Exploring a Cradle to Community System

The 2016 Cradle to Community convening was the first opportunity to bring together two national networks: Prevention Institute’s UNITY City Network and the Center for the Study of Social Policy’s Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network for Communities (EC-LINC). 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.

With support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, close to 70 public health professionals, city and county officials, early childhood experts, violence prevention practitioners, and others gathered at Prevention Institute’s Oakland, CA office, April 13-15, 2016. Through a co-creative process, participants explored the vision of

“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

Cradle to Community, with a focus on community safety and positive early childhood development. This approach supports dual outcomes: 1) making communities safer so that all children have the opportunity to develop optimally and fully participate in the fabric of community life, and 2) strengthening early childhood development to foster safer communities in the long-term.
Convening participants gathered with an intuitive understanding that community safety and positive early childhood development are deeply linked and that partnership and collaborative action make sense. The convening bolstered that understanding while forging new bonds of collaboration across networks, sectors, and communities. These proceedings synthesize key themes and directions for collaborative learning and action that emerged. In addition, the proceedings highlight next steps for local work and the national Cradle to Community project, and more broadly inform future efforts to promote safer communities and healthy child development. An addendum describes examples of written products created to support future action related to some of the convening themes.

Nine Key Themes and Directions for Cradle to Community Learning and Action

The following nine key themes and directions emerged from the convening. They shaped the direction of collaborative learning and action for the Cradle to Community project, including the development of briefs and other resources. These themes and directions also inform future policy and practice.

1. There are key elements of the community environment that are needed to create safe communities and promote optimal development for young children; focusing on these holds tremendous promise.

Both networks are interested in addressing key elements of the community environment, such as strong social networks and trust, living wages, and access to parks and open space to support community safety and optimal early childhood development. The two fields can work together to promote supportive community environments.

2. Structural inequities such as unequal access to political power and economic resources influence the community environment and contribute to violence and poor outcomes for young children. There is a desire among both networks to address structural inequities, especially racism, and to move toward a more explicit health equity and racial justice approach in the work.

3. Multiple sectors shape the elements of community environments, and the systems and norms that affect both safety and positive early childhood development. A multisector Cradle to Community system focused on community safety includes housing, community development, healthcare, parks and recreation, economic development, early care and education providers, and more. Further thinking and guidance is needed to engage these sectors to work together in mutually beneficial ways.

4. There is a significant need and opportunity to collaborate with the community development sector to leverage community investments, address major disruptive forces such as displacement, and ensure broad community participation in shaping the built environment. With $200 billion spent each year on housing and related infrastructure by the community...
development sector, there is an opportunity to influence this sector’s investments to design and build for safe, stable, and nurturing environments that support positive early childhood development and community safety.

5. Fathers and father figures, especially young men of color, are a nexus population. They face systemic challenges and barriers often being both impacted by violence at greater rates and invisibility in early childhood conversations. Changing systems and norms toward engagement and support, rather than omission and exclusion, will improve outcomes for young fathers, their children and families, and entire communities. Such support for expectant and young fathers can come from many sources, including older men.

6. Concern for community-wide, intergenerational trauma from multiple forms of violence resonates strongly across networks. At a baseline, both networks are adopting trauma-informed practices across sectors and systems. Interest in addressing trauma at the community level and fostering community resilience is growing.

7. With its credibility and resources, the healthcare sector is well-positioned to play a key role in influencing the community conditions that affect early childhood development and community safety. Healthcare is already deeply engaged in promoting positive early childhood development and many healthcare entities are now proactively addressing community violence. Engaging the healthcare sector as a key partner in a broader Cradle to Community system can start by identifying champions and making the case for the contributions that the sector can make within – and especially, beyond – the clinic walls.

8. Violence prevention and early childhood practitioners together bring a broader set of assets, and form a compelling, inclusive, stronger collective voice. The UNITY City Network and EC-LINC see opportunities to connect frameworks, and solutions, as well as braid existing resources and initiatives to further joint outcomes.

9. A Cradle to Community system includes specific policies, practices, and norms that achieve community safety as a necessary ingredient for optimal child development, as well as efforts that support children in ways that foster safety in the long-term. There is an opportunity and need to identify the key policy, practice, and norms change levers that communities can promote in the short, medium, and long-term.

Local Opportunities and Next Steps

Members of EC-LINC and the UNITY City Network are committed to learning and action to create local Cradle to Community systems, building on the generative thinking, themes, and directions that emerged during the convening. Participants proposed a variety of next steps:

- Spread knowledge and insights within agencies, organizations, and among community residents. Participants said they would convey what they learned and gained at the convening and share draft Cradle to Community project materials with their teams and beyond.

- Form intentional connections between positive early childhood development and violence prevention, including within one’s own organization. The majority of participants said they will convene early childhood and violence prevention partners – many for the first time.

Kinnari Shah/Prevention Institute
Lauren Wool, Bronwen White, Heavenly Mitchell, Abby Shapiro, and Stephanie Doyle representing UNITY and EC-LINC in Boston share what Cradle to Community means to them: “ALL children and families thrive.”
Engage community residents and new partners, including housing and community development, healthcare, local governance, and other sectors, toward a multisector Cradle to Community system. A participant said, "Seeing a City Manager and a Police Chief here was eye opening." A city manager reinforced that from a policy and resource perspective, every city manager needs to know about this work. Participants also emphasized how community engagement is critical to developing sustainable and equitable Cradle to Community efforts.

Coordinate existing resources and make deliberate connections to develop and advance a joint agenda. Many participants will seek to integrate a combined community safety and early childhood approach into their existing work by both infusing ideas from the convening into existing initiatives and working toward long-term policy change. One city wants to apply positive early childhood development, community safety, and family/community stability lenses to the city budget, including planning and re-development departments.

National Cradle to Community Project Next Steps

The convening provided direction for additional network engagement, training, technical assistance, and product development. Drawing on the rich discussions, guidance, and requests gathered, Prevention Institute and the Center for the Study of Social Policy supported learning and action within and across the networks in a variety of ways:

- Engaging network members to explore topics such as young fathers and community development sector engagement more deeply. Facilitated and guided web-based cross-network peer learning will support practitioners in considering emerging topics more closely. Simultaneously, practitioners can build cross-network collective intelligence while contributing to the creation of resources and materials that can have broader sustained utility.

- Facilitating opportunities for action-learning to support the development of partnerships, strategies and plans that link early childhood and violence prevention. Intentional, facilitated support for dialogue and planning will help mobilize emerging partnerships, bolster action, address challenges, and strengthen the joint community of practice that can spur innovation and action.

- Developing fact sheets and briefs to further articulate the who, what, and how of Cradle to Community. These resources will provide the framing, research, analysis, and examples that local practitioners and advocates need to make a compelling case for efforts, engage new partners, and guide local strategic action.

- Creating resources and guidance to support further learning and action on complex and emerging areas such as community trauma and multiple forms of violence. These issue areas can benefit from broader engagement of researchers, practitioners, and advocates working on overarching issues with broad implications.

- Identifying innovative policy, practice, and norms change levers, including low-hanging fruit as well as longer-term policy objectives in support of Cradle to Community. Examples of practice-based and research-based policies, practices, and norms change efforts can help communities identify promising solutions and inspire action.

- Co-creating a larger Cradle to Community framework that can inform future local action and national initiatives. An overarching framework will support the longer-term planning and action necessary for programmatic efforts as well as policy and systems change.

- Understanding and influencing the broader national landscape of violence prevention and early childhood development. This includes participating in shaping the larger national narrative on both issues, seeking opportunities to advance joint action and outcomes, and pursuing opportunities to influence policies, practices, partnerships, and resources to promote the conditions that will support both optimal development of young children and safe communities.
Further Exploration of Key Themes and Directions

1 There are key elements of the community environment that are needed to create safe communities and promote optimal development for young children; focusing on these has tremendous promise.

Both networks are interested in addressing key elements of the community environment, such as strong social networks and trust, living wages, access to parks and open space, housing, and norms to support community safety and optimal early childhood development. During the convening, participants visualized pathways, drew out linkages, and explored community-level strategies. Through this, violence prevention and early childhood practitioners learned one another’s approaches and differences, and began to see how community determinants and the life course frameworks could fit together, as well as how the field can work together.

The community factors identified by participants fall into three clusters: the sociocultural, physical/built, and economic/educational environments.

• **Sociocultural:** Groups stressed the importance of creating and supporting positive social networks and connections across communities and generations, as well as improving relationships and trust between community and law enforcement. For example, one participant said, “Community connectedness is the glue for all of it. With that comes shared responsibility: people take ownership and say ‘this is our neighborhood, I’m going to do things to promote its wellbeing and safety.’”

• **Physical/Built:** Participants talked about the important influence that physical spaces have on supporting positive early childhood development and promoting safety, such as, access to healthy foods, reliable infrastructure for transportation, mixed income and affordable housing, preservation and creation of green spaces, and more. One participant shared, “Open, safe spaces that are supportive of play enable children to thrive and have fun in a park or yard rather than playing video games indoors.”

• **Economic/Educational:** Another key characteristic of safe communities that emerged included components of the economic and education environment such as access to living wage employment, affordable and high quality education and childcare, and supportive workplaces.

Kinnari Shah/Prevention Institute

Participants engaged in a World Café activity to draw out linkages and explore community-level strategies that support safety and child development.
Structural inequities such as unequal access to political power and economic resources influence the community environment and contribute to violence and poor outcomes for young children.

There is a desire among early childhood and violence prevention practitioners to address structural inequities, especially racism, and to move toward a more explicit health equity and racial justice approach in the work. Many discussed how the general lack of accountability of systems that perpetuate violence have historically made, and continue to make, this work challenging. One participant said, “We need to stop asking, ‘what’s wrong with you?’ Instead, we need to start asking ‘what happened to you?’ – then we can start addressing the lasting legacy of structural and historical violence.”

Multiple sectors shape the elements of community environments, and the systems and norms that affect both safety and positive early childhood development.

Convening participants identified what specific sectors, in addition to parents/families, need to be involved to achieve a thriving multisector Cradle to Community system that promotes both safety and positive early childhood development. Further thinking and guidance is needed to engage these sectors to work together in mutually beneficial ways. Together they came up with a comprehensive list of partners:

- Public Health
- Early Care and Education
- Healthcare
- Housing and Community Development
- Economic Development
- Schools
- Parks and Recreation
- Business
- Faith
- Law Enforcement
- Mental Health
- Transportation
- Local Government
- Community Based & Grassroots Organizations
- Higher Education
- Environmental
- Youth Led Organizations
- Cultural Institutions and Centers
- Libraries
- Food Industry
- Arts and Culture
- Museums

“Health equity needs to be an ongoing conversation to lead to action.”

– Convening participant

Participants saw the need for connected systems with shared goals, measurements, and messages.
There is a significant need and opportunity to collaborate with the community development sector to leverage community investments, address major disruptive forces such as displacement, and ensure broad community participation in shaping the built environment.

With $200 billion spent each year on housing and related infrastructure by the community development sector, there is an opportunity to influence this sector’s investments to design and build for safe, stable, and nurturing environments that support positive early childhood development and community safety. As participants explored opportunities and mechanisms to influence community development investments to improve early childhood and community safety outcomes, they noted how housing costs, homelessness, and residential instability are shared risk factors at the intersection. For example, affordable housing can help improve the economic wellbeing of communities, which supports dual outcomes for early childhood and violence prevention.

Conversations also focused on how policies and decisions being made in communities across the country can lead to gentrification and displacement of residents. Cities are in different phases: some are overwhelmingly facing the detrimental effects of displacement, while others are beginning to anticipate such forces and trying to prevent it.

Participants discussed how community engagement is critical for the housing and community development sector, as policymaking that does not solicit input from people living there is part of the problem. For example, when developers create affordable housing, primarily with studio units, they are not serving families. Strong organized communities and multisector collaboration between housing and community development, public health, and health, can together support safety and positive early childhood development as part of the backbone that can reduce and prevent displacement over the long term. The partnership between BRIDGE Housing Corporation (a leading nonprofit developer), HOPE SF (a public housing revitalization initiative), and residents of Potrero Terrace and Annex in San Francisco, California, was used to illustrate how groups can work together. This initiative is improving the community environment and promoting community healing and resilience through a high-quality, mixed-income housing development project and trauma informed community building.

Fathers and father figures, especially young men of color, are a nexus population: They face systemic challenges and barriers often being both impacted by violence at greater rates and invisibility in early childhood conversations.

This includes individuals and family members with any level of involvement in the criminal justice system or child welfare systems, or at a higher risk of involvement

“We are motivated to align our work with partners and community members around city planning, land use and community development.”
– Convening participant

Participants brainstormed a range of partners that shape the community environment and play a role in improving safety and child development.

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Participants agreed that we need to do more to engage fathers and create a place for them in family systems and policies in general. Early childhood imagery is often focused on ‘mom and child.’ For example, departments are often called ‘maternal and child health’ instead of ‘family and child health,’ leaving some men feeling like there is no place for them, as well as a lack of community expectations or support around engaged fatherhood. A participant shared how even small initiatives that move away from making fathers feel guilty can make a difference. For example, Kansas City engaged fathers through a campaign called Dads Turn the Page, which promoted men reading to their young children. Another example noted was a violence intervention initiative that includes a screening mechanism to find out if participants are fathers. The group also discussed the underutilization of seniors in communities and how engaging older men can provide real value to communities. Finally, it was noted how becoming a father may be a critical milestone at which some men could choose to end their associations with a violent lifestyle, making this an important time to promote safe communities, but also to support the father and family to improve early childhood development outcomes.

A Concern for community-wide, intergenerational trauma from multiple forms of violence resonates strongly across the networks.

Trauma is a barrier to positive early childhood development and is also a risk factor for and product of community violence. Dr. Howard Pinderhughes, Associate Professor in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at University of California, San Francisco, explained how community trauma is not just the aggregate of individual trauma, but how there are symptoms at the community level like a breakdown in social cohesion and trust, deteriorated infrastructure in the built environment; and intergenerational poverty.

Participants shared how we need to change norms and challenge the stigma associated with mental health needs and problems, and how social connectedness and assets-based approaches are integral to building community resilience.

As something to build on, both networks are adopting trauma-informed practices across sectors and systems. Interest in addressing trauma at the community level and fostering community resilience is growing. This can start with even simple efforts for providers to step outside of offices and clinics to engage in activities that build social connections.

“We need to move towards a wellness perspective that incorporates indigenous healing modalities and isn’t just one-directional.”

– Convening participant

With its credibility and resources, the healthcare sector is well-positioned to play a key role in influencing the community conditions that affect early childhood development and community safety.

Healthcare is already deeply engaged in promoting positive early childhood development and many healthcare entities are now proactively addressing community violence. Engaging the healthcare sector as a key partner in a broader Cradle to Community system can start by identifying champions and making the case for the contributions that the sector can make within, and especially, beyond the clinic walls.

Healthcare involvement in community-level prevention can save lives while reducing the financial burden on the healthcare system. Participants in this session agreed on the importance of working with communities to improve health outcomes for children and families. They discussed the challenges healthcare providers face in expanding community engagement beyond referrals to community services. Along with Prevention
Institute sharing its Community-Centered Health Homes model, examples were shared from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital (addressing asthma among children), Catholic Health Initiatives (preventing community violence), and Opportunity Knocks in Connecticut (multi-sector initiative to reduce preschool expulsions). There is recognition that innovative practice within this sector requires non-clinical strategies and new voices at the table.

### Violence prevention and early childhood practitioners together bring a broad set of assets, and form a compelling, inclusive, strong collective voice.

The UNITY City Network and Early Childhood-LINC see the value of leveraging a collective voice for equity, health, and safety across the life course. Together there are opportunities to connect frameworks and solutions to drive further action, as well as prospects to braid existing resources and related initiatives, such as My Brother’s Keeper. Participants also talked about coordinating existing funding streams for greater impact and elevating local work to the state and national levels.

### A Cradle to Community system includes specific policies, practices, and norms that achieve community safety as a necessary ingredient for optimal child development, as well as efforts that support children in ways that foster safety in the long-term.

There is an urgent opportunity and need to identify the key policy, practice, and norms change levers that communities can promote in the short, medium, and long-term. With input from the networks, PI and CSSP are identifying policy, systems, and norms change levers that support community safety and early childhood development.

At the convening, a panel with network members shared some initial local work emerging at the intersection of community safety and positive early childhood development:

- **Sasha Cotton** from the City of Minneapolis Health Department explained how the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative has shifted its focus from 10-24 to 0-24. With this, her city is instituting Cradle to K with a focus on equity under the current mayor. Her department has established a childhood violence prevention working group and is supporting young parents under the age of 24 to mitigate the way that childhood exposure to violence impacts their children – one workgroup focuses in an African American community and one focuses in a Native community.

“**We want to go beyond changing individual trajectories. It’s about ensuring young children are on a path to contribute to their communities and, at the same time, we want to look at how communities support young children and their families.**”

   — Amy Fine, Center for the Study of Social Policy
• **Neena McConnico** from the [Child Witness Violence Project](#) at the **Boston Medical Center** shared how through Boston’s Defending Childhood Initiative and a partnership with Healthy Starts, her team is developing a trauma-informed home visiting program with a focus on an intergenerational approach.

• **Jose Arreola** from the **City of Salinas** spoke about the importance of collaboration. In his community, where half of residents live below the poverty line, the Community Safety Alliance and Peace Collaborative has been building relationships and breaking down silos. As the backbone to issues of youth violence, they have been bringing stakeholders together and are reaching out to groups working in early childhood, recognizing that “true prevention work requires improving early childhood outcomes.”

• **Emily Bustos** from **Denver’s Early Childhood Council** shared how her statewide council is building systems of family support and considering what it takes from communities to support families (e.g. making schools a family friendly and centered place). One specific area of focus is pre-school expulsions: the council is calling out racial bias and helping teachers and other providers in schools understand root causes. This is shifting the way they look at and address challenging behavior. She also spoke about how the mayor has created a Children’s Cabinet and Office of Children’s Affairs, which she hopes can become embedded into city culture even when the administration changes.

To end the **Cradle to Community Convening**, **Sheila Savannah** from Prevention Institute shared a poem that reflects many of the themes and directions explored during the event, including building connected communities that support young people and families:

> “He drew a circle that shut me out—Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But love and I had the wit to win: We drew a circle and took him in!”
> – From the poem “Outwitted” Edwin Markham

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**Participating UNITY Network Sites**

- Boston, MA
- Chicago, IL
- Cleveland, OH
- Hillsborough County, FL
- Houston, TX
- Kansas City, MO
- Los Angeles, CA
- Louisville, KY
- Minneapolis, MN
- Multnomah County, OR
- New Orleans, LA
- Oakland, CA
- Oxnard, CA
- Salinas/ Monterey County, CA
- Santa Clara County, CA
- Seattle/King County, WA
- St. Louis, MO

**Participating Early Childhood Learning and Innovation Network for Communities (EC-LINC) sites**

- Alameda County, CA
- Boston, MA
- Denver, CO
- Kent County, MI
- Orange County, CA
- Ventura County, CA
- Volusia and Flagler Counties, FL

Addendum to Proceedings

The Cradle to Community convening helped shape the direction of the Cradle to Community project, including the development of briefs and other resources. These themes and directions continue to have relevance in informing future policy and practice. Below are examples of products that emerged in relation to some of themes, which also support future action, organized by selected themes. Products can be found online on Prevention Institute's Cradle to Community project page.

There are key elements of the community environment that are needed to create safe communities and promote optimal development for young children; focusing on these has tremendous promises. The project incorporated a focus on community determinants throughout all of the activities. This theme is also reflected in:

- Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development
- Beyond Services: Why Early Childhood Advocates Should Work to Make Communities Safe
- The Imperative of Safety: How Community Safety Supports Optimal Early Childhood Development (Fact Sheet)
- Cradle to Community: Policy Strategies to Promote Child, Family, and Community Well-Being
- Putting Together the Pieces of a Safe and Healthy Community (Infographic)
- Safe Communities Promote Positive Early Childhood Development (Infographic)

Multiple sectors shape the elements of community environments, and the systems and norms that affect both safety and positive early childhood development. The project incorporated a focus on multisector action throughout all of the activities. This theme is also reflected in:

- Multiplying Outcomes in Place-Based Initiatives: How Community Safety and Early Childhood Development Practitioners Can Collaborate with Community Development
- Early Childhood Development and Community Violence Prevention: Mobilizing Communities for Action
- Supporting Forgotten Fathers: Changing Systems, Norms, and Outcomes for Young Fathers in Support of Healthy Child Development and Community Safety
- Cradle to Community: Policy Strategies to Promote Child, Family, and Community Well-Being
- Safe Communities Promote Positive Early Childhood Development (Infographic)

Structural inequities such as unequal access to political power and economic resources influence the community environment and contribute to violence and poor outcomes for young children. In recognition that there are significant inequities in rates of community violence across various groups and areas, the project underscored current and historical structural issues that contribute to these inequities, particularly for communities of color and neighborhoods experiencing concentrated poverty. This theme is also reflected in:

- The Imperative of Safety: How Community Safety Supports Optimal Early Childhood Development (Fact Sheet)
- Beyond Services: Why Early Childhood Advocates Should Work to Make Communities Safe
- Supporting Forgotten Fathers: Changing Systems, Norms, and Outcomes for Young Fathers in Support of Healthy Child Development and Community Safety
- Cradle to Community: Policy Strategies to Promote Child, Family, and Community Well-Being
- Putting Together the Pieces of a Safe and Healthy Community (Infographic)
- Safe Communities Promote Positive Early Childhood Development (Infographic)
There is a significant need and opportunity to collaborate with the community development sector to leverage community investments, address major disruptive forces such as displacement, and ensure broad community participation in shaping the built environment.

- Multiplying Outcomes in Place-Based Initiatives: How Community Safety and Early Childhood Development Practitioners Can Collaborate with Community Development
- Early Childhood Development and Community Violence Prevention: Mobilizing Communities for Action
- Cradle to Community: Policy Strategies To Promote Child, Family, and Community Well-being

Fathers and father figures, especially young men of color, are a nexus population: They face systemic challenges and barriers often being both impacted by violence at greater rates and invisible in early childhood conversations.

- Supporting Forgotten Fathers: Changing Systems, Norms, and Outcomes for Young Fathers in Support of Healthy Child Development and Community Safety
- Early Childhood Development and Community Violence Prevention: Mobilizing Communities for Action

Concern for community-wide, intergenerational trauma from multiple forms of violence resonates strongly across networks.

- Minimizing the Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences through a Focus on Adverse Community Experiences
- From a Cycle of Violence to a Culture of Safety: Leveraging Connections to Prevent Multiple Forms of Violence

Violence prevention and early childhood leaders together bring a broader set of assets, and form a compelling, inclusive, stronger collective voice.

- The Imperative of Safety: How Community Safety Supports Optimal Early Childhood Development (Fact Sheet)
- Beyond Services: Why Early Childhood Advocates Should Work to Make Communities Safe
- Early Childhood Development and Community Violence Prevention: Mobilizing Communities for Action

A Cradle to Community system includes specific policies, practices, and norms that achieve community safety as a necessary ingredient for optimal child development, as well as efforts that support children in ways that foster safety in the long-term.

- Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development, specifically a set of policies, practices, and norms change levers that create a policy pathway for a Cradle to Community system.
- Cradle to Community: Policy Strategies To Promote Child, Family, and Community Well-Being
- Early Childhood Development and Community Violence Prevention: Mobilizing Communities for Action
- Putting Together the Pieces of a Safe and Healthy Community (Infographic)
- Safe Communities Promote Positive Early Childhood Development (Infographic)
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**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.

**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 nonprofit 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.

**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.

**THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL POLICY (CSSP)** is a national, nonprofit 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.

**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.