

OUR PARTNERS

Education

Alameda County Office of Education
Alameda Unified School District
Berkeley Unified School District
Castro Valley Unified School District
Dublin Unified School District
Emery Unified School District
Fremont Unified School District
Hayward Unified School District
Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District
New Haven Unified School District
Newark Unified School District
Oakland Unified School District
Peralta Community College District
Piedmont Unified School District
Pleasanton Unified School District
San Leandro Unified School District
San Lorenzo Unified School District

School Health Center Lead Agencies

Alameda County Health System
• San Leandro Health & Wellness Center
Alameda County Public Health Department
• Madison Middle School Health Center
Alameda Family Services
• Alameda High School-Based Health Center
• Encinal High School-Based Health Center
• Island High School-Based Health Center
Asian Health Services
• Peralta Community College District Health Center
Children's Hospital & Research Center at Oakland
• Chappell R. Hayes Health Center
• Youth Uprising Health Center
City of Berkeley
• Berkeley High School Health Center
• B-Tech Health Center
East Bay Agency for Children
• Frick Health Center
East Bay Asian Youth Center
• Shop 55 Wellness Center
La Clínica de La Raza
• Ashland Youth Center Health & Wellness Center
• Havenscourt Middle School Health Center
• Hawthorne Health Center
• Roosevelt Health Center
• San Lorenzo High Health Center
• TechniClinic
• Tiger Clinic
• Youth Heart Health Center
LifeLong Medical Care
• Berkeley City College
• Elmhurst Health Care
• Emery Health and Wellness Center
• West Oakland Middle School Health Center

Native American Health Center
• Skyline High School
• United for Success Middle School Health Center
Piedmont Unified School District
• Piedmont High Wellness Center
Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center
• Hayward High Health and Wellness Center
• Logan Health Center
• Tennyson Health Center

School-Based Behavioral Health Providers

Alameda Family Services
Ann Martin Center
Asian Community Mental Health Services
Asian Pacific Psychological Services
Bay Area Community Resources
Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland
City of Berkeley Mental Health Division
City of Fremont Human Services Department
Crisis Support Services of Alameda County
East Bay Agency for Children
Fred Finch Youth Center
Girls, Inc. Pathways Counseling Center
Hayward Youth & Family Services Bureau
La Clínica de La Raza
Lincoln Child Center
Portia Bell Hume Behavioral Health
and Training Center
Seneca Center
Stars Behavioral Health Group
Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc.

City & Community Partners

Alternatives in Action
Associated Community Action Program
Beats, Rhymes and Life
Berkeley Alliance
City of Berkeley
City of Dublin
City of Fremont
City of Hayward
City of Livermore
City of Oakland
City of Pleasanton
Eden Housing

Hayward Area Recreation and Park District
Kaiser Permanente
Niroga Institute
Palo Alto Medical Foundation
Partnership for Children and Youth
Resources for Community Development
Safe Passages
Transitional Age Youth Advisory Board
Tri-City Health Center
Washington Hospital Healthcare System
Youth Radio
Youth Uprising

Research & Policy Organizations

Alameda Health Consortium
California School Health Centers Association
Coalition for Community Schools
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care
National Center for Youth Law
University of California, San Francisco
• Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies
• School of Nursing
WestEd

Funders & Philanthropy

Alameda County
Bechtel Corporation
City of Oakland Department of Human Services
Human Resource and Services Administration,
US Department of Human Health and Training
Kaiser Permanente
McKesson Foundation
The Atlantic Philanthropies
The California Endowment
The San Francisco Foundation

Alameda County

Alameda County Arts Commission
Alameda County Child Care Planning Council
Alameda County Deputy Sheriff's Activities League
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
• Administration & Indigent Care Program
• Behavioral Health Care Services
• Public Health Department
Alameda County Library
First 5 Alameda County

General Services Agency
Interagency Children's Policy Council
New Beginnings Program
Probation Department
Redevelopment Agency
Sheriff's Office
Social Services Agency

Alameda County Board of Supervisors

District 1 Scott Haggerty
District 2 Richard Valle
District 3 Wilma Chan
District 4 Nate Miley
District 5 Keith Carson

STAFF

The CHSC is staffed through Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. We are a multidisciplinary team of professionals with expertise in education, behavioral health, public health, and youth development.

Special thanks to Alameda County students, parents, grandparents, caregivers, service providers, and teachers for their support and enthusiasm.

Brochure Credits

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Alameda County
Center for
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and Communities

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Alameda County Center for Healthy Schools and Communities



Linking health,
education, and
communities to
change lives and
achieve equity





Linking health, education,
and communities to change
lives and achieve equity

Center for Healthy Schools and Communities

Since 1996, the Center for Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) has worked to improve health and education outcomes for Alameda County youth through partnership with schools, school districts, service providers, health advocates, policymakers, community partners, youth, and families.



Why we're here

We envision a county where *all* youth graduate from high school healthy and ready for college and career.



We have built a network of partners working to ensure all youth in the county have access to the supports and opportunities they need to thrive.

The Challenge

Many children, youth, and families in Alameda County still live, attend schools, and work in low opportunity neighborhoods that have profound and long-term impacts on their health, education, and economic well being. Far too many communities suffer from poor health and education outcomes due to an absence of “opportunity structures” – those supports and resources, such as quality health care, economic opportunities, and safe, healthy school environments, that allow children, families, and communities to thrive.

The opportunity gap has contributed to disproportionate rates of violence, respiratory illness, childhood obesity, untreated mental health issues, sexually transmitted infections, poor chronic disease management, and low academic outcomes. Ultimately, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status continue to be strong and troubling predictors of academic achievement and health outcomes in our county.

CHSC is working to ensure:

- Healthy and resilient children, youth, and families
- Academic success for all youth
- Strong families
- Healthy school environments
- Safe and supportive communities
- Responsive, equity-focused institutions

Our Mission

CHSC (formerly School Health Services Coalition) fosters the academic success, health, and well being of Alameda County youth by building universal access to high quality supports and opportunities in schools and neighborhoods.

We value empowering families and youth, growing the capacity of communities to affect change, and building strategic partnerships that link health and education institutions to achieve equity.

...to change lives and achieve equity.



Our programs and initiatives bring people together with a shared goal of transforming public schools and neighborhoods and reducing the “opportunity gap” for youth. These are some of their stories:

LETICIA

Healing – My parents speak only Spanish and they were worried about me. I was going out with boys behind their back and ignoring their rules. I thought they were old fashioned and didn’t understand me. My parents went to the Our Kids Our Families counselor at my school to get help. I was assigned to a clinical case manager and we met once a week for a while. Being able to talk with her helped me understand my parents’ culture and our differences. She got me involved with the Youth Leadership Council. Now I work with older peer role models. Working with them makes me feel a part of the community and they help me make better choices. I don’t rebel against my parents anymore and I’m doing much better in school too.

JALEN

Capacity – My school health center counselor helped me and my parents see eye to eye on my studies and helped me do a better job at school. She realized that I come from a family of storytellers and she told me about the Oakland Oral History Project. I am now working on a team, exploring my identity and the identities of other black youth in my neighborhood. This work is teaching me about responsibility, like how to show up on time, call when I’m going to be late, and even how to communicate with strangers and get my point across. I’m also learning to appreciate and understand other people’s stories. Conducting interviews, setting up video shoots, and working on the website is helping me improve my technical skills so I can be a documentary film maker someday.

MARCIE

Action – I work with a group of friends in a program called “Let’s Chat” at the REACH Ashland Youth Center. In this program, we make a difference in our community by addressing important challenges that young people face in our community. First, we get together to talk about teen issues and the problem of violence in our community. Then, because so many of our friends were becoming teen parents, we decided to raise awareness about reproductive justice and teen pregnancy. In the last few months, we conducted research and developed policy recommendations to help teens make more informed choices and help teen parents get better support at home, school, and in the community. We also started a media campaign to involve youth, adults, and decision makers in our efforts.

Supporting youth and families

CHSC is proud to support the REACH Ashland Youth Center — creating a place of safety, belonging, and possibility for Alameda County youth and families.

Making Change Happen

In 2004 a small group of Ashland youth participated in a powerful community meeting aimed at addressing one critical question: “How can we make life better for teens in our community?” In a community where 20% of youth live in poverty, this question was critical. Since that time, CHSC has worked with key county partners, community based organizations, and youth and their families to create the REACH Ashland Youth Center and the Ashland Youth Complex.

REACH Ashland Youth Center

This 31,500 square-foot facility is co-located on the Ashland Youth Complex. In total, the complex comprises over 13 acres

of a recycled brownfield dedicated to healthy youth development. The complex houses the REACH facility, the first community park in Ashland, and a multi-use gymnasium and sports field.

Vision

Youth named the center “REACH” because it reflects a movement in many directions – reaching for what you care about, reaching for what you desire, and reaching from within to create who you will become. The name is also an acronym for the five service areas of the center: Recreation, Education, Arts, Career, and Health.

Integrated Approach to Change

REACH Ashland Youth Center has an integrated approach to serving

youth that leverages the talents of a wide array of partners. Our approach includes three components that we integrate throughout our programming:

- **Healing** – Working on the immediate needs of youth and paying special attention to those needs resulting from critically acute or traumatic events and conditions.
- **Capacity** – Developing and cultivating life-long learning capacities, social skills, and competencies to not just survive circumstances, but to flourish, connect, love, lead, and create.
- **Action** – Providing support to lead, learn, and grow, and to be positive change agents in the world.





Working Together in New Ways

Because there is a critical connection between health and education, we are working across the county to develop healthy schools and communities that allow all children to thrive. Our work is guided by the core belief that it will take commitment from a broad coalition – schools and school districts, city and county departments, non-profits, students, families, community members, business and philanthropy, and political bodies – working together to build communities of care that ensure the academic success, health, and well-being of all Alameda County youth and families.

The Center for Healthy Schools and Communities strives to excel in five core competencies:

1. CULTIVATING DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIPS

CHSC bridges the gap between education and health by convening and nurturing dynamic partnerships with youth, families, schools, districts, health care providers, and other community stakeholders. Together, we define a shared vision, develop joint strategies, and coordinate resources into an integrated continuum of care for children and youth.

Investing in strong, sustainable partnerships provides a key foundation for achieving our ultimate goal of all youth graduating high school healthy and ready for college and career. Through partnership, we facilitate data sharing, joint program planning, implementation, and evaluation that allows us to measure the impact of our efforts on academic and health outcomes. Throughout this work, CHSC nurtures the knowledge, expertise, and talent of youth and their families, school administrators, teachers, counselors, family case managers, health providers, youth workers, elected officials, and city and county staff so we can move forward in a unified direction.

2. BUILDING LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

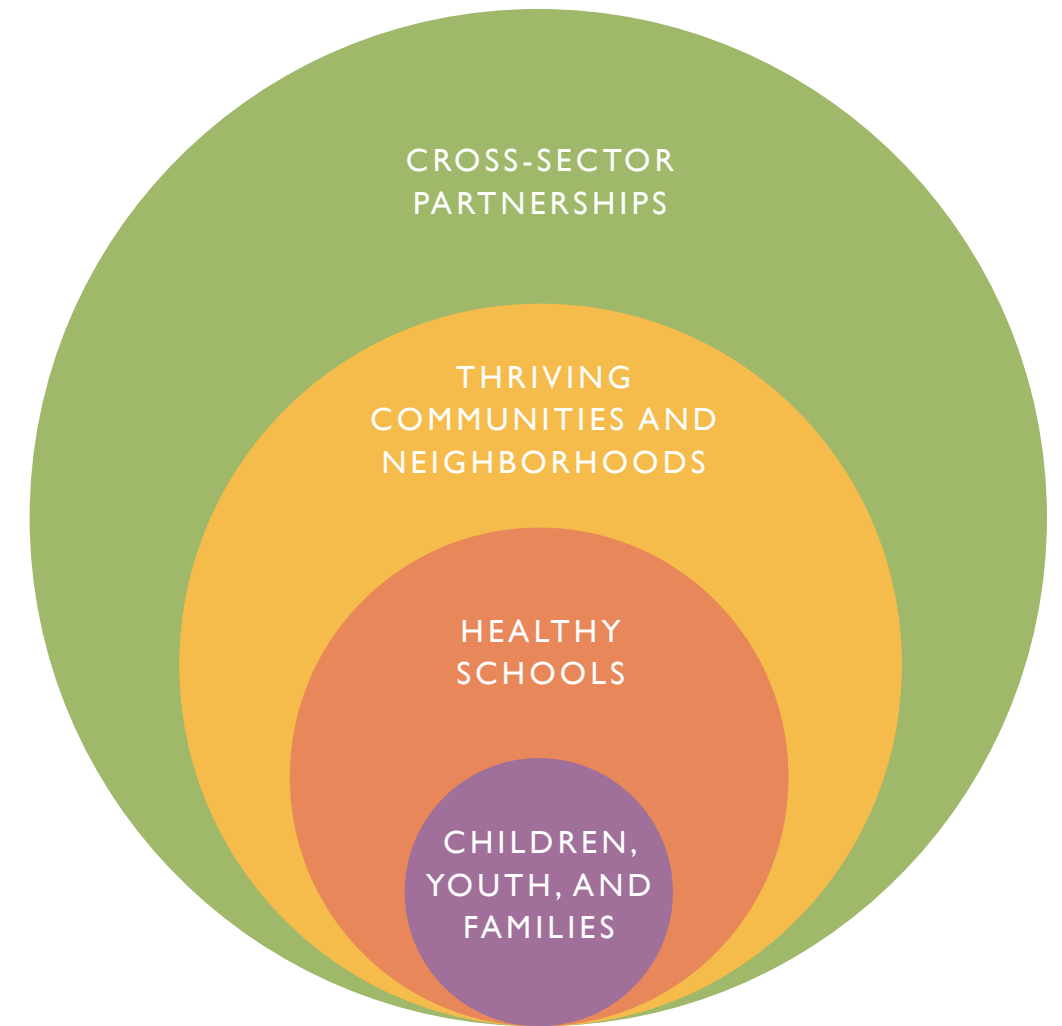
We know that the ability of individuals, institutions, and systems to make an impact together on the lives of youth and their families requires leaders at all levels to expand their roles, think across boundaries, and work creatively to solve problems. As partnerships emerge, CHSC works with youth, families, and community stakeholders to build the leadership capacity of individuals and organizations to transform systems and deliver innovative supports.

We provide capacity building services that promote diverse leadership and strengthen the ability of partners to build shared goals and responsibilities. We facilitate professional development and communities of practice, and coach and consult on building integrated public and private systems that place the success and well being of children, families, and communities at the core. Capacity building ensures the long-term success of our partnerships, and strengthens our ability to align investments toward meaningful and sustainable impact.

3. INTEGRATING SERVICES AND SYSTEMS

Through partnership and shared leadership, we work to reconfigure resources so that students have easy access to the supports they need to succeed in school and in life. We support educators, health care workers, and other stakeholders to adopt best practices, such as multi-disciplinary service coordination teams that address the needs of the whole child from a strength-based perspective. These practices not only increase student access to services, but enhance young people's connection to school and community, helping all the adults in a child's life to better understand and support them.

At a systems level, we nurture the development of collaborative school governance structures that integrate family, school, community, and surrounding institution resources to maximize supports for youth. Following our full service community schools framework, we work to align resources and partners around common indicators and outcome goals to leverage our collective strength and achieve common results.



4. SEEDING INNOVATION

School health services, school-based behavioral health programs, youth centers, and community schools are examples of how we seed innovation. We focus on best practices from promising models locally and across the nation.

We then develop, customize, and bring to scale effective service delivery models to address the needs of the many diverse communities in the county.

In this way, we are defining a broader community of support, brokering new partnerships, and tapping into local innovation and collective wisdom to achieve sustainable solutions.

5. SUPPORTING SUSTAINABILITY

With a deep commitment to quality and sustainability, CHSC develops creative finance strategies that leverage private and public funds to support youth and families. We work with our partners to secure long-term commitments and shared investments through collaborative agreements and innovative blending of resources.

In partnership with university and research institutes, we evaluate collective efforts to improve health access, utilization, and outcomes.

We use data to drive program decisions and evaluation to support sustainability.



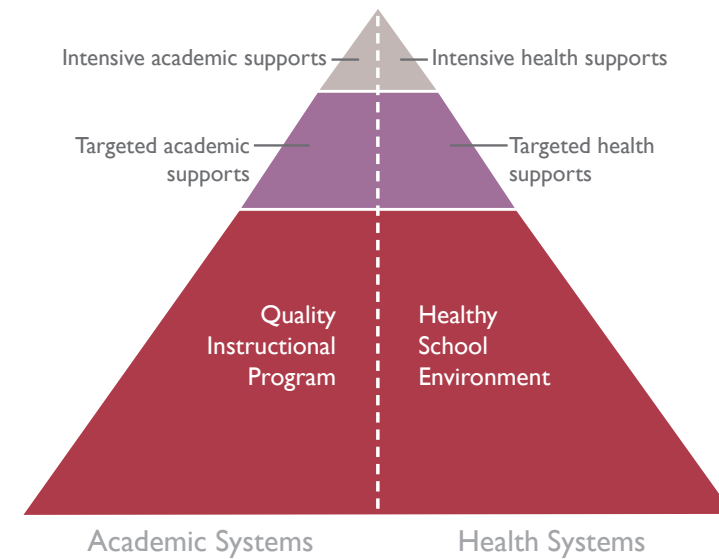
Linking health, education, and communities...



Since 1996, we have worked to improve health and education outcomes for Alameda County youth by building school-based, school-linked health and wellness programs that are aligned with nationally recognized and research-driven frameworks. Our work extends beyond simply placing health services on school sites; it is rooted in purposeful, responsive collaborations with youth, families, schools, and surrounding institutions.

Together with our partners, we work to create a continuum of supports and opportunities in schools and neighborhoods that supplement schools' core instructional programs by promoting student wellness and removing barriers to learning. As schools focus on developing a strong curriculum, effective teaching, and an environment conducive to learning, our programs complement and strengthen this foundation by increasing student resilience and decreasing risk factors of school failure. Examples of activities include preventive health services, school climate enhancement initiatives, school-wide health promotion and education, and youth development programs that help students navigate the challenges of adolescence and prepare them for adulthood. When students need extra support, our programs also coordinate with school staff to provide targeted or intensive wellness supports alongside academic interventions so that students are given the support to succeed.

Today, we have partnerships with the county's 18 school districts, and have built a network of locally rooted providers who deliver culturally responsive direct services and supports to students and families. By linking health, education, and communities, we leverage knowledge and expertise to build a quality education foundation for all of our youth.



Our growth

We began as School Health Services Coalition in 1996 with 4 school health centers. Today, as the Center for Healthy Schools and Communities, we impact thousands of students and families across Alameda County through our programs and initiatives that help create full service community schools.

The Center for Healthy Schools and Communities has:

- Created critically needed access to health services for youth in low opportunity communities, supporting over 50,000 youth health care visits each year at 26 school health centers across the county.
- Strengthened schools' ability to offer high quality, culturally responsive behavioral health care supports by building and strengthening services at 160 schools in 16 county school districts.
- Cultivated youth and family leadership by investing over \$11 million in youth development and family support programs across the county, including the REACH Ashland Youth Center.
- Convened cross-sector partnerships that take a collective impact approach to supporting children, youth, and families, including 11 Healthy Schools and Communities Initiatives.
- Partnered with schools and districts to invest a total of \$100 million in a continuum of youth friendly, accessible, school-based health and wellness services across the county.

SCHOOL HEALTH CENTERS

School health centers provide a continuum of age-appropriate health and wellness services for youth in a safe, youth-friendly environment at or near schools. Supported by strong collaborations with community health partners, school administration, and city and county agencies, school health centers provide access to a range of integrated medical, behavioral health, health education, and youth development services for more than 21,000 students annually, at 26 school campuses, in 8 school districts throughout Alameda County. In 2012 we opened our first community college health center.

SCHOOL-BASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

Promoting the healthy social-emotional development of all students and addressing behavioral health-related barriers to learning are critical to supporting student health. In partnership with Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, CHSC launched the School-Based Behavioral Health Initiative in 2009. In collaboration with school districts and service providers, and by leveraging local, state, and federal resources, the Initiative now invests over \$23 million annually in school-based behavioral health supports. Services are provided at 160 schools across 16 school districts. The Initiative also staffs full-time behavioral health consultants in 7 school districts to build comprehensive district-wide systems of behavioral health supports.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVES

In 2005, building on years of collaborative work with schools, districts, communities, and service providers, CHSC launched the first of several local systems building initiatives that we now refer to as our Healthy Schools and Communities Initiatives. Focused on partnership and systems integration, these initiatives bring together partners from education, health, youth development, family support, and community engagement to define a common vision and set of actions for supporting youth and families in local communities. There are currently 11 initiatives actively at work throughout the county.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Since 2010, CHSC has been supporting school-linked programs that focus on youth development and family strengthening. Youth projects promote healing, develop capacity and skills, and provide support for youth to lead, learn, and take action. We support family strengthening programs focused on fostering nurturing relationships, positive connections, and stability for families.

