Child Friendly Cities Initiative | unicef for every child

For Every Child, A Child Friendly City

The City of Houston has embarked upon a two-year process toward recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly City. The Child-Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) was launched in 1996 by UNICEF to respond to the challenge of realizing the rights of children and now it operates in more than 3,000 cities and 57 countries. Houston has joined San Francisco and Minneapolis as the first cohort of U.S. cities to implement the CFCI.

The CFCI seeks to create and implement a holistic, data and outcomes driven, partnership-based action plan that secures and protects the rights of all children. In addition, the CFCI elevates the voices of youth in local governance and decision-making.

1. The right to be valued, respected, and treated fairly
2. The right to be heard
3. The right to essential services
4. The right to be safe
5. The right to family time, play, and leisure

STEP ONE
Management, coordination, and readiness assessment

STEP TWO
Sign a memorandum of understanding and celebrate partnership

STEP THREE**
Conduct a situational analysis of children within the city

STEP FOUR
Prioritize goals and develop a time-bound Local Action Plan

STEP FIVE
Support youth and community led projects

STEP SIX
Submit candidate application and obtain CFCI candidate logo

STEP SEVEN
Implement time-bound Local Action Plan

STEP EIGHT
Submit application for recognition (after at least one year of implementation

STEP NINE
After a positive evaluation, obtain the CFCI logo and recognition

**current status of Houston



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 collaboration and support

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 UN Convention 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.

Status of CFCI

- CFCI has a large team of advisors made of 32+ community, nonprofit, and city leaders
- CFCI has 20+ active youth leaders serving as advisors/researchers
- The CFCI newsletter was launched in April 2021 and has over 275 subscribers
- 10+ CFCI community assessment workshops that have reached over 200 youth and service providers

Join our newsletter!

https://bit.ly/CFCInews

The Mayor's Office of Education (MOE) leads the CFCI in the City of Houston has established taskforce, leadership team, and youth council to support the CFCI process and meet UNICEF standards. Currently we are conducting a situational analysis of children's rights in the city composed of both community and government assessments. The data gathered in the analysis will help identify priority issue areas and develop a Local Action Plan. Thank you for your interest and support in CFCI, and help us make Houston the first Child Friendly City in the USA!

Sponsors & Partners

Houston Independent School District · Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities · Rupani Foundation · Rice Kinder Institute for Urban Research · United Way · Houston Parks & Recreation Department · girls inc. · PEAC · University of Houston Education · Big Brothers Big Sisters of America · H-E-B · Choose to DO, Inc. · CHAIT City of Houston Anti-Human Trafficking Mayor's Office · the YMCA