

What is the CYFCC?

- The Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) **is an official advisory group** of the City of Alexandria whose members are appointed by members of the City Council and the School Board.
- **Our goal** is an Alexandria where all children, youth, and families are physically safe and healthy, are academically successful and career-ready, and have positive experiences.
- **The CYFCC provides advice, advocacy, and information** to Alexandria City staff, City Council, School Board, and other relevant entities in order to influence policy and decisions that result in better outcomes for children, youth, and families in Alexandria. Specifically, the CYFCC provides oversight of the Children and Youth Community Plan (CYCP) and monitors its implementation.
- **Some recent accomplishments include**
 - Joining the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP), and the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) to host *Alexandria Youth Speak Up* events, which are forums to lift up youth voices in our community
 - Providing advice about desired key investments in children, youth, and families to the Alexandria City Council for consideration in their annual Budget Retreat and budgeting process
 - Providing advice to the Alexandria School Board regarding the inclusion of additional mental health resources in their budget
 - Developing youth empowerment resources such as a guide for the inclusion of youth members on Boards and Commissions in Alexandria and a compilation of leadership opportunities in the city

Why do we need your help? We are seeking **commissioners to be front-line advocates for children, youth, and families in our City**. They leverage their unique perspectives, lived experience, expertise, and community networks to advance the work of the CYCP while also serving in key roles within the CYFCC structure.

What do we do?

- **Commissioners participate in Goal Groups**, organized around the three key goals of the CYCP: That children and youth are (1) Safe and Healthy, (2) Academically Successful and Career-ready, and (3) Have Positive Experiences.
- **Commissioner activities can include:**
 - engaging in advocacy to decision-makers to advance policies or secure funding,
 - participating in or hosting relevant events on behalf of the Commission,
 - conducting research or supporting data collection and synthesis,
 - communicating about the work of the Commission and the many champions implementing the CYCP,
 - and generally supporting the implementation of the CYCP.

What is the time commitment?

- Commissioners generally attend two meetings per month and they may do independent work for the Commission outside of meeting times. The time commitment is generally 3-4 hours per month.

- **General meeting:** Second Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Charles Houston Rec Center, 901 Wythe Street. *Commissioners must be able to attend these meetings regularly.*
- Each goal group has a **standing meeting once per month** to work on a project or conduct relevant work.
- Leaders of the CYFCC and any interested commissioners attend the Executive Committee meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm (optional for most members), at 4850 Mark Center.
- **Want to learn more about us?** Come to one of our meetings. We'd love to see you!

How to apply

- **The application to join our Commission can be found at:**
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Boards>
- *Applicants must be **residents of the City** or work in a child/youth capacity in the City.*
- **Current vacancies:** Check [here](#) to find out if there are current vacancies. If there are none, you can still attend meetings and volunteer with us. We'd love to have you join us in our efforts!
- In your application, you will be asked to provide
 - an updated resume (a list of volunteer activities, clubs, leadership roles counts!),
 - a statement about why you should be appointed to the commission,
 - a statement about what your educational background is (in the case of a youth member - how does your perspective as a student prepare you to serve on this commission),
 - a statement about what relevant work and practical experience you have (includes volunteer activities, clubs, and leadership roles (can even mean leadership in school work or projects)),
 - and the names and addresses of four references. *It's best if your references live and/or work in the City. They do not need to be important people. Just people who can vouch for you.*
- **After you have applied, reach out to members of the City Council** through [Alex311](#) with a warm letter introducing yourself and why you would like to serve on the commission. You can also ask that advocates for your candidacy reach out to the City Council through Alex311 to endorse your application for the commission.

We want to set you up for success!

Have questions or want help with your application? Please contact CYFCC Chair Catherine Clinger at cathclinger@gmail.com.

Not ready to join the Commission but still want to get involved? Volunteer with us! Attend our meetings when you can, sign up for specific projects, and participate in the way that works best for you. We will be hosting events, communicating about the work of the commission, and taking on special projects as the year continues. Please contact cathclinger@gmail.com to learn more or sign up.