



The mission of the Cradle to Career Partnership of Fresno County is to strengthen educational and community support systems through collaboration and build the capacity for all children and families to achieve success.

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Partnership member since:

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About

The *Cradle to Career Partnership* (C2C) provides the infrastructure for working across sectors to strategically inform, align, and leverage resources throughout Fresno County in order to affect positive change. No single institution, organization, or sector can do it alone.

Cradle to Career brings together institutional leaders and synchronizes the community's collective resources mobilizing them toward improvement strategies. The partnership includes representatives from every applicable public and private organization including educational, health, civic, philanthropic, business, nonprofit and justice leaders. By working together, the partnership is building a culture of continuous improvement with a commitment to a disciplined process.

Through shared knowledge and data established workgroups are identifying gaps and seeking innovative solutions. Then by working with the Partnership Table resources are realigned to remove barriers for families and identify potential areas for policy change quickly and efficiently. C2C is poised to implement innovative solutions to common problems impacting our children, test them for effectiveness then, replicate successful solutions where needed. C2C is committed to identifying key practices that contribute to the overall well-being of Fresno County children.

Because *they* matter



We can *fix* this

History

The Cradle to Career Partnership of Fresno County has evolved from what was first introduced as Fresno Area Strive.

2011

Fresno Area Strive was coordinated by the Fresno COMPACT, a business and education coalition, and focused on developing a network of local partners committed to the success of our youth. The Fresno COMPACT introduced the national collective impact framework of Strive Together to the local business and education community.

2012

Fresno Area Strive outcomes and indicators were selected and a baseline report was presented to the community on kindergarten readiness, 3rd grade reading proficiency levels, 8th grade math proficiency, high school graduation rates, college entrance and college completion.

2013-2014

Workgroups formed around each outcome, with annual reports on participating school district data results through 2014. The use of disaggregated data to drive work development and the use of continuous learning methods were challenging to achieve.

2015

Building on Fresno Area Strive, the Cradle to Career Partnership expands and refreshes. In July 2015, the first of four meetings occurred to create a high level collaborative partnership across nine sectors and more than 37 participants to focus on one conversation to improve the cradle to career pipeline for families. Existing workgroups are trained on continuous improvement methods by StriveTogether.

2016

New, revised, or reaffirmed Cradle to Career outcomes and indicators were reviewed by the Partnership and selected. Workgroups begin to use data to focus efforts to determine and advance practices to impact the core indicators and outcomes. Cradle to Career becomes fully established with a strategic plan and Executive Director. C2C facilitates the efforts of workgroups and provides a feedback loop to the Cradle to Career Partnership. A new baseline report is in progress.

"We have a collective responsibility to help our families and kids succeed from conception to adulthood. The cross-sector sharing and collaboration achieved through Cradle to Career allows us to identify what works and do more of it."

-Jim Yovino, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools

Progress

Cradle to Career and its partnerships are already making a significant impact on Fresno County.

Completed Applications for Fresno State Soar as a Result of Institutions Communicating

C2C has already been instrumental in catalyzing innovation for big wins in our community. In May, Fresno State University and area school districts successfully converted 1,000 incomplete college applications to 950 completed applications. As a result of shared knowledge between FSU and the school districts, a barrier for many area student applicants was discovered – \$75 application fee. This fee was eliminated and absorbed into the tuition fees.

In-Home Nurses at FUSD Bridge Gap for Students with High Health Risks

Similarly, the Director of Fresno County Public Health reported to the C2C Partnership about the positive effects of a nurse visiting the home during the early years of education. Fresno Unified subsequently put two RN positions into its budget to allow for in-home healthcare visits for its high-risk student families.

Pilot Vision Screening for Valley Children is a Success Among Four Districts



Equally significant, The Children's Movement piloted a project to provide vision testing in a school in each of four school districts this past year, resulting in 1,840 children screened. Volunteer optometrists worked with Tzu Chi's mobile van and provided 112 children with full eye exams, of which 78% then received glasses immediately. The project leveraged a Tzu Chi donor to provide a dedicated mobile van to the Central Valley (a \$500,000 investment) with another \$90,000 raised locally to provide an optometrist to man the van, allowing for significantly more exams next year.

Each of the organizations and institutions involved in these examples are active members of the C2C Partnership. This is only the beginning – C2C will continue improving organizational dialogue, outcomes and efficiencies for the full continuum of our youth into adulthood.

The Goals

For the next three years, the *C2C Partnership* has identified **three immediate goals** (derived from eight overall outcome areas being addressed):

- Kindergarten readiness will increase by 10 percentage points each year.
- Third grade reading proficiency will increase by 10 percentage points each year.
- High school graduation will be 100% county-wide by 2020.

By collectively and strategically aligning leaders and leveraging resources—together, we can achieve these goals.

The Framework

Structure: The *C2C Partnership* uses the proven national framework of StriveTogether to guide and evaluate its progress. The continual evaluation and improvement of past effort and expansion planning since August 2015 has led to anticipated support from the James Irvine Foundation.

Funding: The James Irvine Foundation has funded 50% of the budget, with local sources committing to match the funds in progress. Approximately 75% of the full match for the first year is already committed (as of June 21, 2016 for FY 16-17).

Partnership: The *C2C Partnership* consists of 38 community leaders (in ten different sectors), fourteen data committee members, eight communications committee members, and two trained workgroup facilitators.

Partnership

The *Cradle to Career Partnership* (C2C) realizes that until all the system and program leaders are “in the same room and on the same page” our community’s children will continue to remain at the same levels of success. That is not good enough for Fresno County’s children. The *Cradle to Career Partnership* wants to change the silo view within systems to help **all** our children succeed. To do so starts long before a child enters school and continues through the entire trajectory of a child’s emergence into adulthood.

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

-African Proverb

** Indicates Leadership Council Members*

K-12 Education

Eric Cederquist

Superintendent Fowler Unified

Russell Freitas

Superintendent Firebaugh-Las Deltas

Juan Garza

Superintendent Kings Canyon Unified

Michael Hanson *

Superintendent Fresno Unified

Mark Sutton

Superintendent Central Unified

Jim Yovino *

Superintendent Fresno County Office of Education

Higher Education

Joseph Castro *

President, California State University of Fresno

Flo Dunn

President, California Health Sciences University

Birnell Hirning

Regional Vice President, National University

Paul Parnell *

Chancellor, State Center Community College District

Andre Pecina

Director, Fresno Adult School

Civic

Buddy Mendes *

Chair, County Board of Supervisors

Delfino Neira

Director, Fresno County Social Services

David Pomaville

Director, Fresno County Public Health

Preston Prince *

CEO, Fresno Housing Authority

Jean Rousseau *

Chief Administrative Officer, County of Fresno

Ashley Swearingin *

Mayor, City of Fresno

Health

Lynne Ashbeck

Vice President, Population Health Community Medical Centers

Tim Curley

Director, Government Relations, Valley Children's Hospital

Ivonne Der Torosian *

Regional Vice President, Hospital Council

Greg Hund

CEO, CalViva Health

Dawan Utecht

Director, Fresno County Behavioral Health

Justice

Elizabeth Diaz

Fresno County Public Defender

Cliff Downing

Juvenile Div. Director, Fresno County Probation

Hon. Kimberly Nystrom-Geist

Juvenile Presiding Judge, Fresno Superior Court

Lisa Smittcamp

Fresno County District Attorney

Philanthropy

Darius Assemi

CEO, Granville Foundation

David Johnson * (fiscal agent)

Interim CEO, Central Valley Community Foundation

Emilia Reyes *

Executive Director, First 5 Fresno County

Business

Jose Elgorriago

General Manager, Univision

Matt Rosenfeld

General Manager, KSEE-Channel 47

Marc Johnson *

Executive Director, Fresno Compact

Todd Valeri

General Manager, American Ambulance

Non-Profit/Community Benefit Organizations

Brian Angus *

CEO, Economic Opportunities Commission

Marilyn Bamford

Executive Director, Uplift Family Services

Luis Santana

Executive Director, Reading and Beyond

Early Learning

Gayle Duffy

Executive Director, Children Services Network

Mia Price

Child Care Center, Saint Agnes Medical Center

Contact: Linda Gleason, Executive Director | linda@fresnoc2c.org | 559-696-4095

