



Child Friendly Cities Initiative

August 2023



Houston - 1st Child Friendly City in US

The City of Houston is the first city in the United States to be recognized by UNICEF as a Child Friendly City, joining global entities in over 40 countries and 3,500 municipalities across the world!

The **Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement** leads the initiative and works collaboratively with city leaders, government agencies, and most importantly, youth and families to advance this work.



What is a
child-friendly
city?



A child-friendly city is a city, town or community in which the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are an integral part of public policies, programs and decisions.

Children's Rights

A child-friendly city (CFC) is a city committed to improving the lives of children within their jurisdiction by realizing their rights as articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



safety and inclusion



children's participation



equitable social services



safe living environments



play and leisure

CFCI Process

1 Assessments

Conduct community and government assessments to assess the state of children's rights

2 Situational Analysis

Compile and analyze data from assessments to identify issue areas

3 Intergenerational Workshops

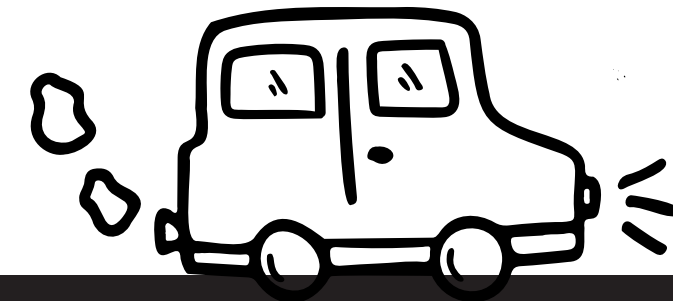
Rank and examine issue areas and co-create solutions with youth and service providers

4 Local Action Plan

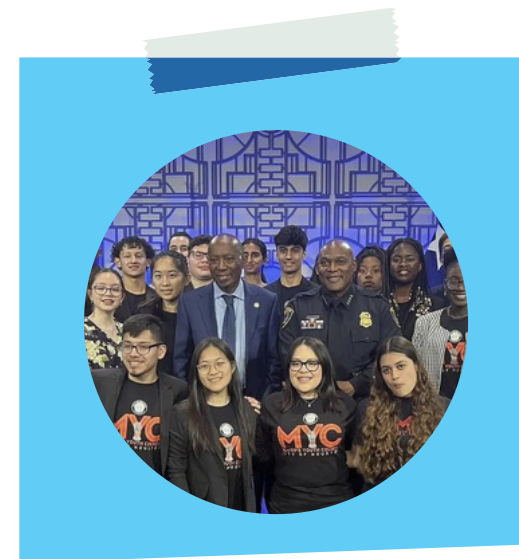
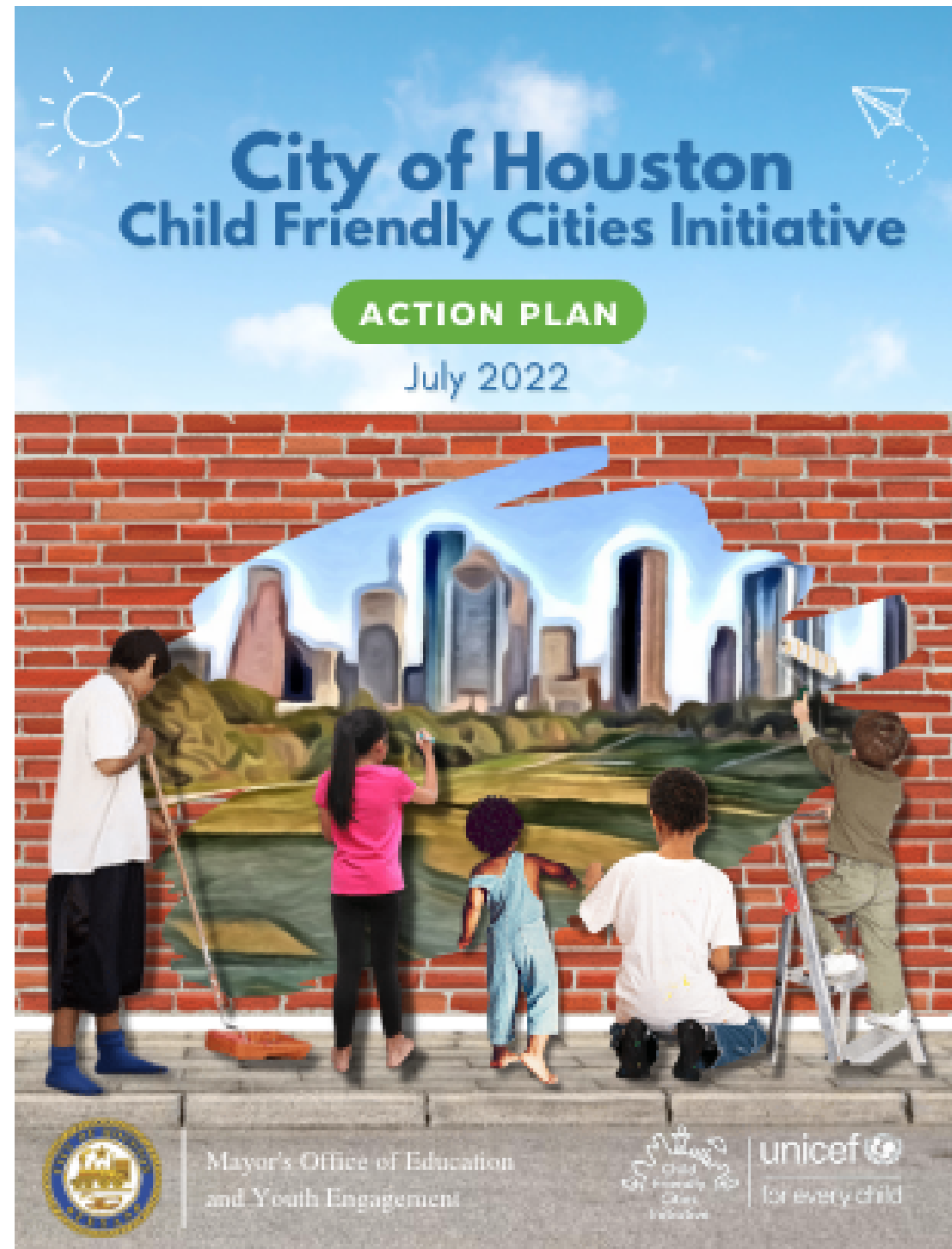
Compose and implement plan with strategies, activities, and metrics to measure results

5 Evaluation

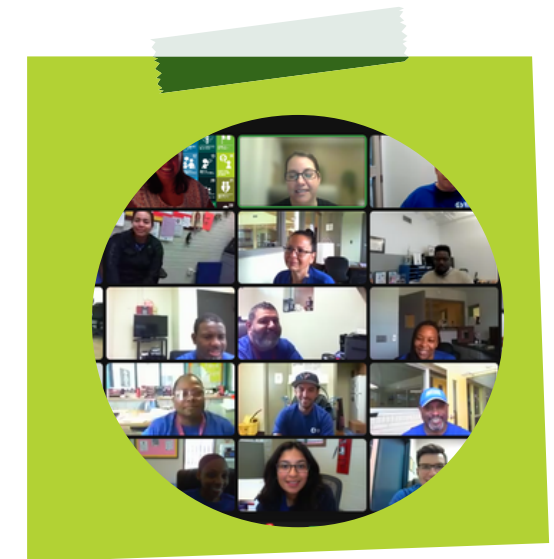
Measure success of activities, and commitments presented in the CFCI Action Plan



CFCI Priorities



**Children's
Participation**



**Mental
Health**



**Resource Access and
Emergency Prep**

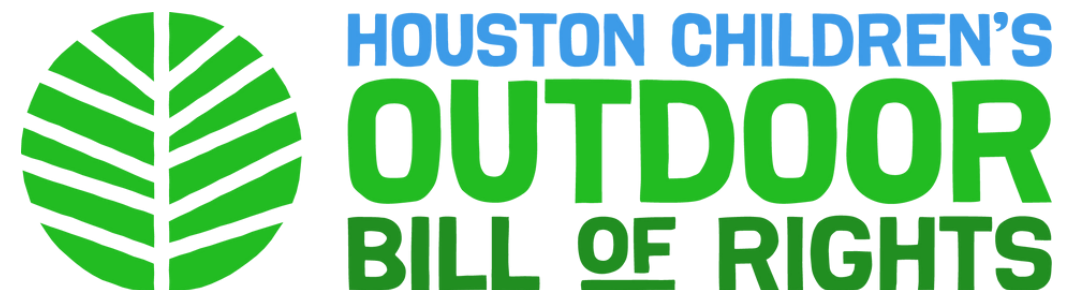
Youth Participation

- Expansion of **Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Engagement**
- CFCI Youth Council and Ambassadors
- Youth Advocacy Trainings
- Child Rights Podcast: ***Another Step for Youth*** (upcoming)



Mental Health

- Youth mental health trainings **attended by 700+ service providers, educators, community members, and parents.**
- Opportunities for intergenerational communication around supporting youth mental health (i.e. Boys Scouts and CSBH Conference)
- Develop and establish a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights
- Mental Health Guide (upcoming)



Resource Access and EP

- Out 2 Learn Youth Ambassadors
- Developed and launched emergency preparation campaign (who to contact, what actions to take, how to prepare, and where to find basic needs and resources, etc.)
- Hire Houston Youth



The Road Ahead

- Develop greater collaborations between Houston city departments and youth
- Increase conversations between decision-makers and youth
- Create awareness of children's rights
- Support Youth-Led projects



Empowering from Cradle to Career





Contact:

moedu@houstontx.gov

Thank You!

