

CYFCC Goal Group Strategic Directions (March 2026 DRAFT)

In March 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
<p>Strategic Direction (long-term focus): Center student voice in operational decisions that affect daily school conditions.</p>	<p>Strategic Direction (long-term focus): Reduce the burden of basic needs through partnerships, with an initial focus on food access.</p>	<p>Strategic Direction (long-term focus): Strengthen student voice and community partnerships to create safe, inclusive spaces for youth free of violence and bullying.</p>
<p>One-Year Action (Draft): CYFCC will support and strengthen emerging student–administrator communication structures at ACHS (e.g., Principal Advisory Council) and elevate Youth Needs Assessment findings to school leadership and Nutrition Services to improve transparency and responsiveness to student concerns.</p>	<p>One-Year Action (Draft): CYFCC will map school-based and community food-access resources across Alexandria, identify coordination and awareness gaps (especially during evenings, weekends, and school breaks), and recommend strategies to improve navigation for families.</p>	<p>One-Year Action (Draft): CYFCC will work with ACPS, youth-serving organizations, and City communications partners to strengthen pathways for promoting youth programs through school communication systems (e.g., Canvas announcements, school social media, morning announcements) and increase participation in youth-led safety and wellness initiatives.</p>
<p>What was Learned from Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems already exist to address facilities and school-conditions concerns • Nutrition programs operate under federal regulatory constraints • Many student concerns are already being addressed internally • Students often cannot see or access decision-making pathways • Advisory structures are emerging but need reinforcement 	<p>What was Learned from Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandria already has a strong food resource network • Major barriers are awareness, coordination, and logistics, not availability • Resource access differs across schools • Families face navigation challenges across systems • Immigrant families face additional access barriers • Workforce development partnerships may improve outreach 	<p>What was Learned from Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many strong youth safety programs already exist • Participation depends heavily on school communication systems and word of mouth • Student town halls, Student Voice Survey, Youth Leadership Programs, family meetings, and engagement with Afghan youth seem promising • Work underway to include more student voice in policy development • Contracted security staff may benefit from additional relationship-building training • ACHS open to sharing aggregated school safety data report to the state (via Central Office)
<p>Barriers Identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited student awareness of decision processes and how to raise concerns • Scheduling constraints for student participation 	<p>Barriers Identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited awareness of available supports • Uneven access across schools • Storage/logistics challenges for fresh food • Weekend/evening access gaps 	<p>Barriers Identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty reaching less-engaged students • Limited social media reach thru school channels • Lack of coordinated announcement systems • Limited staffing capacity for outreach

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited awareness of accommodation pathways (504 / IEP nutrition supports) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication channels not reaching families effectively 	
<p>Commission Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen two-way communication pathways • Elevate YNA findings to leadership • Support emerging student advisory structures • Increase transparency of decision processes 	<p>Commission Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help improve coordination between schools and providers • Strengthen communication pathways to families • Elevate navigation barriers affecting immigrant families • Support mapping across systems 	<p>Commission Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amplify existing programs by working with ACPS • Improve communication pathways across systems • Support collaboration between youth and administrators • Connect youth ambassadors with City communications channels
<p>One Year Success: Students know where to raise concerns about school conditions and can point to visible improvements informed by student input.</p>	<p>One Year Success: A shared understanding of where food access exists, where gaps remain, and a coordinated strategy for improving awareness and access.</p>	<p>One year success: More students are aware of and participating in youth-serving programs and partners have clearer pathways to reach students.</p>

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, Dan Edwards	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
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.