



Safe Kids Coalition of Clackamas County: Children's Safety Levy Proposed Framework and Implementation Plan

Introduction

The Safe Kids Coalition of Clackamas County is pursuing a dedicated source of funding for critical safety services for children and youth. The purpose of this document is to guide the creation, distribution, accountability, and oversight of safety services funds that we intend to be approved by voters at a future election.

While no community has yet been able to fully prevent the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)¹ that our children are exposed to, there are proven programs and services that *do* protect children from trauma, abuse, and neglect. Right here in Clackamas County, we have many organizations working hard to create a safe and resilient community for our children and youth. However, much more can and should be done to prioritize the well-being of some of our most vulnerable families.

To assure that all children reach their full potential, safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are necessary to prevent violence, abuse, neglect, and home life destabilization. The Safe Kids Coalition seeks to build investment in organizations centered in and delivering services specifically to Clackamas County children and families. We believe that locally based community programs are uniquely qualified and appropriately positioned to perform this work and maximize the greatest return on investment.

To develop this initiative, we have come together as a coalition of service providers, business leaders, elected officials, advocates, faith communities, and culturally-specific and population specific providers, as well as people with lived experience of child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and trauma experienced as children and youth. With our collective knowledge and experiences, we understand that it will take all of us to meaningfully address the critical need for intervention and support services that exists in Clackamas County.

Our Approach

Using a data driven and collective impact model, our aim is to ensure that the critical services that provide safety, promote healing, and improve the well-being of children in our community, along with their caretakers, are available and accessible when they need support in Clackamas

¹ Background on Adverse Childhood Experiences: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html>

County. These efforts must include culturally responsive, community based, and population specific services that:

- Provide trauma informed intervention in cases of child abuse, family and intimate partner violence, trafficking and exploitation, and sexual violence.
- Offer treatment and support services designed to mitigate the emotional, physical, and mental health impacts of trauma, polyvictimization, toxic stress, and Adverse Childhood Experiences.
- Interrupt the cycle and prevent future incidents of child abuse and neglect, family and intimate partner violence, sexual violence and exploitation, and justice involvement.
- Deliver individualized crisis intervention and long-term support and resources that address the multiple and complex challenges experience by vulnerable children, youth, and families.
- Provide services that promote stabilization, address the social determinants of health, and enhance opportunities for well-being.
- Change the social norms that allow violence and harm to occur.

Our Desired Outcomes

- Expand and stabilize the capacity of local Clackamas County community based non-profits to provide intervention, support services, and healing for all children and youth experiencing trauma and abuse in our county.
- Grow and strengthen the availability of services that promote well-being and mitigate the impacts of trauma through our collective impact.
- Leverage the trust and experience that Clackamas County community based non-profits have established in our community.
- Fortify a robust network of services that work collaboratively to keep children safe.
- Produce measurable outcomes demonstrating the on-going impact of funding.

Our Guiding Principles

- **Safety.** All children deserve to be safe and secure and have meaningful opportunities to contribute to a thriving community.
- **Action.** We are goal-oriented, forward focused, and dedicated to ensuring successful outcomes for children and youth.
- **Diversity.** Violence and abuse effects all aspects of our community and our response must be inclusive and engage all voices and cultures throughout the entire community.
- **Hope.** We believe in the healing power of hope and are committed to providing hope-centered, strength-based, and resiliency-focused interventions and services.
- **Unity.** Abuse and violence impacting children and youth is a complex and multi-dimensional problem that requires proactive, committed, and sustained multi-sector collaboration among counties, cities, public agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and community partners.

- **Equity** In order to prioritize equitable outcomes, we expect a robust equity lens will be employed that outlines expected results, data collection and analysis, community engagement, targeted strategies and approaches, implementation, and accountability. This lens must include addressing disparate impacts experienced by the BIPOC community, LGBTQI community and other communities and individuals harmed by oppression and system inequity.
- **Transparent.** Our coalition will continue to be founded on transparency and we are committed to communication that is centered on humility, integrity, and authenticity.
- **Knowledge.** We will be provider-informed in developing and adopting strategies for reducing abuse and promoting safety for children and youth using client-centered approaches and culturally responsive support.
- **Accountability.** We will require defined, efficient, and measurable outcomes based on broadly recognized public metrics. This transparency and accountability is vital to maintain the long term support of voters and the community.

Strategy & Implementation Plan

Clackamas County will administer the Clackamas Children’s Safety Levy, including soliciting proposals, selecting qualified local providers, entering into grant contracts with performance measures and monitoring requirements, and publishing an annual progress report on use of the funds and outcomes. The County will also designate oversight to a Children Services Committee for the purpose of ensuring stakeholder input and public oversight. The Coalition has requested that the administrative costs retained by the County are in accordance with the County’s cost recovery policy², are reported to the Children Services Committee and shared with the Coalition, and that there is a mechanism in the oversight body to review and provide feedback on the administrative staffing plan and associated costs.

The intent of the Clackamas Children’s Safety Levy is to provide revenue for children’s safety services in addition to revenues provided for those services by the local governments within Clackamas County. Barring exceptional circumstances like an economic downturn that prompts broad or across-the-board budget reductions, local governments within Clackamas County should take all reasonable measures not reduce current funds or service levels related to children’s safety services or expect Clackamas Children’s Safety Levy funds to replace funds currently provided by local governments.

Population:

The Clackamas Children’s Safety Levy is designed to specifically serve children and youth impacted by violence, neglect, and abuse. The following are considered eligible populations for the purpose of this funding source.

Children and youth impacted by:

- Child abuse and neglect
- Domestic/dating/family violence

² <https://dochub.clackamas.us/documents/drupal/2564c404-f61a-4333-9b79-e28ebc4676bb>

- Human trafficking and sexual exploitation
- Sexual violence
- Homelessness (youth focused homelessness, runaway youth)
- Children and youth in the foster care system
- Children of incarcerated parents

Services & Strategies:

The Safe Kids Coalition has developed this framework over a decade of provider engagement and through the gaps in service provision and the needs of the community that have identified by the providers across the Coalition.

Eligible projects will include some or all of the following services and strategies. Levy funds will be allocated at a minimum of 5% among each of the categories below (representing a total of 65% of available funds). The remaining 35% will be allocated to any of the following services based on the current needs of the community, as identified by the County's managing department's needs assessment, that will include stakeholder input and collaboration with the Safe Kids Coalition. Funds are distributed through the County's managing department's grant contract process. This methodology seeks to ensure that reasonable investment is made across of the identified areas of critical need and that a greater number of providers are eligible to participate.

To maximize impact, mitigate duplicative services and ensure high quality services the Levy will seek to support collaborative projects with targeted impacts, to which it seeks to provide grant funds through a performance based grant contracts for each of the service areas. Multi-year contracts are recommended to ensure continuity of care. This recommended structure is designed to ensure that all providers serving the eligible population are able to apply to the County to deliver services through the Clackamas Children's Safety Levy. These services include culturally responsive and culturally specific, community based and population specific services.

- Forensic and medical assessments for child abuse and neglect, sexual assault, and intimate partner violence.
- Emergency shelter for victims of child abuse, domestic violence, trafficking, sexual assault.
- Case management and advocacy, safety planning, trauma recovery services.
- Legal representation and advocacy, court-based advocacy and support.
- Mental health counseling, behavioral health therapy, addiction treatment, support groups.
- Trauma-informed children's activities provided at the time of services for safe caregivers.
- Parenting support, education and skill building.
- Strengthen economic supports for families.
- Evidence based, data driven and/or promising best practice services that promote health and well-being, address the social determinants of health, and/or promote social emotional skill building.
- Truancy prevention, educational achievement.
- Peer based or group mentoring.

- Intensive residential treatment for highly traumatized youth in the foster care system who cannot be placed in home environments.
- Violence prevention programming to reduce the incidents of violence in the community.

The County shall convene stakeholders to develop a transparent process for changes made to the percentage based distribution structure.

Provider Requirements:

- Service providers will be selected through an open and competitive grant application process. Preferences will be extended to non-profits that perform services for Clackamas County youths, but the application process will be open to all providers of these critical services.³
- Services must be delivered in Clackamas County. Service providers must have the ability to deliver services geographically in the county directly to county residents.
- Service providers must have a demonstrated history of providing community based social services. Consideration will be given to agencies with a proven track record of delivering services to Clackamas County.
- Service providers must be providers that work with victims and/or children and youth impacted by trauma as identified through the agency’s mission, history of services, and/or have a program with specific goals and objectives to serve victims within an agency.
- With permission of the County’s managing department, providers may develop an MOU/partnership agreement with a provider that will deliver services to Clackamas County residents that may not meet the provider requirements or seek to apply as an agency for the purpose of:
 - ensuring equitable access
 - provision of culturally responsive services
 - provision of population specific services

Accountability

- a) Contracts will include performance measures and monitoring requirements.
- b) Annual progress report published.

³ In the Coalition’s initial proposals this was stated as: “Service providers must be a 501(c) 3 non-profit serving Clackamas County with a preference for non-profits headquartered in Clackamas County when available”. The Coalition strongly encourages Levy investments are distributed in competitive grants to community based non-profits to the greatest degree possible as this has been a core tenant of this measure since inception in 2010.