



THE CITIES COUNTIES SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Cities Counties and Schools Working Together

A Brief History

Founded in 1997, the CCS Partnership is a unique organization that provides an opportunity to create effective, responsive local government. It is the only known organization in the country that regularly convenes the leadership of local government. The Partnership is a vehicle for the three partnering associations to identify common issues, discuss mutual challenges and explore alternative strategies. It provides neutral ground and a space for open discussion. Acting together local elected officials can coordinate services, create policies and advocate for changes that enhance local power to create local solutions to local issues.

Mission

The CCS Partnership was formed around the concept of improving conditions of children and families. This has been a focus of the work of the partnership since its inception.

The Cities Counties Schools Partnership is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation dedicated to improving the conditions of children, families and communities at the local level by promoting and encouraging coordination, integration and increased efficiency of local services and joint facilities use among cities, counties and schools in all California communities.

The Partners

The League of California Cities (League), the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and the California School Boards Association (CSBA) make up the Partnership. Together, these three statewide organizations represent the majority of nearly 8,000 locally-elected officials in California. The officers and executive directors of the associations serve as the board of directors for the partnership.

The League of California Cities: Founded in 1898, the League of California Cities represents all of California's 482 cities. The League strives to protect the local authority and autonomy of city government and help California's cities effectively serve their residents. In addition to advocating on the behalf of the cities at the state capitol, the League provides its members professional development programs and information resources, sponsors educational conferences and conducts research. League membership includes both elected and appointed city officials.

The California State Association of Counties: Since 1895, CSAC has represented county government before the Legislature, Congress, and state and federal agencies, while educating the public about the value and need for county programs and services. CSAC is committed to assisting all 58 counties, represented by 296 county supervisors, in providing a vital and efficient system of public services, for the general health, welfare and public safety of every California resident.

The California School Boards Association: Founded in 1931, CSBA represents almost all of the state's 1,050 K-12 school districts and county boards of education. CSBA supports the local governance team – school board members, superintendents and senior administrative staff – in their complex leadership roles. CSBA's members serve over 5 million children and youth enrolled in California's public schools.

Joint Efforts Leading to the Partnership

1992

In 1992, Governor Pete Wilson, the League, CSAC, and CSBA co-sponsored 12 regional Children's Summits to gather input from local, state, and federal officials, service providers, nongovernmental community groups and individuals on the effectiveness of children's services at the local level. The outcome of these summits was the joint publication *Cutting Through the Red Tape: Meeting the Needs of California's Children*, which called for a new vision of non-categorical, flexible, and integrated system of children's services. (Report is available at: http://www.ccspartnership.org/pdf/Red_Tape_3pdf.pdf)

The cooperation among the three associations in developing and presenting the Children's Summits was significant. Not only was it the first time that the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties, and the California School Boards Association had undertaken a joint effort of this magnitude, but in so doing, they were modeling a spirit of cooperation needed at both the state and local level to meet the changing needs of California's children and families.

1995

In 1995, the three organizations developed an awards program to jointly recognize innovative community programs targeting "at risk" youth. The programs chosen for awards represented collaborative community efforts aimed at preventing youth violence, crime and truancy.

Formation of the CCS Partnership

Understanding that local government can address the needs of communities more inclusively if the jurisdictions work together, the three associations formed the CCS Partnership. The legal incorporation of the Partnership in 1997 formalized the relationship forged by previous efforts and provided a context for greater collaboration in the future.

History of the Work of the CCS Partnership

Perhaps the most important work of the CCS Partnership is the convening of the leadership of the three partner associations. The regular gathering of the officers and executives of the associations provide the opportunity for city, county and school board leaders to get to know each other, build mutual understanding and trust in ways that could not happen without the venue created by the CCS Partnership. It creates the possibility of broader understanding of the issues facing local government and the potential for finding common means to address them.

Following is a chronological list of major projects, activities and other significant efforts undertaken by the CCS Partnership. Each effort is listed under the year in which it was initiated and is not repeated in subsequent years unless a significant change occurred. The list does not include such things as advisory committees for other efforts, presentations to various organizations, workshops and presentations at conferences, or most of the events co-sponsored by CCS Partnership.

1998

Welfare Reform Policy Councils, May 1998 and March 1999

City, county, school and community leaders convened for two policy councils on welfare reform and low-income neighborhoods. The meetings addressed welfare reform and collaborative strategies to build stronger communities; the development of collaborative leadership; and planning tools. A “Start-Up Kit” for regional councils and a guide for local policymakers on collaboration and welfare reform were also developed.

1999

The California Policymakers Institute, March 1999

State and local policymakers explored how government leaders could create statewide and community-wide systems to identify and measure common goals for communities, children and families. Mark Friedman presented a practical approach to accountability and state and county representatives shared their experiences. The CCS Partnership was a co-sponsored of this event which was led by the Foundation Consortium.

Growing Up Safe in California Communities 1999-2000

The CCS Partnership developed and presented a series of regional workshops applying the principles and lessons of results-based accountability to local needs and issues.

Joint Use of Facilities/Infrastructure 1999-2006

CCS Partnership staff have surveyed and created a database of successful “joint use” projects undertaken by cities, counties and schools. The promotion of joint use became an integral part of CCS Partnership conference and workshop presentations. The task

force on joint use made recommendations for legislation related to joint use and school siting in 2006

Policy Advisories 1999

The Partnership issued joint policy advisories from CSAC, the League and CSBA on the school attendance requirements of CalWORKs and the After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnership program. Policy advisories were sent to all California counties, cities and school districts.

2000

Stretching Community Dollars 2000-2009

The Partnership developed and presented stretching community dollars workshops to 377 local elected officials and local government leaders from 133 communities. Stretching Community Dollars is a “how to” approach to developing local collaboration. The original manual was revised and updated in 2006. The first three chapters of the workbook for Stretching Community Dollars are available online at http://www.ccspartnership.org/T_workshops.cfm - scdworkbook.

Website (www.ccspartnership.org) 2000 - present

The CCS Partnership website provides information about the Partnership, innovative community partnerships, collaborative tools, resources and publications, awards, programs, publications and other current work. It was redesigned in 2007 to make information easier to find.

2002

Growth Summit July 2002

In response to projections of population growth in California, the Cities, Counties Schools (CCS) Partnership sponsored an historic summit to examine issues of growth affecting local jurisdictions. The summit entitled *Demography: Exploring Opportunities for Local Governments* examined ways to collaboratively remedy the negative effects of growth while taking advantage of its opportunities. This summit marked the first time in public policy history that three of the largest, most successful and prominent local government associations in the United States met to consider statewide issues. Participants included 15 board of directors members each from the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties and California School Boards Association.

2004

Task Force on Joint Use 2004-2005

A task force of staff and members from the associations met to better understand issues of joint use and school siting. Lesson learned and policy recommendations were shared with the CCS board and at a senate select committee and with Senator Tom Torlakson who incorporated the ideas into legislation he authored.

Universal Preschool Project 2004 -2005

CCS Partnership received a \$10,000 grant to identify key elected leaders for discussions of an initiative to establish universal preschool in California. Staff also helped plan and participated in several regional discussions.

Leadership for Healthy Communities – Planning

A \$6,000 planning grant from the National League of Cities Institute for Youth Education and Families (IYEF) enabled CCS Partnership to identify a strategy for communicating the then little known facts of the childhood obesity epidemic to local elected officials. CCS Partnership worked with the IYEF and the Connecticut Municipal League to identify an approach for outreach. We also worked with the Commission for Local Government and the California Center for Public Health Advocacy to develop a detailed California plan.

Data Base of Local Government Collaborative Efforts 2005-2008

The Partnership created an initial database of known local government collaborative efforts. The database has been updated three times to add new collaborations.

2005

Conditions of Children Task Force

The California School Boards Association transitioned their standing task force to the Partnership. Elected officials from each of the associations served as members. In the first year the task force focused on a number of cross cutting issues related to children including universal pre-school.

Leadership for Healthy Communities 2005-2006

A second grant for \$45,000 enabled CCS Partnership to implement the plan for raising the awareness of local elected officials about the obesity epidemic. Partners with CCS in this endeavor were the Commission for Local Government and the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. Staff of the three organizations planned and held nine local seminars for city, county and school elected and appointed officials. Three of these were held in 2005 and six in 2006. In 8 of the 9 community where the forums were held, local government took action to address the issue. The actions were a direct result of the forums

CCS Partnership Awards - 2005-Present

The Partnership reestablished its awards program in 2005. The program is in conjunction with the awards programs of each of the associations. Nominees for CCS Partnership Awards are selected from among the winners of the League's Helen Putnam Award winners, CSBA's Golden Bell winners and CSAC's applicants for the Challenge Awards. A panel of 6 local elected officials selects the CCS Partnership award winners and the awards are given at each of the association's annual conferences. The awards are re-

presented in the local community whenever possible. Since 2005 CCS has given awards to 22 communities. In 2008 we began limiting the awards to one per association.

2006

Conditions of Children Task Force

The second year of the task force focused on the topic of childhood obesity. The task force heard from experts on various related topics. The end result of the work was two documents. The first

Healthy Children, Healthy Communities Community Action Guide presented a roadmap for communities wanting to create a collaborative effort around childhood obesity. It had wide distribution. The second document was a set of recommendations to the CCS Partnership itself, *Action Agenda for CCS Partnership* which called on the associations of the Partnership to support legislative actions and adopt their own resolutions and policies related to curbing the growth of childhood obesity. The Community Action Guide is available online at:

<http://www.ccspartnership.org/pdf/CommuniytActionGuide.pdf>

After School

In 2006 CCS worked with CSBA, ACT 4 After School and the California Department of Education to promote communities applying for the \$550 million in After School funds available. Due in part to this effort, collaboration was emphasized in the applications and the number of applicants exceeded expectations. Staff also created a paper on after school programs that were a result of community collaboration.

2007

Emancipating Foster Youth

CCS Partnership received a \$10,000 grant to work with the National League of Cities, Institute for Youth Families and Education on a project to identify the role of municipal government in addressing the challenges of emancipating foster youth. Funded by the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, *Exploring and Expanding Municipal Leadership for Transitioning Foster Youth* looked at current and potential roles for cities in particular but counties and schools as well in addressing the needs of youth as they age out of the foster care system. . The project included conducting interviews with 55 city county and provider leadership in: Alameda, Fresno, San Francisco, Stanislaus, and Santa Clara counties. It resulted in an NLC_IYEF report that recommendations city leadership roles in addressing the needs of emancipating foster youth. Funding from this grant also supported the 2007 Conditions of Children Task Force meetings.

Conditions of Children Task Force

In its third year the Conditions of Children Task Force focused on the topic of emancipating foster youth. The product of the task force was a report *Our Children: Emancipating Forster Youth*. The report contains statistics to highlight the outcomes for youth who age out of the system and a set of recommended actions to improve the opportunities for former foster youth to succeed. Like the 2006 report on childhood

obesity this report had wide distribution. The report is available online at: <http://www.ccspartnership.org/pdf/OurChildrenActionGuide.pdf>.

Ten Year Anniversary Celebration

Ten years of existence is a great accomplishment for any non-profit organization. The uniqueness of CCS Partnership makes this an even greater accomplishment. To recognize this, the organization held a 10 Year Anniversary Celebration. Senator Alex Padilla, presented a resolution of recognition to the association presidents on the Senate floor on May 17, 2008. This was preceded by a reception on the evening of May 16.

AT&T Technology Grant

CCS Partnership joined the Institute for Local Government in a technology grant from the AT&T Foundation. The grant enabled the Institute and CCS to research local agency best practices in creating health-promoting environments, share those practices via their websites, and to host web dialogues on the topic with relevant local official audiences, particularly those representing rural and urban areas with underserved populations. CCS received \$15,000 for this work.

Communities for Healthy Kids - June 2007- August 2010

CCS Partnership is a subcontractor for the Institute for Local Government on a grant from the Wellpoint Foundation to identify best practices in enrolling children who qualify in low or no cost health insurance plans. The project did extensive work in 10 California communities to explore several strategies for insuring children. The project resulted in a website (www.ca-ilg.org/InsureKids) that provides a wealth of information for communities in California and other states to use to establish their own outreach efforts. By fall 2010, the project will have provided CCS with \$23,000 in funding over the course of three years.

2008

Two-day Joint Board Meeting and Collaboration Summit – We Are California!

On June 12- 13, 2008, the organization held an historic joint board meeting and collaboration summit titled *WE ARE CALIFORNIA: California Communities Facing the Budget Crisis Together*. Board members from all three associations were invited to attend the first day of the summit at which they discussed what cities, counties and schools were facing with the budget crisis and identified potential collective action. The second day of the summit was open to board members and others from the three associations. This day focused on foster care issues and impacts. Speakers provided ideas for what collective action cities, counties and schools can take to improve the system and the outcomes. At the conclusion of the event participants asked that a similar gathering of board members be held each year.

The First Official Local CCS Partnership

As a result of the joint board meeting in June, the City of Temecula, the Temecula Valley Unified School District and Riverside County officially formed a local CCS Partnership

with the passage of resolutions on Tuesday November 18, 2008. The focus of their collaboration is to jointly address the needs of emancipating foster youth.

Conditions of Children Task Force

The 2008 Conditions of Children Task Force was a continuation of the 2007 task force. Rather than focusing on emancipating foster youth, the group studied the need for policy change to improve the outcomes for all foster youth. The report resulting from this year of effort is titled *Foster Youth: We Can Make a Difference*. It highlights five strategies that local leadership can employ to improve the circumstances of children in the foster care system. It also includes an extensive list of resources for further information. The report is available online at:

http://www.ccspartnership.org/pdf/caFosterYouth_weCanMakeADiff.pdf

Healthy Eating and Active Living Campaign for California Cities – April 2008-December 2010

CCS Partnership collaborated with the Center for Public Health Advocacy in apply for grants from the Vitamin Settlement fund and the Kaiser Foundation for the *Healthy Eating and Active Living Campaign for California Cities (HEAL CC)*. The goal of the project is to develop and disseminate to city officials throughout the state the information, tools, and personalized assistance they need to establish local policies promoting healthy eating and physical activity. Thus far 32 cities have adopted new policies or resolutions to promote health and well being in their communities. Another 100 cities have received support in considering the adoption of policies or resolutions. CCS's portion of the grant will amount to 229,000 over the life of the project. The project website is

<http://www.healcitiescampaign.org>

Healthy Communities Healthy Children – April 2008- December 2010

CCS Partnership received \$60,000 as a subcontractor for CSBA's grant from the Vitamin Settlement Fund. This is a three-year grant to built upon the successful work both organizations have done to educate and create local leadership among school board members for addressing childhood obesity in communities. CCS's main contribution was the guide *Building Healthy Communities: A School Leader's Guide to Collaboration and Community Engagement*. CCS also participated in sponsoring the 2009 School Wellness Conference pre-conference day at which the guide was introduced to the public. CCS joined CSBA at training session.

2009

Joint Task Force on State Budget and Fiscal Reform

The continued deterioration of the ability of the State to govern, and the discussion regarding taking of local funds by the state, led the organization to form a new task force. Throughout 2009 the Joint Task Force on State Budget and Fiscal Reform met examined reform in three areas:

- State Budget Reform
- State Fiscal Reform
- State/Local Relationship – Restoring Local Tax Authority

The task force developed a set of nine joint principles for state budget and fiscal reform. The drafting of the principles lead to a call for a summit of local elected and appointed officials.

Local Government Summit on State Budget and Fiscal Reform

On July 17-18 2009 over 570 local government leaders gathered in Sacramento to examine the draft principles and set priorities for action in the area of state budget and fiscal reform. The theme of the summit and title by which it came to be known was, **REBUILDING CALIFORNIA FROM THE GROUND UP**. Participants established protecting local revenue sources as the top priority to pursue in budget and fiscal reform.

Following the statewide summit, several communities held local summits at which they discussed the joint principles and reforms they would like to see. Another significant result of the summit was the adoption of the principles by all three association boards. Information about the summit and a toolkit for creating a local summit can be found at <http://www.ccspartnership.org>.

2010

Safe Routes to Schools January 2010 – December 2013

The Department of Public Health's Center for Physical Activity has subcontracted with CCS Partnership to partner in the development of a resource center for Safe Routes to Schools. The purpose of the center is to provide resources, training and support for communities in applying for and implementing federal safe routes to school projects. The first CCS task is to complete case studies on communities that have received and implemented both infrastructure and non-infrastructure grants. Funding for this effort is expected to total \$450,000 over the life of the project.