

# Community Collaboration for Children's Success

## Top East Palo Alto Issues

1. **Housing costs, high cost of living, and lack of living wage job opportunities**
2. **Lack of adult support** (often due to parents needing to work multiple jobs and dealing with long commutes) and safe spaces
3. **Lack of community empowerment + inclusion, esp. in decision-making / Structural + institutional racism** (esp. related to educational and career opportunities and interactions with law enforcement)
4. **Mismatch between current educational environment and what children + youth need to learn and succeed academically** (from early childhood education to post-secondary)
5. **Dealing with past and current trauma without adequate support and/or culturally responsive opportunities for healing** (or to learn healthy coping mechanisms)

## Top East Palo Alto Strategies

Type of Strategy	Top Strategies to Support Children + Youth in East Palo Alto
 <b>Tier 1 Strategies</b> Ensuring that all children, youth, and families live in safe, healthy, and supportive environments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Expand living wage job opportunities using both policies and programming</b> (e.g., increase minimum wage, mandate paid time off, provide opportunities for low-wage earners to develop skills and networks to get higher-paying jobs).</li> <li>2. <b>Expand implementation of "housing first" approach to keep vulnerable families housed</b> (e.g., with a focus on Transitional Age Youth and families with minor children).</li> <li>3. <b>Provide mental/behavioral health support at schools for students and staff</b> (e.g., support for teachers in developing/implementing behavior plans for students; professional development opportunities for teachers related to trauma) <b>and revise pre-K-12 school policies and practices to keep students in class and learning</b></li> <li>4. <b>Expand alternatives to incarceration especially for transition age youth and the parents/caregivers of children under 18</b> (e.g., community service instead of detention or GPS monitoring) <b>and increase efforts to ensure that defendants understand their rights and the legal process.</b></li> <li>5. <b>Strengthen connections between school staff, students, and parents/caregivers.</b></li> <li>6. <b>Increase positive interactions between community members and law enforcement</b> (e.g., community meetings, opportunities for children to meet officers, having officers prioritize de-escalation) <b>AND eliminate police not accountable to EPA residents.</b></li> </ol>
 <b>Tier 2 Strategies</b> Building resilient children + youth by expanding developmental assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. <b>Expand the existence and operating hours of safe, affordable/free places, programs, and activities specifically for youth and families with children</b> (especially involving arts and culture).</li> <li>8. <b>Expand culturally responsive opportunities for children, youth, and parents/caregivers that help them heal from trauma, develop healthy coping mechanisms</b> (e.g., meditation/mindfulness, evidence-based curricula to teach social-emotional skills and self-regulation), <b>and strengthen their sense of belonging to a broader community.</b></li> </ol>
 <b>Tier 3 Strategies</b> Providing targeted support to address unmet needs at key ages	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. <b>Expand subsidized child care for low-income families (including for infants and toddlers, and with expanded and/or nontraditional hours).</b></li> <li>10. <b>Increase resources available to undocumented youth and families</b> (especially related to careers, entrepreneurship, and higher education).</li> <li>11. <b>Ensure/expand trauma-informed culturally appropriate re-entry care/services (including legal support).</b></li> </ol>