

2022 Children's Funding Project Impact Snapshot

Our Mission

Children's Funding Project helps communities and states expand equitable opportunities for children and youth through strategic public financing.

Our Vision

Children's Funding Project envisions a nation where all children and youth thrive because all communities maintain equitable, coordinated, and sustainable funding for comprehensive programs and services.



We're Building a National Movement

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Children's Funding Project is a game-changer for after-school and summer learning programs. We've known about the importance of these programs for many years, but the pandemic put a spotlight on how many working parents—especially essential workers—depend on access to safe places for children and available child care to do their jobs. Children's Funding Project provides an invaluable role in identifying revenue and costs and ensuring that resources are maximized, and programs are available to families who need them. With their data-driven, strategic approach, they also analyze information to help providers understand where there are service gaps to fill and, just as importantly, whether, where, and how programs can be spread.”

—Polly Singh, senior program officer, The Wallace Foundation



50

voter-approved
children's funds
nationwide



\$1.5

billion

generated annually through those funds to support programs and services for infants, toddlers, children, and youth



15

states participated in our cradle-to-career fiscal mapping cohort



27

local fund managers received ongoing coaching through our voter-approved children's fund community of practice



37

cost model technicians, early childhood advocates, and funders collaborated with us to identify common best practices for cost estimation in early childhood care and education

We're Coaching Local Leaders and Advocates

Building State Capacity for Fiscal Mapping



11

researchers and local advocates were trained by us on how to prepare a fiscal map



397

local, state, and tribal leaders viewed our [series of webinars](#) about strategic public financing for tribal nations



111

campaign leaders and local advocates received training at our Children's Funding Institute

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“Working with Children's Funding Project over the past year has been an incredible opportunity for us to share with Tribes the importance of understanding and maximizing their early learning funding streams. Tribal communities are at a critical inflection point for programming and services where we will have to take a hard look at how we can continue with reduced federal funds. Children's Funding Project has helped put that into context while sharing how to estimate costs of care and how we might access funds to replace what will be lost. We are excited for our partnership to continue and grow.”

—Jennifer Rackliff, executive director, National Indian Child Care Association



We will share the 15 state fiscal maps and key findings from the pilot year in 2023.

The funding provided by the [American Rescue Plan](#) represents a historic investment in the services and programs that children and youth need to thrive. It also is an opportunity to invest in the capacity of state and local leaders—both inside and outside government—to follow the flow of funds, coordinate their use, and deploy resources equitably. Building this capacity will be crucial to convert the [down payment made by the American Rescue Plan](#) into a long-term investment that will put children on the path to lifelong success.

But before state and local leaders can focus on long-term investments, they must first examine how much they *currently* spend on programs and services for children—and the sources for that funding. That is why we created our state child and youth fiscal mapping cohort to help state leaders build their capacity to track and analyze their public spending for kids.

In 2022, the pilot year for the cohort, 15 state partners worked with us to standardize the process for tracking and documenting state-level spending on services and programs for kids. These partners include state government agencies that manage comprehensive programs and services for children; state- and community-based nonprofits that advocate on behalf of kids; and children's cabinets that include the heads of relevant government agencies.

Each participating state partner collaborated with our team to create a [fiscal map](#) that analyzes that state's current funding sources and budget allocations for programs that serve children from the prenatal stage through young adulthood. Through this process, state partners examined their budgets from a *child-centered* perspective instead of from the traditional department-centered perspective. That means the fiscal map grouped budget expenditures together based on the desired outcomes for children and families they support rather than simply listing budget allocations for individual departments. This child-centered perspective allows states and communities to pull together the multiple funding streams that support kids from federal and state sources and provides a critical launching point to understand local investments. State partners also learned how to sustain the fiscal mapping process beyond their time with the cohort and received access to tools, frameworks, and templates to support their ongoing work.



We're Helping Communities and States



31

communities and states received our direct technical assistance with their strategic finance planning



2,408

people accessed our [American Rescue Plan](#) resources



11

communities received our advice and support as they prepare to pursue a local ballot measure to create a dedicated stream of public funding for children's services

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Children's Funding Project has provided valuable technical assistance, leadership, and connections to states like Minnesota as we work to invest in and prioritize children and families.”

—Erin Bailey, executive director and assistant commissioner of Children's Cabinet, Minnesota Management and Budget



Supporting Children from Cradle to Career in Poughkeepsie, NY

In 2022, the [Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet](#) partnered with us to develop a fiscal map to analyze all the public and private investments that support the city's children and youth ages 0-19. Members of the cabinet wanted to establish a baseline for the various federal, state, county, city, and private sources of funding that support direct services for children and youth. The team also wanted an impartial tool to

- share the city's current investments in children and youth with the community;
- inform local decision-making for spending [American Rescue Plan](#) dollars and contributions from private philanthropies; and
- support the city's future decision-making and strategic planning, including developing a [strategic public financing plan](#) for new and ongoing investments in programs for kids.

The fiscal map examines the amount of money dedicated to specific types of cradle-to-career programs and services and the number of funding streams supporting different age groups of children. Since the City of Poughkeepsie resides within Dutchess County, NY, leaders of the children's cabinet also wanted to align the fiscal map with the county's [Path to Promise](#) cradle-to-career framework. The framework outlines the key assets the community hopes its children and youth will develop as they grow into young adults. The fiscal map documents the amount and sources of funding that support each of the framework's six outcome categories: (1) learning, (2) material basics, (3) safety, (4) family/relationships, (5) mental health, and (6) physical health.

Going forward, Poughkeepsie's local leaders plan to update, add to, and enhance the fiscal map annually and use it to identify service areas that are underfunded or funded inequitably. Ultimately, they hope the fiscal map will become a central tool to support the [city's efforts to improve services for children and youth](#). Poughkeepsie is leading the way for other New York localities to align their fiscal mapping efforts statewide.

