
- Santa Ana
- Ukiah
- Vallejo
- Yuba County

## 12 Onboarded Cities

- Bell
- Compton
- East Palo Alto
- El Monte
- Huntington Park
- Lancaster
- Oakland
- Palmdale
- Richmond
- Salinas
- Stockton
- Watsonville



# LESSONS LEARNED

- **ACT is making ACEs a priority:** city leaders, CBOs, residents are participating
- **ACT has just begun:** a lot more cities want to participate
- **ACT breaks down barriers:** between CBOs/cities, between cities/youth
- **COVID has made ACT is more relevant than ever:** child trauma, family stress (ACEs = adverse COVID experiences)
- **We have learned how to be ever more effective**
  - Different language in different communities
  - Focus on sustainability (policy and systems change)
  - We can organize communities virtually





# ACT Reauthorization

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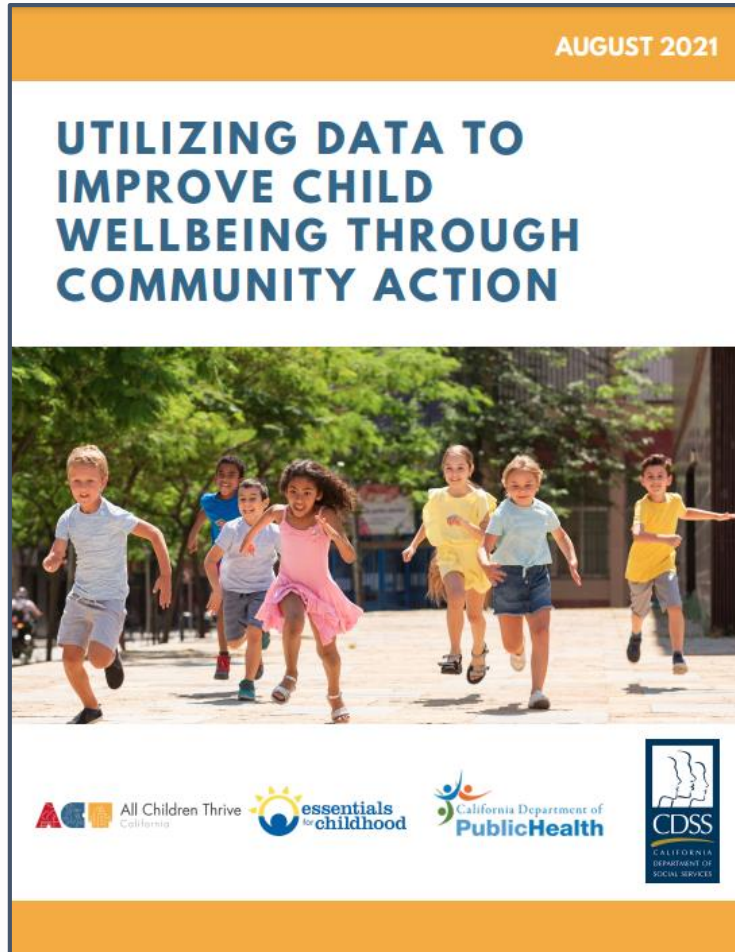
**\$25 Million for 5 year from General Fund**

(2022- 26)

1. Provide **financial & technical assistance** to support at least **30 cities** in changing at least **3 of the 6 community conditions** to prevent childhood trauma and counter its effects.
2. **Educate and raise awareness** among partners, decision-makers and communities about **policy, systems, and environmental change strategies** to improve the wellbeing of CA children.
3. Continue support of **Equity Advisory Group** to guide implementation.



# Data to Action: Evaluation Metrics



1. Provide cities with data **dashboard** to help them **identify problems** and **establish priorities**
2. Include **detailed measures** specific to the Community Action Areas being addressed.
3. **Key Informant Interviews** will determine how the extent to which **community conditions** have improved.
4. **Annual progress reports** to support **continuous improvement**



# Community Action Areas

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# ACT Cities as Possible Mental Health Service Innovation Hubs

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Opportunity for All Children Thrive  
cities to become **innovation hubs** for **low-cost strategies** to address widespread **social and emotional needs** of children and youth, including school or neighborhood-based

- ✓ Peer support
- ✓ Group Support



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