

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA SUMMARY FORM**



DEPARTMENT: Mayor and Council

AGENDA DATE: 08/19/2025

CONTACT PERSON NAME City Rep. Josh Acevedo

PHONE NUMBER: 915-212-0002

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All districts

STRATEGIC GOAL: Goal 4: Enhance El Paso's Quality of ☐

SUBGOAL: Goal 8: Nurture & Promote a Healthy, ☐

SUBJECT: Discussion and action to direct the City Manager and City Attorney to draft and engage into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of El Paso, El Paso Community Foundation, and UNICEF USA in order to complete the process for the City of El Paso to be designated a Child Friendly City under UNICEF's ☐

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH:

Rep. Josh Acevedo and staff have been working with the Para Ninos Steering Committee to make El Paso a designated Child Friendly City under UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative. Multiple stakeholder meetings have been held with government officials, nonprofits, the El Paso Community Foundation, and local youth.

REPORTING OF CONTRIBUTION OR DONATION TO CITY COUNCIL:

No contributions

NAME	AMOUNT (\$)	DATE

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

From the stakeholder discussions, the current Mayor and City Council of El Paso appointed acting members to the Youth Advisory Board to revive the board and continue the engagement and inclusion of youth as part of the process for decisions and functions of the City of El Paso.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

From April 28 Council Work Session: Item 1. Presentation, discussion, and action to approve a Resolution of the City Council of the City of El Paso, Texas, pursuing designation as a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Child Friendly City and authorizing city staff to initiate the formal application process in partnership with UNICEF. Item was approved unanimously.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

n/a

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

Steps in the CFCI Candidate Cycle

The following are key steps each city or community will follow in seeking recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly City in the U.S.



1. Joining CFCI: Establish the city's or community's existing resources and preparedness to complete the CFCI process. To complete this step, engage in an exploratory conversation with UNICEF USA. Upon invitation, complete and review a [Readiness Assessment](#) in consultation with UNICEF USA. Based upon readiness, organizational capacity and alignment with UNICEF USA's strategic priorities, sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and formalize participation with UNICEF USA focal point.

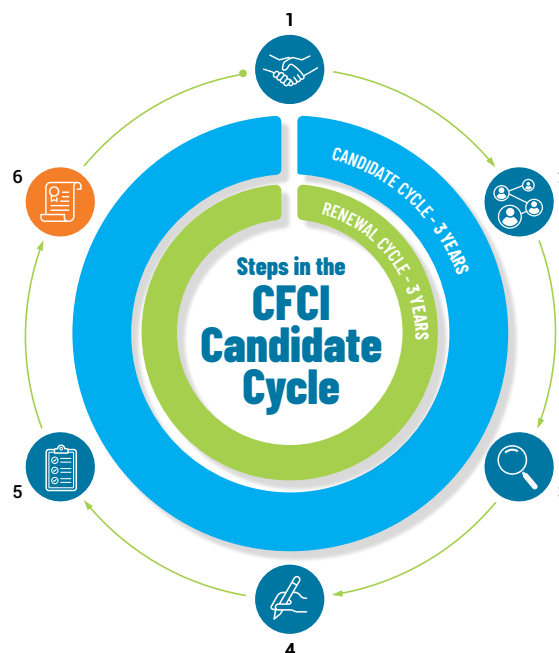
2. Engaging Community Stakeholders: Identify a CFCI coordinator, establish a CFCI Task Force (internal city implementing team) and CFCI leadership team (executive committee of dedicated citywide leaders) and determine how the city will ensure meaningful youth participation throughout the CFCI process. To complete this step, submit and review the [Stakeholder Engagement Summary Form](#) with UNICEF USA.

3. Conducting a Situation Analysis: Gather quantitative and qualitative insights reflecting the state of children in the city by conducting community conversations and collecting city data across the five CFCI goal areas. To complete this step, finalize a Situation Analysis publication and distribution plan and submit and review a [Situation Analysis Summary Form](#) with UNICEF USA.

4. Building the Local Action Plan: Based on the results of the Situation Analysis, convene city leaders, children and youth to identify, analyze and identify practical solutions for at least one or more priority issues, as well as any strategies to strengthen child-centered governance. Based on this input, draft a logic model and a one- to two-year+ Local Action Plan (the former for pilot cities, the latter for post-pilot cities), along with metrics and data sources to monitor progress. To complete this step, finalize a Local Action Plan publication and distribution plan and submit and review a [Local Action Plan Summary Form](#) with UNICEF USA.

5. Implementing and Evaluating the Local Action Plan: Implement the Local Action Plan with city leaders, community partners and children and youth. Participate in regular check-ins with UNICEF USA to review the status of progress against commitments in the plan. Schedule a midterm review with UNICEF USA and an independent evaluator. Upon completion of the plan, undergo an Implementation Evaluation with UNICEF USA's designated external evaluator.

6. Achieving Recognition: If UNICEF USA affirms that requirements are met, the city will receive official recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly City. To complete this step, receive and celebrate recognition and submit and review a [Post-Recognition Reflection Form](#) with UNICEF USA.



Duration: During the initial pilot, UNICEF USA's Candidate Phase took place over an estimated 24 months: 12 months to develop a network of stakeholders in the city, analyze the state of child rights and develop a Local Action Plan, followed by at least 12 months to implement and evaluate the city's Local Action Plan, receiving official recognition valid for an initial 24 months. All cities that joined CFCI after the pilot ended (after July 1, 2024) or that renewed for a second cycle will engage in a 36-month Candidate phase and develop at least a 24-month Local Action Plan.

Renewing CFCI Partnership: Upon recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly City, the city has the option to renew its partnership with UNICEF USA by committing to undergo a renewal cycle, helping to ensure sustainability of child-centered governance structures and deepening its commitment to child rights and positive impacts for children and young people. To undergo a renewal cycle, complete and review a condensed [Renewal Readiness Assessment](#) with UNICEF USA to determine that the city is ready for renewal and sign an MOU or addendum.

Summary Forms: At the conclusion of each step, cities will complete a summary form to provide evidence of and reflections on the completion of requirements of the step. The appendix includes links to the required summary forms for each step of the CFCI process.



Child
Friendly
Cities
Initiative



CFCI FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH



HELP EL PASO BECOME A BETTER PLACE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

Make Your Voice Heard – Join UNICEF USA and El Paso's Child Friendly Cities Initiative

Is El Paso a good place to grow up? Do you feel like you have a safe place to hang out? Can you go to a doctor when you're sick? Do you like your school? Do your teachers, parents, and coaches listen to you when you talk? Do you feel like you have a fair chance at opportunities?

The Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) wants to make sure that every young person in El Paso can answer "Yes!" to all the above.

El Paso is working on becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly City, and it wants to hear from you! Local young people are invited to share your thoughts on important issues that impact children and youth and ideas on what changes we should make in El Paso. Should we create more parks? Should adults listen more and talk less? Should schools look different? Through CFCI, you can play a role in making our city a better place for children and youth.

JOIN US!

Get involved and help make El Paso a better place for children and youth:



Join the Youth Council:
Meet with other children and young people to discuss priorities for youth and provide ideas to the CFCI Executive Committee.



Participate in Community Conversations: Tell us what it's like to be a young person in El Paso and share your perspective on issues that matter most to you.



Start or Join a UNICEF Club: Team up with other students to build skills, raise your voice for child rights, and take action in your community and beyond. [Learn more here.](#)

WHAT ARE YOUNG PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT CFCI?

"It felt amazing to be asked my opinion. That doesn't happen very often."

- Middle school student, Boulder, CO

"After I joined the team, I immediately felt comfortable because I could express my ideas freely and everyone made sure my input mattered. Our meetings are places where so many creative ideas are put out and so much kindness is spread."

- High school student, Houston, TX

To learn more, email El Paso City Representative Josh Acevedo at district2@elpasotexas.gov



Child
Friendly
Cities
Initiative



DID YOU KNOW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTS?

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched CFCI in 1996 to protect children's rights all over the world. Today, UNICEF USA's CFCI brings together local governments, community groups, children and youth to **make cities better places for children** and young people to live.



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

In order for a city to officially be recognized by UNICEF USA as a Child Friendly City, it must be a place where:



Every child and young person is valued, respected and treated fairly.



Every child and young person has their voice heard and considered.



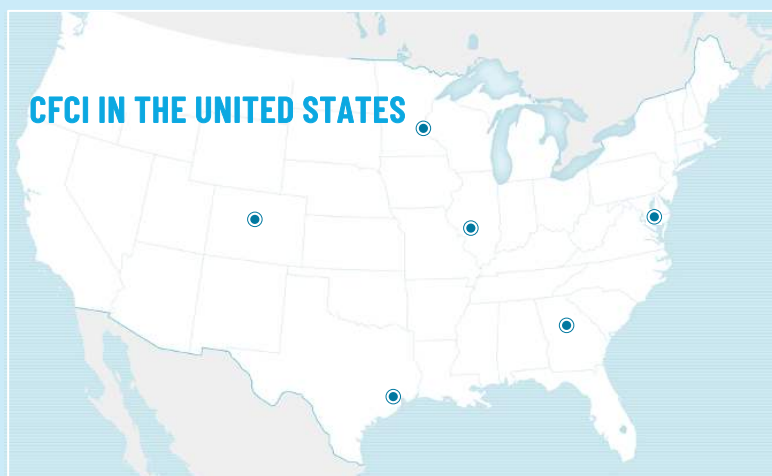
Every child and young person has access to basic needs like food, education and health care.



Every child and young person lives in a safe and clean environment.



Every child and young person is able to enjoy family time, play and relaxation.



WHERE ARE OTHER CFCI PARTNER COMMUNITIES?

Six communities across the U.S. - three now recognized Child Friendly Cities - committed to partner with UNICEF USA to pilot the CFCI framework in the U.S., leading the way for others:

- Houston, TX (recognized 8/23)
- Minneapolis, MN (recognized 2/24)
- Decatur, GA (recognized 3/25)
- Alton, IL
- Boulder, CO
- Prince George's County, MD

WHO ELSE IS HELPING TO MAKE EI PASO CHILD FRIENDLY?

- Para Niños
- El Paso Community Foundation
- City of El Paso Youth Council
- Mayor Renard Johnson
- El Paso City Council