



California Essentials for Childhood Initiative Common Agenda

VISION

All California children, youth, and their families thrive in safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments

PROPOSED MISSION

To develop a common agenda across multiple agencies and stakeholders to align activities, programs, policies and funding so that all California children, youth, and their families have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments

PROPOSED GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Ensuring all children and families have Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments will strengthen families, prevent and reduce child maltreatment, promote healthy child growth and well-being, and allow children to reach their full potential as happy, self-sufficient, socially engaged and productive citizens

2. Solving large scale, complex social problems requires a highly effective level of sustained collaboration across multiple sectors aligned to a broad common agenda and conducting strategic and mutually reinforcing activities (e.g., “collective impact” approach)

3. Accomplishing Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments requires changes in multiple systems with a focus on broad social and economic determinants, social norms, and governmental and institutional policies, as well as individual and family level change

4. Service systems and programs should be based on the best available evidence (i.e., research, experiential and contextual), and should strive for continuous quality improvement

5. Service systems and programs should be culturally and linguistically appropriate for their audiences

6. Efforts to make improvements in overall child health and well-being should include specific actions to address and reduce inequalities/disparities which are avoidable, unjust and preventable

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Strengthen Families’ and Communities’ Capacities to Create Safe, Stable and Nurturing Relationships and Environments for Children

GOALS

Identify, align and enhance the California Essentials for Childhood Initiative partners’ and their stakeholders’ efforts to:

1. Build upon families’ assets to strengthen their knowledge, skills, to provide safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments for their children

2. Achieve the highest level of well-being for families and children, with special attention to those who have experienced socioeconomic disadvantage and historical injustice, including vulnerable communities and culturally, linguistically, and geographically isolated communities

3. Prevent child maltreatment and other childhood traumas and implement trauma informed policies and practices throughout public and private organizations and systems

4. Improve the quality of and expand the accessibility to programs and services supporting families and children

5. Enhance the integration of systems and networks that support families and children to improve communication, services, accountability and outcomes

6. Engage communities and strengthen their capacity to act and take leadership roles in creating safe and stable environments that support families and children

7. Build public support and commitment (or “public commitment and political will”) for policies and programs that promote safe, stable and nurturing relationships and environments for families and children

8. Embed and incorporate families and children as priorities in public policies

9. Increase the number and scope of private sector policies and practices that support families and children

10. Improve and enhance data management systems that use common measurements to increase accountability for shared indicators and outcomes for families and children

WORK GROUPS

Programs and Systems Integration

Community Engagement and Public Awareness

Public and Private Sector Policy

Shared Data and Outcomes