

Our Approach to Equity

Equity Is a Process and an Outcome

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Equity as an Outcome

We believe all children and youth should have equitable access to opportunities and experiences that support their optimal development, learning, and overall well-being.

To achieve equitable outcomes for children and youth, we prioritize

- systems of funding that are **coordinated and comprehensive**;
- dedicated **public funding** for high-quality programs and services;
- programs, services, and communities **farthest from resources and opportunity**; and
- **capacity-building** approaches that build on state and community strengths and lead to the long-term sustainability of programs and services.

Equity as a Process

We recognize that focusing solely on outcomes—without addressing the processes that lead to those outcomes—can perpetuate existing inequities in our society. Consequently, we commit to “do no harm” in our work while striving to achieve desired outcomes. As we value equitable processes in our work, we strive to accomplish the following:

- **Build trusting relationships** that lead to reciprocal partnerships with programs and communities.
- **Prioritize our partners’ voices and agency.** Our work is community driven. We use a co-design approach where we value our partners’ locally defined priorities, needs, ideas, and contributions and use them to co-develop customized funding



solutions. We recognize the capacity that our partners and clients have for collaborating with us and strive not to overburden them in our work.

- **Recognize that all individuals, programs, and communities have strengths and visions of what they want and/or need for their children and youth.** We highlight and build from these strengths to address challenges. We work in partnership recognizing that teaching and learning flow between all collaborators.
- **Remain flexible to adapt to new or urgent priorities, interests, and/or situations** that emerge in the process of working with communities. We respond to the dynamic conditions within a community and do not rigidly adhere to an initial contract’s scope of work, deliverables, or goals described in a client’s strategic plan.
- **Support collaboration with equity-focused partners and community leaders,** seeking to expand our ongoing learning and ingenuity of our work. We value new ideas and enterprising ways of working.
- **Communicate with transparency** to build and earn trust.
- **Remain optimistic and hopeful** about a future where all communities provide sufficient public investment in programs and services for all children and youth. Despite the breadth and depth of current funding inequities, we believe individuals, groups, and communities can act to build momentum and achieve incremental progress toward their goals.

Children’s Funding Project is a nonprofit social impact organization that helps communities, states, and Native nations expand equitable opportunities for children and youth through strategic public financing. childrensfundingproject.org

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