MAYOR'S OFFICE OF EDUCATION

The Strategic Benefit of Seeking Child-Friendly Designation



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Is our community really inclusive of children?

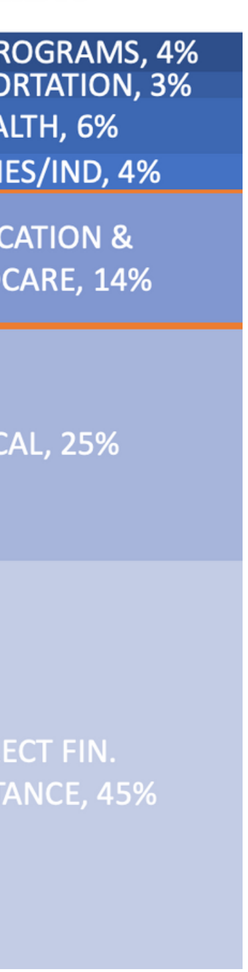


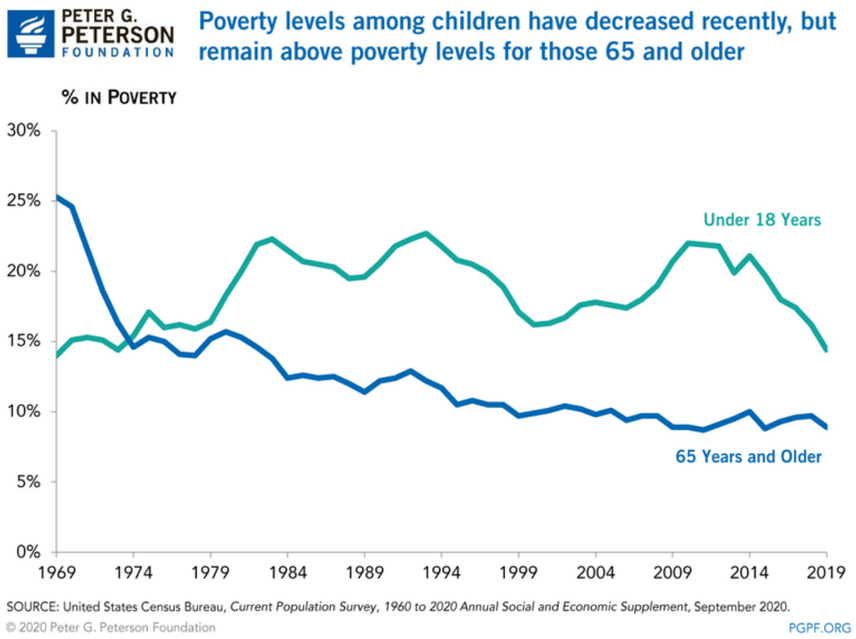
Houston is in the position to be the leader of child rights and advocacy in the US

CFCI
Real Play Coalition
County Judge
ARPA
Leadership & Vigor

Eye opening trends

Can Houston be the smart investor?











Coordination

Communication

Collaboration



The **Mayor's Office of Education** (MOE) strives to ensure this goal for all families in Houston by promoting access to equitable education opportunities



Child Friendly Cities

WHAT IS A CHILD FRIENDLY CITY?

A child friendly city is a city or community where the voices, needs, and priorities of children are an integral part of public policies, programs, and decisions influencing their lives and future

CFCI DEFINITION

UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) is a global framework for local municipalities to actively work to establish and protect the rights of children

5 CFCI GOAL AREAS



Safety and Inclusion



Participation



Community Services

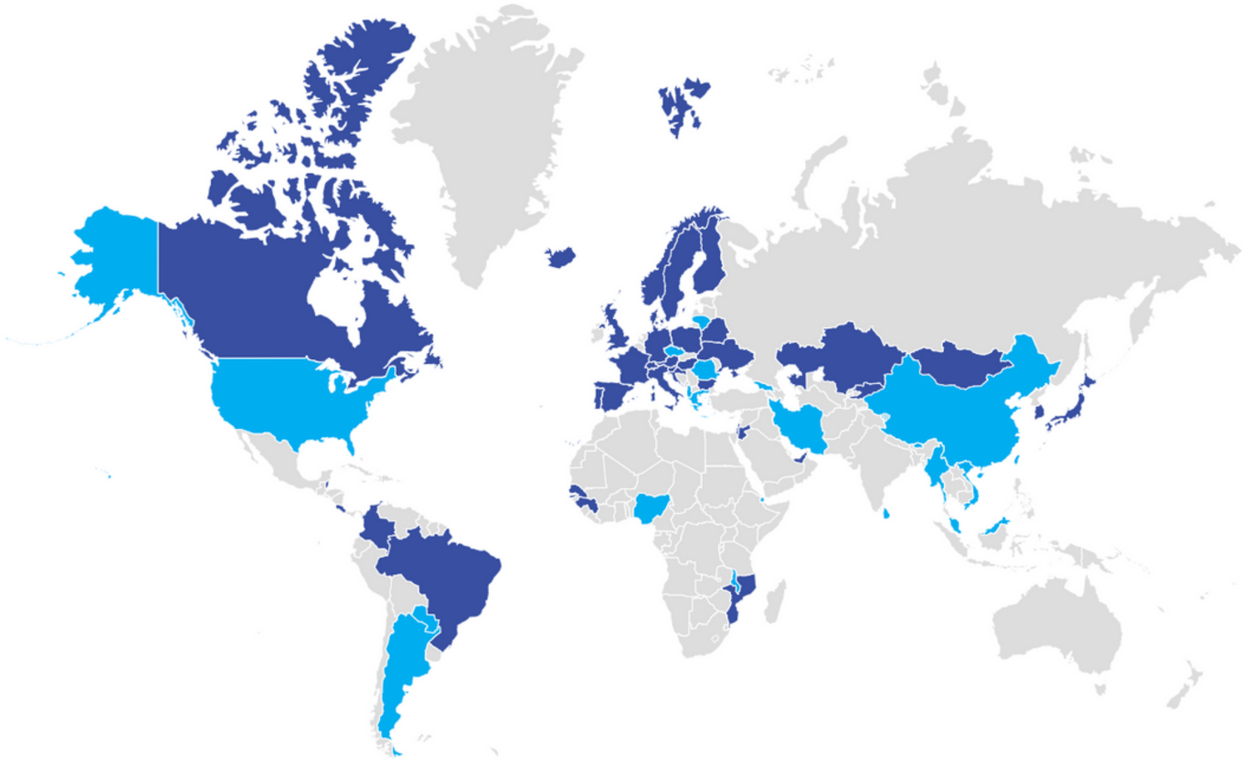


Living Environments



Play and Lesiure

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative



ESTABLISHED IN 1996

in response to the challenge of realizing the rights of children

UNICEF USA PARTNERSHIP

UNICEF USA secures crucial private financial support, advocates for government funding for UNICEF, and is dedicating to increasing the engagement of all Americans who care about the well-being of children

CFCI NETWORK

- Currently in over 3,000 municipalities
- 57 countries
- Impacting over 40 million children
- Five pilot cities in the USA



United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child

- An international treaty signed on Nov. 20th 1989
- Children are individuals with their own rights
- Childhood is a special, protected time
- Children must be allowed to grow, learn, play, develop, and flourish with dignity
- Has not been ratified by the US but is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history



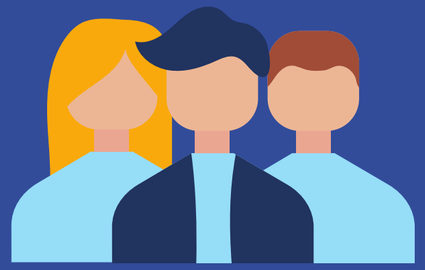
CFCI is not a politically-based program

CFCI is not tied to any political party, allowing anyone to appreciate and accept the program. It is a designation and a framework for Houston to be child friendly.



CFCI seeks support and collaboration

CFCI seeks to build a collaborative of businesses and political leaders who will pledge to child friendliness.The bigger the collaborative, the greater CFCI's impact.



CFCI follows global guidelines and principles

CFCI follows the UNConvention on the Rights of the Child. The universality of the Rights of the Child allow any and all civic-minded individuals and groups to support CFCI.

Collaboration

Aligns with already-existing work

Each one of you ran on platforms of service and representation. CFCI is an extension of your already-existing platforms.

National trends towards child equity

Houston hopping on the child advocacy train means that we can lead the nation in child advocacy, something that can only happen with your pledged support.

From Office of Education to City of Houston

CFCI, in order to grow, needs to graduate from a MOE initiative to a City of Houston initiative, which can happen with your support

Our Timeline

01 Management, coordination, and readiness assessment

02 Sign a memorandum of understanding and celebrate partnership

03 Conduct a situational analysis of children within the city

04 Prioritize goals and develop a time-bound Local Action Plan

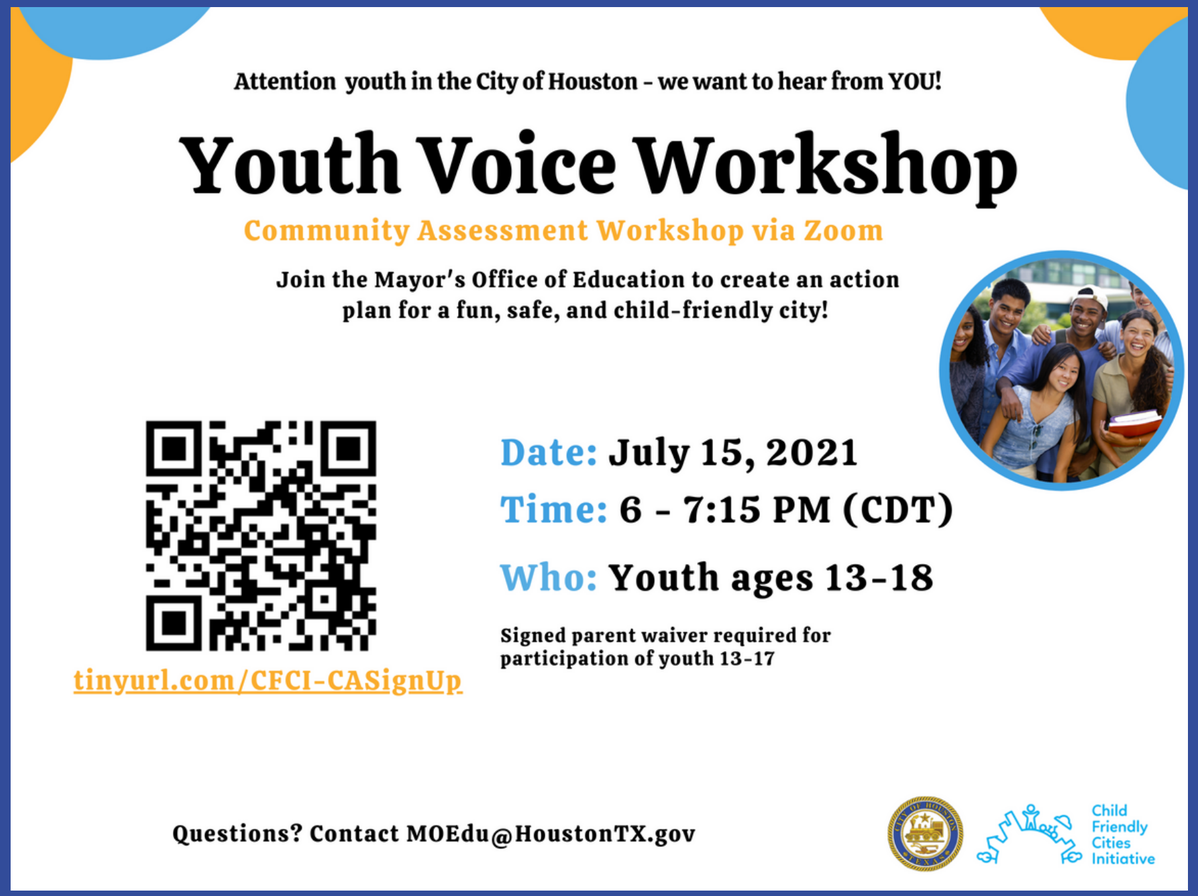
05 Support youth and community led projects

06 Submit candidate application and obtain CFCI candidate logo

07 Implement time-bound Local Action Plan

08 Submit application for recognition (after at least one year of implementation)

Step Three – Conduct a situational analysis of children within the city



Child-Friendly Houston

National and international leader for children with children





"Children are the messages we send in the future"

Mayor Sylvester Turner





Child Friendly Cities Initiative

Questions?

Please reach out to us if you'd like to hear more about CFCI at Olivera.Jankovska@houstontx.gov

A follow up email and a letter of support will be sent to you soon