Founded in 1906, Children’s Institute believes that everyone deserves to lead a fulfilling life and realize their abundant potential. Through our two-generation approach, we are partners in healing, wellness and success for children and families in Los Angeles communities. Centering equity, we commit to challenging the historical impact and harm of systemic racism and multiple forms of discrimination across our institutions. By linking innovative practice and research to advance equitable policies, our advocacy champions a vision of healthy children, thriving families and empowered communities.

TWO GENERATION APPROACH
We envision a coordinated and integrated system that promotes whole child and family well-being, education, economic stability, career development, and social capital. To accomplish this, we advocate to:
• Fund economic initiatives that provide direct financial assistance and concrete social supports to families.
• Increase investments in child-focused programs that simultaneously support parent and caregiver wellness, educational attainment, and employment.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
We envision that every family has access to high-quality early learning opportunities within a mixed-delivery system. To ensure children enter kindergarten ready to learn, we advocate to:
• Invest in full day, year round early childhood education programs with integrated and comprehensive social supports for children and their families.
• Increase compensation for early childhood educators to align with workforce qualifications and address the race and gender wage gap.
• Provide flexibility to leverage more funding sources to support the expansion of universal transitional kindergarten across local education agencies.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & WELLNESS
We envision a comprehensive, family-centered behavioral health system that is culturally responsive for children and families. Building whole-family resiliency through community wellness increases accessibility to critical trauma-informed supports. To do this, we advocate to:
• Invest in school-based mental health strategies, inclusive of community-based nonprofit organizations, to address the social and emotional well-being of children beyond traditional school hours.
• Safeguard investments for a non-profit integrated, community-based behavioral health system that provides holistic mental health supports.
CHILD WELFARE
We envision children and their families strong and thriving in enduring relationships and stable environments. To disrupt the cycle of intergenerational system involvement and trauma, we advocate to:

- Expand evidence-based and trauma-informed youth centered prevention services that integrate holistic care and economic assistance for families.
- Increase access to safe, supportive and inclusive housing for LGBTQ+ youth by expanding appropriate resources and psycho-education for caregivers and foster parents.
- Ensure youth in care, including transition age youth, receive comprehensive resources and socio-emotional support in their education, career development, and housing through age 24.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
We envision that all schools organize a trauma-informed, whole child and family approach to learning and development. Community schools integrate community resources to create a cohesive and accessible system of learning and care for children and families. To do this, we advocate to:

- Establish direct funding for community-based nonprofit organizations to partner on community school initiatives with local education agencies. Investing in nonprofit led community schools brings expertise, staff capacity, and critical resources to leverage for educational success and wellness.

NONPROFIT SUSTAINABILITY & PARTNERSHIP
COVID-19 has made clear the critical role of nonprofits during a health and economic crisis. Social service organizations like Children’s Institute are invaluable partners with government to respond to emergencies. As an essential service organization, we envision the financial stability of nonprofit organizations to be a safety net for our communities. To do this, we advocate to:

- Fund contracts proportionally to critical services and equitable wages so nonprofit organizations have the resources to extend government response and protect the well-being of employees.