



## WHO WE ARE

The Nashville Child and Youth Collaborative is a coalition of Nashville nonprofits interested in collectively advancing strategies that address the needs of Nashville's children and youth.

We elevate the voices of Nashville's young people and raise awareness of best practices that support healthy child and youth development. We advance dialogue around effective and equitable policies that impact positive child and youth outcomes. We advocate for deeper investment in our children and youth. And we work to focus mayoral candidates on the challenges facing our young people to advance cross-sector solutions that improve the lives of our children and youth.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe all children and youth should have their basic needs met, feel a sense of belonging and community, and have the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to make decisions about their futures.

We believe a great city is measured by how it supports its children and youth and that the mayor is responsible for leading the way in this work.

We believe it is time to set a vision for our city that centers the experiences of children and youth, intentionally addressing the intersection of systems that support our young people – from education and health to safety and justice to economic prosperity.

# Our Shared Agenda



## FOR NASHVILLE'S FUTURE

We are calling on mayoral candidates and other city leaders to publicly commit to these key actions:

- 1 COLLABORATE** with service providers, families, children, and youth to define healthy child and youth development outcomes and publicly report on those outcomes by neighborhood.
- 2 RE-ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH** to coordinate and report the success of efforts to center children and youth in city decision-making.
- 3 IDENTIFY** and **PUBLICLY REPORT** on neighborhood needs and available services and deploy youth-informed city investments to close opportunity and access gaps.
- 4 ENSURE ADEQUATE OPERATIONAL INVESTMENTS** in systems and structures that support child and youth development;  
**Specifically:**
  - a. Health** to ensure every youth has access to nutritious food and physical and mental health supports.
  - b. Housing** and community development to ensure that Nashville is supporting a family-focused strategy.
  - c. Early childhood development** and education for children ages 0-5 to have a healthy start in life.
  - d. Support for young adults** as they pursue postsecondary plans (e.g., apprenticeships, college coaching, career-based experiences, financial support for non-tuition costs of higher education, etc.).
  - e. Out-of-school time** programming to ensure children and youth have equitable access to safe, high-quality learning and enrichment opportunities throughout the year.
- 5 CREATE AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM** for Metro Government and community service providers to ensure children, youth and families can seamlessly access needed supports.