

All Children Thrive

Long Beach, CA

Education, Children and Families

A young person who has been well-served by our education system is one who is prepared to thrive in life as a contributing member of society. This journey begins with early childhood care and education and continues into the K-12 system, but that is only part of the picture. Teachers and schools have a central role, but as part of a larger constellation of systems and supports that impact a young person's development. These include (but are not limited to) family stability and well-being, access to meaningful post-secondary opportunities such as college or skills-based credentials, and workforce development and community and economic development.

Vision

Long Beach is a community where all children and families are loved, healthy, learning, thriving and succeeding.

Overview of the Initiative

All Children Thrive Long Beach (ACT) works with community partners to identify the strategies and policies that can help Long Beach children thrive and reach their full potential, while supporting existing resources and closing gaps for children who are disproportionately affected by inequities. The team addresses social determinants of health utilizing an equity lens, authentic community engagement, and partnerships that support collective impact, focusing on children ages 0-8 and their parents.

The work is accomplished through an Accountable Community of Health framework, which builds seven foundational elements that transform health systems by harnessing the power of a network of community-wide interventions that no single health organization could match alone. These elements include: (1) Shared vision and goals; (2) Partnership, leadership and governance; (3) Backbone organization; (4) Resident engagement; (5) Data; (6) Wellness fund; and (7) Portfolio of interventions.

COVID-19 Response. *ACT* is dedicated to creating meaningful systemic changes for children and their families, while paying specific attention to those in our community who have been affected disproportionately during the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with families and other local agencies and institutions, *ACT* will create strategies focused on the social/emotional well-being of children and their families, and their economic recovery.

Partners

ACT has set out to include decision makers across health, mental health, education, and policy focused agencies, and elevate the voices of residents and their decision-making power. The City of Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services is leading this work alongside key partners including: The Children's Clinic, Long Beach Forward, The Guidance Center, The Long Beach Unified School District, Zero to Three, The Mayor's Fund for Education, Long Beach Public Library, The City of Long Beach Office of Equity, and an amazing group of Family Leaders.

The goals of *ACT* were determined and agreed to by the residents, parents, and families of Long Beach through a series of community dialogues.