



Process for Shaping the Next Children & Youth Community Plan

Children, Youth, & Families Collaborative Commission Meeting

May 14, 2025

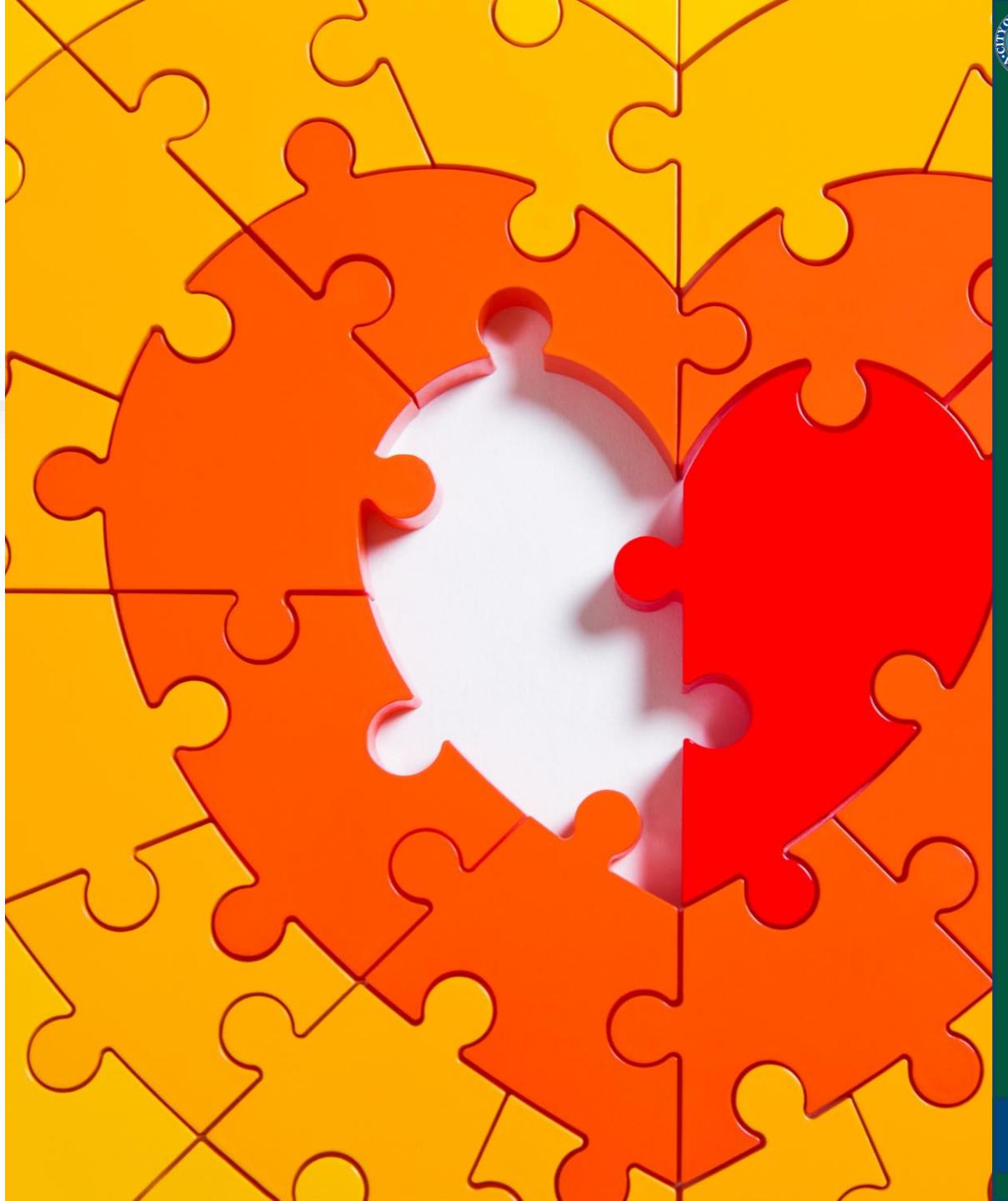


Meet the Children & Youth Community Plan Coordinator

- Chelsea Eickert | MA Community Development & Planning
- City of Alexandria's Department of Community & Human Services - Center for Children & Families
- In this role since in 2017
- Chelsea.Eickert@AlexandriaVA.Gov

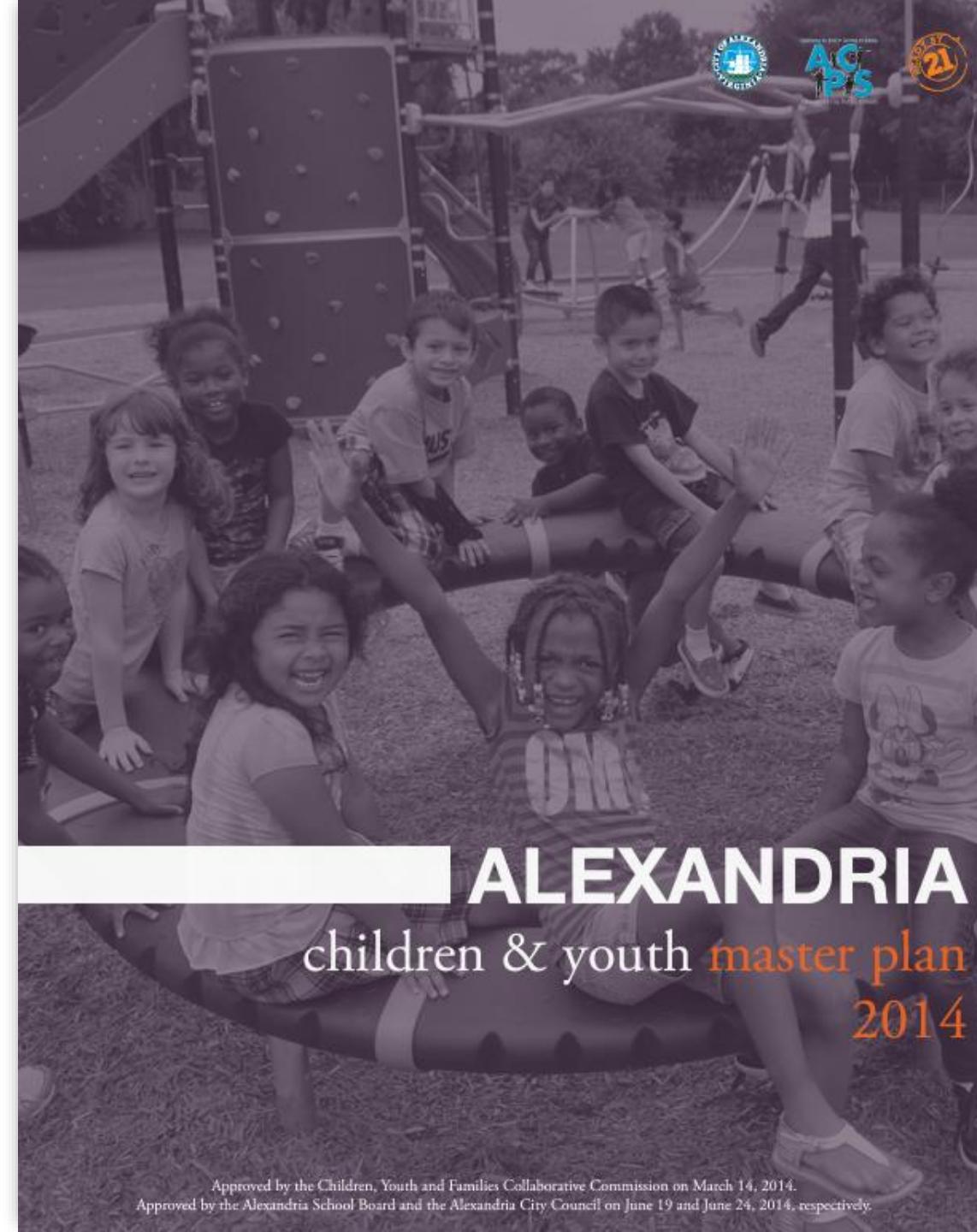
Overview

- CYFCC's Role in Shaping Previous Plans
- Timeline for next Children & Youth Community Plan (CYCP)
- Suggested Roles for CYFCC in Shaping the next CYCP



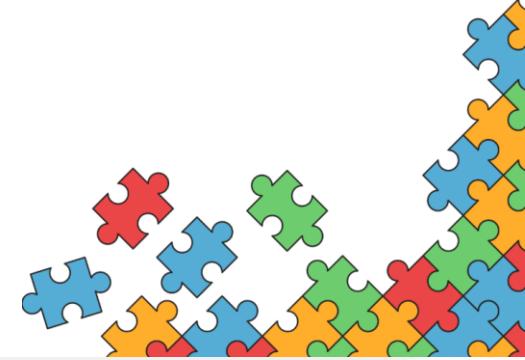
CYFCC's Leadership in the First Children & Youth Master Plan (2014-2019)

- Planning Timeframe: November 2012 - July 2013
- Key Contributions
 - Led the entire planning process in the absence of a dedicated coordinator
 - Formed and facilitated a Design Team in partnership with the Forum for Youth Investment
 - Created the Plan's vision and five goals for child and youth success
 - Compiled data and developed the Alexandria Children & Youth Well-Being Profile
 - Held 6 community forums with 400+ youth and adults to analyze data and co-develop solutions
 - Facilitated 9 youth-led forums with 200 middle and high school students to gather their perspectives
 - Identified priority areas for action based on community input
 - Led work groups to translate findings into actionable recommendations



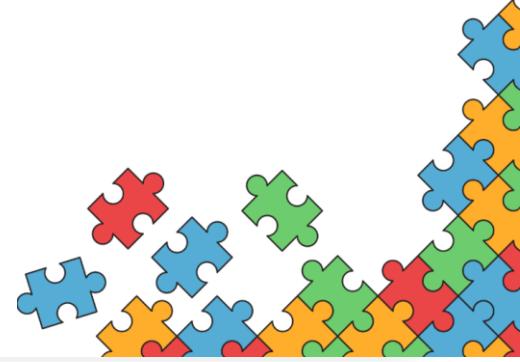
ALEXANDRIA
children & youth master plan
2014

CYFCC's Role in the Children & Youth Community Plan 2025



Time Period	Key Activities	CYFCC's Contributions
Mar.-Oct. 2019	Data Gathering: 89 workshops, 2,100 participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participated in Legacy WorkshopHelped connect planners with key community stakeholders
Nov. 2019- Feb. 2020	Data Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No formal role
Apr.-Oct. 2020	Planning Phase: Weekly strategy sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviewed strategies for equity impactProvided input on implementation roles for CYFCC
Nov. 2020- Feb. 2021	Drafting and Reviewing Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Submitted a letter for Plan introductionAdvised on communications and marketing
April 2021	Plan Endorsement & Promotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Co-presented Plan to City Council & School BoardPromoted Plan at public hearings & community events

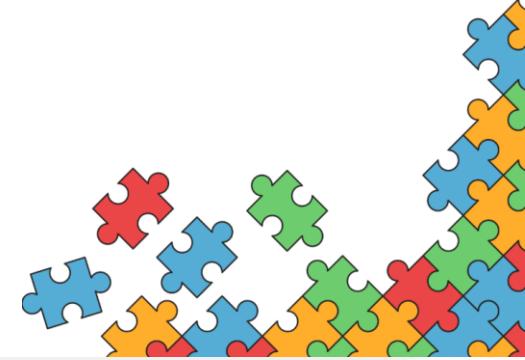
CYFCC's Role in the 2025 Youth Needs Assessment



Time Period	Key Activities	CYFCC's Contributions
Summer 2024 - Winter 2025	Data Gathering: 93 youth listening sessions; caregiver engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engaged 41 caregivers in a listening sessionInvited to help facilitate sessions with youth
Winter 2025	Data Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No formal role
Spring - Summer 2025	Drafting and Reviewing the Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No formal role
Summer 2025	Publish CYCP Impact Report and Youth Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review and understand key findings to inform future planning



Timeline for Developing the Next Children & Youth Community Plan (CYCP)



Time Period	Key Activities	Suggested CYFCC Role
Fall 2025	Launch planning process for next CYCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define criteria and scope for new Plan• Align advocacy and budget efforts with Assessment findings• Coordinate with other Commissions
Fall-Winter 2025	Facilitate strategy sessions with classrooms, caregivers, service providers, and City/School leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-design inclusive planning process with ACPS• Ensure youth and underrepresented voices are engaged• Support vetting of youth-driven strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Garner buy-in from City and School leadership• Recommend accountability tools for implementation• Guide inclusion—when is feedback "enough"?
Spring-Summer 2026	Draft, review, revise, and approve Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support timely approval by reviewing early drafts and outlines

Summary of CYFCC's Role

- **How CYFCC Has Supported the Work**
 - Helped convene stakeholders and connect with hard-to-reach groups (especially caregivers)
 - Reviewed draft strategies through an equity lens
 - Participated in presentations to leadership bodies (City Council, School Board)
- **What Would Be Most Helpful Moving Forward**
 - Actively engage in vetting and shaping strategies with youth and community
 - Champion cross-agency alignment and accountability mechanisms
 - Leverage your networks to promote the Plan and elevate its visibility



Discussion

1. Looking at how the Commission's role has evolved over time, what stands out to you?
2. What do you think of the suggested roles that the CYFCC can play moving forward? What role do you think the CYFCC should play in shaping and championing the next Children & Youth Community Plan?
3. What would it take for the Commission to feel empowered in helping drive this work forward?

