



# Community Collaboration for Children's Success

## East Palo Alto

### Neighborhood Action Plan 2019-2024

#### Executive Summary



Vibrant Park: Health Community, 2014. Artists: Mural Music & Arts Project (MMAP) with lead artist Laura Nagle.

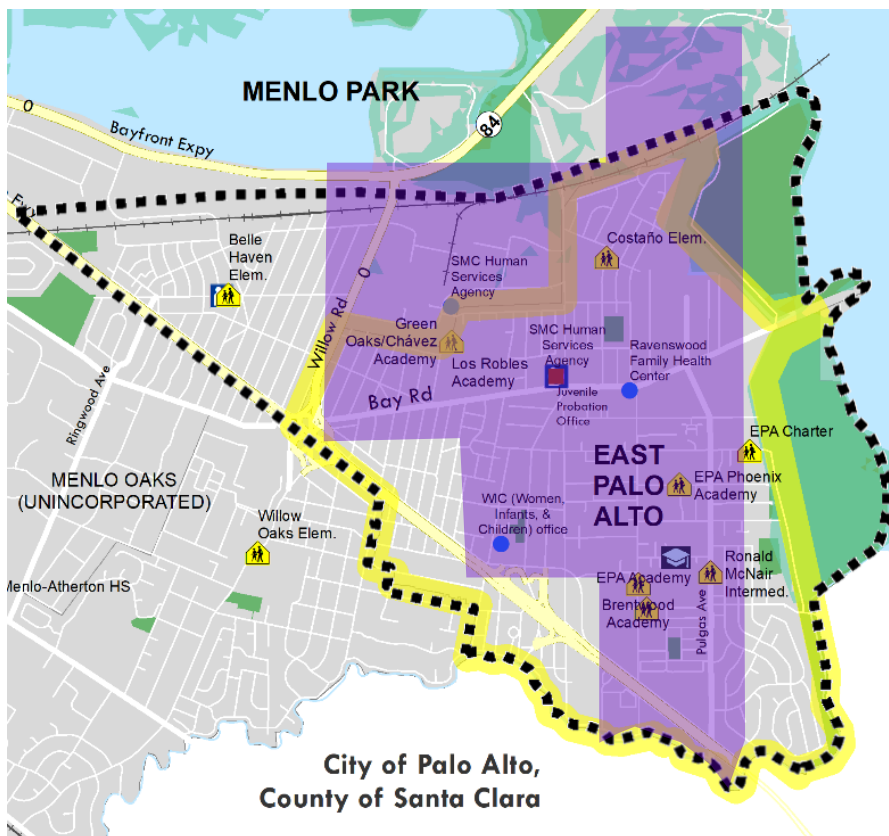
\*Visit [www.gethealthysmc.org/CCCS](http://www.gethealthysmc.org/CCCS) to view the full Action Plan

# Initiative Overview in East Palo Alto

The Community Collaboration for Children's Success (CCCS) initiative is a multi-agency San Mateo County approach to addressing the geographic concentration of large numbers of young people in County systems such as Juvenile Probation, the Human Services Agency's Division of Children and Family Services, and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. CCCS focuses community planning efforts in four neighborhoods to recognize and address each community's needs while building on existing assets. The initiative's long-term goals are to achieve better outcomes for children and youth and help prevent the circumstances that lead to system involvement for young people.

Four neighborhoods were selected to develop neighborhood action plans for the CCCS initiative and were identified because they have both high youth need and high capacity for deep community engagement and participation. A Youth Need Index and Youth Planning Readiness Index were calculated using agency and community data. To learn more, please visit [www.GetHealthySMC.org/CCCS-data](http://www.GetHealthySMC.org/CCCS-data). The four neighborhoods that were identified were within North Fair Oaks/Redwood City, South San Francisco, East Palo Alto, and Daly City.

The entire city of East Palo Alto was identified for the focus of this initiative. The CCCS area is shown in purple and the City's boundary is outlined in yellow, while the dotted line shows the City of East Palo Alto and the neighboring Belle Haven area. Between January and June of 2019, community members, youth, service providers, educators, law enforcement officers, and other stakeholders in East Palo Alto met and reflected on knowledge shared by community members in order to identify neighborhood needs and assets within the community. Once top needs and community assets were identified, community members discussed and prioritized strategies to address the top needs to support the success of children and youth in this area.



# East Palo Alto Planning Process

The planning process consisted of four main steps: 1) convening the East Palo Alto community, 2) gathering expertise from residents of East Palo Alto, 3) collaboratively prioritizing needs and strategies for the Action Plan, and 4) developing the Action Plan. This process took place between December of 2018 and June of 2019.



In East Palo Alto, **12 CCCS Champions**, who were well-connected local community members, gathered community expertise and experience from about **270 community members** using the following methods:

- **4 Tell Us sessions** (small group conversations) with **30 youth** and **21 parents/caregivers**,
- **Surveys** were completed by **130 youth** and **67 parents/caregivers** and,
- **4 Dream Walls** (posters with key questions in English and Spanish on which community members could write or draw responses) with at least **32 respondents**.

The East Palo Alto Neighborhood Leadership Group led the process at the local level and a Countywide Steering Committee guided the process at the County level:

- **About 90 community members** participated in **4 East Palo Alto Neighborhood Leadership Group (NLG) meetings**. A local engagement firm, Leadership Incorporated led by Dr. Omowale Satterwhite, worked with planning firm Raimi + Associates and County staff to engage NLG participants. NLG participants represented more than **35 individuals, organizations, schools, programs, and government agencies**. Community members and stakeholders who attended NLG meetings reviewed highlights from the 270 participants and prioritized the top needs and strategies for children’s and youth’s success in East Palo. See the Acknowledgements page for a list of organizations, schools, agencies, and programs that participated in the planning process.
- **4 Countywide Steering Committee Meetings: 30 Steering Committee members** representing 25 agencies, departments, commissions, and organizations guided the process from a County level and helped connect planning staff to local individuals and organizations. SC members participated in 4 meetings and provided extensive feedback on draft strategies between April 2018 and April 2019. The roster of organizations and agencies represented on the Steering Committee is available [online](#).

# East Palo Alto CCCS Goals






1. All SMC children, youth, and families are **safe, healthy, resilient, and recognized for their strengths**.
2. All SMC children, youth, and families are **connected to a larger community and feel supported** by family members, friends, and/or other caring adults.
3. All SMC children, youth, and families are **engaged in learning and achieve their academic + career goals**.
4. All **systems** in San Mateo County are accessible, coordinated, culturally responsive, promote racial + gender + economic + immigration status equity, and help preserve our diverse community.

## Top Needs for East Palo Alto CCCS

- Decrease number of youth and children involved in San Mateo County’s high intensity systems such as Juvenile Probation, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and Children and Family Services programs
- Increase household income and/or reduce costs
- Increase community participation in decision-making and decrease structural/institutional racism
- Increase educational quality and responsiveness of schools to student needs, interests, and strengths
- Increase supportive relationships between children/youth and caring adults, as well as safe spaces
- Increase healing opportunities and healthy coping mechanisms

## Top East Palo Alto Strategies

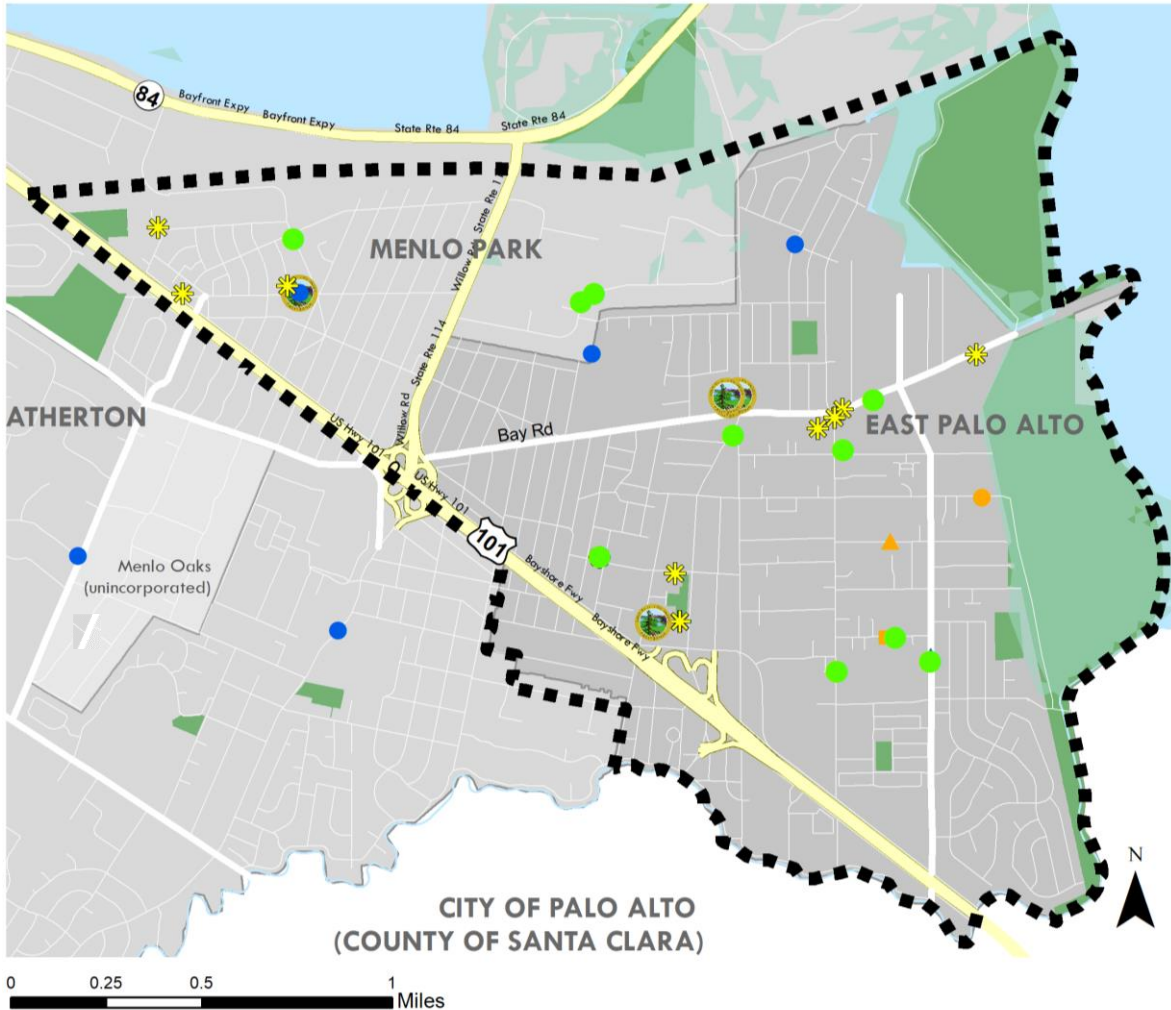
 <p><b>Tier 1 Strategies</b> Ensuring that all children, youth, and families live in safe, healthy, and supportive environments</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expand living wage job opportunities using both policies and programming.</li> <li>2. Expand implementation of “housing first” approach to keep vulnerable families housed.</li> <li>3. Provide mental/behavioral health support at schools for students and staff and revise pre-K-12 school policies and practices to keep students in class and learning.</li> <li>4. Expand alternatives to incarceration especially for transition age youth and the parents/caregivers of children under 18 and increase efforts to ensure that defendants understand their rights and the legal process.</li> <li>5. Strengthen connections between school staff, students, and parents/caregivers.</li> <li>6. Increase positive interactions between community members and law enforcement and eliminate police not accountable to EPA residents.</li> </ol>
 <p><b>Tier 2 Strategies</b> Building resilient children + youth by expanding develop-mental assets</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> <li>8. Expand culturally responsive opportunities for children, youth, and parents/caregivers that help them heal from trauma, develop healthy coping mechanisms, and strengthen their sense of belonging to a broader community.</li> </ol>
 <p><b>Tier 3 Strategies</b> Providing targeted support to address unmet needs at key ages</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Expand subsidized childcare for low-income families (including for infants and toddlers, and with expanded and/or nontraditional hours).</li> <li>10. Increase resources available to undocumented youth and families (especially related to careers, entrepreneurship, and higher education).</li> <li>11. Ensure/expand trauma-informed culturally appropriate re-entry care/services (including legal support).</li> </ol>

# Community Assets in East Palo Alto

The map below presents community resources that exist in the East Palo Alto area to support children, youth, and families. The assets shown here are listed on the following pages.



## East Palo Alto



**LEGEND**

**Area Public Schools**







- Elementary School
- ▲ Middle School





**Area Charter and Private Schools**

- Elementary School
- ▲ Middle School
- High School

**Resources that support children, youth, and families**

- San Mateo County Offices and/or Services
- Asset supported by County funding
- ★ Big Lift Preschool (supported by County funding)
- ✱ Other youth/family asset

Schools	Assets co-located at school sites
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belle Haven Elementary 415 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> HSA Family Resource Center, Belle Haven Elementary</li> <li> Belle Haven Child Development Center</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brentwood Academy 2086 Clarke Street, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula - Brentwood Academy</li> <li> StarVista Children and Family Resource Center</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Costaño Elementary / 49ers Academy, 2695 Fordham Street, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Academy, 1050 Myrtle Street, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula - East Palo Alto Academy</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Charter, 1286 Runnymede Street, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Phoenix Academy, 1039 Garden Street, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Oaks/Chavez Academy, 2450 Ralmar Street, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Los Robles Academy, 2450 Ralmar Street, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Menlo-Atherton High School, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ronald McNair Intermediate, 2033 Pulgas Avenue, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula - Moldaw-Zaffaroni Clubhouse</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Primary School-East Palo Alto, 951 O’Connor Street, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Willow Oaks Elementary, 620 Willow Road, Menlo Park</li> </ul>	

Additional Youth/Family Assets	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>County Offices and/or Services</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation East Palo Alto, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Calfresh Office – East Palo Alto, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• East Palo Alto Library, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Women, Infants, &amp; Children (WIC office), 2120 Euclid Avenue, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Youth and Family Assets supported with County Funding</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, 401 Pierce Road, Menlo Park</li> <li>• Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto (CLESPA), 2117-B University Avenue, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Family Connections Belle Haven Site, 1391 Chilco Street, Menlo Park</li> <li>• Nuestra Casa, 2396 University Avenue, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Live in Peace, 321 Bell Street, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• One EPA - Sponsored Employment Program (SEP), 903 Weeks Street, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Ravenswood Family Dentistry, 1807 Bay Road, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Samaritan House South, 1852 Bay Road, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Big Lift Preschools (supported by County funding)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Palo Alto Head Start Center, 1385 Bay Road, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• IHSD, INC - Menlo Park Head Start Center, 419 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Menlo Park, California, 94025</li> <li>• Laurel Head Start Center, 1019 Laurel Avenue, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Magnolia Child Development Center, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Other youth/family assets</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Five, 1391 Chilco Street, Menlo Park</li> <li>• Belle Haven Branch Library, City of Menlo Park, 413 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park</li> <li>• Cooley Landing Education Center, 2100 Bay Road, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• East Palo Alto Family YMCA, 550 Bell Street, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Leadership Incorporated - Building Capacity for Social Change, 321 Bell Street, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Ravenswood Family Health Center, 1798 Bay Road, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Ravenswood Family Health Center at Belle Haven, 100 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park</li> <li>• Ravenswood Mobile Health Clinic, 1796 Bay Road, East Palo Alto</li> <li>• Stanford Community Law Clinic, 2117 University Avenue, East Palo Alto</li> </ul>

Note: Many additional assets, organizations and services were identified but could not be included in a map format. See the [full East Palo Alto plan](#) for the full asset list.

# Next Steps

This Plan is a community call to action! It represents the shared expertise of many community members from the East Palo Alto area and is an important and bold step to ensure children and youth success in EPA. It builds on local strengths and presents a menu of key strategies to address local needs and priorities. The aim of the Action Plan is to inspire action, invite public and private collaboration, encourage alignment among local organizations, and ensure continued community involvement. By identifying multiple strategies in a range of areas (or Tiers), the Plan presents a roadmap to children and youth success, and—in the name of the hundreds of community members who participated—is an invitation to harness local community assets and strengths to implement the strategies presented here.

Be sure to take a look at the [full East Palo Alto plan](#) for more detail, check out the [CCCS webpages](#) and contact [hpp@smcgov.org](mailto:hpp@smcgov.org) with questions or ideas.

# Acknowledgements

A special thank you goes to all participants who shared their expertise, especially the East Palo Alto Champions and Neighborhood Leadership Group participants!

## EPA CCCS Champions

Julian Escalante	Lorena Cuffy
Angela Langi	RaShida Knox
Mele K. Latu	Lungusu Malonga
George Stevenson	Bakari Thompson
Samuel Tavera	Mama Dee Uhila
Carmen Thomas	Luis Vizcardo
Muisi-kongo Malonga	

## Participating Organizations, Programs, & Agencies in CCCS East Palo Alto

American Council of Teachers	Ecumenical Hunger Program	Live in Peace
AMPV	El Concilio of San Mateo County	Menlo Spark
Anamatangi Polynesian Voices	Family Connections: Redwood City site	Nuestra Casa
Bayshore Christian Ministries	Family Resource Center	One East Palo Alto
Canopy	First 5 San Mateo County	Rebuilding Together Peninsula
Catholic Charities Youth Club at St. Francis of Assisi	Fresh Approach	Samaritan House South EPA
Champions	Girls to Women	San Mateo County Coalition for Immigrant Rights (SMCCIR)
Children's Health Council	Golf FUNDamentals	StreetCode Academy
East Palo Alto Academy	Health Connected	The Primary School
East Palo Alto Academy Foundation	HealthRight360	Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS)
East Palo Alto Library	Job Train	
East Palo Alto Teen Home	Leadership Incorporated	
	LifeMoves	

## Agencies and Organizations Represented on the CCCS Steering Committee

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Division, San Mateo County Health	Jobs for Youth (Youth Workforce Investment), San Mateo County Human Resources	SAMCEDA
Center for Early Learning, Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Juvenile Court, San Mateo County Superior Court	San Mateo County Arts Commission
Children and Family Services Division, San Mateo County Human Services Agency	Juvenile Unit, San Mateo County District Attorney's Office	San Mateo County Child Abuse Prevention Council
Employment Services, San Mateo County Human Services Agency	Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County	San Mateo County Housing Department
Faith in Action	Office of Diversity and Equity, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Division, San Mateo County Health	San Mateo County Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission
Family Health Services Division, San Mateo County Health	Office of Supervisor Carole Groom	San Mateo County Library
First 5 San Mateo County	Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center	San Mateo County Office of Education
Foster Youth Advisory Board	Private Defender Program, Juvenile Division (San Mateo Bar Association)	San Mateo County Parks Department
Health Plan of San Mateo		San Mateo County Probation Department
		San Mateo County Youth Commission
		Youth Leadership Institute

## San Mateo County Children and Youth System of Care (CYSOC) Agencies

First 5 San Mateo	San Mateo County Human Services Agency	San Mateo County Probation Department
San Mateo County Health Department	San Mateo County Office of Education	

Mural featured on cover was painted in 2014 by Mural Music & Arts Project (MMAP) with Laura Nagle serving as lead artist. Located in Bell Street Park in East Palo Alto, the mural represents the researched ideas of reclaiming and activating space as well as portrays people activating the park spaces of East Palo Alto. Colors are bursting from people playing sports, games, and music. Families and friends come together to use the space for positive, fun, community building activities. [https://www.muralmusicarts.org/about/mural\\_portfolio.php](https://www.muralmusicarts.org/about/mural_portfolio.php)

