



Multiplying Outcomes in Place-Based Initiatives

How Community Safety and Early Childhood Development Practitioners Can Collaborate with Community Development

Photo credit: [cc Michelle Mockbee](#)

Introduction: The power of the community development sector

Early childhood and violence prevention practitioners across the country are increasingly recognizing that neighborhoods help shape outcomes for young children and families. Factors such as housing affordability, economic opportunities, and social connections intermix in residents' lives and can be bolstered in holistic ways. Both sectors are interested in place-based work and together have identified community development as an important partner in increasing safety and supporting the development of young children. The community development sector spends \$200 billion annually to revitalize communities, further reversing past decisions in the housing and land use systems that exacerbated inequities and contributed to the disinvestment by race and income. With expertise in leveraging funds and a commitment to lifting up communities with the greatest

needs, community development is well-primed to address underlying factors that relate to both safety and early childhood development.

Given the power of partnerships, there is untapped potential for community development, early childhood, and violence prevention practitioners to work together toward shared goals. Although these three sectors^a have distinct approaches, their mandate and desired outcomes intersect. Multisector collaboration can help expand available resources, strategies, and capabilities to achieve outcomes that would be difficult to accomplish alone. This brief shares key findings and answers questions on what the community development sector does and how it relates to early childhood and violence prevention. Building on the overlap between the sectors, the brief puts forth what multi-sector collaboration could look like between the three sectors, including challenges, tips, potential shared outcomes, partner strengths, and examples of local joint strategies.

^a Note: In this brief, community development and early childhood, and violence prevention are referred to as individual sectors.

Methods: Drawing from the wisdom of practitioners

The questions answered and findings presented in this brief are based on a 2016 two-part peer learning forum with Prevention Institute’s UNITY City Network and the Center for the Study of Social Policy’s EC-LINC communities. The forum also included other partners such as Build Healthy Places Network – a network that supports collaboration across health and community development sectors. The peer learning forum was created as part of a planning grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on linking early childhood development and violence prevention efforts. In this project, Cradle to Community: A Focus on Community Safety and Healthy Child Development, community development emerged as an area of intersection. UNITY and EC-LINC network members expressed interest in informing community development investments, but were unsure how to proceed.

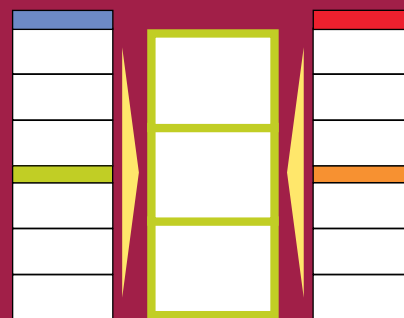
In the peer learning forum, Build Healthy Places Network presented on the community development sector and their work to support local collaboration between health and community development practitioners. Participants had the opportunity to share how they are starting to engage the sector and what challenges they face. Participants representing the three sectors generated ideas on what a partnership could look like to collectively prevent violence and support early childhood development. Using Prevention Institute’s **Collaboration Multiplier** framework and tool (see text box below), there was dialogue on each sector’s perspectives and the benefits of collaboration. Participants also discussed key opportunities, challenges, and next steps for partnership and potential joint strategies. This brief uses Collaboration Multiplier as a framework to present findings from the forum.

Collaboration Multiplier is designed to foster impactful partnerships and help identify strengths and gaps so that sectors can overcome the very real challenges of cross-sector collaboration. By understanding perspectives and benefits upfront, the tool and framework can facilitate communication and ensure each partner is fully engaged. In the first phase, titled “information gathering,” key information is collected about a sector to provide a snapshot for partners. In the second phase, the collaborative engages in a “Collaboration Multiplier analysis” to identify shared outcomes, partner strengths, and joint strategies.

1 Information Gathering

Blue	Light Blue	Green	Red	Orange

2 Collaboration Multiplier Analysis



The two phases of Collaboration Multiplier

For more information about Collaboration Multiplier, please visit: <https://www.preventioninstitute.org/tools/collaboration-multiplier>

Key Findings: Getting started with collaboration between the sectors

This section provides a brief overview of key findings, which are explained in further detail throughout the brief.

1. The community development sector works to transform physical, economic, and social neighborhood conditions in communities with concentrated poverty and disadvantage.

2. Community development is well-primed to address underlying factors that relate to both safety and early childhood development due to its expertise in leveraging funds and commitment to improving living conditions for communities that have historically experienced disinvestment.

3. There are a variety of challenges that early childhood and violence prevention practitioners face in engaging the community development sector. These range from not knowing who to contact, to navigating values and interests, to moving from an idea to action. Collaboration Multiplier is a tool to help participants understand underlying values of partners upfront and how to work together toward joint strategies, and can be helpful for navigating these challenges.

4. One shared outcome of all three sectors is economic development:

- a. Community developers aim to provide affordable housing, which can help ensure families have enough resources for food, early learning opportunities, healthcare, and other basic needs that support healthy, thriving children. The sector also helps create community facilities and builds infrastructure for local small businesses.

- b. Early childhood advocates work towards decreasing parental financial stress and increasing the resources parents can provide for their children, such as nutritious food, early learning opportunities, and healthcare. Those focused on building early childhood systems support and promote early childhood services, work to improve community policies that impact young children and their families, and in some cases, engage in economic development in ways that directly benefit families with young children.

- c. With neighborhood poverty and diminished economic opportunities as risk factors for violence, economic development is a goal that violence prevention practitioners also work toward.

5. When the three sectors collaborate the whole is greater than the sum of the parts, as they can:

- a. Holistically meet the needs of the community's most marginalized;
- b. Commit to more inclusive community engagement;
- c. Propagate a larger collective advocacy voice and expand partnerships; and
- d. Better support each other's roles in achieving social justice and equity.

6. Early childhood systems-builders, violence prevention professionals, and community developers can collaborate on a range of potential joint strategies to change community conditions that support safety and early childhood development.

Some examples include promoting community building in neighborhoods that face trauma, engaging and considering the needs of end users in community development, encouraging local investment, and developing neighborhood jobs.

Collaboration Multiplier Phase One

During the information gathering phase of Collaboration Multiplier, each partner learns about the other sectors. The following delineates key information about community development and how the sector relates to early child development and safety. It also discusses challenges and tips to engaging the sector. For a full information gathering grid featuring community development, early childhood and violence prevention practitioners, refer to Appendix B.



Photo credit: [cc Viktor Luis](#)

1. What is the community development sector?

The community development sector works to transform physical, economic, and social neighborhood conditions in communities with concentrated poverty and disadvantage. It was created as one component of re-engineering equity into land use, housing investments, and decisions. Past decisions made in the housing and land use systems, including top-down approaches to disinvest or demolish and rebuild, have produced inequities in communities based on race and income. For example, redlining created barriers to homeownership for people of color, contributing to residential segregation and undermining wealth accumulation by preventing them from buying homes in neighborhoods where home values would increase.

One barrier to effective multi-sector collaboration is the use of different terms and acronyms. Here are some common acronyms used by the community development sector:

CDCs: Community Development Corporations

CDFIs: Community Development Financial Institutions

CRA: Community Reinvestment Act

LIIF: Low Income Investment Fund

LISC: Local Initiatives Support Coalition

To support places where investment has been limited or declining for decades, the sector as a whole dedicates \$200 billion annually.^{1,2} These resources come in part due to the Community Reinvestment Act, which requires banks to invest in neighborhoods where they do business and there is concentrated disadvantage.^{3,4} Funds also come from Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, New Markets Tax Credit, Community Development Block Grants, and Community Development Financial Institutions. With these resources, the sector builds affordable housing, fosters small-business development, and finances community buildings such as childcare centers and health clinics. The graphic on page 8 summarizes some of community development's financing and activities.

“Community development really came to be as a sector to prevent and to reverse redlining that took place in the 50s and the 60s.”

– Community development practitioner

Diagram A: The community development sector and its role in development and financing for a range of community assets

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IS A SECTOR

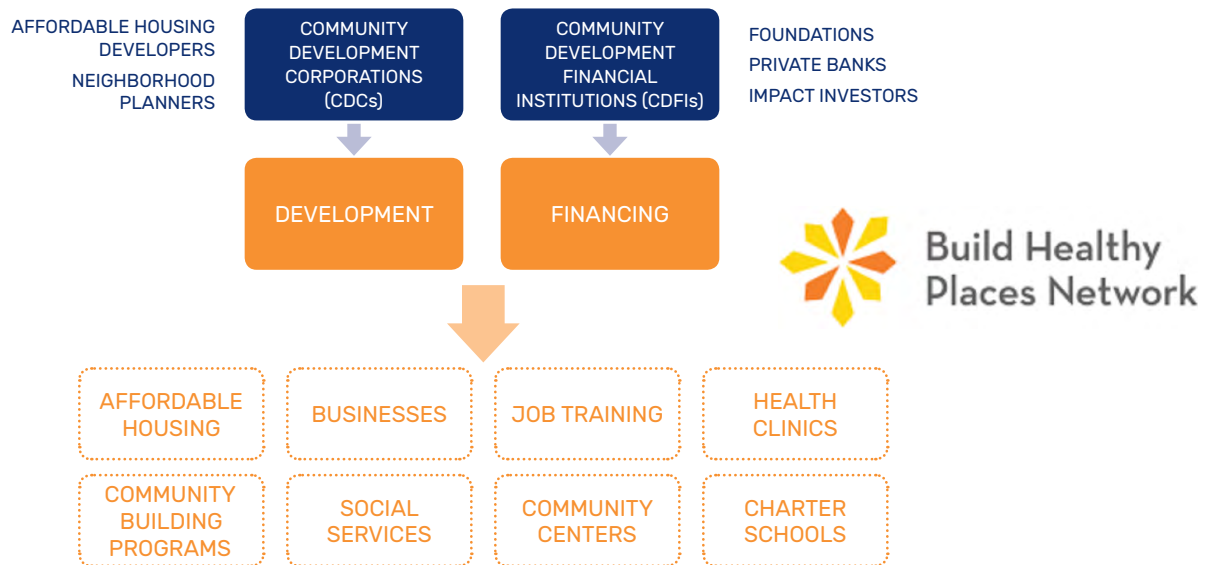


Photo credit: Build Healthy Places Network⁵

The following lists out key information about the community development sector to better understand, for example, what the sector does, who its audience is, and what it hopes to accomplish.

Mandate: To improve living conditions for communities who are underserved (typically communities of color and/or with low average household incomes) by changing physical/built, social, and economic environments.

Sample Organizations: Community Development Corporations and Community Development Financial Institutions are the main community development organizations. There are approximately 4,600 CDCs nationwide that are non-profit organizations focused on revitalizing their communities. CDCs have created 75,000 jobs,⁶ and as of 2010, they produce approximately 96,000 housing units annually.⁷ In addition, there are over 1,000 government-certified CDFIs – private, mission-driven financial intermediaries for community development projects.⁸ Examples of CDFIs include Low Income Investment Fund and Local Initiatives Support Coalition.

Expertise: Community development brings a strong understanding of place-based approaches, community revitalization, proficiency in real estate and land use regulations, and knowledge of how to access and leverage financial resources from multiple sources. The sector partners with a range of banks, policymakers and entrepreneurs to plan and implement capital construction projects. In addition to its business, land use, and financing acumen, community development has expertise in engaging communities in decision-making. Typically one-third of boards for Community Development Corporations are comprised of community residents.⁹

Activities: The sector’s activities include building affordable and safe housing; financing commercial space for small-businesses; childcare centers; schools and clinics; and providing workforce development and social services in and for neighborhoods with low average household incomes.

Audience: The primary audiences community development serves are communities with concentrated disadvantage.

Data: Community developers collect and examine a wide range of data that helps inform their work, including:

- Employment: unemployment rates, educational/skills requirements, wage rates, average household income, poverty rate
- Housing: housing burden/affordability, vacancy rate, tenure, foreclosure, housing quality data
- Education: high school graduation, educational attainment, testing scores, school enrollment, drop-out rate
- Built/Ambient environment: traffic/auto crashes, access to food retail, air quality
- Sociocultural: social cohesion, social capital/support, voting registration

Desired Outcomes: In its participation in multi-sector efforts, community development would like to see the following types of outcomes:

- Increased affordable and quality housing for communities most in need
- Increased residential stability
- Improved sense of community
- Increased number of jobs with a living wage
- Reduced unemployment rate
- Increased number of skilled workers
- Increased positive perceptions of the community as a place to establish a business and raise a family
- Increased economic activity within the community
- Decreased gaps in academic and employment opportunities (e.g. by race or ethnicity)
- Increased social services available in the community
- Improved safety and perceptions of safety

2. How does the community development sector relate to early childhood development and community safety?

a) How does community development affect early childhood development?

Since community development aims to improve the lives of communities that are underserved, the sector has a role in supporting stability for families and their young children. Families with low household income levels are disproportionately exposed to multiple and persistent adversities that affect children's health,



Photo credit: [First 5 Alameda County](#)

Housing stability can indirectly promote parental resilience and positive parenting.

Community-level Resilience Factors for Safety

Resilience factors promote safety and are protective against violence even in the presence of risk factors. The following are related to the functions or interests of the community development sector:

- Community design that promotes safety
- Coordination of resources and services among community agencies
- Residential stability
- Community support and connectedness

Community-level Risk Factors for Violence

Risk factors increase the likelihood that community violence will occur. Addressing the following is related to the functions or interests of the community development sector:

- Neighborhood poverty
- Diminished economic opportunities/high unemployment rates
- Poor neighborhood support and cohesion
- Weak housing policies and laws
- Community deterioration
- Residential segregation and instability
- Poor quality housing, including toxins such as lead
- Alcohol outlet density

development, and wellbeing. These include unsafe neighborhoods, housing stability, environmental hazards, and food insecurity.^{10,11,12} Community development's activities such as providing safe and affordable housing options, workforce development, and social services can decrease the burdens and stress families face. Stability from efforts such as affordable housing can result in mental health benefits for adults and children, and decreased financial stress means families are better

able to allocate more resources to necessities such as childcare, healthy food, healthcare, and other expenditures that positively affect the health of families and young children.^{13,14} Decreasing financial stress not only provides more material resources, but also supports parental resilience and positive parenting.¹⁵

b) How does community development affect community safety?

Underlying community conditions, such as the availability of affordable and stable housing, economic opportunities, and social networks, increase safety.

Due to its role in improving community environments, the community development sector can promote resilience factors associated with safety and address risk factors related to multiple forms of violence. For instance, the sector's efforts to integrate affordable housing into mixed-income communities hold promise for increasing social networks and reducing community violence.¹⁶ Affordable housing can also help revitalize a neighborhood producing benefits such as jobs, further local purchasing power, and improved neighborhood quality. This, in turn, can decrease risk factors associated with violence such as neighborhood poverty and diminished economic opportunities,¹⁷ and improve safety over time.

3. What are some ways to overcome challenges practitioners face in engaging the community development sector?

Challenge: Building multisector partnerships is tough and it is not always clear who to reach out to in another sector.

When early childhood and violence prevention practitioners want to build relationships with community developers and other land use professionals, the first step is to figure out who to connect with. Unfortunately, this is not always a straightforward process and requires time to both find the right people to work with and develop trusting relationships.

- **Try this:** Build Healthy Places Network offers a resource on their website called [Partner Finder](#),^b a collection of directories to find new community partners including local Community Development

^b Partner Finder: www.buildhealthyplaces.org/partners

Table 1: Each sector’s mandate and expertise/assets

	Community Development	Early Childhood	Violence Prevention
Mandate	Improve the living conditions for underserved communities by changing physical/built, social, and economic environments.	Ensure all young children and their families are thriving, healthy and ready to learn.	Promote community safety and reduce violence (including shootings and killings) by addressing risk and resilience factors, particularly at the community level.
Expertise/ Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement • Business acumen and ability to leverage funds from multiple sources • Partnerships with a range of banks, policymakers, and entrepreneurs • Place-based approaches • Community revitalization • Knowledge of real estate and equitable land use system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of relationships and social emotional development • Life course perspective of development from early childhood to adulthood • Systems thinking • Brain science and understanding of the impact of trauma/ACEs • Strengths-based approaches • Policy appeal – young children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and resilience factors • Linking multiple forms of violence • Understanding of violence as rooted in inequities • Access to violence data • Partnerships across sectors • Relationships within the community • Comprehensive, long-term strategic approach • Violence as preventable and beyond suppression and enforcement • Understanding of trauma

Refer to Appendix B for a full Phase I Grid.

“We have great connections with community development organizations, but we have struggled moving from conceptual commitment to meaningful ACTION.”

–Violence Prevention Practitioner

Corporations who largely represent the sector. Other groups to try and engage include official city land-use advisory groups such as neighborhood planning committees and local recreation councils.

Challenge: Navigating each sector’s values and interests can pose difficulties. Each sector values different things and has priorities that may not match the directions of another sector. This is especially true and complex when working within public-private partnerships. For example, figuring out how to support housing development’s resident service coordinators in responding in trauma-informed ways may be a challenge when they also are balancing requirements related to property management.

- **Try this:** Using [Collaboration Multiplier](#) as a tool is one way to get at understanding the underlying values of partners upfront. Filling in an information gathering grid can lay the groundwork for a collaborative conversation on how the community development sector’s mandate and practices affect safety and early childhood outcomes, as well as how the three sectors can work together. The table on page eight provides a quick glimpse at each sector’s mandate and expertise/assets, and **Appendix B** features a full information gathering grid of how community development, early childhood, and violence prevention practitioners each define their sectors.

Challenge: Moving from an idea to implementation can be difficult. Once practitioners in different sectors have built rapport and developed a joint idea, it can be challenging to put it into action.

- **Try this:** While never simple, planning and having detailed conversations with partners about what is possible and how strategies correspond to desired outcomes can help propel partnerships from an idea to action. These conversations can help identify shared priorities, lend support for partner efforts, and identify potential resources and expertise.

Collaboration Multiplier Phase Two

Once practitioners in each sector have a better understanding of one another’s mandates, assets and activities, they can move into a dialogue on shared outcomes, partner strengths and potential joint strategies through a Collaboration Multiplier Analysis. The following section addresses each of these. See Appendix C for a summarized Collaboration Multiplier Analysis for the three sectors.

4. Shared outcomes: What might engage the community development sector in improving early childhood and community safety shared outcomes? What can we achieve together?

There are a range of shared outcomes that community development, early childhood and community safety sectors could be interested in based on their collective mandates and expertise. The Phase II Collaboration Multiplier Analysis Grid on the next page lists out examples of shared outcomes that could be accomplished together.



Photo credit: [cc Green Jobs Now](#)

The three sectors are driven to improve economic conditions and increase economic opportunities, including employment.

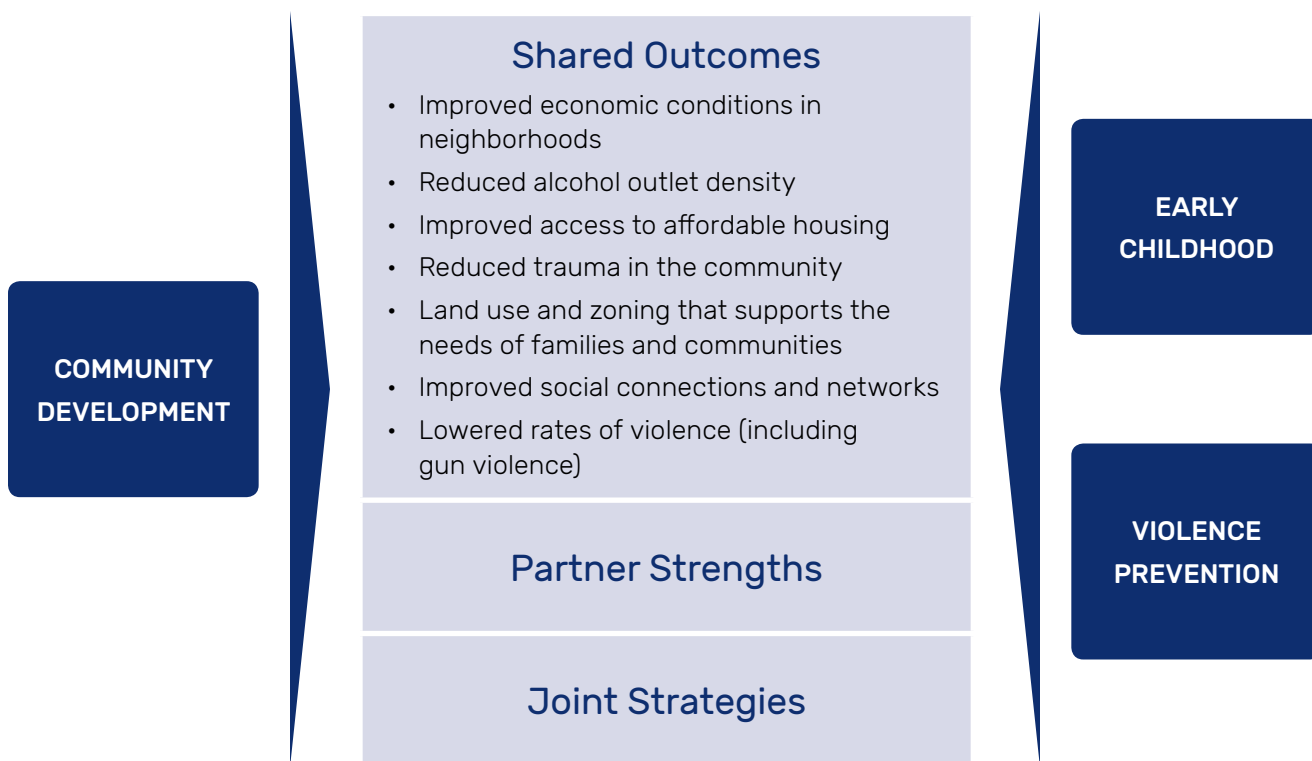
One example of a shared outcome is improved economic conditions in neighborhoods. Early childhood service providers work towards increasing parental resilience by decreasing financial stress and increasing resources for families, such as nutritious food and healthcare. Those focused on building early childhood systems work to improve community policies that impact young children and their families and in some cases engage in economic development in ways that directly benefit families with young children. Community developers aim to provide affordable housing which can help ensure families have enough resources for food and other basic needs that support thriving children. As well, the sector helps create community facilities, including childcare centers, and build infrastructure for local small businesses. With neighborhood poverty and diminished economic opportunities as risk

“Economic development is an essential outcome for early childhood and generational approaches. Supporting parents to find quality employment reduces parental stress.”

-Early childhood practitioner

factors for violence, economic development is a goal that violence prevention practitioners also work toward. In focusing on economic opportunities, violence prevention practitioners may emphasize jobs and support mechanisms for people who are at the greater risk for violence (victimization or perpetration), such as those who have had previous involvement in the criminal justice system.

Diagram B: Collaboration Multiplier analysis grid with examples of shared outcomes



Community development, early childhood and violence prevention sectors each interact with different members of a community and can together engage a wider range of partners and community members... More inclusive community engagement can help ensure strategies meet and prioritize the needs of those who are often excluded from community dialogues.

5. Partner strengths: What is the added value of the sectors coming together

Each partner brings assets to the table. Together the community development, early childhood and violence prevention sectors can improve the conditions of communities. **The following are examples of why the whole is greater than the sum of the parts when the three sectors collaborate:**

- **By coming together, the three sectors can more holistically meet the needs of communities that have been most marginalized.** The sectors collectively bring skills, perspectives, and approaches that can better meet the community's needs. Community development brings substantial resources and strategies that can impact the look, feel, and use of an entire street, block, or neighborhood. Early childhood and violence prevention sectors both understand the impact of trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences⁶ and, increasingly, ways to mitigate the impact. Not only do early childhood practitioners know what is needed to buffer adversities and build resilience, but because

they examine issues across the life course, they understand long-term impacts. On the other hand, violence prevention offers perspectives on over-criminalization of substance use/abuse and mental health problems, and has specific strategies to keep streets and neighborhoods safe. With each sector offering specialized expertise, the three can work together to holistically meet the needs of communities' most marginalized, whether it is prioritizing which communities are most in need, ensuring young children have the conditions to develop optimally, or gaining access to safe and affordable housing.

- **Partnership between the sectors fosters a commitment to more inclusive community engagement.** Community development, early childhood and violence prevention sectors each interact with different members of a community and can together engage a wider range of partners and community members. For instance, early childhood practitioners bring the voices of families who can share insight on the ways in which young children interact with their environments. This can inform developers in creating physical spaces in a way that support play and exploration. In contrast, violence prevention has ties to people at higher risk of violence— such as young men who did not graduate from high school or those previously incarcerated, and community development interacts with those living in affordable housing developments. More inclusive community engagement can help ensure strategies meet and prioritize the needs of those who are often excluded from community dialogues.
- **Collaboration can help propagate a larger collective advocacy voice and expand partnerships.** While fully resourcing early childhood needs can remain a challenge, early childhood can bring emotional appeal at a policy level by focusing on young children. At the same time, the violence

⁶ The ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Study is one of the largest analyses of early experiences and exposures and later health and life outcomes. To learn more visit <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/>

prevention sector has the strong advocacy voices of survivors of violence. With an amplified and united voice, practitioners across the sectors can advocate jointly for shared outcomes. Together, they have access to additional partners and sectors such as residents, schools, law enforcement, city planners, and community associations. Also, in making the case, they have the collective ability to better tailor their messaging for common solutions to various audiences and stakeholders.

- **The sectors can better support each other's roles in achieving social justice and equity.**

Community development has moved away from the notion of urban renewal which consisted of top-down approaches to demolish and rebuild. Instead, with roots and interests in social justice, the sector is focused on developing communities that face vast disinvestment. Early childhood has ties and interests related to social welfare and social services, as well as an emergent interest in social equity and justice. Violence prevention is undergoing a shift in perspectives from predominantly criminal justice approaches to increased interest toward social justice, racial equity and public health approaches. As the three sectors evolve, working together they can strengthen their roles in social justice toward achieving equity and addressing the trauma that communities and families face.

“We will never be able to make our communities safe without making them equitable and without healing trauma.”

– Violence prevention practitioner

Opportunity: Build off each sector's commitment to social justice to support development without displacement.

Early childhood and violence prevention practitioners are concerned about displacement and want to ensure that communities are being developed and invested in without dislocating residents. Given community developers' commitment to improving living conditions in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty, the sector is grappling with displacement as an unintended consequence of their efforts. There are opportunities for early childhood practitioners to share how displacement can lead to the loss of support systems and destabilize families. Violence prevention practitioners can explain how residential instability can increase the risk of violence, and those displaced are often facing multiple social adversities. Together the three sectors can build off of their social justice values and take on the issue facing communities across the country. Ideally, community development investments (and early childhood and violence prevention work) can actually bolster community resilience against displacement.

- **Try this:** In doing neighborhood revitalization work, it is critical to invest in healthy community development without displacement and have prevention protections proactively in place. This means considering unintended consequences throughout efforts and actively engaging community residents. Also, the three sectors can add value to multi-sector coalitions/networks already working on displacement prevention. Locate and join local groups already working to address displacement. Check out Prevention Institute's Healthy Development without Displacement publication for additional information.

6. Joint Strategies: What are some of the promising areas for joint work?

Understanding the shared outcomes and added value of working together, early childhood practitioners, violence prevention professionals and community developers can collaborate on potential joint strategies. There are a range of initial directions for collaborative strategies, which are listed below. While most of these examples are provided as concrete programmatic efforts, each can include policy and systems change efforts to scale up what works.

People: changing the sociocultural environment

- **Plan with community for community.** When residents are part of the planning process, it increases the likelihood that spaces will be designed for them and maximized for the intended use. Coordinating engagement efforts across the three sectors can help reduce duplication of work and honor community residents' time and efforts. It can also mitigate mistrust from past failed initiatives and broken promises. Projects are more likely to move forward without a public fight, and plans are more likely to attract outside dollars, when they both represent the community's desires, culture, and articulated needs. Engaged community members also provide local insight so that neighborhood revitalization efforts address community safety concerns through a focus on violence prevention, not solely crime prevention.^d Reducing arrests and citations for minor violations, increasing civic engagement and community connections, and promoting a sense of ownership for public spaces can also be created with resident engagement.²⁰
- **Promote community building in neighborhoods that experience trauma.** Trauma-Informed Community Building (TICB) addresses the challenges of traditional community building by taking into account residents' emotional needs and recognizing the impact of pervasive trauma on a community.²¹ BRIDGE Housing, an affordable housing developer

“These strategies are great and they align with a major theme we’ve been discussing – strategies that build communities economically and in terms of infrastructure and at the same time build community cohesion/human connections.”

– Early childhood practitioner

based in San Francisco, CA recognizes the need for trauma-informed community building in their developments. Their TICB approach concurrently improves the physical/built environment through redevelopment efforts and the sociocultural environment, by creating safe spaces and building community connection. BRIDGE Housing looks at community level data and empowers residents to address and change systems that impact them. They host listening sessions to understand what residents want, the strengths of their communities, and how residents envision their futures in their homes. Then, they offered accessible opportunities such as walking clubs, Zumba, and community gardens with the goal of building community. These activities support families so they can care for their young children, promote safety, and address community trauma.

Place: Changing the physical/built environment

- **Promote land use and housing design strategies that support optimal child development and safety.** Community development, early childhood, and violence prevention practitioners can focus on efforts such as greening common spaces, increasing open spaces with lighting, and creating new parks. Land use and the physical appearance of the built environment affect how young children are able to interact with their environments, learn, play, and develop. When

^d For more information on the differences between crime and violence and distinguishing the two matters, refer to Prevention Institute's publication titled Community Safety by Design: Preventing Violence through Land Use. <https://www.preventioninstitute.org/publications/community-safety-design>

families and communities have spaces to interact, it promotes community connectedness. It also impacts the likelihood of violence and feelings of safety.²²

- **Reduce alcohol outlet density and access to alcohol.** Neighborhoods with a higher density of bars and alcohol outlets, such as convenience and liquor stores, have higher rates of violence— including child maltreatment.^{23,24} Violence in the home and community impacts young children and their development. Local communities can engage sectors, including planning and zoning and the business sector, to employ multiple strategies to reduce neighborhood alcohol density and apply tools and strategies in the work they already do to reduce the risk of violence. For example, California’s law of Public Convenience or Necessity allows local governments to determine whether particular types of licenses, including licenses for selling alcoholic beverages in certain areas, serve the public benefit.
- **Remove lead and environmental triggers from homes and other buildings.** Lead has been shown to affect the brains of young children, and long term consequences of lead poisoning can include behaviors associated with violence— aggression, impulse control issues, and other learning and behavioral problems.²⁵ In support of early childhood development, partners can also consider reducing asthma triggers in the home. Asthma is linked to school absences and loss of parental income.^{26,27}

“Young children interact with their environment differently than older children and adults, so we consider these differences when creating community spaces.”

– Early childhood practitioner

Equitable Opportunity: Improving the economic and educational environment

- **Encourage local investment and neighborhood job development to improve economic opportunities and the built environment.** One way cities are promoting local investment and jobs is through local hire ordinances. For example, the City of Seattle passed a priority hire ordinance in 2015 that requires city construction projects over \$5 million to have a certain percent of hours performed by workers from lower income zip codes.²⁸ Another way communities are promoting local investment is through Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) – public–private partnerships created by local businesses and property owners to invest in activities to enhance an area’s appeal, use, and safety. In Los Angeles, BIDs have found a decline in violence and substantial economic benefits, making them a sustainable prevention strategy.²⁹ By combining resources, business and property owners can pay for services they may not be able to afford on their own, such as street cleaning, security, community events, and green spaces. Through BIDs, businesses can also hire formerly incarcerated individuals and offer employment services. These strategies not only contribute to safer communities and better local economies, but can also boost the retention, productivity, and morale of current employees, while increasing recruitment of potential employees as communities improve. Such improvements can thereby play a role in decreasing community and family stress about safety and finances. Communities can start small with a few activities and partners, and build momentum and the relationships needed to create a BID.
- **Prevent housing discrimination and help families stay together by ensuring fair, stable, and affordable housing options are available and advocating for protections.** For example, the sectors can work with local housing authorities to implement the Fair Housing Act and push back against the local practice of applying Section 8 restrictions.

There is a widely held belief that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) banned people with felony convictions from living in Section 8 voucher and/or public housing programs. HUD has recently clarified that this was not federal policy, but local public housing authority discretion. When local housing authorities bar people with felony convictions, families involved with the criminal justice system face additional barriers to residential stability. This affects family structures and impacts individuals with felony convictions or outstanding warrants and their children. Without appropriate supports, people returning from incarceration are at a higher risk for recidivism, including violence and other crime.³⁰ Stable and affordable housing is important in its own right, and can also be the foundation for successful re-entry and reintegration, as well as a pathway for other opportunities, such as stable education, job training, and employment.³¹

Opportunity: Use a lens of safety and early childhood in community development. As development takes place, planners and community developers can consider the impact of their design on early childhood development and safety. Violence prevention and early childhood practitioners can advocate for local housing and community development agencies to consider the impact of their initiatives on early childhood and violence prevention. For example, designing for social connections in a neighborhood is associated with reducing violence and offers opportunities for young children to interact with each other and their environments. A more formal way groups have been going about adding a health lens is through Health Impact Assessments (HIAs). These are public health tools and process to rigorously analyze the potential impacts—positive and negative—that a proposed action, plan, policy, or project could have on health in order to support informed decision-making. The tool and process are gaining momentum in community development. For example, Georgia Health Policy Center asked developers to explicitly integrate health considerations into applications for the 2015 Georgia Qualified Allocation Plan for low-income housing tax credits. The sectors can leverage HIA opportunities currently in existence to ensure safety and child development considerations are on the table. As well, together the sectors can defend public data collection and public access to data in order to properly analyze the equity impacts of land use decisions and investments.



Picturing Peace is part of the Youth Violence Prevention program at the Minneapolis Health Department in partnership with the Downtown Improvement District.

First 5 Alameda County (F5AC) is focused on place-based approaches to strengthen families and community environments for both optimal child development and community safety.

Through a partnership with Castlemont Renaissance, a Purpose Built Community focuses on community development in the Castlemont neighborhood of East Oakland, CA. F5AC brings their early childhood programming together with Castlemont Renaissance’s housing, career opportunities, and educational links, to connect families coming into F5AC’s system of care with housing resources and career opportunities. F5AC is also partnering with the local housing authority, youth-serving organizations, the police department, public health, and other agencies to support neighborhood-based, resident-led initiatives. For example, they are working with Youth Uprising in the Castlemont neighborhood, a group focused on developing youth leadership to create a safe, healthy, and economically robust community, as well as Best Baby Zone in the same neighborhood—an initiative dedicated to supporting parents and engaging community in improving neighborhood conditions.



Photo credit: First 5 Alameda County

Room to Bloom is First 5 Alameda County’s family resource center that offers a safe space for families to drop in, socialize with others, and play with their children. It helps promote safety, connectedness, and inclusion.

Conclusion

The fields of early childhood and community safety are increasingly interested in improving community conditions as a mechanism to advance child development and safety outcomes. With a desire to engage in more place-based work, the community development sector is an ideal partner to jointly promote social connectedness, stable and safe built environments, and economic opportunity. There are also opportunities to form partnership with other sectors concerned with community conditions.

Collaboration Multiplier offers communities a framework and tool to begin conversations about what each sector does or needs, and how a collaborative can take action to achieve common goals. Laying a foundation for collaboration, it can help sectors understand each other’s strengths and work toward comprehensive, multi-sector efforts. In an environment where sectors and efforts are fragmented and prevention is not a focus, the ability to bring together resources and expertise can help efficiently and effectively achieve optimal outcomes for all young children, families, and communities.

CRADLE TO COMMUNITY: A FOCUS ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

was a national partnership project of Prevention Institute and the Center for the Study of Social Policy, supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. With the UNITY City Network (Urban Networks Increase Thriving Youth) and Early Childhood LINC, the project identified strategic policy, practice, systems, and norms change levers to make communities safer so that all children have the opportunity to develop optimally.

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Appendix A: Active Peer Learning Forum Participants

The following individuals participated in the Peer Learning Forum that informed this brief. The list below was drawn from the text chat of the forum in which participants actively engaged with each other during the sessions.

Adrienne Smith-White, East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation

Aimee Reedy, Santa Clara County Public Health

Ana Bonilla, Prevention Institute

Brenda Lory, Plumas Early Education and Child Care Council

Bronwen White, Boston Public Health Commission

Dan Tomsy, Global IPS, San Diego

Erin Fairchild, Multnomah County DV Coordinator's Office

Jessica Monge Coria & Janaya Nichols, First 5 LA

Julie Leung, Prevention Institute

Karen Roddie, Communities In Schools of Chicago

Khalilah Collins, New Orleans, Public Health Department

Lindsay Kadlec, The Children's Center, Detroit

Lisa Erickson, First 5 Alameda County

Luz Castellanos, LAUP, Los Angeles

Maggie Litgen, Health & Medicine Policy Research Center

Mia Kirk, Build Healthy Places Network

Michael Bochnovic, Center for the Study of Social Policy

Rebecca Levin, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Strengthening Chicago's Youth

Stephanie Hausen, Alliance of Local Service Organizations, Chicago

Vernita Gutierrez, Planned Parenthood

Whitney Taylor, Public Health - Seattle & King County

Appendix B: Collaboration Multiplier Phase I Information Gathering Grid

The content in this grid was initially developed by Prevention Institute, with feedback from the Center for the Study of Social Policy and Build Healthy Places

Network. The Phase I Grid was then introduced to participants at the peer learning forum to gain further feedback, and edited to better reflect each sector.

	Community Development	Early Childhood	Violence Prevention
Mandate	Improve the living conditions for underserved communities by changing physical/built, social, and economic environments.	Ensure all young children and their families are thriving, healthy and ready to learn.	Promote community safety and reduce violence (including shootings and killings) by addressing risk and resilience factors, particularly at the community level.
Expertise/Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement • Business acumen and ability to leverage funds from multiple sources • Partnerships with a range of banks, policymakers, and entrepreneurs • Place-based approaches • Community revitalization • Knowledge of real estate and equitable land use system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of relationships and social emotional development • Life course perspective of development from early childhood to adulthood • Systems thinking • Brain science and understanding of the impact of trauma/ACEs • Strengths-based approaches • Policy appeal – young children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk and resilience factors • Linking multiple forms of violence • Understanding of violence as rooted in inequities • Access to violence data • Partnerships across sectors • Relationships within the community • Comprehensive, long-term strategic approach • Violence as preventable and beyond suppression and enforcement • Understanding of trauma

Appendix B: Collaboration Multiplier Phase I Information Gathering Grid, continued

	Community Development	Early Childhood	Violence Prevention
Activities	<p>In areas with low average household incomes, community development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds affordable and safe homes • Finances commercial space for small-businesses, childcare centers, schools and clinics • Provides workforce development and social services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early childhood education • Family support and strengthening programs • Developmental screenings • Healthcare (including mental health) and social services • Maternal and family health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address risk and resilience factors • Street interrupters • Build youth leadership and connect youth to training and employment opportunities • Land use strategies including greening vacant lots and reducing alcohol outlet density • Policies and practices to improve school climates • Engaging men and boys to shift gender norms • Policies and programs to reduce mass incarceration
Audience	Communities with low average household incomes	Children 0-5 and their families	All residents and visitors within a community, particularly in areas highly impacted by violence
Sample Data	Housing, employment, and education data	School readiness, social emotional outcomes, maternal health outcomes	Safety, school, risk factors, resilience factors, crime data

Appendix B: Collaboration Multiplier Phase I Information Gathering Grid, continued

	Community Development	Early Childhood	Violence Prevention
Desired outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reverse disinvestment • Stable, affordable and quality housing for communities most in need • Sense of community • Increased number of jobs with a living wage • Increased number of skilled workers • Increased economic activity within the community • Decreased gaps in academic and employment opportunities by race, ethnicity, and other factors • Increased social services available in the community • Improved safety and perceptions of safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive early childhood physical, social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes • Children are free from abuse and neglect • Parents and caregivers are healthy, connected, and feel supported • Community conditions allow for children to optimally develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased violence-related injury, re-injury, death, and trauma • Improved safety and perceptions of safety in the community • Changed community conditions • Reduced arrest and incarceration rates • Increased employment for young people

Appendix C: Collaboration Multiplier Phase II Analysis Grid



Additional Resources

[Products from the Cradle to Community project](#): This 2016–2017 project included the development of briefs and profiles to support practice on topics such as changing systems, norms and outcomes for fathers, addressing adverse community experiences, and more.

[Community Safety by Design](#): This Prevention Institute publication explores the nexus of land use and neighborhood safety and analyzes the implications of the current state of practice.

[Collaboration Multiplier](#): This framework and tool is designed to guide an organization to a better understanding of which partners it needs and how to engage them.

[Multi-Sector Partnerships for Preventing Violence: A Guide for Using Collaboration Multiplier to Improve Safety Outcomes for Young People, Communities and Cities](#): Using Collaboration Multiplier, this guide clarifies the roles and contributions of 10 sectors and 12 departments to maximize the benefits of collaboration and effectively prevent violence.

[Safety in All Policies: A Brief on Engaging the Housing and Community Development Sector in Preventing Violence in California](#): This Prevention Institute brief focuses on the housing and community development sector and describes seven recommended actions at the local level and potential roles for the California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency and the California State Legislature in support of local efforts.

[Healthy, Equitable and Active Land Use \(HEALU\) Network](#): Facilitated by Prevention Institute, HEALU Network identifies key ‘levers’ of opportunity to fundamentally shift land use planning practices so they promote health equity in the first place.

[Healthy Development Without Displacement: Realizing the Vision of Healthy Communities for All](#): In this paper, Prevention Institute explores: What can people working on “healthy community” issues—like active transportation, parks, healthy food, planning, public health, healthcare, and more—do in their own work to improve community conditions without contributing to gentrification and displacement?

[Affordable Housing as a Platform for Improving Family Well-Being: Federal Funding and Policy Opportunities](#): This CSSP brief focuses on the connection between housing and family well-being, discusses the role that federal policy has played in the past and can play in the future to create places where all families can thrive and provides examples of how communities are leveraging existing federal resources to advance local efforts.

[A Handbook for Using Community Decision-Making to Improve the Lives of Children, Youth and Families](#): In this handbook, CSSP shares lessons learned about what it takes to be successful at community decision-making and offers tools and guidance to help communities create meaningful and sustainable change at the neighborhood level.

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- Center for the Study of Social Policy: Stephanie Doyle and Gayle Samuels

- East Bay Asian Local Development Center: Adrienne Smith-White
- First 5 Alameda County: Lisa Erickson and Lisa Forti
- Prevention Institute: Rachel Bennett, Ruben Cantu, Dana Fields Johnson, Ali Goodyear, and Kaly Suarez

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CRADLE TO COMMUNITY: A FOCUS ON COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT was a national partnership project of Prevention Institute and the Center for the Study of Social Policy, supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. With the UNITY City Network and Early Childhood LINC, the project identified strategic policy, practice, systems, and

norms change levers to make communities safer so that all children have the opportunity to develop optimally. The project also identified policies and practices to strengthen early childhood development as a strategy to foster safer communities in the long-term. Activities included convenings, a learning lab, peer learning forums, technical assistance, and the development of briefs, fact sheets, and profiles to support practice. The 18 month planning grant laid the foundation for critical work at the intersection of healthy child development and community safety, all in service to a Culture of Health.

PREVENTION INSTITUTE is a focal point for primary prevention, dedicated to fostering health, safety, and equity by taking action to build resilience and to prevent problems in the first place. A national nonprofit with offices in Oakland, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C., we advance strategies, provide training and technical assistance, transform research into practice, and support collaboration across sectors to embed prevention and equity in all practices and policies. Since its founding in 1997, Prevention Institute has focused on transforming communities by advancing community prevention, health equity, injury and violence prevention, healthy eating and active living environments, health system transformation, and mental health and wellbeing.

UNITY, a [Prevention Institute](#) initiative, builds community safety in cities through comprehensive, multi-sector strategies that prevent violence and support community resilience. By supporting practice and innovation, UNITY has been collectively advancing the field and shifting the paradigm on community violence and what cities can do about it since 2005.

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL POLICY (CSSP) is a national, nonprofit organization recognized for its leadership in shaping policy, reforming public systems and building the capacity of communities. CSSP's mission is to secure equal opportunities and better futures for all children and families. The organization works to ensure that children and youth are born healthy; enter school ready to learn and succeed; and grow up in safe, supported, and economically successful families and communities. CSSP especially focuses on those who face the most significant barriers to opportunity, including racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants and refugees, families in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty, and families in contact with intervening public systems.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING AND INNOVATION NETWORK FOR COMMUNITIES (EC-LINC), an initiative of the [Center for the Study of Social Policy](#), was developed by and for local communities across the country, and works to support families and improve results for young children through accelerating the development of effective, integrated, local early childhood systems.

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URBAN NETWORKS TO
INCREASE THRIVING YOUTH
UNITY
through Violence Prevention

**EC
LINC**
EARLY CHILDHOOD
LEARNING & INNOVATION
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