



# Cradle to Community

---

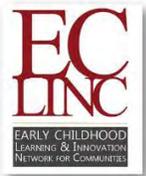
A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development

## FUNDING AND AUTHORSHIP

### PREVENTION INSTITUTE

Center  
for the  
Study  
of  
Social  
Policy

URBAN NETWORKS TO  
INCREASE THRIVING YOUTH  
**UNITY**  
through Violence Prevention



This paper was funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and co-authored by Prevention Institute and the Center for the Study of Social Policy.

Cover Photo Credits (left to right):

Charles Daniels, **Fathers' Uplift** and **CC** Elvert Barnes

**Prevention Institute** is a focal point for primary prevention, dedicated to fostering health, safety, and equity by taking action to build resilience and to prevent problems in the first place. A national non-profit with offices in Oakland, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C., we advance strategies, provide training and technical assistance, transform research into practice, and support collaboration across sectors to embed prevention and equity in all practices and policies. Since its founding in 1997, Prevention Institute has focused on transforming communities by advancing community prevention, health equity, injury and violence prevention, healthy eating and active living environments, health system transformation, and mental health and wellbeing.

**The Center for the Study of Social Policy** (CSSP) is a national, non-profit organization recognized for its leadership in shaping policy, reforming public systems and building the capacity of communities. CSSP's mission is to secure equal opportunities and better futures for all children and families. The organization works to ensure that children and youth are born healthy; enter school ready to learn and succeed; and grow up in safe, supported, and economically successful families and communities. CSSP especially focuses on those who face the most significant barriers to opportunity, including racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants and refugees, families in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty, and families in contact with intervening public systems.

**Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development** was a national partnership project of Prevention Institute and the Center for the Study of Social Policy, supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. With the UNITY

City Network and Early Childhood LINC, the project identified strategic policy, practice, systems, and norms change levers to make communities safer so that all children have the opportunity to develop optimally. The project also identified policies and practices to strengthen early childhood development as a strategy to foster safer communities in the long-term. Activities included convenings, a learning lab, peer learning forums, technical assistance, and the development of briefs, fact sheets, and profiles to support practice. The 18 month planning grant laid the foundation for critical work at the intersection of healthy child development and community safety, all in service to a Culture of Health.

**UNITY**, a **Prevention Institute** initiative, builds community safety in cities through comprehensive, multi-sector strategies that prevent violence and support community resilience. By supporting practice and innovation, UNITY has been collectively advancing the field and shifting the paradigm on community violence and what cities can do about it since 2005.

**Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network for Communities (EC-LINC)**, an initiative of the **Center for the Study of Social Policy**, was developed by and for local communities across the country, and works to support families and improve results for young children through accelerating the development of effective, integrated, local early childhood systems.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction to Cradle to Community</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Overview of the Fields</b>	<b>13</b>
Overview of the Field of Early Childhood/Healthy Child Development	13
Overview of the Field of Community Violence Prevention/Community Safety	14
Common Characteristics Among the Fields	15
Challenges and Enthusiasm for Working at the Intersection	16
<b>Making the Case: What Research Tells Us About the Intersection of Healthy Childhood Development and Community Safety</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Emerging Opportunities for Community Change in Support of Healthy Childhood Development and Community Safety</b>	<b>21</b>
THRIVE: A Framework for Thriving Communities in Support of Healthy Early Childhood Development and Community Safety	21
Emerging Opportunities at the Intersection of Healthy Early Childhood Development and Community Safety	23
<b>Early Signs of Success and Emergent Opportunities</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Future Efforts &amp; Recommendations</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Appendices A-E</b>	<b>a</b>

---

# Executive Summary

Through an 18 month planning grant, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded Prevention Institute (PI) and the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) to explore the connections between community safety and healthy child development, including opportunities for systems, policy, and practice change. In recognition that there are significant inequities in rates of community violence across various groups and areas, the project underscored the needs of communities of color and neighborhoods experiencing concentrated poverty. The national project, *Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development* provided one of the first and most explicit efforts to assert that preventing community violence is critical for achieving equitable opportunities for young children, and also, supporting young children promotes community safety in the long term.

---

*“We can’t achieve a Culture of Health if we don’t break the cycle of violence. Every child should have the opportunities to achieve full health and that can’t happen if our communities aren’t safe.”*

– Martha Davis,  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The project brought together PI’s UNITY City Network, and CSSP’s Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network for Communities (EC-LINC) through convenings, a learning lab, peer learning forums, and technical assistance to identify high-leverage opportunities for change; support action; and, create fact sheets, profiles, and briefs to guide practice, policy, and innovation. The UNITY City Network is a peer network that lifts up and supports local successes while building national innovation and momentum to prevent violence using a public health approach. EC-LINC works with communities with long histories of building effective early childhood systems to fuel learning and innovation, build and disseminate knowledge, and accelerate strategies that improve results for families and children. Partnership with the two networks helped ensure that the project remained practice-informed and grounded in what is realistic and achievable for local communities.

Research supports the strong intersection between community safety and healthy child development:

1. Exposure to neighborhood violence directly impacts children and families.
2. Safe communities can promote nurturing relationships, strong social networks, and community action that support positive early childhood development. This is in part because safer communities

promote informal relationships, social networks, and community cohesion, all of which positively impact young children and their families. This is also in part because safe communities can promote pro-social norms among residents and positive social-emotional development for young children.

3. Safe communities offer safe public places for children to play and develop.
4. Community safety promotes economic opportunity through greater business investment, which allows families to create a more supportive and stable environment for their children.

With the fields of early childhood and violence prevention in a period of evolution, this is an important time to bring the fields together, building on their common characteristics and shared challenges and enthusiasm for working at the intersection.

#### **Common Characteristics among the Fields**

- There is growing recognition of the linkages between forms of violence and how multiple forms of violence affect young children.
- Trauma is a shared concern across both fields. Early childhood leaders have become increasingly engaged in addressing the impact of trauma and toxic stress on young children. In the field of community safety, there is a growing recognition that exposure to violence at any stage of life can be traumatizing and this, in turn, can increase the risk of violence
- Both fields are interested in leveraging resources and strategies through place-based approaches.

#### **Challenges and Enthusiasm for Working at the Intersection**

- Practitioners from both fields experience barriers in working at the intersection of community safety and early childhood development.
- Community safety and early childhood development practitioners/ fields often utilize different language, frameworks, and approaches.
- There has been a lack of shared understanding of the role and potential actions of community violence prevention practitioners in supporting early childhood development's mandate and vice versa.
- Practitioners in both fields recognize that there are important linkages between their fields and there is a growing desire and need to connect.

## Emerging Opportunities at the Intersection of Healthy Early Childhood Development and Community Safety

Taking into account a life course perspective, the networks' collective priority to honor health equity and racial justice, and the value of focusing at the community level as an actionable place for change, *Cradle to Community* adopted THRIVE as an organizing framework. **THRIVE** (Tool for Health and Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) is an evidence-informed tool and framework<sup>1</sup> which was created to answer the question, "What can communities do to improve health and safety, and promote health equity?" It is used for addressing multiple inequities in health and safety outcomes, including from multiple forms of violence.

In this paper, we have used THRIVE to organize emergent opportunities for action at the intersection of child development and safety (see Figure 1). Specifically, we highlight mechanisms for change (e.g. systems, community, and policy change strategies) within each of three clusters (people, place, and equitable opportunity), and offer initial ideas of metrics to measure change.

Figure 1: Emergent Opportunities for Action at the Intersection of Child Development and Safety



### Norms and Culture

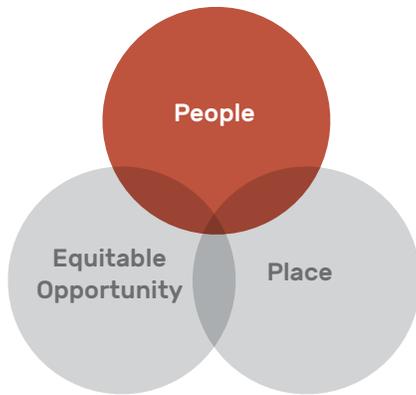
Changing norms about fathers and fatherhood through systems and practice change.

### Housing

Engaging the community development sector to address housing issues through policies and practices.

### Education and Living Wages and Local Wealth

Building the early education to employment pipeline through state and local policy change.



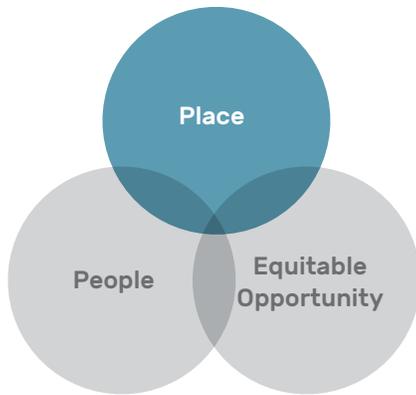
## People and *Cradle to Community*: Exploring Norms and Culture

In neighborhoods highly impacted by violence, young fathers sit at the intersection of healthy childhood development and community safety. Norms about fathers and fatherhood shape community safety and early childhood development outcomes. From an early childhood perspective, young men are often the fathers of young children, yet the systems that serve young children and families tend to be more explicitly focused on mothers. While norms too often leave fathers invisible or downplayed from an early childhood systems perspective, young men are all too visible within the criminal justice system. While these young men may not be seen as fathers, or may be overlooked in their roles as fathers, young men of color are too often “over-engaged” by law enforcement and criminal justice. This results from higher rates of violence in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty, trauma, and violence,<sup>2</sup> and policies and practices that increase the likelihood of police contact, arrest, and incarceration for men of color.<sup>3, 4, 5, 6</sup> Such engagement can also jeopardize a father’s ability to be engaged with his children.

Changing the practices of the criminal justice system and the early childhood development system to embed a more intentional focus on supporting fathers could impact norms about fatherhood, and improve outcomes for fathers, their families, and communities.

Systems changes can support this, including the following:

- Early childhood systems can use language that is inclusive to fathers and family diversity and engage fathers in program design.
- The criminal justice system can support incarcerated parents and provide safe and quality parent-child contact through friendly, accessible visitation environments,<sup>7</sup> and prepare fathers for reentry.
- The news media can lift up stories that normalize and reinforce the importance of father engagement and diverse family structures.
- Government and other employers can remove barriers to employment and housing among formerly incarcerated individuals, and support local hiring, living wages, and paid parental leave.



## Place and *Cradle to Community*: Exploring Housing and Community Development

The housing affordability crisis has left many Americans spending more of their incomes on housing, involuntarily being displaced out of their homes and communities, and forced into substandard housing conditions in less safe neighborhoods. From an early childhood perspective, residential stability can result in mental health benefits for adults and children, and decreased financial stress meaning families are able to allocate more resources to necessities such as childcare, healthy food, healthcare, and other expenditures that positively affect the health of families and young children. For safety, affordable housing can also help revitalize a neighborhood producing benefits such as jobs, further local purchasing power, and improved neighborhood quality. This in turn can decrease risk factors associated with violence – neighborhood poverty and diminished economic opportunities – and improve safety over time.

Community development is one sector that has a major influence on the built environment and is well-primed to address underlying factors that relate to both safety and early childhood development. The sector spends \$200 billion annually to revitalize communities that have historically experienced disinvestment by race and income. Through engagement with the community development sector, there are a variety of joint strategies that violence prevention and early childhood development practitioners can implement. Examples:

- Promote land use and housing design strategies that support optimal child development and safety.
- Remove lead and environmental triggers from homes and other buildings.
- Prevent housing discrimination and help families stay together by ensuring that fair, stable, and affordable housing options are available; and advocating for protections.



## Equitable Opportunity and *Cradle to Community*: Exploring Positive Pathways from Early Childhood Education to Employment

Families' economic well-being and ability to meet their children's basic needs is acutely impacted by neighborhood circumstances. Violence has emerged as a symptom of systemic disinvestment in some communities, creating disparate exposure as well. The conditions that allow young children to thrive require that families be able to achieve economic stability and mobility in their neighborhoods. Similarly, the conditions that allow communities to thrive and foster safety also require that economic and educational opportunities be widely and equitably available to residents. One example of this can be seen in what is known as the "pre-school to prison pipeline," in which differential and harsh discipline policies and practices result in disparate rates of suspensions and expulsions among young children of color in preschool, early care, and other education settings.

A complement of policies and practices counter the pre-school to prison pipeline. Here are some examples of state- and local-level policies that have shown promise in communities across the United States:

- Reduce or eliminate suspensions and expulsions in early learning settings
- Provide mental health supports in early learning settings
- Improve access to affordable, high-quality early care and education programs
- Enact local hiring policies that provide incentives for employers to hire workers who are residents of the local community, instead of hiring from outside the community.
- Address both insufficient wages and unfair scheduling practices to provide families and communities with the stability they need to thrive.
- Provide protection to working families, such as paid family and medical leave to help balance work and family responsibilities.
- Make restorative justice an organizational practice in education settings to support potential young parents to stay in school and provide opportunities for youth to develop important skills in problem-solving, conflict resolution, and job-training.

## Early Signs of Success and Emergent Opportunities

As a result of the *Cradle to Community* project, PI and CSSP have catalyzed momentum and strengthened capacity as organizations and in the fields of community safety and early childhood development to prepare for actions that promote dual outcomes – safety and positive early childhood development. First 5 Alameda County, an EC-LINC site, is implementing place-based approaches that have violence prevention benefits for early childhood development (see Appendix A). The New Orleans Health Department, a UNITY City Network member, is integrating early childhood development approaches as solutions to prevent violence (see Appendix B). Here are some early signs of success and emergent opportunities across the fields:

- The fields share common characteristics that allow them to address multiple forms of violence and trauma.
- Health equity and racial justice are shared concerns and priorities among both fields.
- The goals and outcomes of community safety and early childhood system leaders are shared, complementary, and rooted in addressing underlying conditions that impact community safety and early childhood development.
- To achieve shared goals and outcomes, a focus on the community level is an actionable and critical place for change.
- Emerging action at the intersection of early childhood development and community violence prevention provides opportunities to integrate community determinants and life course perspectives into existing and future strategies.
- Policies and practices of multiple systems and sectors shape community safety and early childhood development outcomes.
- Both fields are in a period of rapid evolution, providing a time-sensitive opportunity to advance work at the intersection.
- Time and space are needed for leaders in the fields to plan, address challenges in working at the intersection, and identify additional opportunities.

---

*To achieve shared goals and outcomes, a focus on the community level is an actionable and critical place for change.*

## Future Efforts and Recommendations

With intersecting work between the fields of early childhood development and community safety still in its infancy, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation made a visionary investment to make the case and delineate opportunities for action. Moving forward, there is a critical need to support the safety of young children, their families, and their communities, and significant potential to work comprehensively, from capacity building to policy change. The following recommendations emerge from the range of activities that the two national organizations and networks engaged in. The recommendations set a direction for realizing the full potential for healthy childhood development by working to create safer communities.

1. ***Strengthening individual knowledge and skills – Build family and resident capacity for advocacy and engagement in improving community conditions in support of healthy child development.*** As early childhood and community safety leaders work to improve outcomes and address racial inequities for children, families and communities, involving the people most affected – youth, parents, and other family members – as key decision makers is critical.
2. ***Community education – Make the case for safe communities and healthy childhood development.*** This project supported the development of resources and tools that make the case. Through dissemination, including electronically, via webinars, to the press, etc., these resources help make the case. Future efforts can further communicate the impact of unsafe neighborhoods on early childhood development and ensure that early childhood addresses the importance of community safety.
3. ***Educating providers – Build the capacity of practitioners and support implementation across multiple sectors.*** Fully implementing action in these areas will require a great deal of intentionality, including convening fields and cross sector partners at the local, state, and national levels, continuing to build communities of practice, providing training and technical assistance, reviewing data across sectors, developing metrics, and resourcing implementation and evaluation.
4. ***Fostering coalitions and networks – Foster partnerships and coalitions across the sectors that impact healthy child development and community safety.*** Partnerships and coalitions across community safety, early childhood systems, and partners in community

development, criminal justice, education, employment, health care sector and more are needed to continue to build shared understanding and advance the work, particularly through changes in policies and practices.

5. **Changing organizational practices – Change practices of sectors and systems to improve outcomes for families and improve community safety.** Sectors and systems focused on early childhood and community safety can bring health equity and racial justice practices to scale to make them common practice and ensure consistency and quality. Local and state governments, philanthropy, and others can incentivize organizational practices that support healthy child development and safer communities. Practices to collect, analyze, and share data, at the population level as well as disaggregated, are also needed.
6. **Influencing policy and legislation – Change policy, especially at the state and local levels in support of safe and healthy families and communities.** The leadership and advocacy of policymakers, civic leaders, and community leaders is needed to advance state and local policies to reduce poverty, mitigate its effects, improve access to education and training for all ages, curtail the cradle to prison pipeline, and enhance the economic and educational environment in neighborhoods. Further, policy changes to support work at the intersection, including mechanisms for braided and blended pools of public funding will support the successful implementation of systems changes.

This planning grant supported significant progress in identifying critical areas of work. It identified challenges for working at the intersection, while also collaborating to improve outcomes for our nation's most vulnerable young children and families. There is heightened awareness of racial and other forms of inequity, and therefore a greater urgency to actively address inequities. The planning grant both affirmed and catalyzed a strong interest in this work across different partners. As well, it clarified that as critical as this work is, it is incredibly challenging and for the most part, will not happen at the needed level of scale without intentionality and support, including training and technical assistance. With support, locales can build Cradle to Community systems that support healthy child development for all children.

# Introduction to Cradle to Community

Safe communities promote social cohesion and community engagement, invite investment, and provide conditions for infrastructure development, quality services, and community supports that foster positive early childhood development and strong families. On the other hand, community violence – the intentional acts of interpersonal violence committed in public areas by individuals who are not intimately related to the victim<sup>8</sup> – increases the vulnerability of children, families, and communities as a whole. Direct and indirect exposure to community violence can have a particularly detrimental impact on young children. Further, adverse experiences in early childhood can have a negative cumulative impact over the life course.<sup>9</sup>

---

*The national project, Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development provided one of the first and most explicit efforts to address the intersection of positive early child development and community safety.*

Despite the connections, little work has been done at the intersection of community violence prevention and early childhood development. Through an 18-month planning grant (October 2015–March 2017), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded Prevention Institute and the Center for the Study of Social Policy to explore the connections, including opportunities for systems, policy, and practice change. The national project, *Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development* provided one of the first and most explicit efforts to address the intersection of positive early childhood development and community safety.

The project engaged Prevention Institute’s UNITY City Network – a network devoted to preventing urban violence – and CSSP’s Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network for Communities (ECLINC) – a network of early childhood systems leaders. Together the networks explored the intersection and opportunities for joint action to make communities safer so that all children have the opportunity to develop optimally and participate fully in the fabric of community life (refer to Appendix C for a summary of project activities). By design, the project’s emphasis on working with practitioners and systems leaders has promoted an understanding of what is actionable and achievable for advancing joint outcomes in the context of existent work.

The project catalyzed and leveraged local interest in action to address the intersection, supported a joint community of practice, and fostered cross-sector partnerships.

Throughout the project, both organizations and their networks elevated attention to the needs of communities of color and neighborhoods experiencing concentrated poverty, in recognition that there are significant inequities in rates of community violence. Urban communities of color and neighborhoods experiencing concentrated poverty often face higher rates of violence. Inequities in rates of violence have been produced by historic and present day policies and practices that concentrate risk factors for community violence, such as neighborhood deterioration and limited economic opportunities, in specific neighborhoods, with diminishing compensatory protective factors.<sup>10</sup> Children growing up in neighborhoods with high rates of violence face direct, mediated, and multiplier impacts at greater rates. At the neighborhood level, neighborhoods with high rates of violence face additional systemic barriers to supporting positive early childhood development. Thus, community violence is an issue of particular concern for addressing inequities in early childhood outcomes. Attention to preventing community violence and ensuring community safety is critical for achieving equitable opportunities for young children.

---

*By focusing simultaneously on early childhood development and community safety, practitioners in the two fields can expand their capacities, reach, and impact.*

From its inception, *Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development* examined the relationship between the fields of early childhood development and community safety. In its earliest phase, the intention was to look the intersection between the two fields. As work evolved, it became apparent that by focusing simultaneously on early childhood development and community safety, the practitioners and leadership in both fields could expand their capacities, reach, and impact through attending to both the intersection and linkages between the two fields and issues. This necessarily expanded the opportunities for impact and improving outcomes for young children and communities as a whole.

By jointly considering early childhood and community safety, practitioners and policymakers can help assure that young children, families, and the communities in which they live are healthy, safe, and strong. The planning period allowed for identification of some important opportunities.

Building on the learning and outcomes from this 18-month endeavor, the purpose of this paper is to:

1. Provide an overview of the fields of early childhood and community safety;
2. Lift up and make the case for the important relationship between early childhood development and safe communities;
3. Present opportunities and mechanisms for promoting early childhood development and community safety using a shared framework and building on local policies and practices in both fields;
4. Describe the early signs of success we have seen during the project and emergent opportunities for work at the intersection; and,
5. Recommend directions and needs for future efforts to promote the dual outcomes of safe communities and optimal development for young children.

# Overview of the Fields

CSSP and Prevention Institute examined the current landscape of each field separately prior to exploring what the fields of early childhood and community safety could accomplish together. By acknowledging each field's scopes, approaches and desired outcomes, we were able to unearth common characteristics to build on for joint efforts. We also uncovered challenges in bringing the fields together and an excitement from leaders to overcome barriers to advance the important intersection.



Photo credit: [CC San José Public Library](#)

Early childhood is a critical period that sets the foundations for life-long health, learning and well-being.

## Overview of the Field of Early Childhood/Healthy Child Development

Three sectors comprise the **Early Childhood (EC) field: health/public health, early care and education/early learning, and family support.** In general, early childhood systems and services focus on the prenatal period through age 8, or a subset such as birth–5. Increasingly, there is a growing interest in prevention and intervention during the first 1000 days, roughly prenatal through age 2, reflecting an understanding of the critical importance of this period in setting the foundations for life-long health, learning and well-being.

One challenge for the field of early childhood is that the key early childhood sectors –health/public health, early care and education/early learning, and family support often work in siloes and there can be a disconnect between those working on prevention/promotion and those working with children and families to address both acute and chronic problems. However, in communities across the country there is a growing interest in putting the pieces together for young children and their families – often starting with early childhood systems-building efforts that bring together services across these three sectors.

More recently, there is a growing recognition among early childhood systems builders that in addition to services, families – particularly those living in areas of concentrated poverty – need opportunities for children to play and learn; access to essential resources such as grocery stores, transportation and jobs; and access to safe and stable housing and environments free of environmental hazards. These

needs are spurring early childhood advocates to build partnerships with other sectors (e.g., housing, community development, transportation, food systems, and violence prevention). These partnerships can help with building civic engagement, leadership and political will on behalf of young children and families, supporting neighborhoods where children and families can thrive, and developing and promoting child and family-supportive policies at multiple levels and across multiple sectors.

## Overview of the Field of Community Violence Prevention/ Community Safety

Within the last decade, the field of violence prevention and community safety has dramatically shifted to include a **public health approach** to preventing violence rather than only focusing on criminal justice approaches (e.g. policing, enforcement, containment, suppression, deterrence, detainment, punishment, and supervision). Whether it is called a public health approach explicitly or not, the field is increasingly building on community assets and employing comprehensive and multidisciplinary efforts to address underlying contributors to violence. The result has been the expansion of a continuum to include prevention and intervention strategies on the one end, and reentry as well as violent incident responses (e.g. hospital-based violence intervention strategies and crisis response to reduce the impacts of exposure to violence or re-victimization through individual and community support) on the other end.

A major contribution of the public health approach has been the identification of risk factors (i.e. individual, family, community, and society factors that increase the likelihood that violence will occur) and resilience factors (i.e. individual, family, community, and society factors that are protective against violence occurring, even when risk factors are present). These known risk and resilience factors span the mandates and responsibilities of **multiple sectors** and therefore the roles that multiple sectors have in promoting community safety has become clearer. Beyond law enforcement and other criminal justice partners, the range of partners has expanded in communities across the country to include, for example, schools and libraries, parks and recreation, public works, economic and workforce development, arts and cultural groups, public health and health, social services, businesses, faith communities, and community members, including young people.



Photo credit: [Vision Quilt](#)

"Together we can stop senseless injuries and loss of life"

Panel artists: Deborah Provost and Sabina Nies.

Beyond each sector's engagement, the level of coordination across sectors has increased as well, and higher levels of multi-sectoral collaboration and coordination have been associated with lower rates of community violence.<sup>11</sup> The shift to include a public health approach, the identification of underlying risk and resilience factors through research and practice, and the engagement of multiple sectors have all underscored the key premise that violence is preventable.

## Common Characteristics among the Fields

The overview of both fields reflects a rapidly evolving research and practice base in each. While each field is experiencing this in unique ways as detailed in the previous sections, the fields also share common characteristics.

***There is growing recognition of the linkages between forms of violence and how multiple forms of violence affect young children.*** Exposure to multiple forms of violence can have a compounding negative impact on children's development. Multiple forms of violence – child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, and community violence – share common risk and resilience factors and too often, experiencing or witnessing one form of violence is associated with exposure to additional forms of violence. Despite the strong relationship, the fields of practice addressing different forms of violence have largely been silo-ed. More recently and with the release of *Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence* by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Prevention Institute<sup>12</sup> and initiatives, such as the Defending Childhood Initiative, there is a growing recognition of the importance of these linkages and potential actions that can be taken.

***Trauma is a shared concern across both fields.*** As research emerges on brain development and the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs),\* early childhood leaders have become increasingly engaged in addressing the impact of trauma and toxic stress on young children. In the field of community safety, there is a growing recognition that exposure to violence at any stage of life can be traumatizing and this in turn can increase the risk of violence. As such, there has been an emergence of trauma-informed protocols and practices within

---

*“Gang violence is connected to bullying is connected to school violence is connected to intimate partner violence is connected to child abuse is connected to elder abuse. It’s all connected. We operate in these silos that we’ve got to break down.”*

- Deborah Prothrow-Stith, M.D., Dean,  
Drew College of Medicine

\*The ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Study is one of the largest analyses of early experiences and exposures and later health and life outcomes.

To learn more visit <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/>

schools, hospitals, and juvenile justice facilities. At the same time, more recently, there has been an understanding that trauma not only manifests within individuals (such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and related symptoms) but also at the community level, which can be an impediment to efforts to promote safe, healthy, thriving communities.<sup>13</sup> Communities are beginning to focus on operationalizing this understanding by addressing adverse community experiences. Looking at the intersection across fields allows for an even broader understanding of how to minimize the impact of trauma on young children by exploring the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and adverse community experiences.

***Both fields are interested in leveraging resources and strategies through place-based approaches.*** Early childhood is combining a focus on population (i.e., young children and their families), with a focus on place (i.e., neighborhood, city, county) to develop a complex, inter-related set of interventions and opportunities aimed at promoting the healthy development of young children and families, supported by the strong and vibrant communities. For community safety, data-driven efforts identify places (e.g. streets, blocks, neighborhoods, census tracts and zip codes) that are most impacted by violence, as well as the underlying risk and resilience factors that can be addressed in these locales to reduce violence. In a growing number of places, the political will has shifted from the equal distribution of resources across a municipality to the equitable distribution of resources in the places with the highest needs. The concentration of a continuum of efforts (i.e. prevention, intervention, enforcement and reentry) within places most impacted by violence has resulted in significant decreases in crime and violence, without displacing violence to other locales.

## **Challenges and Enthusiasm for Working at the Intersection**

***Practitioners from both fields experience barriers in working at the intersection and among the linkages between community safety and early childhood development.*** Challenges include silo-ed funding streams, political and system perspectives about priorities and urgency, and the need for better cross sector communication and partnerships. The resulting fragmentation between the fields and with other sectors does not maximize outcomes for young children—particularly those among the most vulnerable who are growing up in unsafe communities.

***Community safety and early childhood development practitioners/fields often utilize different language, frameworks, and approaches.*** This means that there can be barriers to effective engagement without guidance, models, and capacity building. Tools for tailoring language, frameworks, and approaches, and engagement across sectors would enhance collaboration across the fields and with other relevant sectors.

***There has been a lack of shared understanding of the role and potential actions of community violence prevention practitioners in supporting early childhood development's mandate and vice versa.*** Lacking a clear articulation of why and how each field can champion and advance work in the other and work on issues at the intersection, practitioners reported at the outset of this project that they were not sure how to make the case for cross-field and joint work, what to focus on, or where to start.

***Practitioners in both fields recognize that there are important linkages between their fields and there is a growing desire and need to connect.*** Leaders in both networks were excited about the *Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development* project and welcoming of the opportunity to explore the linkages—citing the significant connections between community safety and early childhood development. While there are challenges to working across fields, early childhood and community safety share a number of commonalities in their desired outcomes of safe, healthy and thriving children, families and communities. At the start of the project, both fields were interested in working at the intersection, but practitioners and policy leaders were looking for guidance on how to make the case and what action the fields could take together.

# Making the Case

## What Research Tells Us about the Relationship between Community Safety and Healthy Child Development

This section summarizes research supporting the relationship between community safety and healthy child development. For further details on the evidence, refer to the making the case factsheet titled, *The imperative of safety: How community safety supports optimal early childhood development*.

Below are key findings from the literature that looks at how community violence and community safety affect early child development:

### 1. **Exposure to neighborhood violence directly impacts children and families.**

Exposure to neighborhood violence – including directly experiencing it, as well as the fear or threat of violence – can be a stressful and damaging environmental factor for families with young children. Fear of bodily harm, witnessing or experiencing violence – including hearing gunshots or other forms of violence – can elicit excessive or prolonged activation of the stress response systems in the body and brain. Traumatic stress, which differs from normal, everyday stress, can reach toxic levels and can have damaging effects on learning, behavior, and health across the lifespan.<sup>14</sup> Young children are particularly affected by traumatic stress because, while they have the perceptual understanding to be impacted, they lack the coping and communication skills to deal with the trauma without positive intervention from their caregivers.<sup>15</sup> There are a number of studies that illustrate specific negative results. For example, both the behaviors of preschoolers and their performance on assessments have been found to be negatively affected by homicide in the young child’s neighborhood, at least in the short-term.<sup>16</sup>

For expectant parents and parents of young children, coping with community violence can challenge their ability to provide for their own and their children’s basic and developmental needs, negatively

impacting health and well-being.<sup>18</sup> Parents are more likely to feel disempowered when they feel they cannot protect their children from community violence and the trauma that comes from ongoing adversity. Stress from community conditions, including violence, can impair parenting and family life by reducing positive parent-child interactions, early attachment, learning experiences at home and in the neighborhood, and overall family stability.<sup>19, 20, 21, 22, 23</sup>

---

*“We want to move away from a one-child, one-family approach, and move toward supporting organizations where children, families and community members feel that their environments are protective.”*

– Catherine Fine,  
Boston Public Health Commission<sup>17</sup>

## 2. Safe communities can promote nurturing relationships, supportive social networks and community action that support positive early childhood development.

***Safer communities promote informal relationships, social networks and community cohesion, all of which positively impact young children and their families.*** Safer communities offer more opportunities for positive relationships to develop among residents, which are foundational in creating stable environments for young children and families, and encouraging collective action on behalf of the whole community.<sup>24</sup> Emotional and instrumental support (such as emergency childcare and transportation) among community members positively impacts families and protects against depression.<sup>25</sup> Social relationships in the community offer young children opportunities to learn how to get along with others and resolve differences peacefully.<sup>26</sup> In comparison, community violence is associated with decreased collective efficacy – the combination of social cohesion and community capability to make change<sup>27, 28</sup> – which is necessary for communities to garner safe places for children to play, nutritious food outlets, and other community assets required for healthy development. Community violence also contributes to residential instability,<sup>29</sup> which breaks down social networks in communities and negatively affects social and academic outcomes in early childhood.<sup>30</sup>

***Safe communities can promote pro-social norms among residents and positive social-emotional development for young children.*** Norms are powerful cultural, societal, and community standards that shape attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. As violence decreases, communities can create new norms that discourage violence and promote trust and mutual help among residents.<sup>31</sup> This in turn, supports positive socialization in communities allowing for secure relationships for young children and parents, and normalizes prosocial behavior.<sup>32</sup>

**3. Safe communities offer safe public places for children to play and develop.**

Safe public places to play in neighborhoods contribute to children's physical health, development of gross motor skills, and socialization with peers.<sup>33</sup> Children receive both mental and physical health benefits from unstructured outdoor activities, but need safe and easily accessible outdoor areas to fully benefit.<sup>34, 35</sup> A sense of safety in communities encourages outdoor play and physical activity for children, and opportunities for their families and caregivers to socialize. This is important for developing social skills as well as preventing eating- and activity-related chronic disease and other health problems. Conversely, families' fears for their children's safety can keep children and families from having these opportunities.<sup>36, 37</sup>

**4. Community safety promotes economic opportunity through greater business investment, which allows families to create a more supportive and stable environment for their children.**

As violence decreases, a community's economy and job prospects for residents improve.<sup>38</sup> Improved neighborhood socioeconomic status is associated with better achievement, behavioral, and health outcomes for young children.<sup>39</sup> For families, decreased financial stress from stable employment can result in improved self-esteem and positive parenting.<sup>40</sup> Higher wages increase families' access to resources such as nutritious foods, healthcare, and adequate housing, which contribute to healthy child development.<sup>41</sup> However, families may not have access to safe and stable housing in their neighborhoods because neighborhood disadvantage, including community violence, is linked to lower quality housing<sup>42, 43</sup> and residential instability.<sup>44</sup> This is often due to historical and present day disinvestment, discriminatory lending, and zoning.

# Emerging Opportunities

## for Community Change in Support of Healthy Childhood Development and Community Safety

As *Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development* evolved, we identified the need for an organizing framework. We explored various options, including tools and frameworks from CSSP and Prevention Institute. Taking into account a life course perspective, our networks' collective priority to honor health equity and racial justice, and the value of focusing at the community level as an actionable place for change, THRIVE (Tool for Health and Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) was adopted as an organizing framework for *Cradle to Community*. We briefly describe THRIVE below, followed by examples for three specific focus areas at the intersection between positive early childhood development and community safety (e.g. areas that the two fields can focus on together), which emerged through the planning grant activities. These are organized by the THRIVE framework. For ongoing work at the intersection of both fields, or even to the extent that both fields work separately on issues that impact the outcomes of the other, this is a valuable framework that can hold a life course perspective in the context of community change.

---

*THRIVE is an evidence-informed tool and framework created to answer the question, 'what can communities do to improve health and safety, and promote health equity?'*

### **THRIVE: A Framework for Thriving Communities in Support of Healthy Early Childhood Development and Community Safety**

**THRIVE** is an evidence-informed tool and framework<sup>45</sup> created to answer the question, 'what can communities do to improve health and safety, and promote health equity?' THRIVE is a *framework* for understanding how structural drivers—the inequitable distribution of power, money, and resources<sup>46</sup>—play out at the community level, impacting the places where people live, work, learn and play, and, consequently,

Figure 3: THRIVE Clusters and Factors



## People

- Social networks & trust
- Participation & willingness to act for the common good
- Norms & culture

## Place

- What's sold & how it's promoted
- Look, feel & safety
- Parks & open space
- Getting around
- Housing
- Air, water, soil
- Arts & cultural expression

## Equitable Opportunity

- Education
- Living wages & local wealth

neighborhood outcomes for health, safety, and health equity. THRIVE identifies 12 community determinants of health and safety, grouped into three interrelated clusters: 1) the sociocultural environment (people), 2) the physical/built environment (place), and 3) the economic/educational environment (equitable opportunity) (see Figure 3).

THRIVE is used to address inequities in health and safety outcomes, including from multiple forms of violence. For instance, the framework helps groups working to prevent violence to better understand the community context and contributors to violence and related inequities in violence, and to identify strategies that promote greater equity in safety outcomes. As early childhood systems builders are increasingly looking to understand and address the community context that shapes early childhood outcomes, THRIVE provides a framework for doing so—consistent with the understanding of early childhood perspectives on how early experiences influence development over the life course.

## Emerging Opportunities at the Intersection of Healthy Early Childhood Development and Community Safety

Here we have used THRIVE to organize emergent opportunities for action at the intersection of child development and safety. Specifically, we highlight mechanisms for change (e.g. systems, community, and policy change strategies) within each THRIVE cluster (see Figure 4) and offer sample metrics to measure change.

Figure 4: Emergent Opportunities for Action at the Intersection of Child Development and Safety



### Norms and Culture

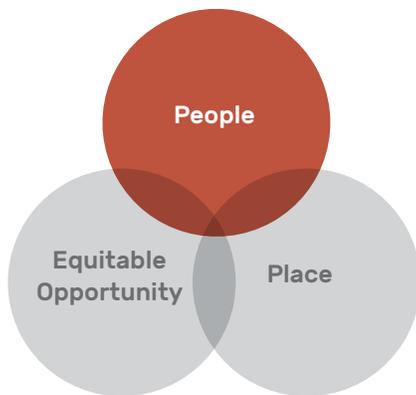
Changing norms about fathers and fatherhood through systems and practice change.

### Housing

Engaging the community development sector to address housing issues through policies and practices.

### Education and Living Wages and Local Wealth

Building the early education to employment pipeline through state and local policy change.



## People and *Cradle to Community*: Exploring Norms and Culture

The norms and culture factor refers to broadly accepted behaviors to which people generally conform. Norms shape community environments, and in turn, shape behaviors, and health and safety outcomes. In neighborhoods highly impacted by violence, young fathers sit at the intersection of healthy childhood development and community safety. Therefore, we focused on the norms and culture factor within the people cluster by exploring the theme of fathers and fatherhood. Norms about fathers and fatherhood permeate and shape community safety and early childhood development outcomes.

From an early childhood perspective, systems that serve young children and families tend to be more explicitly focused on mothers. As a consequence, young fathers may feel invisible or may not be supported or socialized into as strong of a fatherhood role as ideal for healthy childhood development. Despite an evolution of gender norms, traditional gender role expectations linger in systems to reinforce an expectation of non-engagement or fail to reinforce the vital role that fathers can play in the healthy development of their children. Clinic walls and brochures display pictures of mothers and their babies and even if the father is present, clinicians may defer to the mother. Support programs are explicit in their focus on mothers such as the nutrition program, Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or maternal and child health programs. While some programs are making efforts to address the needs of fathers, as a whole, early childhood systems have not focused on supporting fathers.

While norms too often leave fathers invisible or downplayed from an early childhood systems perspective, young men are all too visible within the criminal justice system. While these young men may not be seen as fathers, or may be overlooked in their roles as fathers, young men of color in neighborhoods with high rates of violence are “over-engaged” by law enforcement and criminal justice. This over-engagement is a result of higher rates of violence in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty, trauma, and violence,<sup>47</sup> and policies and practices that increase the likelihood of police contact, arrest, and incarceration for men of color.<sup>48, 49, 50, 51</sup> Such engagement can also jeopardize a father’s ability to be engaged with his children. For more information, please refer to full brief developed under this planning grant, *Supporting forgotten fathers: Changing systems, norms, and outcomes for fathers in support of early childhood development and community safety*.



Photo credit: Charles Daniels,  
**Fathers' Uplift**

Fathers' Uplift coaches wear "THIS DAD CARES" shirts when they are in the field working to empower fathers and reconnect them with their families.

## **Mechanisms for change: Policies and practices of systems**

Norms about fathers, particularly in neighborhoods highly impacted by violence, shape the actions of systems. And the actions of systems, in turn, shape norms, behaviors, and outcomes. To change conditions for fathers, their children, families, and communities, upstream solutions are needed that recognize young fathers as assets; lift up and support the many ways they already support children; and, expand inclusive solutions with the leadership of young fathers in the program and policy development process. This includes immediate opportunities within the early childhood development system and the criminal justice system, as well as sectors, such as media, employment, and housing, to embed a more intentional focus on supporting fathers.

Examples of opportunity in the criminal justice and early childhood systems:

- **Use language that supports the inclusion of fathers.** Early childhood systems can use language that supports fathers and family diversity. For example, the term "expectant" rather than the term "pregnant," is more inclusive of fathers and supports father engagement.
- **Hire employees who identify as fathers and engage men through planning stages of new efforts.** Hiring and engaging men, and specifically young men of color, can help identify needs they may have in caring for their young children and inform the systems in tailoring their supports for fathers.
- **Connect men at higher risk for violence with resources to support their role as fathers.** The City of New Orleans' Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS) recognized that being a supportive parent is an important goal for many of its clients. It also recognized that many people at risk for involvement with violence, including those who are among the highest risk for shooting or shot-calling (e.g. in gang- or group-involved violence), lack access to resources and support to be an effective father. GVRS has a practice of asking all new clients whether or not they have young children, and combines enforcement strategies with access to resources through a primary service provider, Total Community Action. Fatherhood supports are now available for GVRS clients, participants in other violence prevention programs, and, as of 2017, any community members who are interested.

- **Support incarcerated parents and provide safe and quality parent-child contact through friendly, accessible visitation environments.** Given the number of young fathers who are separated from their children due to incarceration,<sup>52</sup> visitation support can be critical to supporting the parent-child relationship. Offering video conferencing is one way to support parenthood if a prison is too far, transportation is unaffordable, or if the physical environment is inappropriate for young children.<sup>53</sup> In Hillsborough County, Florida, the Family Reunification Program allows parents who are incarcerated to connect with families and children through a supervised live video visitation.<sup>54</sup> Children are able to speak with their parent through video conference and also have the opportunity to travel to the prisons quarterly. Strong bonds are beneficial to the child and parent, and also, can reduce the risk for violence. Supporting parent-child relationships, and broader family connectedness, increase the likelihood of successful re-entry, and can reduce the risk of future violence.<sup>55</sup>
- **Build fathers' parenting skills.** To support successful reentry and reduce recidivism, many Department of Corrections facilities and Federal of Bureau of Prison locations are helping fathers develop greater confidence and skills to care for and connect with their children.<sup>56</sup> The Department of Corrections in Kentucky found that fathers who completed the Fatherhood Initiative's InsideOut Dad Program had lower rates of recidivism than the state as a whole.<sup>57</sup> The program is fostering a culture focused on families and children within prison, and helping fathers to be effective parents out of prison.

In addition to changes in the criminal justice and early childhood systems, there is an opportunity for communities to plan more comprehensively across systems to widely influence norms around the role of fathers in their children's lives. Norms are powerful shapers of behaviors and the systems that serve the community shape these norms. Changes in systems such as the media, businesses, and housing can help shape norms supportive of young men as fathers. This in turn, can contribute to meaningful gains in improving community conditions for safety and optimal child development.

- **Frame men of color as fathers in the media to shift norms and perspectives supporting inclusion.** The news media shapes people's perceptions and can reinforce harmful assumptions about

---

*“There is a growing body of research that talks about the optimal child outcomes when children have involved fathers, but not only that, there are improved outcomes in wellbeing and health for men when they are more involved with their families and their children.”*

– Early childhood systems-builder

community violence, especially among people who do not have direct personal experience with or exposure to community violence. Race, youth, and violence are often conflated in the news, distorting perceptions of young people of color and stereotyping them as perpetrators of violence.<sup>58</sup> There are opportunities for the media to infuse a fatherhood lens and change norms around how young men of color, who may also be fathers parenting young children, are viewed. News media can also help normalize diverse family structures, so that non-resident fathers and non-biological father figures are valued.

- **Implement local and fair hiring and living wage policies to support economic opportunities for fathers, especially among those most affected by violence.** Diminished economic opportunities and high unemployment rates increase risk for multiple forms of violence.<sup>59</sup> Increasing economic opportunity supports families and children and systems can remove barriers to such opportunities. For example, government and other employers can back Ban the Box – a policy growing in use which prevents employers from asking potential employees if they have been previously convicted. The purpose of Ban the Box is to institute fair hiring practices—eliminating employment restrictions on individuals that have been formerly incarcerated. This is important because many of those formerly incarcerated struggle with labor market discrimination and barriers to economic stability, which solidifies the cycle between violence, incarceration, and poverty.<sup>60</sup> Governments and employers can also pass policies to support local hiring and living wages. These policies can promote employment of residents in the community and help close racial wage gaps that persist across the country (i.e., gaps in wages even when controlling for education level).<sup>61</sup> Stable employment is important for families and early childhood development as it can help decrease family stress and improve ability to access basic resources that support young children.<sup>62, 63</sup>
- **Institute paid parental leave, time off work to attend school events, and/or the ability to work from home to support economic opportunities for families, and specifically fathers who face the most inequities due to social and economic barriers.** Fathers are able to better engage with their children when their employers are flexible and supportive to families.<sup>64</sup> However, a 2012 Department of Labor study found employers offer paid parental leave more frequently for women than men.<sup>65</sup> Parental support policies should explicitly be available for fathers.

- **Increase the availability of safe and affordable housing, with consideration of the specific needs of people returning from incarceration.** Preventing housing discrimination can help fathers and families stay together. For example, violence prevention and early childhood practitioners can work with local housing authorities to implement the Fair Housing Act and push back against the local practice of applying Section 8 restrictions. There is a commonly utilized practice which prohibits people with felony convictions from living in Section 8 voucher and/or public housing programs. Widely believed to have been a policy of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), HUD has recently clarified that this was not federal policy, but local public housing authority discretion. When local housing authorities bar people with felony convictions, families involved with the criminal justice system face additional barriers to residential stability and living together. This affects family structures and impacts individuals with felony convictions or outstanding warrants and their children.

#### Sample metrics

Number of EC system partners using language inclusive of fathers; number of CJ system partners with policies and practices to support father-child connectedness; reductions in ACEs; percent of young children with actively engaged father; sense of community



### Place and *Cradle to Community*: Exploring Housing and Community Development

The housing affordability crisis has left many Americans spending more of their incomes on housing, involuntarily being displaced out of their homes and communities, and forced into substandard housing conditions in less safe neighborhoods.<sup>66</sup> From an early childhood perspective, residential stability can result in mental health benefits for adults and children, and decreased financial stress meaning families are able to allocate more resources to necessities such as childcare, healthy food, healthcare, and other expenditures that positively affect the health of families and young children.<sup>67, 68</sup> Decreasing financial stress not only provides more material resources, but also supports parental resilience and positive parenting.<sup>69</sup> For safety, affordable housing can also help revitalize a neighborhood producing benefits such as jobs, further local purchasing power, and improved neighborhood quality. This in turn can decrease risk factors associated with violence and improve safety over time such as neighborhood poverty and diminished economic opportunities.<sup>70</sup>

## Mechanisms for change: Engaging the community development sector

Community development is one sector that has a major influence on the built environment and is well-primed to address underlying factors that relate to both safety and early childhood development. The sector spends \$200 billion annually to revitalize communities that have historically experienced disinvestment by race and income. Community developers aim to provide affordable housing which can help ensure families have enough resources for food, early learning opportunities, healthcare, and other basic needs that support thriving children and communities. The sector also helps create community facilities and builds infrastructure for local small businesses. With expertise in leveraging funds and a commitment to lifting up communities with the greatest needs, community development can help influence factors such as housing affordability, economic opportunities, and social connections in a community. Understanding the power of partnerships, there is untapped potential for community development, early childhood and violence prevention practitioners to work together. Although these three sectors have distinct approaches, their mandate and desired outcomes overlap. In working together they can more holistically meet the needs of communities. Community development brings substantial resources and strategies that can impact the look, feel and use of an entire street block or neighborhood. Early childhood and violence prevention sectors both understand the impact of trauma and adverse childhood experiences, and, increasingly, ways to mitigate their impact. Not only do early childhood practitioners know what is needed to buffer adversities and build resilience, but because they examine issues across the life course, they understand long-term impacts. The violence prevention field offers perspectives on over-criminalization of substance use/abuse and mental health problems, and has specific strategies to keep streets and neighborhoods safe. Collaboration between the sectors can also support more inclusive community engagement, propagate a larger collective advocacy voice and expand partnerships as each sector interacts with different members of a community and can together engage a wider range of partners and community members.

---

*“Community development really came to be as a sector to prevent and to reverse redlining that took place in the 50s and the 60s.”*

– Community development practitioner

Through engagement with the community development sector, there are a variety of joint strategies that violence prevention and early childhood development practitioners can implement. For more refer to the full brief developed under this planning grant, *Multiplying*



Photo credit: [CC Michelle Mockbee](#)

Community development is well-primed to address underlying factors that relate to both safety and early childhood development.

### *Outcomes in Place-Based Initiatives: How Community Safety and Early Childhood Development Practitioners Can Collaborate with Community Development.*

- **Promote land use and housing design strategies that support optimal child development and safety.** Community development, early childhood and violence prevention practitioners can focus on efforts such as greening common spaces, increasing open spaces with lighting, and creating new parks. Land use and the physical appearance of the built environment affects how young children are able to interact with their environments, learn, play and develop. When families and communities have spaces to interact, it promotes community connectedness. It also reduces the likelihood of violence and impacts perceptions of safety.
- **Remove lead and environmental triggers from homes and other buildings.** Lead has been shown to affect the brain of young children, and long term consequences of lead poisoning can include behaviors associated with violence such as aggression, impulse control issues and other learning and behavioral problems.<sup>71</sup> In support of early childhood development, partners can also consider reducing asthma triggers in the home, as asthma is linked to school absences and loss of parental income.<sup>72, 73</sup>
- **Prevent housing discrimination and help families stay together by ensuring fair, stable and affordable housing options are available and advocating for protections.** For example, community development, early childhood and violence prevention practitioners can work with local housing authorities to implement the Fair Housing Act. There is a widely held belief that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) banned people with felony convictions from living in Section 8 voucher and/or public housing programs. HUD has recently clarified that this was not federal policy, but local public housing authority discretion. When local housing authorities bar people with felony convictions, families involved with the criminal justice system face additional barriers to residential stability. This affects family structures and impacts individuals with felony convictions or outstanding warrants and their children.

#### **Sample metrics**

Housing affordability; percent of families with access to affordable housing; the Housing Index<sup>74</sup> (includes a number of indicators that are indicative of stressors associated with housing and lack of adequate

housing and therefore contribute to disparities). Housing Index indicators include crowded housing as a percent of total households; gross rent as percent of household income; number of subsidized housing units per 1000 local residents; owner occupied housing as a percentage of total housing units; percent of households paying over 30% of income for mortgages; percent of households paying over 30% of income for rent; percent of households that have moved in the last 5 years; rental vacancy rates as a percentage of rental units; residential segregation; healthy community design; number of families using parks in the evening in neighborhoods with concentrated disadvantage; perceptions of safety; alcohol outlet density; quality of partnerships; investment in collaboration; and policies that support collaboration.



### Equitable Opportunity and *Cradle to Community*: Exploring Positive Pathways from Early Childhood Education to Employment

Families' economic well-being and ability to meet their children's basic needs is acutely impacted by neighborhood circumstances. Historical and current policies of systemic disinvestment have created barriers to opportunity in certain neighborhoods, particularly those with higher numbers of families of color, meaning it is essential to address inequitable access to economic and educational resources in order to improve outcomes for young children, and to promote safe, thriving communities. Families with children of color are more likely than their white counterparts to live in communities with high rates of concentrated poverty— indicating disparate access to economic and educational opportunities. Among those experiencing poverty, more than 1 in 4 who are Black and 1 in 6 who are Hispanic live in a neighborhood of extreme poverty, compared to 1 in 13 of those who are white— a disparity that has deepened in recent years.<sup>75</sup> Violence has emerged as a symptom of systemic disinvestment in some communities, creating disparate exposure as well. In order for the neighborhoods where children and families live out their daily lives to be safe, they must be able to offer equitable economic and educational opportunities to children and adults at all ages.

The conditions that allow young children to thrive require that families be able to achieve economic stability and mobility in their neighborhoods. Early childhood advocates and service providers understand that poverty increases young children's exposure to risk factors,

---

*Suspensions and expulsions – even in early life – can derail children’s educational trajectories and place them at higher risk for being exposed to violence.*

including a greater likelihood of exposure to community violence, food insecurity, unsafe and unstable housing, and limited opportunities for high-quality early care and education. This can lead to poorer health and educational outcomes that can follow children into adulthood. At the same time, poverty increases the stressors parents and caregivers face on a daily basis; it can negatively influence their relationships with children, and their ability to buffer children from negative stress.

Similarly, the conditions that foster safety and allow communities to thrive also require that economic and educational opportunities be widely and equitably available to residents. One example of this can be seen in what is known as the “pre-school to prison pipeline,” in which differential and harsh discipline policies and practices result in disparate rates of suspensions and expulsions among young children of color in preschool and early care and education settings. Higher rates of suspensions begin early – for example, during the 2011–12 school year, Black students accounted for 18% of the country’s pre-K enrollment, but made up 48% of preschoolers with multiple out-of-school suspensions.<sup>76</sup> Suspensions and expulsions – even early in life – can derail children’s educational trajectories, making it more difficult for them to gain economic stability as adults, which can place them at higher risk of being exposed to violence. Young students who are expelled or suspended are up to 10 times more likely to drop out of high school, experience academic failure, and grade retention, and face incarceration than those who are not.<sup>77</sup>

#### **Mechanisms for Change: State and local policies**

A number of opportunities to reduce poverty, mitigate its effects, improve access to education and training for all ages, enhance the economic and educational environment in neighborhoods, and promote safer communities where families with young children can thrive. Here are some examples of state and local-level policies that have shown promise in communities across the United States:

- **Reduce or eliminate suspensions and expulsions in early learning settings.** Every year, young children are expelled or suspended from early care and education programs at three times the rate of children in K-12 settings.<sup>78</sup> This interrupts the child’s education, creates instability in their care, disrupts peer and adult relationships, and places a significant burden on working families who must scramble to find an alternate care arrangement. These burdens fall most heavily on families of color, as children of color are



Photo credit: CC sarah-ji

Breaking the “school to prison pipeline” supports both violence prevention and child development

disproportionately likely to be removed from their child care setting. Part of this disparity can be traced to implicit bias, as research has documented that child care providers are prone to view the behavior of young children of color more harshly.<sup>79</sup> One way to begin addressing these implicit biases in the short term is to eliminate – or at least greatly reduce – the use of suspensions and expulsions in pre-schools and early care and education settings. Examples of policies used in several states are available in a report by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), **State and Local Action to Prevent Expulsion and Suspension in Early Learning Settings**.

Some cities and communities are heeding ACF’s call to action and developing innovative approaches to practice and policy change to reduce disparities in suspension and expulsion in early learning sessions. One such example comes from Pittsburgh, PA where the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Education brought together parents, teachers, and community partners, to understand how positive racial identity development was being addressed and promoted in homes, schools, and the community. They then developed recommendations, interventions, and policies for the city of Pittsburgh. They found that while a core goal of the early education field is promoting positive social and emotional development, practices and strategies do not include an explicit focus on racial identity. Further, researchers and policy makers working on racial equity have not included efforts that focus on young children and their families. Growing out of the Race and Early Childhood Development Collaborative’s **PRIDE Report**, the PRIDE Project is beginning this work through advancing research, cultural and arts events, professional development opportunities, and outreach to parents.

- **Provide mental health supports in early learning settings.** Mental health and trauma also play an important role in early learning suspensions and expulsions. Children who experience trauma – including those impacted by violence in their neighborhood – may, at least in the short-term, exhibit behaviors in response that are considered “difficult” or “unmanageable.” In training and supporting early care and education staff to understand the effects of trauma on the brain and body, early childhood mental health consultation programs can promote safety and stability in the classroom. Maryland has implemented a statewide **Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultation Project** that serves early care and education staff and families of children birth to age five. One of the ECMH

Consultation Project's goals is to assist providers in retaining and serving children with behavioral and other mental health needs and to prevent suspensions and expulsions from disrupting young children's healthy development.

- **Improve access to affordable, high-quality early care and education programs.** High quality and affordable child care has substantial benefits for young children and their families, but accessing such programs is a significant challenge for many families. Some federal funding is available through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) to assist states in improving the quality and affordability of child care— including through subsidies to make child care more affordable for low-income families. However, for the families who are able to receive these subsidies, a phenomenon known as the “cliff effect” can ultimately hurt their economic stability and leave them without access to the affordable, quality child care they need. Federal and state policies often do not allow for child care subsidies to be gradually decreased as families' incomes increase, which means that when a family's income crosses over an eligibility threshold, they will lose the full value of their child care subsidy, which can be much more than the increase in income. Based on whether CCDF funds are administered at the state or local-level, states can act to either address the cliff effect directly, or to authorize counties to do so. In 2014, the Colorado Legislature authorized the [Colorado Child Care Assistance Program \(CCCAP\)](#) to operate a pilot program that provides counties with the flexibility needed to test strategies to gradually decrease the amount of child care assistance families receive as their income increases.
- **Enact local hiring policies that provide incentives for employers to hire workers who are residents of the local community, instead of hiring from outside the community.** Higher employment rates have been associated with safer communities and improved early childhood development outcomes.<sup>80</sup> Local hiring policies help to increase economic opportunity and mobility for a large number of community residents, who may have lower access to job opportunities due to gentrification or inequitable access to quality education, among other factors. For example, in an effort to combat high unemployment in New Orleans—including 52% of African-American men—the Hire NOLA policy requires city contractors to hire local, “disadvantaged workers” for large projects worth \$150,000 or more. “Disadvantaged workers” include: local workers who are chronically unemployed, eligible for

public assistance, live in households that make less than 50 percent of the area median income, are single parents, were previously arrested or incarcerated, are homeless, or served in the military.

- **Support living wage policies.** State and local legislation can address both insufficient wages and unfair scheduling practices to provide families and communities with the stability they need to thrive. Policymakers concerned with family economic mobility and stability should adjust minimum wage laws to allow a family supported by a single worker to earn enough to meet the local cost of living, taking into account rising costs for necessities like housing, health care and child care. Minimum wage laws should also be indexed to inflation or to the median wage, ensuring that low-wage workers are not left behind as costs of living rise over time. Currently, several states have indexed their minimum wage to the annual rate of inflation, including: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia. The District of Columbia is in the process of increasing its minimum wage to \$15 per hour by July 2020, at which point the minimum wage will be increased annually based on inflation of the Consumer Price Index.
- **Offer family supportive paid leave policies.** Paid family and medical leave can provide protection to working families by ensuring they are able to balance their work and family responsibilities. Research has connected longer periods of paid leave with positive health and well-being outcomes for both children and their families. Benefits include lower risk for infant or child mortality, higher cognitive scores and fewer behavioral health problems among children, lower rates of maternal depression and greater economic stability for families. In December 2016, the Washington, D.C. City Council approved a combined paid family and medical leave insurance program that would offer DC workers eight weeks of leave with a new child, six weeks to care for an ill family member, and two weeks for their own health needs starting in 2020. Workers would receive 90 percent of their wages, up to 1.5 times the minimum wage, after which workers would receive 50 percent of pay up to \$1,000 per week. A high wage replacement rate makes it more likely that low-wage and part-time workers will be able to access paid leave. Leave would be funded through a 0.62 percent increase in payroll taxes, and it's estimated that 540,000 workers will be eligible. The text of the legislation is available [online](#).

---

*Research has connected longer periods of paid leave with positive health and well-being outcomes for both children and their families.*

- **Promote family supportive scheduling policies.** States and localities can also enact legislation to ensure working families are protected from unfair scheduling practices, guaranteeing workers the right to request a more flexible, predictable, or stable schedule and protect them from retaliation by employers. Legislation known as “reporting time pay laws” can also protect shift workers by ensuring that workers who are sent home early without completing their scheduled shift are guaranteed to be paid for a minimum number of hours, in recognition that the worker incurred significant costs – including time, transportation and child care – in reporting for their shift (their “reporting time”). California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Oregon, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have adopted different versions of reporting time pay laws.
- **Make restorative justice an organizational practice in education settings.** Restorative justice recognizes the potentially traumatizing impacts of traditional justice approaches, and shifts norms around conflict resolution from ‘justice as harming’ to ‘justice as healing.’ This organizational practice supports potential young parents to stay in school and provides opportunities for youth to develop important skills in problem-solving, conflict resolution, and job-training. By helping with development of healthy conflict resolution skills and social-emotional learning, restorative justice approaches can support individuals to be productive members of their communities and promote safety. Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth has a program where, instead of punishing the perpetrator of violence, a dialogue is initiated between the perpetrator and victim about how to repair the harm in a way that allows for growth, meeting of community safety, victim needs, and offender accountability.

### **Sample metrics**

Number of work days missed; number of school days missed; percentage of children assessed as ready for kindergarten; percentage of children living in poverty enrolled in high quality childcare; preschool expulsions; parental education level; residential segregation; caregiving burden; adverse childhood experiences.

# Early Signs of Success and Emergent Opportunities

Through *Cradle to Community*, Prevention Institute and CSSP have brought the importance of the intersection of early childhood development and community safety to the forefront for our networks across the country. Further, we have increased understanding of the value of addressing community violence and early childhood development collectively. Through our activities and products, Prevention Institute and CSSP have catalyzed momentum and strengthened capacity as organizations, and in the fields of community safety and early childhood development, to prepare for actions that promote dual outcomes – safety and positive early childhood development. The two national organizations and the respective networks grew through the partnership; for example, the project gave EC-LINC sites the opportunity to delve into place-based and policy work, and UNITY City Network members the opportunity to expand their portfolio of strategies more broadly to include the entire family and across the lifespan. See Appendix A: EC-LINC Cradle to Community Profile – First 5 Alameda County for a description of the ways that this EC-LINC site is implementing place-based approaches that have violence prevention benefits for early childhood development. Also, see Appendix B: UNITY City Cradle to Community Profile – New Orleans Health Department for a description of the ways that this UNITY city is integrating early childhood development approaches as solutions to prevent violence.

The following is a summary of the early signs of success and emergent opportunities we have supported through this project:

***The fields share common characteristics that allow them to address multiple forms of violence and trauma.*** While both of the fields were interested in addressing various forms of violence and trauma from the start, the project presented an important opportunity to help communities operationalize the links between multiple forms of

violence, such as addressing risk and resilience factors that cut across different types of violence. An increasing number of efforts focused on community safety have been expanding their focus to include intimate partner violence and/or child abuse. As part of its murder reduction strategy, for example, New Orleans Health Department has introduced a violence prevention curriculum for new parents into its Maternal and Child Health efforts. Communities also are beginning to operationalize understandings of trauma, including through community healing, restorative justice, restoring and community connections, as well as promoting opportunities for regular engagement and coming together across communities. To continue this work at the intersection of safety and child development, they are looking to Prevention Institute and CSSP for guidance, models, tools and training.



Photo credit: Andrea Flores Shelton

The East San Jose PEACE Partnership integrates racial and health equity principles into violence prevention, including community building events. Children of the Rainbow Park, San Jose, 2017

***Health equity and racial justice are shared concerns among both fields.*** Looking at opportunities for child development through a community safety lens creates a stark picture of the potential for healthy development in neighborhoods where community violence is an everyday concern. Practitioners in both fields are recognizing historic and present day inequities that have disparate effects on communities of color and neighborhoods experiencing concentrated poverty, and are centering their efforts on neighborhoods and communities that face the most disinvestment. With this, they are committed to upholding the principles of health equity and racial justice by embedding considerations of place, race, and equity in decision-making and employing strategies that explicitly address structural drivers and systemic racism. For example, Minneapolis prioritized coordinated efforts in neighborhoods that had the highest rates of crime and violence impacting young people to promote equity. Similarly, in Denver, a trauma-informed initiative identified the neighborhood with the greatest concentration of inequities in social and emotional wellbeing to build a network of parents and providers to promote healthy social and emotional development of young children in South West Denver. Given that the multiple systems and sectors that shape communities and serve families have a history of differential outcomes across race and socio-economic lines, and that the practices and policies are deeply embedded within these systems, it will take deep work to address and undo the implicit bias and structural and institutional racism that drives and promulgates the inequities in outcomes.<sup>81</sup> The commitment of the two fields is an important starting point, and coalescing that commitment into shared actions can have a greater impact than each field can accomplish on its own.

***The goals and outcomes of community safety and early childhood system leaders are shared, complementary, and rooted in addressing underlying conditions that impact community safety and early childhood development.*** Community safety and early childhood leaders identified many shared and complementary goals and outcomes. For example, leaders from both fields were aligned around goals to ensure that all children grow up healthy and ready to learn, families have supportive social connections, jobs and opportunities are available and accessible, and communities are safe and thriving. They recognize that disparities exist for many of these outcomes and that they must aim to not only improve the overall outcome, but also reduce the gaps by race and class. It may seem that these fields would work with different populations (young children vs. youth) and employ different strategies, but using a population level prevention approach, it was natural for leaders to draw connections between their goals. For example, increasing kindergarten readiness sets a child on a path to graduation, and increasing jobs and opportunities benefits the parents of young children, as well as youth at risk for violence, or residents who were formerly incarcerated.



Photo Credit: First 5 Alameda County  
First 5 Alameda County (F5AC) links early childhood programming with other community resources.

***To achieve shared goals and outcomes, a focus on the community level is an actionable and critical place for change.*** It is a natural place to work together and independently on issues that will improve outcomes in both fields. The THRIVE framework is helpful in identifying the community and structural factors that influence outcomes for children, families and neighborhoods. By asking communities to consider how the environment shapes behavior and the impact of historical and present day discriminatory policies and practices, early childhood and community safety leaders found more common ground. Shifting from services and individual programs, they identified strategies and approaches to impact community and system-level practices and policies, such as community capacity building through place-based initiatives, addressing family and community food insecurity, and ensuring access to healthy, safe and affordable housing. The East San Jose Peace Partnership, uses THRIVE as their framework to create a comprehensive, community-level strategic plan for family and youth violence prevention. First 5 Alameda County (F5AC) has developed a strategic plan that looks at community conditions, such as poverty, violence, economic opportunity and community development. Through a partnership with Castlemont Renaissance, a Purpose Built Community focused on community development in the Castlemont neighborhood of East Oakland, F5AC is bringing their early childhood programming

---

*Baltimore has integrated its youth violence prevention efforts under a broader youth wellness plan, led by Maternal and Child Health (and now linked to its B'More for Babies strategy), making the overall effort a birth to adulthood pathway.*

together with Castlemont Renaissance's housing, career opportunities, and educational links to connect families coming into F5AC's system of care with housing resources and career opportunities. As these models are further developed, case studies will prove informative for both fields.

***Emerging action at the intersection of early childhood development and community violence prevention provides opportunities to integrate community determinants and life course perspectives into existing and future strategies.*** Sites across the UNITY City Network and EC-LINC are reaching out to new partners to explore opportunities for collaboration, with some of the early efforts focused on integrating community determinants and the life course. For example, Minneapolis has changed its youth violence prevention focus from 10-24 to 0-24; Baltimore has integrated its youth violence prevention efforts under a broader youth wellness plan, led by Maternal and Child Health (and now linked to its B'More for Babies strategy), making the overall effort a birth to adulthood pathway. They are also looking at changing the name of their Maternal and Child Health department to Child and Family Health, to be more inclusive to fathers and extended family.

As a starting place, within each field's direct service strategies, there are opportunities to integrate and collaborate. Home visiting programs can partner with violence prevention practitioners to outreach and provide support to fathers of young children who may be at risk for violence, and violence prevention programs can include younger siblings, parents, and extended family. Both sectors can integrate trauma-informed approaches into their service delivery. Furthermore, many communities are currently engaged in collaborative strategies where different sectors are coming together to work from cradle to career, providing a space to begin dialogues about the community level and underlying factors that promote community safety and optimal child development. For example, Children's Services Council in Palm Beach County Florida is a leader in the county's birth to 22 initiatives.

***Policies and practices of multiple systems and sectors shape community safety and early childhood development outcomes.*** For this reason, there is a need and opportunity to collaborate and work toward changing community environments that support joint outcomes. For instance, as previously described, the criminal justice system can better support men as fathers by considering the needs of fathers, especially in neighborhoods with high levels of violence. As well, collaborating with sectors like community development can help the fields address major disruptive forces such as displacement,

and ensure broad community participation in shaping the built/physical environment. Healthcare is another sector that is well-positioned to play a key role in influencing the community conditions that affect early childhood development and community safety – having both the credibility and resources. For example, healthcare can partner on *multigenerational strategies* to promote the health and address the needs of parents and children together. In Boston, through group medical visits, Vital Village is testing a model to bring moms and babies together to build social support systems and address issues like food insecurity and domestic violence. This is instead of shorter visits, where only the baby receives medical attention without attention to the mother’s wellbeing. As anchor institutions, health care providers/hospitals are well positioned to impact both community safety and positive early childhood development.

---

*In Boston, through group medical visits, Vital Village is testing a model to bring moms and babies together to build social support systems and address issues like food insecurity and domestic violence.*

***Both fields are in a period of rapid evolution, providing a time-sensitive opportunity to advance work at the intersection.*** The early childhood development field is moving toward multisystem, multi-sector, and community organizing approaches due to the realization that services alone are insufficient for promoting equitable positive outcomes for children. The community violence prevention field is evolving toward public health approaches that focus on prevention, place-based efforts, and multisector engagement, rather than relying primarily on criminal justice approaches. As these fields are evolving, there is an opportunity to build the practices and policies that serve the mandates of each field in a way that will improve outcomes for young children, families, and communities. There are also major shifts within health care and mental health/behavioral health, including an interest in and commitment to community prevention. These shifts present opportunities to integrate attention to community safety and early childhood development into various sectors.

***Time and space is needed for leaders in the fields to plan, address challenges in working at the intersection, and identify additional opportunities.*** While specific areas of focus emerged during this planning grant, the dedicated time and space to discuss how early childhood and violence prevention connect was critical. For this momentum to continue, an enduring commitment is required to intentionally work toward community-level change that supports children, families, and communities. Attention to the intersection between early childhood and community safety is necessary to build on the early signs of success and emergent models.

# Future Efforts and Recommendations

Moving forward, there is a critical need to support the safety of young children, their families, and their communities, and significant potential to work comprehensively, from capacity building to policy change. A range of recommendations emerged from *Cradle to Community*. The section on Emerging Opportunities for Community Change identified specific policy and systems practices to change norms about fathers and fatherhood, engage the community development sector to improve housing opportunities and community conditions, and local and state policies to increase economic and educational opportunities for young children and families in neighborhoods with high rates of violence. The previous section highlighted early signs of success and identified needs within these opportunities to build on the momentum generated by this planning grant.

---

*There is a critical need to support the safety of young children, their families, and their communities, and significant potential to work comprehensively, from capacity building to policy change.*

More broadly, the following recommendations – organized by the Spectrum of Prevention, a tool for comprehensively approaching complex problems – set a direction for realizing the full potential for healthy childhood development of working at the intersection with community safety efforts.

1. **Strengthening individual knowledge and skills – build family/resident capacity for advocacy and engagement in improving community conditions in support of healthy child development.**

As early childhood and community safety leaders work to improve outcomes and address racial inequities for children, families, and communities, having the people most affected – youth, parents, and other family members – involved as key decision makers is critical. As the fields embrace place-based strategies that are rooted in the community, there is a need to increase the role of youth, parents, and residents to lead, advocate, and organize for policy and community change in order to promote the wellbeing of children, families, and communities. This will involve capacity building on the part of policy makers, government, and community based organizations to actively partner and share power with parents in identifying

the issues and implementing solutions. It also includes training community members – youth, parents, and other residents – on understanding how community conditions and systems impact the health and wellbeing of families, and building skills to effectively organize and advocate for changes they want to see.

**2. *Community education* – make the case for safe communities and healthy childhood development.**

At the outset of this effort, practitioners revealed that they were not sure how to make the case for work at the intersection. This project supported the development of resources and tools that make the case. Through dissemination, including electronically, via webinars, to the press, etc., these resources help make the case. Practitioners and leaders can use these and other related resources to create political will for joint efforts to promote child development, community safety, and to demand that children live in safe communities, assert that violence is preventable and safety is possible, and to advance concrete policy and practices solutions that can make a significant positive impact. Building on the resources we created to aid local practitioners and systems builders in showing how outcomes in both fields are connected, future efforts can focus on further communicating the impact of unsafe neighborhoods on early childhood development, and ensure that early childhood systems address the importance of community safety.

**3. *Educating providers* – build the capacity of practitioners and support implementation across multiple sectors.**

Through this planning grant, PI and CSSP partnered with our networks to begin to create resources that could support local action that integrates life course and community-level approaches to change and address the intersection of trauma, child maltreatment, community violence, other forms of violence. These actions laid the groundwork for broader implementation of policy and systems changes. Fully implementing action in the range of areas identified will require a great deal of intentionality, including convening fields and partners at the local, state, and national levels, continuing to build communities of practice, providing training and technical assistance, reviewing data across sectors, developing metrics, and resourcing implementation and evaluation. In addition to working with communities on joint planning and implementation, there is a need for training across specific sectors so that through their decision making and resource allocation, they impact healthy childhood

development and/or community safety. For example, a city manager involved in this process emphasized the value of training all city managers on understanding the impact of their policies and decisions on families, children and communities. Further, addressing implicit bias and structural and institutional racism that has resulted in a lack of opportunities and higher rates of violence in some communities will require capacity building for multiple sectors and systems.

**4. *Fostering coalitions and networks* – foster partnerships and coalitions across the sectors that impact healthy child development and community safety.**

During this planning project, PI and CSSP identified mechanisms for change to improve both early childhood and safety outcomes through the engagement of community safety partners, early childhood systems builders, and partners in community development, criminal justice, education, employment, and the health care sector. Partnerships and coalitions across these sectors are needed to continue to build shared understanding and advance the work, particularly through changes in policies and practices. Additional systems can also play critical roles in advancing the intersection, including healthcare and media. Intentionally bringing these sectors together to advance practice and methods, develop shared indicators, and co-invest in improved outcomes will accelerate progress at local and state levels.

**5. *Changing organizational practices* – change practices of sectors and systems to improve outcomes for families and improve community safety.**

This planning grant identified a number of organizational practices that will support safer communities and positive early child development. For example, both criminal justice system partners and early childhood systems builders have a significant opportunity to improve outcomes for fathers, their families, and communities through practices that intentionally include and offer support to men in their roles as fathers. This can include changing language to be more inclusive of fathers, and embedding fatherhood supports into early childhood programs and violence-interruption programs, as well as during incarceration (e.g., supervised live video visitation), and in preparation for re-entry (e.g., fatherhood skills programs in prisons). Community development, education, and employment development sectors also offer significant opportunities for building the pathway from cradle to community, particularly within

neighborhoods with concentrated disadvantage and high rates of violence. Sectors and systems can jointly work toward increasing access to safe parks and open space, removing lead in homes, and implementing the Fair Housing Act and access to Section 8 voucher and/or public housing programs for people with felony convictions. Within early learning settings and K-12 schools, practices can be implemented to provide mental health supports, reduce or eliminate suspensions and expulsions, and promote restorative justice.

Further, sectors and systems focused on early childhood and community safety can also work to make health equity and racial justice principles and practices common practice and ensure consistency and quality. As these practices are developed, they can serve as models for other locales and should be collected and widely disseminated via multiple channels. Locales would benefit from technical assistance and participation in a community of practice to identify and institute organizational practice changes. Further, local and state governments, philanthropy and others should identify opportunities to incentivize organizational practice changes that support healthy child development and safer communities, as they are powerful in shaping individual behaviors and community conditions.

A specific organizational practice that should be further developed relates to metrics and indicators. Too often, metrics focus on individuals at the expense of also measuring community level factors, and they are often also focused on counting the problem rather than also emphasizing resilience and assets that can inform prevention solutions. A focus on the development of additional metrics, particularly at the population level, can help inform and drive momentum. A set of metrics at the intersection of early childhood development and community safety can ensure that both fields are attending to important intersections. Future work is needed to further define potential metrics and develop mechanisms for monitoring progress. In violence prevention, communities have been adopting scorecards, such as the Community Safety Scorecard, funded in part by RWJF. This tool not only tracks indicators of the problem, but also of underlying risk and resilience factors, helping people, including elected officials, to understand the context in which violence or safety takes place. Using this as a model, a scorecard that focuses on healthy child development in the context of safe communities would help community members and elected officials better understand the context and potential solutions for

---

*A set of metrics at the intersection of early childhood development and community safety can ensure that both fields are attending to important intersections. Future work is needed to further define potential metrics and develop mechanisms for monitoring progress.*

improving outcomes for young children. In addition to population level metrics, mechanisms to examine and analyze disaggregated data are also needed to understand, track, and address disparities between groups within communities.

**6. *Influencing policy and legislation – change policy, especially at the state and local levels in support of safe and healthy families and communities.***

Through this planning grant, PI and CSSP have identified a number of significant opportunities to reduce poverty, mitigate its effects, improve access to education and training for all ages, curtail the cradle to prison pipeline, and enhance the economic and educational environment in neighborhoods through state and local policy change. State and local policies can increase access to affordable, high-quality early care and education programs, and improve employment and financial stability through local hiring and living wage policies, as well as family supportive paid leave policies.

The leadership and advocacy of policymakers, civic leaders, and community leaders is needed to advance these policies. Further, policy changes to support work at the intersection, including mechanisms for braided and blended pools of public funding, will support the successful implementation of systems changes. Supporting efforts to advance these policies in the name of safety and healthy child development holds the promise of improving outcomes for the largest number of our most vulnerable young people.

# Conclusion

With intersecting work between the fields of early childhood development and community safety still in its infancy, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation made a visionary investment to make the case and delineate opportunities for action. The *Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development* project, gave an opportunity for two diverse and complex fields to come together to explore, develop shared understanding and language, and identify areas of work that could support the intersection of community safety and healthy child development, with a focus on addressing racial and other forms of inequity. Building on learning from their respective networks, the project built PI's and CSSP's collective capacity to contribute new approaches, tools, methods, and learning to the respective fields and enhanced our ability to work together to achieve more than an individual organization could achieve in terms of moving both fields of practice in service to vulnerable children and families.

---

*A new, emerging body of work, including fact sheets, profiles, and briefs, created through the partnerships at the national level and among the members of the two networks, can be used to inform policy and practice to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families, and to elevate the importance of this work as a key to advancing a Culture of Health.*

This planning grant supported significant progress in identifying critical areas of work and initiating efforts in communities across the networks. As a planning grant, naturally, challenges for working at the intersection were revealed, while also revealing initial opportunities for addressing them. A new, emerging body of work, including fact sheets, profiles, and briefs, created through the partnerships at the national level and among the members of the two networks, can be used to inform policy and practice to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families, and to elevate the importance of this work as a key to advancing a Culture of Health.

The project helped to build the narrative and identify opportunities for actionable, high leverage change to promote community safety and healthy child development. The planning grant both affirmed and catalyzed a strong interest in this work across different partners, and it clarified that as critical as this work is, it's incredibly challenging, and for the most part, won't happen at the needed level of scale without intentionality and support, including training and technical assistance. With support, locales can build Cradle to Community systems that support healthy child development for all children.

# APPENDIX A: EC-LINC CRADLE TO COMMUNITY PROFILE - FIRST 5 ALAMEDA COUNTY

## First 5 Alameda County: Place-based Community Safety Approaches for Early Childhood Development

Understanding that there are underlying conditions that contribute to violence, poverty, and negative early childhood outcomes, First 5 Alameda County is using a strengths-based approach and a variety of partnerships to support communities that have faced the greatest disenfranchisement. The agency is focused on place-based approaches to strengthen families and community environments for both optimal child development and community safety. These include partnerships and initiatives to improve the sociocultural, physical/built, and equitable opportunity environments. As First 5 moves into its 2017 to 2021 strategic priorities, the team continues to build multi-sector partnerships and increase their capacity for place-based efforts. First 5 Alameda County is a member of the Center for the Study of Social Policy's Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network for Communities (EC LINC).

The following narrative is based on two separate presentations of First 5 Alameda County's place-based work: Lisa Erickson's presentation during a 2016 Prevention Institute web conference on engaging the community development sector, and Carla Keener's Cradle to Community panel presentation at the 2016 American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting. Carla Keener is the Senior

Administrator for Continuum of Care and Linkages and Lisa Erickson is an Early Childhood Strategies Coordinator at First 5 Alameda County in California. First 5 agencies exist across counties in California through the California Children and Families First Act of 1998 (Proposition 10) to improve the early development of children. Keener, Erickson, and their team are focused on sustaining the work through systems change, as they are funded by a 50 cent per pack cigarette tax, a declining funding source.

### A focus on place-based approaches

**We have seen firsthand how poverty and violence co-exist in neighborhoods, reinforcing one another and reducing opportunities for development.** As of 2014, 25 percent of the county's children live in poverty, which impacts a child's ability to learn, grow and thrive. Examining kindergarten readiness, an indicator to assess early childhood



Photo credit: First 5 Alameda County

East Oakland is vibrant community in Oakland, California working to build resilience against community violence.

development and predict future success, we have found that children in neighborhoods with high levels of violence and poverty come to school less ready to learn. We've learned that place matters and some communities face more inequities than others, ultimately affecting their wellbeing. For example, an African American child born in East Oakland has a life expectancy 15 years shorter than a white child born in the more affluent Oakland Hills.

**In the Castlemont Corridor neighborhood of East Oakland, violence and crime scenes are an everyday occurrence, thereby affecting the lives of young children and their families.** East Oakland continues to be a rich and vibrant community, but the neighborhood faces challenges. These same communities that experience increased levels of violence are also the places with higher rates of maternal and paternal depression and pre-school expulsions. Our goal is to work in and with the neighborhoods that have the greatest needs to develop better systems for families with young children.

**A place-based approach and partnerships with other sectors allows us to address underlying community conditions that affect early childhood outcomes.** We often hear from our communities that inadequate housing and employment opportunities are concerns, but in the past we didn't have the capacity to work on these issues. However, leveraging our role as a collaborator, we're working with community and joining tables that are not traditional for early childhood. Through a partnership with Castlemont Renaissance, a **Purpose Built Community** focused on community development in the Castlemont neighborhood of East Oakland, we are able to bring our early childhood programming together with their housing, career opportunities, and educational links. We are connecting families coming into our system of

care with housing resources and career opportunities. We are also partnering with the local housing authority, youth-serving organizations, a community development corporation, the police department, public health, and other agencies to support neighborhood-based, resident-led initiatives.

## Strengthen families and communities

**By focusing on promotive and protective factors, our Parent Cafés and early childhood hub are improving social networks in the community.** On the Monday of our Parent Café launch, a young child was shot and killed. As the community grieved, they wanted something positive and asked for the café to continue. In the cafés, residents of all backgrounds come together as an inclusive community. A principal at a school where a café is held says, "Having the Parent Cafés at Markham has built a community of school unity. Parents and caregivers come together to share with other parents, laugh and cry together, get listened to very well, and get suggestions and resources." The Parent Cafés not only help build social networks based on community strengths, but they have also improved community capacity and collective action. For instance, one group is fundraising at a school to get playground equipment so that their children have a safe place to play.

Another example of work that strengthens social networks is Room to Bloom, our family resource center. Room to Bloom offers a safe space for families to drop in, socialize with others, and play with their children. While we offer a continuum of early childhood programs and services through our activities, we are also helping shape environments to promote safety, connectedness, and inclusion.

**Economic opportunities are also critical to strengthening families and communities. For this reason, we're trying to grow early childhood jobs, offer support to at-home childcare centers, and help working families find childcare options.** Together with one of our Head Start grantees, YMCA of the Central Bay Area, we are growing the early childhood workforce and offering educational and employment opportunities to residents of East Oakland. The Early Care and Education Apprenticeship allows applicants to work as paid teacher assistants in the morning and take early childhood credits at a college in the afternoon, some of which we subsidize. Post-apprenticeship, graduates can either work in the Head Start programs or get their associate teacher's permit to gain early childhood education employment outside of the neighborhood.

Other ways First 5 Alameda County is thinking about economic opportunities is by conceptualizing childcare as a business and as a support to working parents. With many licensed centers operating as small at-home businesses, we offer training on taxes and other business classes for childcare providers to ensure sustainability. As well, for many parents with low average household income levels it can be challenging to find childcare options. We're partnering with a local school district and others to make sure families know about accessible childcare spots and can access them. This in turn allows parents to work and be able to financially support the needs of their young ones.

**We are thinking about how land use and the built environment have a role to play in supporting early childhood development and safety. With this in mind, we are searching for opportunities to support childcare facilities, toxin remediation, and playgrounds.** Children are dependent on their



Photo credit: First 5 Alameda County  
First 5 Alameda County is helping enhance the built environment so that children have safe outdoor spaces to play.

environments to learn, explore, and play. Since they are very interactive with their surroundings, unsafe conditions can be detrimental to early development. First 5 Alameda County is considering how to gain public and private support for childcare infrastructure, particularly for neighborhoods with the greatest needs. One initial idea is to leverage new developer fees to support childcare facilities. Together with the Low Income Investment Fund, which is a Community Development Financial Institution, we are offering childcare facility grants around the county to develop new playgrounds and for lead and mold remediation.

We are also enhancing the physical environment so that children have more outdoor spaces to play. In East Oakland, there was a lack of playgrounds, so in collaboration with KaBOOM! and a range of volunteers, the community joined together to create a special place for children and families to come out to play in a safe, fun and clean environment. In the newly created playground, every first Saturday there is a community playdate and always lots of people connecting— including a ton of fathers engaging with their children.

## First 5 Alameda County's strategic plan moving forward

**As we move forward with our 2017-2021 strategic plan, we hope to engage in more place-based work in additional neighborhoods that have experienced disinvestment.** To meet the needs of the communities we serve, we will continue to

expand our horizons and enter spaces that are not typical for early childhood. This will allow First 5 Alameda County to elevate strategic partnerships and ensure community is involved in decision-making. Our partnerships and neighborhood lens will help us address poverty and inequities, and change community environments so that they support both family and community strengths.

## APPENDIX B: UNITY CITY CRADLE TO COMMUNITY PROFILE – NEW ORLEANS HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Working Cradle to Community in New Orleans: Advancing Integrated Solutions to Violence through Early Childhood Approaches

Recognizing positive early childhood development as an important component of a comprehensive violence prevention strategy, the New Orleans Health Department is working to bridge their community safety and early childhood efforts. The agency is focused on strengthening and aligning current work to support the development of positive parenting skills and strong family relationships, enhance supports for fathers, and promote breastfeeding as an important part of healthy parent-child bonding and early attachment. These efforts not only help to promote optimal child development, but also mitigate risk factors and enhance protective factors for multiple forms of violence.

Chris Gunther presented on New Orleans's violence prevention and early childhood work as part of a Cradle to Community panel at the 2016 American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. The following narrative is excerpted from his remarks. At the time of this presentation, Chris Gunther was Manager of Strategic Initiatives at the New Orleans Health Department. The Health Department's vision includes building a healthy New Orleans through equitable social and environmental conditions and through policies, programs and partnerships that promote health.

Our work in violence prevention began a few years ago when New Orleans' Mayor Mitch Landrieu recognized the issue of violence as a public health concern. After asking the health department to lead violence prevention strategies as part of a broader public health approach, Mayor Landrieu launched the NOLA for Life Murder Reduction Strategy in 2012. This comprehensive strategy, known as **NOLA for Life**, employs strategies that cut across prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry. A recent four-year progress report on NOLA for Life found that New Orleans has had the highest rate of murder reduction of any city in the country over the last four years. While we still have a long way to go, things are moving in a positive direction, and we see this progress as an opportunity to double down on investments we have made in prevention and continue to move upstream on this issue. In particular, the Cradle to Community framework has been an influential tool for us as we advance integrated solutions to violence through our early childhood efforts. We have recognized the opportunity to bridge our murder reduction and early childhood work and make an impact early in the lives of children to help prevent and, at the very least, mitigate the adverse experiences they may be at risk for.

## With around 50,000 visits per year in our free WIC clinics, we began to see WIC as a nexus for family violence prevention.

We started by examining our existing early childhood work and investments to see how we could connect those to violence prevention, starting with our Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinics. WIC is a supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children that has a long and important history of providing critical nutritional support to low-income families in vulnerable communities. In New Orleans, we saw an overlap of WIC clinic locations and hotspots for community violence, and we suspected that folks coming into our WIC clinics were likely to be exposed to violence on a regular basis. This became a real opportunity to begin taking a primary prevention approach to reducing murders and having an impact in neighborhoods where we already had a presence.

With around 50,000 visits per year in our free WIC clinics, we began to look at WIC as a nexus for family violence prevention. We also saw this as an opportunity to have a population-wide impact due to the large number of New Orleans children that are income-eligible for WIC. We began by instituting intimate partner violence screenings as a standard practice at all of our WIC clinics to serve as a starting place for dialogues with clients around healthy and safe relationships. Adult clients who are at risk for intimate partner violence are then referred to the New Orleans Family Justice Center for further services. In order to move more upstream, we are also collaborating with the Children's Bureau of New Orleans and the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine to pilot two positive parenting interventions in our WIC clinics, including Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)

and Play Nicely. These interventions are both brief, one-time interventions designed to prevent child maltreatment by teaching parents skills to build strong, healthy relationships with their children. Triple P is a family support system designed to develop positive family relationships and prevent and improve behavioral and emotional problems in children and teenagers. Play Nicely is a computer-based intervention for parents to learn supportive parenting strategies. While both programs have been shown to reduce child maltreatment, they have never before been tested in a WIC setting and are showing promising results.

## We are integrating fatherhood supports into our Healthy Start program to improve parent-child and familial relationships and reduce violence.

Healthy Start is a community-based program that has historically focused on addressing high rates of infant mortality, particularly in African American communities. Traditionally, many of Healthy Start's services support new or expectant mothers. In New Orleans, we have recently started integrating fatherhood supports into our Healthy Start program with the goal of improving parent-child and familial relationships in order to reduce violence. Moving forward, Healthy Start will be implementing two fatherhood curricula, including 24/7 Dad and Parents as Teachers, and we will also be hosting more father engagement events through NOLA for Life. More recently, we have started exploring the possibility of working with men at the Orleans Justice Center in order to provide incarcerated fathers with the supports they need to play a positive role in the lives of their children.

## Early attachment and bonding are important for promoting community safety and preventing violence.

We have also started to examine the role of breastfeeding in the development of healthy families and safe communities, through breastfeeding education that includes not only mothers, but also fathers, partners, families and communities. Through video and media campaigns, we have started looking at ways to enhance advertising and public awareness around breastfeeding. We ensure that our campaign photos include men and are set in culturally resonant places through the city to try and strike a chord with residents. We have also engaged mothers and children in a PhotoVoice project on breastfeeding. Many of the images, murals, and poems that have come out of this project highlight the positive impacts that early attachment and bonding can have on community safety and violence.



Photo credit: New Orleans Health Department

The New Orleans Health Department is looking at ways to promote breastfeeding through advertising and public awareness.

## Lessons Learned

- 1. Prevention strategies should cut across sectors and forms of violence.** CDC's and PI's **Connecting the Dots** and PI's Cradle to Community framework have been particularly useful resources as we advance integrated solutions to violence, and address shared risk and protective factors. When all of these health factors are converging on the same neighborhoods, it calls for a response that is beyond a single program, risk factor, or issue.
- 2. The life-course approach can be an important component of a primary prevention strategy.** Aligning our early childhood and violence prevention work has allowed us to prevent and mitigate adverse experiences that children may be at risk for later on, including violence.
- 3. We have found value in linking existing efforts and finding ways to maximize impacts of programs already in place.** Instead of starting from scratch, we looked at our NOLA for Life Murder Reduction Strategy and existing early childhood work and investments and found ways to create synergy and alignment between those two bodies of work.
- 4. Building a shared sense of ownership and responsibility around the wellbeing of vulnerable children and families in disadvantaged neighborhoods is critical.** Multiple sectors have a role to play and building joint capacity and educating others about the role they can play is an important foundation for this work.

## APPENDIX C: PROJECT METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

The overarching goal of the planning project was to bring Prevention Institute (PI) and the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) and our respective networks together to explore the connections between community safety and healthy child development and identify strategic policy, practice, systems, and norms change levers. In recognition that there are significant inequities in rates of community violence across various groups and areas, the project underscored the needs of communities of color and neighborhoods experiencing concentrated poverty. The project provided one of the first and most explicit efforts to assert that preventing community violence is critical for achieving optimal, equitable opportunities for young children, and also, supporting young children promotes community safety in the long term. Partnerships with PI's UNITY City Network and CSSP's EC-LINC helped to ensure that the project remained practice-informed and grounded in what's realistic and achievable for local communities. The overarching goal of the project was met and the project laid the foundation for critical work at the intersection of healthy child development (HCD) and community safety (CS), all in service to a Culture of Health. (Healthy child development is abbreviated as HCD and community safety is abbreviated as CS in this appendix.)

For this project, we set out to

1. Advance an understanding of the intersection and interactive nature of community violence and early childhood development, and the relationship between community conditions and outcomes for individuals and families;
2. Build the foundation for collaborative work between PI and CSSP at the intersection of early childhood development and community violence prevention in communities;
3. Advance a community of practice that acts on the intersection of CS, healthy families, and HCD, with a focus on the local level;
4. Identify systems, community, and policy change strategies that address the community determinants of health to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and families;
5. Enable PI and CSSP to learn and advance their respective approaches through collaboration; and,
6. Understand the landscape of the intersection of CS and HCD to inform future work and to advance an equitable Culture of Health.

To accomplish this, we completed the following:

**A. Built a shared vision and purpose between PI and CSSP.** PI and CSSP met and articulated the value and outcomes of working together. Staff familiarized ourselves with the core materials of each organization, and assessed the landscape for efforts that explicitly combine or call out HCD and CS work. This initial work was informed via a jointly developed survey for PI's UNITY City Network and CSSP's EC-LINC network members (e.g., to what extent there is cross-cutting work, key partners engaged, desired outcomes, challenges and opportunities, system needs, and successes). Efforts to build a shared vision and purpose continued over the course of the project through in-person and telephone-based meetings and video conferences that included multiple levels of staffing at both organizations.

**B. Designed and conducted evaluation activities.** In partnership with a contract evaluator and with guidance from a pro-bono evaluator provided by our program officer, staff refined project objectives, identified key evaluation questions, and delineated evaluation methods. The methods included a) a baseline survey of UNITY City Network and EC LINC member organizations; b) ongoing documentation of activities, outcomes, and themes related to evaluation questions; c) participant surveys for project activities; d) a post-project survey of UNITY City Network and EC LINC member organizations; and, e) post-project interviews with key staff from PI and CSSP. A process evaluation report was developed, including key findings and recommendations for consideration, and is included as part of our final submission.

**C. Developed initial cross-cutting content that spans CS and HCD.** Project staff identified core areas for research, reviewed materials and literature, and conducted interviews with members

of the UNITY and EC-LINC networks, systems leaders, subject matter experts, and policymakers. The preliminary background research was translated into an initial fact sheet, and a list of potential topics to explore further.

**D. Held a joint convening.** We held a joint, in-person convening of the networks, developed a co-learning agenda, identified specific topics and themes for deeper work, and began to identify policy and practice change strategies. Close to 70 public health professionals, city and county officials, early childhood experts, violence prevention practitioners, and others participated, representing 24 cities/counties from 14 states. The interpersonal interactions fostered connection, which supported engagement in the later, distance-based interactions. A proceedings document was developed, capturing key themes, challenges, and opportunities, as well as capturing practice and policy examples from the communities.

**E. Launched and facilitated an action learning lab and peer learning forums, and provided technical assistance.** One Action Learning Lab (learning lab) and two peer learning forums were organized for the two networks to come together. The learning lab was conducted for communities with emerging partnerships, ideas or initiatives that link early childhood and violence prevention to engage with each other in peer learning and dialogue. The learning lab included initial interviews, a series of five webinars and interactive conference calls between October 2016 and January 2017, a follow up interview, and a final convening in June 2017. The webinars were structured to provide peer to peer coaching as well as introduce participants to tools and resources that may be helpful to their exploration and planning. Topics included opportunities for joint action, identifying shared outcomes,

data, partnerships, and presentations from the communities about their local efforts. One peer learning forum was organized to explore how CS and HCD practitioners could partner with the community development sector to advance shared outcomes. Another peer learning forum was organized to explore how to change systems, norms, and outcomes for fathers and father figures in support of CS and HCD. To further inform practice on the intersection of CS and HCD, PI and CSSP provided responsive technical assistance, documented the issues and needs that arose, and looked for themes to inform the development materials. We also conducted interviews to continue to develop a framework for and examples of policy and practice changes strategies, and conducted a web conference to share the compiled strategies and refine the framework. Through these activities, the grant allowed PI and CSSP to collaboratively develop materials and resources with our respective networks that addressed the initial challenges expressed by practitioners, such as the need to make the case, and the desire to learn from examples. The collaborative methods for developing these materials also supported real-time sharing and uptake of ideas and examples.

**F. Conducted follow-up convenings.** Prevention Institute conducted a UNITY meeting in March 2017, and CSSP conducted an in-person convening of its learning lab participants in June 2017. The UNITY meeting included 23 local and national leaders and practitioners to identify needs, opportunities, and priorities of in the context of a changing landscape, build

on the Cradle to Community project efforts, and explore innovations in local strategy in the areas of resources, partnerships, and shaping the narrative. The CSSP convening included practitioners from seven communities to share progress to date and plans for further action across the communities. Through peer learning and dialogue, communities discussed the challenges and successes they are experiencing on the ground; learned about the current state of research available and gaps between research and the field; identified mechanisms to integrate parent, community, and system stakeholders into design, implementation and evaluation of strategies; and informed the directions that future work and research at this intersection should take.

**G. Developed and disseminated materials.** Content from the project has been shared through a joint special session at APHA, a PI presentation at the CityMatCH conference, and a PI plenary for First 5 Ventura County. PI's Sheila Savannah presented at a September 7, 2016 congressional briefing on violence prevention and described the importance of a Cradle to Community approach. CSSP and PI engaged more broadly with national organizations and networks to share the emerging body of work. Drawing on the full range of project activities, we developed a number of materials. See Appendix D: Bibliography of Materials Developed. Now that a suite of products has been created, PI and CSSP will make all of the materials available on our websites and disseminate them through regular channels including e-alerts and social media.

## APPENDIX D: BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MATERIALS DEVELOPED

### Website and Videos

**Website created to share information about the Cradle to Community project.** Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute.

**“A Word from Our Funder: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

**“Boston, MA – Boston Public Health Commission.”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

**“Community Trauma and Resilience.”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

**“Denver, CO – Early Childhood Council.”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

**“Hillsborough, FL – Safe & Sound Hillsborough.”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

**“‘It’s Good Business to Support Violence Prevention.’ – Safe & Sound Hillsborough”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

**“Minneapolis, MN – Minneapolis Health Department.”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

**“New Orleans, LA – City of New Orleans Health Department.”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

**“Oxnard, CA – City of Oxnard.”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

**“Salinas, CA – City of Salinas.”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

**“The Power of Networks for ‘Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development.’”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

**“What Does “Cradle to Community” Mean to You?”** Prevention Institute, posted to YouTube.

## Reports

*Beyond Services: Why Early Childhood Advocates Should Work to Make Communities Safe.* Washington DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, July 2017.

*Bridging Maternal & Child Health and Violence Prevention Strategies: How Baltimore Promotes Safety Across the Life Course.* Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2017.

*Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development.* Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2017.

*Cradle to Community: Policy Strategies To Promote Child, Family and Community Well-being.* Washington DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, July 2017.

*Cradle to Community: Proceedings from a Convening to Inform the Future of Safer Communities and Healthy Child Development.* Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2017.

*Early Childhood Development and Community Safety: Mobilizing Communities for Action.* Washington DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, July 2017.

*First 5 Alameda County: Place-based Community Safety Approaches for Early Childhood Development.* Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2017.

*From a cycle of violence to a culture of safety: Leveraging connections to prevent multiple forms of violence.* Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, 2017.

*Multiplying Outcomes in Place-Based Initiatives: How Community Safety and Early Childhood Development Practitioners Can Collaborate with Community Development.* Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2017.

Murphy, D. & Darling-Churchill, KE. *Neighborhood Indicators Associated with Child and Family Well-Being.* Washington DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2017.

*Supporting Forgotten Fathers: Changing systems, norms and outcomes for fathers in support of early childhood development and community safety.* Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, 2017.

*The Imperative of Safety: How community safety supports optimal early childhood development.* Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2017.

*Minimizing the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences through a Focus on Adverse Community Experiences.* Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, 2017.

Weiss B, Bornstein M, Healy D. *Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development, Process Evaluation Report.* Los Angeles, CA: Authors, 2017.

*Working Cradle to Community in New Orleans: Advancing Integrated Solutions to Violence through Early Childhood Approaches.* Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2017.

## Tools and Training Materials

*Putting Together the Pieces of a Safe and Healthy Community* (Infographic). Washington DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2017.

*Safe Communities Promote Positive Early Childhood Development* (Infographic). Washington DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2017.

## APPENDIX E: ENDNOTES

1. Davis R, Cook D, Cohen L. A community resilience approach to reducing ethnic and racial disparities in health. *Am J Public Health*. 2005;95:2168-73
2. Liberman AM, Fontaine J. Reducing Harms to Boys and Young Men of Color from Criminal Justice System Involvement. *Wa Urban Institute*. 2015.
3. **INSIDE THIS SNAPSHOT: School Discipline, Restraint, & Seclusion Highlights**. CIVIL RIGHTS DATA COLLECTION. Published March 2014. Accessed June 30, 2017.
4. Heitzeg NA. Education or Incarceration: Zero Tolerance Policies and the School to Prison Pipeline. InForum on Public Policy Online 2009 (Vol. 2009, No. 2). Oxford Round Table. 406 West Florida Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801.
5. Nellis A. *The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons*. The Sentencing Project. Published June 14, 2016. Accessed June 30, 2017.
6. Jones J, Mosher WD. *Fathers' Involvement With Their Children: United States, 2006-2010*. National Health Statistics Report. Published December 20, 2013. Accessed June 30, 2017.
7. Poehlmann J, Dallaire D, Loper AB, Shear LD. Children's Contact With Their Incarcerated Parents: Research Findings and Recommendations. *The American psychologist*. 2010;65(6):575-598. doi:10.1037/a0020279.
8. **Community Violence**. National Child Traumatic Stress Network – Trauma Types. Accessed June 30, 2017.
9. Buka SL, Stichick TL, Birdthistle I, Earls FJ. The epidemiology of witnessing community violence in childhood and adolescence. Harvard Kennedy School; 2000.
10. Burtle, A. **What is structural violence?** [Blog post].
11. Weiss B. *An Assessment of Youth Violence Prevention Activities in USA Cities*. Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center, UCLA School of Public Health. June 2008.
12. Wilkins N, Tsao B, Hertz M, Davis R, Klevens J. Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence. *National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Prevention Institute* 2014.
13. Pinderhughes H, Davis R, Williams M. Adverse Community Experiences and Resilience: A Framework for Addressing and Preventing Community Trauma. *Prevention Institute* 2015.
14. Harper BC. The Strengthening Families Approach and Protective Factors Framework: Branching out and reaching deeper. *Center for the Study of Social Policy* 2014.
15. Buss KE, Warren JM, Horton E. **Trauma and Treatment in Early Childhood: A Review of the Historical and Emerging Literature for Counselors**. *The Professional Counselor*. 2015;5(2):225-237. Accessed January 12, 2016.
16. Sharkey, Patrick T. Tirado-Strayer, Nicole, et al. The effect of local violence on children's attention and impulse control. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2012;102:12:2287-2293.
17. Prothrow-Stith, D. (2011). Preventing Violence in the Next Decade: Five Lessons for the Movement. Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute.
18. Kenney, M.K. Child, family, and neighborhood associations with parents and peer interactive place during early childhood. *Journal of Maternal Child Health*. 2012;16 Suppl 1:S88-101
19. Maggi S, Irwin LJ, Siddiqi A, Hertzman C. The social determinants of early child development: an overview. *J Paediatr Child Health*. 2010;46(11):627-35.
20. Shonkoff JP, Boyce WT, McEwen BS. Neuroscience, molecular biology, and the childhood roots of health disparities: building a new framework for health promotion and disease prevention. *JAMA*. 2009;301(21):2252-2259.
21. Phillips DA, Shonkoff JP, eds. From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development. *National Academies Press*; 2000.
22. Shonkoff JP. Capitalizing on advances in science to reduce the health consequences of early childhood adversity. *JAMA pediatrics*. 2016;170(10):1003-7.
23. Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. *Building Core Capabilities for Life: The Science Behind the Skills Adults Need to Succeed in Parenting and in the Workplace*. 2016. Accessed February 24, 2017.
24. Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. *Supportive Relationships and Active Skill-Building Strengthen the Foundations of Resilience: Working Paper No. 13*. 2015. Accessed February 24, 2017.
25. Jack G. Ecological influences on parenting and child development. *Brit J Soc Work*. 2000;30(6):703-20.

26. Evans GW. Child development and the physical environment. *Annu Rev Psychol.* 2006;57:423-451.
27. Sampson RJ, Raudenbush SW, Earls F. Neighborhoods and violent crime: A multilevel study of collective efficacy. *Science.* 1997;277(5328):918-24.
28. Ansari, S. Social capital and collective efficacy: resource and operating tools of community social control. *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Criminology.* 2013;5(2):75-94.
29. Boggess LN, Hipp JR. Violent crime, residential instability and mobility: Does the relationship differ in minority neighborhoods?. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology.* 2010;26(3):351-70.
30. Sandstrom H, Huerta S. [The negative effects of instability on child development: A research synthesis.](#) *Urban Institute.* 2013. Accessed March 18, 2016.
31. Tsao B, Davis RA, Tran C, Lee S, Lee V. Community safety: a building block for healthy communities. *Prevention Institute. Advancement Project.* 2015.
32. Hastings PD, Utendale WT, Sullivan C. The socialization of prosocial development. *Handbook of Socialization: Theory and Research.* 2007:638-64.
33. Christian H, Zubrick SR, Foster S, et al. The influence of the neighborhood physical environment on early child health and development: A review and call for research. *Health Place.* 2015;33:25-36.
34. McCurdy, Leyla E, Winterbottom K, Mehta S, Roberts J. Using nature and outdoor activity to improve children's health. *Current Problems in Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care.* 2010;40(5), 102 - 117.
35. Christian H, Zubrick SR, Foster S, et al. The influence of the neighborhood physical environment on early child health and development: A review and call for research. *Health Place.* 2015;33:25-36.
36. Brown B, Weitzman M, Bzostek S, et al. [Early child development in social context: A chartbook.](#) New York, NY: The Commonwealth Fund; 2004. Accessed January 13, 2016.
37. Evans G, Ferguson K. Built environment and mental health. In: Jerome ON, ed. *Encyclopedia of Environmental Health.* 2011:446-449.
38. Leher E. Crime fighting and urban renewal. *National Affairs.* 2000;144:91-103.
39. *ibid.*
40. Bradley RH, Corwyn RF. Socioeconomic status and child development. *Annu Rev Psychol.* 2002;53(1):371-99.
41. *ibid.*
42. Wright RJ, Mitchell H, Visness CM, et al. Community Violence and Asthma Morbidity: The Inner-City Asthma Study. *American Journal of Public Health.* 2004;94(4):625-632.
43. Coley RL, Kull M, Leventhal T, Lynch AD. Profiles of Housing and Neighborhood Contexts Among Low-Income Families: Links With Children's Well-Being. *Cityscape.* 2014 Jan 1;16(1):37.
44. Boggess LN, Hipp JR. Violent crime, residential instability and mobility: Does the relationship differ in minority neighborhoods?. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology.* 2010;26(3):351-70.
45. Davis R, Cook D, Cohen L. A community resilience approach to reducing ethnic and racial disparities in health. *Am J Public Health.* 2005;95:2168-73
46. World Health Organization. Closing the Gap in a Generation: Health Equity through Action on the Social Determinants of Health. World Health Organization. 2008.
47. Liberman AM, Fontaine J. Reducing Harms to Boys and Young Men of Color from Criminal Justice System Involvement. *Urban Institute;* 2015.
48. [INSIDE THIS SNAPSHOT: School Discipline, Restraint, & Seclusion Highlights.](#) CIVIL RIGHTS DATA COLLECTION. Published March 2014. Accessed June 30, 2017.
49. Heitzeg NA. Education or Incarceration: Zero Tolerance Policies and the School to Prison Pipeline. *InForum on Public Policy Online.* 2009 (2); 2009
50. Nellis A. [The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons.](#) The Sentencing Project. Published June 14, 2016. Accessed June 30, 2017.
51. Jones J, Mosher WD. [Fathers' Involvement With Their Children: United States, 2006-2010.](#) National Health Statistics Report. Published December 20, 2013. Accessed June 30, 2017.
52. Poehlmann J, Dallaire D, Loper AB, Shear LD. Children's Contact With Their Incarcerated Parents: Research Findings and Recommendations. *The American psychologist.* 2010;65(6):575-598. doi:10.1037/a0020279.
53. Phillips S. Video Visits for Children Whose Parents Are Incarcerated: In whose best interest? The Sentencing Project; 2012.
54. Abe Brown Ministries, Inc. [Family Reunification.](#)
55. Listwan SJ, Cullen FT, Latessa EJ. How to Prevent Prisoner Re-entry Programs From Failing: Insights From Evidence Based Corrections. *Law Journal Library.* 2006. 70(3): 19-26.

56. National Fatherhood Initiative. [Reduce Recidivism](#).
57. Sanders R. [For Fathers in Prison, Fatherhood Training Impacts Recidivism and Behavior](#). Published March 5, 2015. Accessed July 21, 2017.
58. Berkeley Media Studies Group. Moving from them to us: Challenges in reframing violence among youth. Berkeley Media Studies Group; 2009.
59. Wilkins N, Tsao B, Hertz M, Davis R, Klevens J. Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute; 2014.
60. Vuono-Powell S, Schweidler C, Walters A, Zohrabi A. Who Pays? The True Cost of Incarceration on Families. Oakland, CA: Ella Baker Center, Forward Together, Research Action Design; 2015.
61. Patten E. [Racial, gender wage gaps persist in the U.S. despite some progress](#). Pew Research Center. Published July 1, 2016. Accessed July 21, 2017.
62. Bradley RH, Corwyn RF. Socioeconomic status and child development. *Annu Rev Psychol*. 2002;53(1):371-99.
63. Brown B, Weitzman M, Bzostek S, et al. Early child development in social context: A chartbook. New York, NY: The Commonwealth Fund; 2014.
64. Palm G, Fagan J. Father involvement in early childhood programs: Review of the literature. *Early Child Development and Care*. 2008 Oct 1;178(7-8):745-59.
65. US Department of Labor. Paternity Leave: Why parental leave for fathers is so important for working families. Department of Labor Policy Brief; 2015.
66. Desmond M. Unaffordable America: Poverty, housing, and eviction. *Regents of the University of Wisconsin*. 2015.
67. Maqbool N, Ault M, Viveiros J. The impacts of affordable housing on health: A research summary. *Center for Housing Policy*. 2015.
68. Bradley RH, Corwyn RF. Socioeconomic status and child development. *Annual review of psychology*. 2002;53(1):371-99.
69. Harper Browne C. The Strengthening Families Approach and Protective Factors Framework: Branching out and reaching deeper. *Center for the Study of Social Policy*. 2014; 21-24.
70. Wardrip K, Williams L, Hague S. The role of affordable housing in creating Jobs and stimulating local economic development. *Center for Housing Policy*. 2011.
71. Reyes, JW. Lead Exposure and Behavior: Effects on Antisocial and Risky Behavior Among Children and Adolescents. *Amherst College and NBER*. 2012.
72. CDC. [Asthma-related missed school days among children aged 5-17 years](#). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Published October 5, 2015. Accessed April 17, 2017.
73. CDC. [Asthma in the US](#). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Published May 3, 2011. Accessed April 17, 2017.
74. Health Equity Alliance. [Connecticut Health Equity Index Online Tool](#).
75. Jargowsky P. [New Data Reveals Huge Increases in Concentrated Poverty Since 2000](#). *The Century Foundation*. Published 2015. Accessed July 27, 2017.
76. Hsieh S. [14 Disturbing Stats About Racial Inequality in American Public Schools](#). *The Nation - Education*. Published March 21, 2014. Accessed June 30, 2017.
77. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Education. [Policy Statement on Expulsion and Suspension Policies in Early Childhood Settings](#). Nov. 2016. Accessed July 27, 2017.
78. Gilliam WS. Prekindergarteners left behind: Expulsion rates in state prekindergarten systems. *Yale University Child Study Center*. 2005.
79. Gilliam WS, et al. [Do Early Educators' Implicit Biases Regarding Sex and Race Relate to Behavior Expectations and Recommendations of Preschool Expulsions and Suspensions?](#) *Yale University Child Study Center*. Published 2016. Accessed July 27, 2017.
80. Berger LM, Hill J, Waldfogel J. Maternity leave, early maternal employment and child health and development in the US. *The Economic Journal*. 2005;115(501):F29-F47. doi:10.1111/j.0013-0133.2005.00971.x.
81. Prevention Institute. A Framework of Emerging Systems to Achieve an Equitable Culture of Health. *Prevention Institute*. 2016.

Prevention and equity at the center  
of community wellbeing.

[preventioninstitute.org](https://preventioninstitute.org)

**PREVENTION**  
INSTITUTE