



Affordability for All Work Group

(working title)

Children & Youth Community Plan
June 4, 2026





Meeting Purpose

To build a shared understanding of the Children & Youth Community Plan (CYCP), the role of the Affordability for All Work Group, and the youth-informed priorities that will guide our work together.



Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions (15 min)
2. Overview of How We Got Here (15 min)
3. Purpose & Scope of this Work Group (15 min)
4. Looking Ahead (10 min)
5. Preview of upcoming meetings
6. Next Steps & Closing (5 min)



WELCOME

& Introductions



Introductions

Introduce yourself (name & organization)

Many of us have participated in work groups, committees, or collaboratives before. What is one thing you've experienced that helped a group be productive and worthwhile, and one thing that made it harder to stay engaged?



Overview of How We Got Here - CYCP & Youth Needs Assessment Overview

Where We Are in the Planning Process

CYCP Development Journey

- ☒ Youth Needs Assessment
- ☒ Priority Selection
- ☒ Youth Validation & Solution-Shaping
- ☒ Strategy-Shaping with Partners (**We are here**)
- ☐ Action Planning
- ☐ Leadership Review
- ☐ City Council Approval





What is the CYCP?

- Community-wide plan for children, youth, and families
- Identifies shared priorities and coordinated actions
- Aligns efforts across schools, City departments, nonprofits, and community partners
- Focuses on what we can accomplish together

alexandriava.gov/YouthPlan





What this the Youth Needs Assessment?

- Community-wide snapshot of youth needs
- Designed to elevate the voices of young people, who are often underrepresented in community planning and absent from decision-making spaces, to identify system-level patterns and the issues most affecting their lives and the changes they want to see.
- Not a substitute for targeted outreach to specific high-risk populations, which require additional engagement strategies



DEPARTMENT OF
**COMMUNITY &
HUMAN SERVICES**



ALEXANDRIA **YOUTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT** 2025

The 2025 Youth Needs Assessment, developed by the City of Alexandria and Alexandria City Public Schools, centers youth voices to identify key needs, service gaps, and priorities.

[ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/DCHS](https://alexandriava.gov/dchs)



How We Identified Youth Needs & Priorities

The 2025 Youth Needs Assessment used a mixed-methods, youth-centered approach to understand what children and youth need to thrive and to inform the next Children & Youth Community Plan (CYCP).

Youth Voice

- 94 Youth Listening Sessions
- 1,144 middle and high school students in Round 1
- 500 high school students in Round 2 (validation and solution-building)
- 110 youth engaged through the Youth Speak Up event
- 3,800+ youth comments coded and analyzed using a structured codebook

Surveys & Community Engagement

- Youth Issues Survey
- Parent/Caregiver Listening Session (41 participants)
- Youth Speak Up community event
- Resident Surveys and other community engagement efforts

Quantitative Data

- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
- Developmental Assets Survey
- U.S. Census & American Community Survey
- ACPS and Virginia Department of Education data
- CYCP indicators and disparity data

Existing Reports & Assessments

- Community Health Assessment
- Out of School Time Programs Landscape Study
- Food Insecurity Report
- Resident Surveys
- Dying Too Soon Report
- Community Needs Assessments and other local studies

The Youth Needs Assessment centered youth voice while also drawing on surveys, community engagement, administrative data, and existing research to identify community-wide priorities.



From Identifying Needs to Developing Solutions

Civic Action Engagement & Follow-Up Youth Listening Sessions

After the Youth Needs Assessment findings were analyzed, over 700 Alexandria City High School & Middle School students participated in follow-up engagement.

Students:

- Reviewed and validated Youth Needs Assessment findings
- Prioritized issues they felt were most important and actionable
- Explored root causes of community challenges
- Developed and refined recommendations for the next Children & Youth Community Plan (CYCP)

Their input helped shape the strategic directions under the CYCP's three priority areas.





Priority Areas for the next Children & Youth Community Plan

Affordability for All



Result:

Every family has what they need to live with stability and thrive in Alexandria

Safety & Belonging



Result:

All youth feel valued, supported, and safe in the school and community

Supportive & Responsive School Conditions



Result:

All students learn in environments that are designed to support their learning and wellbeing every day



Priority Area: Affordability for All

Emerged 500+ times

What Youth Want

- Affordable or free access to housing, healthcare, food, and basic necessities
- Families able to meet basic needs without financial strain
- Resources distributed equitably across neighborhoods



Key Data Point:

- Nearly half of ACPS students are economically disadvantaged

Student Voice:

"A community in which everybody has access to the things they need."

"Universal healthcare."

"Affordable Housing"



Purpose & Scope of this Work Group



Role of This Work Group

Youth voice helped identify the priority areas and strategic directions. The work groups are responsible for integrating youth perspectives with family experiences, practitioner expertise, research, data, existing plans, and implementation realities to develop feasible strategies and action plans.

The work group's role is to identify where coordination, partnership, and collective action can strengthen existing efforts.



Focus of This Work Group

Strengthen economic mobility, financial stability, and income supports for children, youth, and families through coordination and partnership.

Guiding Question for this Work Group:

How can we better align and strengthen community efforts that help families build financial stability, reduce economic stress, and access pathways to economic mobility?





What Is the Role of Work Group Members?

During the Planning Process, Members Are Asked To:

Help Shape the Plan

- Review materials before meetings
- Participate in discussions and decision-making
- Help refine strategies, actions, and measures

Serve as a Connector

- Bring perspectives from your organization and networks
- Identify partners who should be engaged
- Share information with relevant stakeholders & your organization/networks

Time Commitment

- Attend monthly work group meetings
- Review occasional pre-reading materials
- Participate in between-meeting follow-up as

Bring Your Expertise

- Share your knowledge, experience, and perspective
- Help interpret youth feedback, data, and research
- Identify opportunities, challenges, and unintended consequences

Connect the Dots

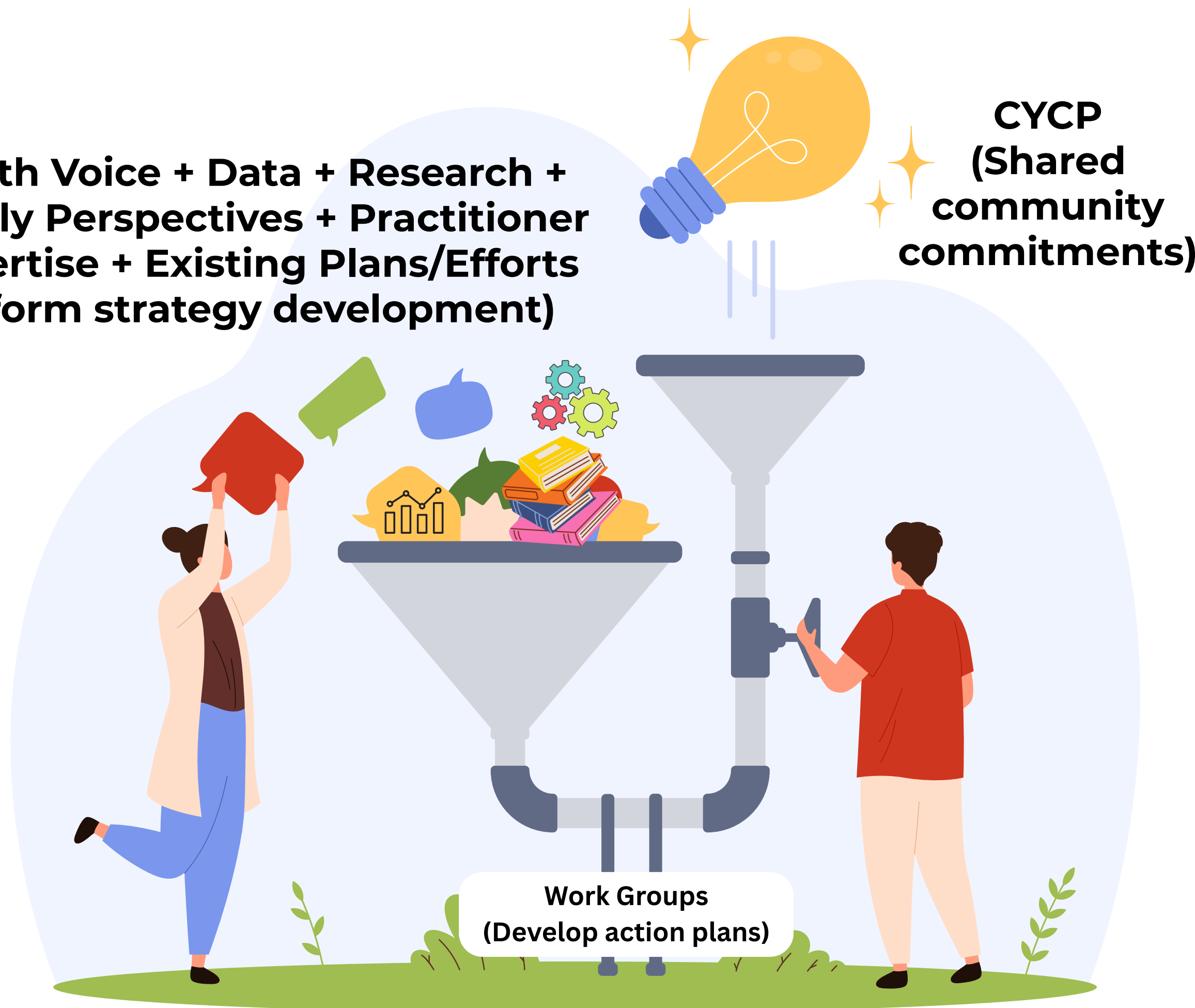
- Highlight existing programs, initiatives, and partnerships
- Identify opportunities for coordination and alignment
- Help ensure we build on what already exists



How the Plan is Developed

**Youth Voice + Data + Research +
Family Perspectives + Practitioner
Expertise + Existing Plans/Efforts
(Inform strategy development)**

**CYCP
(Shared
community
commitments)**





Looking Ahead



Work Group Arc

	Launch & Orientation	Understanding the Situation	Exploring Solutions & Existing Efforts	Build the Action Plan	Finalize & Commit
When	Meeting #1	Meeting #2	Meetings #3-5	Meetings #6-8	Meeting #9
Outcome	Shared understanding & clarity about scope	Shared understanding of the issue and the factors shaping economic mobility and financial stability.	Shared understanding of what is already happening and where collaboration can add value.	Draft action plan	CYCP-ready content



Next Steps & Closing



Meeting Cadence

When can we meet next? How often?

Does anyone want to help plan & co-lead a future meeting?

