



Alexandria Children & Youth Community Plan (CYCP)

Strategy-Shaping Session with the Youth Services Coordinating Council





Today's Purpose

Identify early action opportunities for us to work on together.



How We Got Here:

Youth Needs Assessment & Follow-Up Engagement with Youth

Between Fall 2024-Fall 2025:

- **90 youth and adults** were trained to engaged
- **1,800+ middle and high school students** through
- **137 Youth Listening Sessions**
- Youth analyzed data, identified root causes, and proposed solutions

This work will shape the next Children & Youth Community Plan (CYCP). It's updated every five years to guide citywide efforts around shared goals, align partners, and advance equity.





Results-Based Accountability: How We're Framing This Work



Result: What conditions do we want for children and youth?



How are we doing? What does the data tell us about how youth are doing?



Story Behind the Trends:
What's driving current conditions?

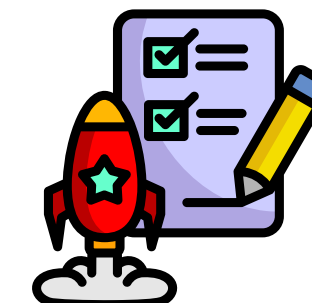
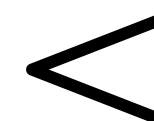


Partners: Who has a role to play?



What Works: What does the research say about what could help improve conditions?

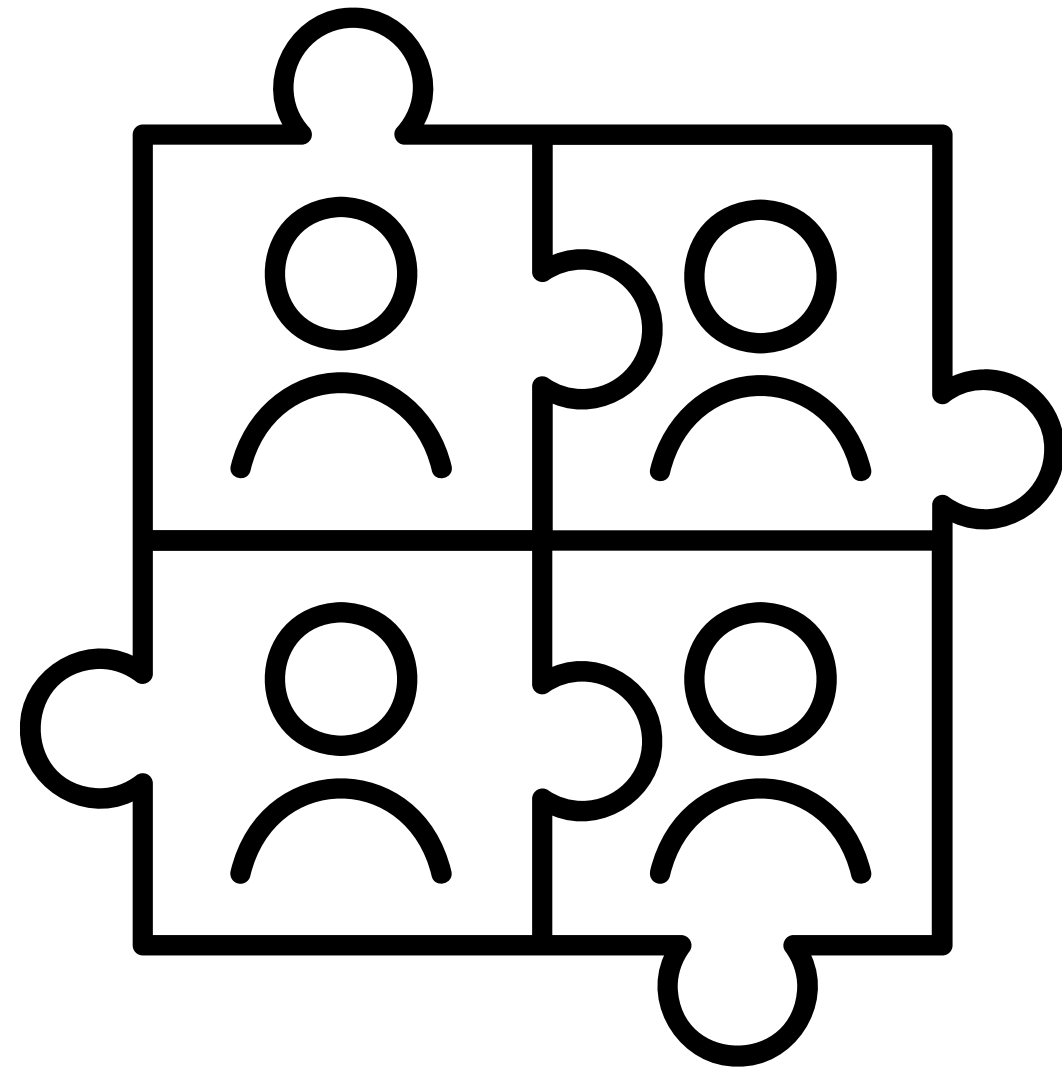
**Today's
Focus**



Action: What are we going to do?



The Role of the YSCC in the CYCP



The Youth Services
Coordinating Council helps:

- align partners
- strengthen coordination
- identify gaps
- support implementation of youth-informed strategies



Three CYCP Priority Areas & their Results



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



Where Each Priority Area Stands Now?

Affordability for All



Ready to shape a draft Year-1 action plan around:
Make it easy for families to find help, understand their options, and feel welcome asking for support

Safety & Belonging



Ready to shape a draft Year-1 action plan around:
Build students' conflict-resolution and coping skills

Supportive & Responsive School Conditions



Continuing alignment conversations with ACPS to clarify partnership opportunities



Progress update on alignment conversations with ACPS to improve school conditions

- ACPS confirmed there are existing engagement and communication structures related to school conditions and facilities, though they are not always visible or well-known to students/community members.
- ACPS leaders emphasized funding and operational constraints, particularly around facilities and infrastructure concerns.
- The conversation reinforced the importance of helping students understand decision-making processes, constraints, and available feedback channels.
- There appears to be an opportunity for community partners to support stronger communication and feedback loops between students and school leadership.
- Follow-up conversations with Facilities & Operations staff are planned to better understand where community partnership may be most helpful.



Why Coordination Matters

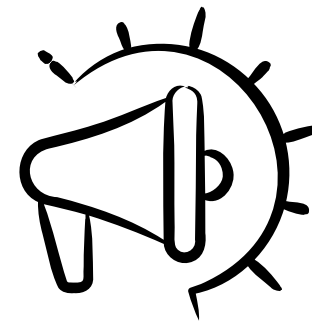
Across all priority areas, partners have noted:



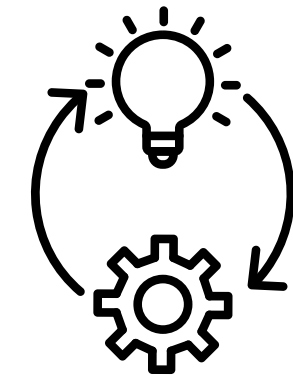
**strong
programs
already exist**



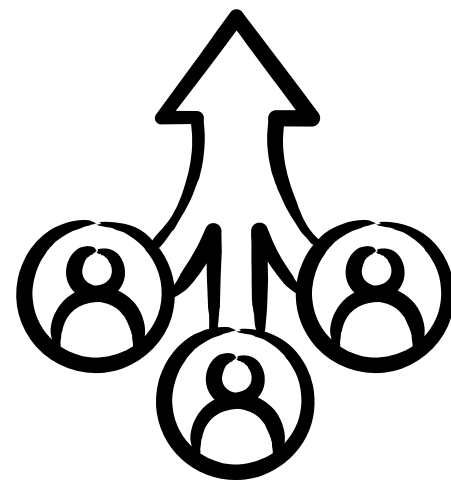
**access is
inconsistent**



**awareness
is uneven**



**implementation
varies across
settings**



This is an opportunity to work together to strengthen alignment and coordination across our system



Today's Breakout Goals



60 minutes

Affordability for All & Safety & Belonging Groups:

- Select one action to shape for Year 1
- Identify one coordination gap
- **Brainstorm 1–2 first steps**
- **Name key partners to engage next**

Supportive & Responsive School Conditions

- Pause action planning while continuing alignment conversations with ACPS
- Contribute to one of the other groups



Safety & Belonging Group

- **Problem:** Youth described frequent conflict among peers and inconsistent opportunities to build conflict-resolution, coping, and relationship skills. Many programs address pieces of this work, but efforts are fragmented, vary by setting and age group, and are not well coordinated across schools and community organizations.
- **Long-Term Strategy:** Build conflict-resolution and coping skills among youth
- **Year-One Action:** Coordinate and strengthen existing conflict-resolution and coping skill programs by mapping what already exists, identifying gaps, and developing shared tools and connections across providers.

Affordability for All Group

- **Problem:** Alexandria offers a wide range of programs, services, and resources for children, youth, and families. However, many youth and families do not know what supports are available or how to access them. Students and caregivers described relying on trusted adults, word-of-mouth, and personal relationships to learn about resources. Families also reported that complicated systems, language barriers, and stigma can make it difficult to seek help.
- **Long-Term Strategy:** Make it easier for families to find help and feel welcome asking for support.
- **Year-One Action:** Pilot a coordinated "Youth Resource Campaign" that places QR codes and youth-friendly resource links in locations youth already spend time (i.e. in school bathrooms, cafeterias, libraries, rec centers, buses, or community spaces).



Whole Group Share-Out

- What action did you select?
- What coordination opportunity exists?
- What first step could move this forward?
- Who should be involved next?



What Comes Next

- Draft action plans
- Confirm partners' roles
- Integrate actions into the CYCP draft



Thank you!

Contact

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