



Our Shared Agenda



FOR NASHVILLE'S FUTURE

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 city leaders 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.

We are calling on the mayor 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 **FOSTER STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT** across government agencies to effectively address the needs of Nashville's children and youth.
- 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 INVESTMENTS** in systems and structures that support child and youth development;

Specifically investments in:

 - a. **Early childhood development** opportunities and high-quality childcare for children ages 0-5 to have a healthy start in life.
 - b. **Mental health** to ensure every youth has access to affordable, high-quality mental health support.
 - c. **Community spaces** to ensure all 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.