

CYFCC Goal Group Strategic Directions (February 2026 DRAFT)

In February 2026, each Goal Group refined their respective actions based on their conversations with partners.

Priority Area: Supportive & Responsive School Conditions	Priority Area: Affordability for All	Priority Area: Safety & Belonging
CYFCC Members: Madison Lynch, Laura Funes Quinones, Angi Green, Michele Rief, Leslie Eyeson, Meredith Forbes	Participants: Kate Garvey, Rose Dawson, Terry Glover, Gennet Negussie, Catherine Clinger, Marcia Jackson, Amanda Ruff, Donna Kenley, Allen Lomax	CYFCC Members: Daniel Daponte, Barbara, Abby Wesson, Nicole Davi, Amber Elizabeth Mazon, Laura Durham, Dan Edwards
Strategic Direction (long-term focus): Center student voice in operational decisions that affect daily school conditions.	Strategic Direction (long-term focus): Reduce the burden of basic needs through partnerships, with an initial focus on food access.	Strategic Direction (long-term focus): Strengthen student voice and community partnerships to create safe, inclusive spaces for youth free of violence and bullying.
One-Year Action (Draft): CYFCC will support and strengthen emerging student–administrator communication structures at ACHS (e.g., Principal Advisory Council) to create a clear, two-way process for identifying and resolving school-conditions concerns.	One-Year Action (Draft): CYFCC will work with ACPS social workers and community food providers to map existing food-access programs across schools, identify gaps in awareness or coordination, and recommend ways to improve access for families.	One-Year Action (Draft): CYFCC will work with ACPS and youth-serving organizations to create clearer communication pathways (e.g., Canvas announcements, school social media, morning announcements) so students learn about and participate in youth-led safety, wellness, and violence-prevention programs.
Why it Matters: Students will be champions of their school and have greater investment in the school environment if they have a role in decision making to solve problems	Why It Matters: It will strengthen access to existing organizations or we will advocate starting/assisting a new organization. Some services or programs do not currently exist at every school.	Why it Matters: Data from YNA indicates many youth don't feel safe in their neighborhood and don't have third spaces where they can go to feel safe
Partners to Engage 1st: ACHS Principals and School Leadership Teams; Nutrition Services (for food-related concerns).	Partners to Engage 1st: ALIVE!, Hunger Free Alexandria, ACPS Social Workers, DCHS Food Security Action Plan leads	Partners to Engage 1st: Gang Prevention Community Task Force, Youth Ambassadors, ACPS Communications, City Communications.
What we Learned from Partners: Systems exist but students don't see them	What we Learned from Partners: Many programs exist but awareness/coordination gaps remain	What we Learned from Partners: Programs exist but promotion pathways are limited
One Year Success: Students know where to raise concerns about school conditions and can point to visible improvements informed by student input.	One Year Success: Clear understanding of where food access exists, where gaps remain, and a path forward for improving access or coordination.	One year success: More students are aware of and attending youth-serving programs, and partners have clearer pathways to reach students.

CYFCC Goal Group Strategic Directions (January 2026 DRAFT)

In January 2025, each Goal Group selected a strategic direction informed by youth and identified concrete actions they wanted to pursue this year.

Priority Area: Supportive & Responsive School Conditions	Priority Area: Affordability for All	Priority Area: Safety & Belonging
CYFCC Members: Meredith, Leslie,	Participants: Gennet, Christine, Kobie, Donna, Allen, Catherine	CYFCC Members: Amber, Laura, Barbara, Rose, Abby, Daniel
Strategic Direction (long-term focus): Center student voice in operational decisions that affect daily school conditions.	Strategic Direction (long-term focus): Reduce the burden of basic needs through partnerships, with an initial focus on food access.	Strategic Direction (long-term focus): Strengthen student voice and community partnerships to create safe, inclusive spaces for youth free of violence and bullying.
One-Year Action (Draft): CYFCC will advocate for and support the creation of a student advisory structure at ACHS to establish a two-way communication system for identifying and addressing school conditions concerns.	One-Year Action (Draft): CYFCC will work with ACPS and community partners to map existing food access programs across schools, identify gaps, and determine where advocacy or coordination is needed.	One-Year Action (Draft): CYFCC will convene youth-serving partners and youth leaders to better understand where young people feel unsafe and explore strategies for co-creating safe spaces in the community and at school.
Why it Matters: Students will be champions of their school and have greater investment in the school environment if they have a role in decision making to solve problems	Why It Matters: It will strengthen access to existing organizations or we will advocate starting/assisting a new organization. Some services or programs do not currently exist at every school.	Why it Matters: Data from YNA indicates many youth don't feel safe in their neighborhood and don't have third spaces where they can go to feel safe
Partners to Engage 1st: Principals at ACHS	Partners to Engage 1st: ALIVE!, and DCHS – Food Security Action Plan Coordinator, Harumi Reis-Reilly	Partners to Engage 1st: Gang Prevention Community Task Force and Youth Ambassadors
One Year Success: Students know where to raise concerns about school conditions and can point to visible improvements informed by student input.	One Year Success: Clear understanding of where food access exists, where gaps remain, and a path forward for improving access or coordination.	One year success: Greater awareness of youth safety needs and a clearer pathway toward creating or strengthening safe spaces for youth.