

LOCAL CHILDREN'S CABINET NETWORK 2019 SUMMIT



At the end of the summer, the Local Children's Cabinet Network hosted its inaugural summit at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Nearly 100 participants from 27 communities around the country gathered for two days of collaborative peer learning. The hands-on summit guided leaders through the new [Children's Cabinet Toolkit](#) and sparked dynamic dialogue and problem-solving around shared challenges and opportunities.

The summit opened with welcome remarks from the three organizations partnering to advance this work. We heard from Paul Reville from the Education Redesign Lab (EdRedesign), Elizabeth Gaines from The Children's Funding Project, and Thaddeus Ferber from the Forum for Youth Investment. Members introduced themselves and shared challenges that their respective communities are facing. Rounding out the afternoon, the sessions focused on the newly released [Toolkit](#) and delved into the logistics of building a cabinet and managing a cabinet as well as setting goals.

A highlight of the convening was remarks by Mayor Shane Bemis of the City of Gresham, Oregon, who described his community's approach to supporting children and youth. "One kid might need a mentor. Another kid might need a job or an internship. Another kid just needs something to do to stay out of trouble on the weekend or during the summer - basketball or football programs. And yet another might need mental health services. We have to have different options for different needs because no two children are the same." The Mayor highlighted that, "...we convened the school superintendent, the Chamber of Commerce, the Community College President, the business community,



service providers, families and students all at one table to ensure we are aligned in the best interests of our children and that we are working together effectively to ensure their successes and social and economic mobility. Those stakeholders comprise our Children's Cabinet."

Mayor Bemis went on further to say that, "while our Children's Cabinet is still young, and initially very focused on career development and economic and social mobility, we know that the framework it provides can help us in so many other arenas as well. We now have a core group of stakeholders from every area at the same table with a common goal of enriching young people. We are asking the right questions, making the right investments, and we will receive the only dividend that ultimately matters in public service: a generation of empowered and engaged citizens committed to the health of their families and communities"

The second day of the Summit focused on learning from experts on topics such as fiscal mapping, bringing children's cabinets to ballots, innovative financing, and cross-system collaboration. Check out some of the resources below:

- See how Fairfax County manages its [Successful Children & Youth Policy Team](#).
- The [Denver Mayor's Children's Cabinet](#) shines in data collection, aggregation, and usage. See their community resource [Status of Denver's Children](#) and the most recent [year profile](#).
- Learn about mapping assets and across systems that support developmental practices in the Forum's Collaborative Support for Developmental Practices.
- See how to expand services to help children thrive in this [brief on innovative financing methods](#) from the Education Redesign Lab (EdRedesign) and The Children's Funding Project.
- Check-out how localities can have the authority to create a special taxing district dedicated to child and youth services: [State-Enabling Legislation for Children's Special Taxing Districts](#).

The summit concluded with a discussion of next steps and the creation of action plans. Please email us examples of how your community is using Summit resources and employing new strategies.

If you are interested in joining the network or have additional questions, please [click here to complete a short contact form](#). Please note that there is no fee to join this network thanks to the Forum for Youth Investment, The Children's Funding Project, and the Education Redesign Lab at Harvard Graduate School of Education.