MAYOR'S OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Children's Well-being in Houston at the Forefront



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

Child-Friendly Houston

National and international leader for children with children





Children's Well-being Platform



- Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Matching City of Houston programs with the rights and identifying gaps
- Template for other cities in the U.S. to follow and implement in their communities
- Plan to announce this new division on World Children's Day (Nov. 20)





CITY OF HOUSTON

Children's Well-being

PLATFORM OVERVIEW

CHILDREN IN ALL AGENDAS

Include children and their well-being the agenda of every government, nonprofit, private, and individual entity

CITY-WIDE ACCOUNTABILITY

Assess each component of society and question what is being done to promote the well-being of children

MOBILIZE VOLUNTEERS

Establish an intergenerational, intersectional, intergovernmental volunteer network of changemakers

~8% of Harris County is children <5

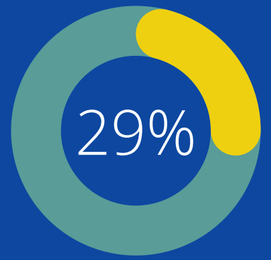
a quarter of those live in poverty

Shortage



360K CHILDREN 0- 4, COMPETE FOR APROX. 185K SPOTS*

Unaffordable



CHILDCARE FOR TWO CHILDREN, AN INFANT AND A 4-YEAR-OLD COSTS APPROXIMATELY $16,386. THAT'S 28.6% MORE THAN AVERAGERENT IN TEXAS.

Failed education



AMONG THE 49,340 KINDERGARTNERS WHO TOOK KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENTS IN HARRIS COUNTY, ONLY 47% MET THE NECESSARY STANDARD

*reflects licensed or registered childcare facilities

CITY OF HOUSTON

SEPTEMBER 2021

HOUSTON'S NEED FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



PREPARED BY

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF EDUCATION

SUPPORTED BY

OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER KARLA CISNEROS
HOUSTON'S PRE-K LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

U.S. TREASURY CHIMES IN ON THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF CHILDCARE

13%

of average family income was spent among families with children under 5.





PURCHASING POWER OF CHILD CARE

down one billion

SINCE 2001

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:
The Mayor's Office of Education
Office of Councilmember Karla Cisneros

SUPPORTED BY:
Houston's Early Childhood Committee

Systems

- Need self-sustaining systems that are not disjointed
- More planning and coordination needed (common goals/metrics)

Priorities

- Decide on a key set of priorities
- Be strategic and limited in how much we take on
- Tackle key issues simultaneously and with a concise voice

Talent

- Recruit & retain qualified personnel (teachers, staff) by increasing pay & benefits

Access

- Parents need to know how, why, and where to access early childhood education

Infrastructure

- Infrastructure does not exist for early childhood education to thrive & expand
- Need to improve existing facilities & outdoor learning spaces

Sharing Power

- We must work alongisde those doing this work by centering their voices
- Who else should be at these meetings?

Universal Pre-K

- Place pressure on the state
- Change the conversation

Partners

- Establish partnerships with large employers to offer childcare services
- Consider the needs of uncommon types of childcare (i.e., evenings, late night)



HOUSTON CARES FOR OUR YOUNGEST

The Early Childhood Education Strategic Action Plan, a.k.a 'The Responsibility Wheel' is a full circle stakeholders map which aims to ease coordination of resources, knowledge, expertise, experience, voice and doing to bring free or affordable Pre-K for Houston's most vulnerable populations.

Lead by City of Houston Mayor's Office

Supported by Office of Councilwoman Karla Cisneros & the Houston Pre-k Leadership Council



"Children are the messages we send in the future"

Mayor Sylvester Turner



Questions?

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