

Children's Funding Cohort

A partnership between [Children's Funding Project](#) and [Children's Funding Accelerator](#) to build capacity for and remove financial barriers from communities seeking to dedicate public funding via local ballot measure.

What is the Children's Funding Cohort?

The Children's Funding Cohort is an opportunity for teams working to establish dedicated public funding streams for children's services **via local ballot initiative**. The Cohort will provide support in the form of:

1. Readiness assessment and evaluation tool (application)
2. Coaching from Children's Funding Project (CFP) team
3. Tools from CFP & partners
4. Peer learning opportunities
5. Invite-only conversations with experts, in partnership with [Funding the Next Generation](#)
6. Consideration for campaign contributions from Children's Funding Accelerator

Who should apply?

You're ready to apply for the cohort if:

1. you have 3 cross sector stakeholders willing to sign onto the application
2. you are pursuing a ballot measure that will dedicate public funding to children and youth services
3. you're targeting a 2023 or 2024 election date for your ballot initiative

How do I apply?

1. **Create a team!** *This team should be at least 3 people all from different organizations in your community who are willing to sign-on to your application. Potential team members might be from child and youth services intermediaries, parent or provider coalitions, local government or public office, or local philanthropy. These team members will need to be willing to participate in monthly check-in calls with Children's Funding Project and attend peer learning opportunities.*
2. **Request an application!** Please email olivia@childrensfundingproject.org to request an application, and cc your team members.
3. **Complete your application!** To the best of your team's ability, please fill out the application. Note that this application is also meant to be a readiness tool that helps you to identify next steps, so we expect that your team may not be able to answer all questions yet.
4. **Submit your application!** Return your completed application to olivia@childrensfundingproject.org, with all team members cc'd, and we will set up a time to review with you by phone.

Talk to me about the money!

We know that one of the most intimidating parts of pursuing a ballot measure campaign is political fundraising. That's why we created the Children's Funding Accelerator, a fund to support campaigns for dedicated early childhood funding. Up front, we want to be clear about eligibility for this funding:

1. While teams working to fund a wide range of child and youth services may participate in the Cohort, only teams pursuing dedicated funding for early childhood will be eligible for campaign contributions from the Accelerator.
2. Accelerator contributions will act as supplemental dollars to campaigns - they must be the minority share of a campaign budget, and will always require a local fundraising match.

To access campaign contributions from CFA, communities also need to be

- On the ballot
- Early childhood focused
- Able to match funds with local fundraising
- Driven by multiple stakeholders



3. Accelerator contributions can only be made to a 501c4 supporting an early childhood funding-focused ballot measure - these dollars can't be used to support c3 activities or candidates for public office.