

# OUT-OF-THE-BOX IDEAS FOR A LOCAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH FUND



By Funding the  
Next Generation





## **Funds can foster collaboration, promote equity, build community, and inspire innovation.**

If you have a dedicated children and youth fund in your city or county, you will probably be funding childcare, afterschool, youth development programs, mental health, early literacy, arts, and family resource centers.

Below is a list of what you can fund that might broaden your thinking about the role this precious resource can play in your community, and what you might do as the fund administrator to expand the scope and impact of the fund and empower your community. This list is intended to spark some new ideas and is a work-in-progress. We invite all folks involved in administering children and youth dedicated funds to add to the list.

**Send ideas and a link if you have one to: Margaret Brodtkin**  
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# Strengthen Community

## Community Building with Children's Funds

1. Create community events that educate, provide fun and empower families – resource fairs, family festivals, youth job fairs, youth appreciation days.  
[Events](#)
2. Place community conveners (organizers) in key neighborhoods to bring providers and neighbors together to maximize access and quality of resources. [Community Conveners description](#)
3. Create tools and strategies (e.g., websites, social media) so parents and youth can know what resources are available to them. Include tabling at community events with resource information.  
[Program map; Flier for website for parents](#)
4. Facilitate multi-service initiatives and shared space to create new community hubs and anchor institutions. [Anchor Institution Initiative](#)
5. Create community committees to inform funding and policies – address issues like family flight, transitional age youth, afterschool for all, justice reform, violence prevention, school-city/county partnerships. [Study on Family Flight](#); [Transitional Age Youth](#)
6. Support free days for families in community museums, attractions, sports events, and other community amenities often in accessible to many families. [Family Appreciation Day; Family Appreciation Day Brochure](#)
7. Conduct a regular city-wide survey of priorities and needs. [Community city-wide survey](#)



*Add your  
own ideas  
here*



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# Build the Field: Partner with Providers

8. Invite service provider grantees to work collaboratively with the administrators of the fund so providers themselves set the standards by which they will be evaluated. Grantee-created Standards – [Out of School Time](#); [Workforce Development](#)
9. Create a wide range of technical assistance opportunities for service providers, for instance, a fellowship program for agency leaders who may have strong community capacity but want support with the organizational aspects of running an agency. Can also fund coaching and trainings for grantees to increase capacity to serve marginalized groups and increase diversity and equity. [Technical assistance and Capacity Building](#): a robust description of a wide range of support services for grantees; Grantee Service Guide – example: [Out of School Time](#); [Justice Services](#)
10. Fund service provider-led associations that will build power and capacity, such as a family childcare association that will advocate for compensation and working conditions.
11. Sponsor a regular city or county-wide conference to bring community and department service providers together to build partnerships, share resources, and create common strategies and goals. [First Provider Conference in SF](#)
12. Provide office and meeting space for key community organizations and coalitions.
13. Create a flexible open fund that CBO's can use for emergencies, unexpected opportunities, and more. [Opportunity Fund](#)



More  
to  
come



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# Empower Voices of Parents and Youth



## Youth Leadership and Engagement

14. Sponsor a city/county-wide youth-vote to determine funding priorities in collaboration with schools, as part of a civics education program.
15. Create a fund for youth-initiated projects and establish a youth advisory committee to make decisions and monitor the programs. [Youth-led Philanthropy](#); [Youth Empowerment Fund](#); [Impact of Youth-led Philanthropy and Initiatives](#)
16. Fund youth communication strategies, such as youth-led social media, youth blogs, and youth radio.

## Parent Voices

17. Fund parent action grants – small grants that support neighborhood- level parent-led projects and advocacy campaigns.
18. Support and fund a parent organizing group that can empower marginalized voices. [Parent Voices Oakland](#)
19. Ensure the most under-represented parents play leadership roles in planning and oversight bodies throughout the community.
20. Start a Parent University in an isolated community combining the talent and resources of parents and providers with educational, skill, leadership, know-your-rights, and civic problem-solving workshops and classes.

*Dream big!*



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# Collaborate with other departments and agencies of the city or county to maximize impact and promote reform



21. Establish a community school initiative, in collaboration with local schools, to make schools community hubs. [Beacon Schools/Community Schools; What is a Community School?; SF Community School Initiative](#)
22. Blend funding with local school districts to collaboratively provide funding for priorities, like expanded learning opportunities. [Partnership Strategies with Schools Using Children's Funds; MOU with school district to jointly provide afterschool](#)
23. Develop a formal partnership agreement with the local school district for joint funding and projects. [Partnership Agreement with Local Schools](#)
24. Work with law enforcement to create street violence and truancy prevention outreach programs. [Truancy Prevention](#) partnership between children's fund, schools, and police, [Community Response Network](#) (internal links don't work)
25. Pair non-profits with city recreation centers to expand scope of programs and outreach capacity. [Summary of Rec-Connect](#)
26. Blend resources with health department to create effective mental health early intervention with young children. [Mental health early intervention](#)
27. Work with the local libraries and other agencies to create a summer learning initiative. [Summer Resource Fair](#)



## Continued: Collaboration with other departments and agencies

28. Create youth internships in collaboration with all city and/or county departments, including public works, law enforcement, planning, recreation, health, etc. [City department internship program](#)
29. Jointly plan and fund family resource centers with the child welfare agency. [Family Resource Center Collaborative](#)
30. Fund alternatives to incarceration and collaborate with law enforcement and juvenile probation to develop diversion systems. [Justice reform: multi-service centers](#)
31. Create summer and afterschool jobs programs in collaboration with business community. [New Door Ventures](#)
32. Collaborate with local colleges to create college preparation programs for marginalized and underserved youth.

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added here*



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