

# Solano Kids Thrive

## *Solano's Collective Impact Effort for Young Children*

### **WHAT IS COLLECTIVE IMPACT?**

Collective Impact (CI) is the commitment of a group of actors from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a specific social problem, using a structured form of collaboration. Collective Impact occurs when organizations from different parts of a community **collectively** work towards a shared goal by creating a plan and strategies, measuring how they are doing in reaching the shared goal, making sure community activities and programs complement each other; sharing information and staying informed and involved in efforts; and identifying ongoing and needed resources for support – the result will be a greater, positive **impact** in our communities.



### **HOW IT STARTED**

The First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission seeded the development of a county-wide Collective Impact Plan for young children with the goal of sustaining and strengthening the systems that impact early childhood. Helping kids to be emotionally, socially and physically healthy early helps create a foundation for them to thrive throughout their lives. In an effort to improve coordination of resources and services to address the barriers and gaps in early childhood systems, Solano Kids Thrive has developed a common agenda and goals.

### **Solano's Common Agenda for Young Children:**

All Solano children thrive in safe, stable, healthy and nurturing families and communities.

#### **Collective Impact Goals:**

- ♥ Safe Communities
- ♥ Healthy Families
- ♥ Family Self-Sufficiency
- ♥ School Readiness



# Solano Kids Thrive

## *Solano's Collective Impact Effort for Young Children*

### **THE PLANNING PROCESS**

---

CI efforts started by mapping the systems that engage young children and their families throughout Solano County and identifying gaps in services and resources. Interested community and agency partners considered this “systems map” and identified shared concerns, developed a common vision of what it means for a child to thrive, brainstormed ways to create systems change, and agreed to work together.

Through these CI efforts, four priority areas were identified: education, health, family and child safety, and family self-sufficiency. Overarching community challenges that surfaced included poverty, homelessness, violence, and lack of coordination of existing resources and services.

### **WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW**

---

The CI efforts have completed the planning process and are in the first year of implementation. With a new name, ‘Solano Kids Thrive,’ community partners are coming together to address common issues for children. Solano Kids Thrive is guided by a Leadership Team of representatives from major sectors of the early childhood system (government, education, and non-profit providers), with input from providers of children’s services in the community.

### **JOIN OUR EFFORTS**

---

The last year has been spent planning for how to accomplish the four goals. The next steps for Solano Kids Thrive are to implement the strategies identified and evaluate progress. In order to be successful, we must find ways to work together to align strategies and activities.

We want **you** to join us as a partner organization and systems leader. We are extending an invitation for you to share your insight, expertise, and contributions for the benefit of Solano children. Be a part of a community movement that seeks to improve and enrich the lives of children in our Solano communities.



## **LET'S GROW AND THRIVE TOGETHER!**

