

**POUGHKEEPSIE
CHILDREN'S CABINET:**

**UNDERSTANDING
WORKING
GROUPS**

AN INITIATIVE OF:



**THE POUGHKEEPSIE
CHILDREN'S CABINET**

About

Over the next 3-6 months, each Working Group will be tasked with developing a report to submit to the Executive Committee with recommendations and guidance for advancing major structural changes in its area of focus. This report will include recommendations around areas such as data; addressing coverage gaps; public policy; fiscal allocations; programmatic innovations; and new approaches to family and community engagement. These reports will serve as roadmaps for a new citywide collective impact agenda in child and youth development. In developing each report, each Working Group will need to leverage the insights of their members and the community-at-large, developing a robust participatory process to ensure that the final deliverable that is presented to the Executive Committee is representative of the knowledge, perspectives and insights of community stakeholders across the City of Poughkeepsie.

The 4 subject-specific working groups are:

1. Early Childhood
2. Integrated Health and Human Services
3. Out-of-School Enrichment and Learning
4. College, Career and Civic Readiness.

NOTE: We will also, separately, be enlisting community partners to form a Cabinet Connections team, which will be a core group of stakeholders collaborating across working groups to support strategic communications and community engagement.

What is the role of a Working Group?

Working Groups will bring together 5-10 subject matter experts from key domains of education, child, youth and community development to develop proposals to advance structural change around pressing public problems and opportunities for children, youth and families in the City of Poughkeepsie along a cradle-to-career continuum.

What are the objectives of Working Groups?

- Frame and unpack prevailing structural challenges and opportunities in thematic areas of focus (i.e. early childhood).
- Collect and analyze data on child and youth outcomes for collective decision-making.
- Capture the perspectives and insights of key stakeholder groups through robust community engagement.
- Participate in community exchanges with leading national models of child development.
- Ideate, prioritize and propose a comprehensive sets of solutions for the consideration of the Cabinet Executive Committee and Poughkeepsie community at large.

The 4 subject-specific working groups are:

Early Childhood:

An overwhelming body of evidence shows that the most sustainable long-term investment that communities can make in child development is starting with early childhood (ECD). Studies show that the return on investment to society of high-impact ECD programs can range from \$6-12 for every \$1 invested. Additionally, early childhood investments (or the lack thereof) play a major role in key developmental indicators such as kindergarten readiness and are major predictors of a child's educational outcomes and upward mobility.

Integrated Health and Human Services:

Research demonstrates that up to 2/3 of the variance in student achievement can be explained by out-of-school factors related to poverty and inequality (i.e. home environment, health issues, food insecurity). This working group will promote the integration of educational services with comprehensive health and social services to address critical barriers to learning and whole-child development.

Out-of-School Enrichment and Learning:

Studies show that by the time young people reach 6th grade, middle-class students have likely spent 6,000 more hours learning than their peers born into poverty. This working group seeks to address prevalent phenomena such as after school and summer learning loss to gaps in extracurricular participation and academic enrichment along socioeconomic lines. Additionally, it will explore strategies to position out-of-school learning as a citywide priority and promote cross-sector alignment around quality standards for all community programs, with a strong focus on the prevailing challenges of youth development during COVID-19.

College, Career and Civic Readiness

Research shows that factors such as race, gender identity, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status are intersectional determinants of college, career and civic readiness outcomes. High school graduation rates, access to vocational training, college access and completion rates, voting rates and levels of sustained civic participation and empowerment have all been tied to arbitrary aspects of a student's identity. The College, Career and Civic Readiness Working Group will focus on developing robust pathways to post-secondary learning and career success, community wealth creation and lifelong engaged citizenship.

What is the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet?

The Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet is a collective impact organization that convenes leaders across sectors to develop a citywide cradle-to-career agenda for children, youth and families. By seamlessly coordinating the supports and services that communities provide, children's cabinets address young people's holistic needs as they grow and develop.

The Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet is a member of the [Harvard EdRedesign Lab By All Means Initiative](#) and the [Local Children's Cabinet Network](#), a national initiative of the Harvard Graduate School of Education's EdRedesign Lab, the Forum for Youth Investment and the Children's Funding Project.