## CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND ACTION COUNCIL **PATHWAY TO CHANGE**



MISSION STATEMENT: The CDF Action Council advances child well-being through grassroots lobbying, advocating for child-centered policies, and holding elected officials publicly accountable for supporting those policies.

- Assumptions · Children and youth are the voices of authority on their life and circumstances
  - Power lives in communities and our work is grounded in deploying the power of community
- In order to build a movement, you must invest in your base. (No Base, No Movement)
- · Child well-being, racial justice, and democracy are intertwined, mutually reinforcing, and co-dependent
- The democraphics of today's children reflect the demographics of the future and the political landscape
- · Political power is not distributed equally or

Children have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy

**EQUITY** 

			reinforcing, and co-dependent		equitably among all spaces		
	STRUCTURAL RACISM		ACISM W	HITE SUPREMACY	Z RESURGEN	RESURGENCE OF SOCIAL ACTIVIS	
CONDITIONS		DEPENDENCE ON TECHNOLOGY GLOBAL				N	
		SINGLE-ISSUE FOCUS		SHIFTING DEMO	GRAPHICS	HYPER-POLARIZATION	
Assets	<b>Outputs</b>	Strategy Screens	Capacities Influenced	Arenas Changed	Population Results	<b>&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	Impact on Children & Youth
Alex Haley Farm Spiritual Retreat and Training Center	Partnership building	Leverage CDF's competitive advantage	Youth, parents, and child advocates equipped to mobilize for systems change	Shifting investments to public health as public safety	Inergenerational economic mobility	<b>&gt;&gt;</b>	Children & Youth are thriving (growing and developing in stage-appropriate ways)
CDF State Offices	Political and public narrative shifting  Targeted legislative	Delivers tangible benefits to children of color, demonstrated with credible data and disaggregated by race	Increased youth, parents, and child advocates contact with policymakers	Policymakers center and prioritize child well-being in the policies they create	Community power and influence to create circumstances for all children to thrive, especially those most marginalized		
Policy Council  Civil Rights  Legacy	Targeted electoral activity and candidate endorsements		Politically activated network for young adults	People in traditional authority are more reflective of the marginalized population	Increase in active civic participation for young people		Children & Youth have the resources
Access to CDF's consituency database of 750k	Targeted community or ganizing and power	Capitalizes on or creates opportunities for strategic partnerships	Political agenda for child well-being adopted by policymakers that's authorized by children, youth, and families of color	Child well-being, racial justice, and democracy are received by policymakers as intertwined,	Reduction of children entering the child welfare and juvenile justice systems	<b>&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	they need to grow into successful adults
CDF Alumni Network	Place-based capacity building	Builds capacity within communities of care for children and youth	Strengthened multi-sector networks to advance collective action	mutually reinforcing, and co-dependent	Children are physically, socially, emotionally, and cognitively ready for kindergarten		Children, especially Black and brown children, can enjoy
	development  Well established Legislative Report Card for Congress on child well-being				Adolescents are prepared to navigate transitions into college, work, and /or the world		being children