

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