

Become One of Our State Fiscal Mapping Partners

January 2024

Do you want better information about the funding streams that support children- and youth-focused programs in your state and clarity about where that money goes? Do you represent a state-based nonprofit organization committed to serving kids and advocating for improved programs? Do you work at a state government agency tasked with managing comprehensive programs and services for children and youth? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions we invite you to become one of our state fiscal mapping partners.

[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. We collaborate with local leaders and advocates to help them understand the multiple sources of funding for children and youth, identify sustainable ways to fund their goals for kids, and develop customized financing solutions tailored to their needs.

We are seeking state partners who are enthusiastic about exploring funding data, identifying trends, and building internal capacity for fiscal mapping. As we continue to expand with a third group of state participants, we will have nearly half of the states in the country as a part of our [state fiscal map database](#). Each participating state will collaborate with our staff and partners to create a [fiscal map](#) that analyzes that state’s current funding sources and budget allocations for children- and youth-serving programs. The fiscal map will include a core spreadsheet that documents all public appropriation data.

State partners will learn how to sustain the fiscal mapping process beyond their time working with us. They also will receive tailored recommendations for managing and shaping their funding landscape to inform future state budget decisions. Participants who successfully complete the fiscal mapping process may have an opportunity to receive [cost modeling and revenue generation support](#) as well in subsequent years.



Connect with Us!

To learn more or become one of our state fiscal mapping partners, contact laura@childrensfundingproject.org. To see state cradle-to-career fiscal maps from past partners, view our [National Trends in State Funding for Children and Youth](#) analysis.

State partners will be part of a learning community to help state leaders build their own fiscal mapping skills through training from our team and collaboration with fellow state partners. Additionally, this project will track state financing data from 2019 through the present to identify trends that participants can use to compare investments in children and youth across states and to inform budget decisions.

Conditions of Participation

To qualify, state partners must commit to the following:

- Each state partner will designate a staff member to serve as the primary contact for the project. That person will dedicate six to 10 hours per month to support data collection, collaboration, and training between the state, Children’s Funding Project, and our partners.
- State partners agree to learn the fiscal mapping process, follow our standardized fiscal mapping methodology during their time working with us, and provide feedback about our tools and process to inform future improvements. They also must demonstrate an intent to update and maintain their state’s fiscal map after they conclude their training with us.

- The final fiscal map will provide a comprehensive view of state funding and spending for children from the prenatal stage through young adulthood.
- State partners will allow Children’s Funding Project to publish the final fiscal map and related data publicly through an open-source online database.

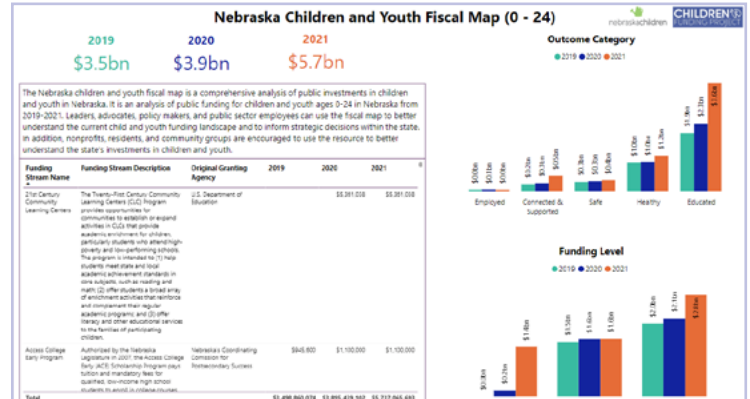
Our work with our third group of state partners began at the end of the first quarter of 2024 and will last about one year. During this time, state partners participate in one-on-one calls with a fiscal mapping team to support the fiscal mapping process and prepare partners to continue their state’s fiscal mapping work after their training with us. We aim to complete data collection before each state’s next legislative session begins. For future state partner groups, we anticipate following a similar schedule—launching our collaboration with new state partners during the first quarter of a new year and concluding data collection by November or December of the same year.

Application Instructions

To apply to become one of our state fiscal mapping partners, prospective participants will be invited to submit a three-to-five-page letter of interest. The letter should address the following topics:

A. Experience, Need, and Barriers: Summarize your state’s experience, if any, with child- and youth-focused fiscal mapping. Where relevant, identify the age ranges covered (e.g., cradle-to-career, early childhood only, etc.) and the benefits and/or limitations of prior mapping efforts. Additionally, please describe why your state needs a fiscal map now and what you hope to achieve by participating in our cohort. Be sure to note factors that might enhance or limit your ability to access fiscal data through state agencies, budget offices, and/or legislative finance offices.

B. Partners and Staffing: Identify the lead organization and potential partners who will support the fiscal mapping work, help coordinate data collection, and build internal capacity to maintain and promote the use of the fiscal map within the state. We particularly are interested in applications from state partners that include children’s cabinets, state agencies, legislative



An example of a fiscal map

financing offices, intermediaries, universities, and/or advocacy groups. The lead organization must designate at least one staff person to serve as the primary contact for the project. This person will devote a minimum of six to 10 hours per month to support key project activities including, but not limited to, fiscal mapping training, providing feedback on our tools and process, and attending periodic meetings with other participating states. Please specify if the partners or staff participated directly in prior fiscal mapping efforts.

C. Acknowledgments: Acknowledge that, if selected, you and your team will agree to the Conditions of Participation outlined previously. State partners will not receive any financial compensation for participating and must cover the costs of their staff involvement in the project. Preference will be given to states that can commit to this work over time. Please explain how you will support the fiscal map in this first year and then how you want to sustain strategic public financing long term.

D. Optional Information: Submit any letters of support from proposed partners and other key members of your effort.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis every year. Letters of interest from prospective participants will be reviewed in the order in which we receive them. To learn more, contact Laura Lopez, fiscal mapping project manager, at laura@childrensfundingproject.org.

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