YOUNG MINDS MATTER: Communities Connecting for Well-being

WED., OCTOBER 23

HOUSTON, TEXAS

HILTON GALLERIA AREA

#YoungMindsMatter19
Cradle to Career:

Supporting educational and economic outcomes
THRIVE – Tool for Health in Vulnerable Environments

People

Place

Equitable Opportunity

Equitable Opportunity

Education

Living wages & local wealth

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Cradle to Career – How can ‘equitable opportunity’ support well-being for children, youth and families?

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Objectives

• Unpack meanings of ‘cradle to career’ and its relationship to mental well-being

• Describe how challenges related to education, living wages and local wealth are arising in communities and their impact on early childhood development;

• Discuss opportunities to support well-being in early childhood and beyond by advancing educational and economic outcomes for families and communities.
Our panelists for this session:

Christy Serrano
Houston Regional Director
First3Years

Margaret Oser
VP, Mission and Strategy
United Way of Greater Houston
What is ALICE?

• ALICE is a quantitative data analysis of what it takes to make ends meet. It uses real-world, bare-bones household budgets specific to our area.

• ALICE represents those that are working, making above the poverty level, but struggle to cover basic needs, with little to no savings and living on the financial edge.

• It is now in its 9\textsuperscript{th} year with 18 states participating and updates every two years.

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Asset
Limited, Income
Constrained
Employed
ALICE Threshold – Greater Houston

• In our 4 county area for a family of four:
  • Poverty is $24,300
  • ALICE Threshold is $61,404

• Monthly Budget breakdown:
  • Housing = $948
  • Child care = $1,201 (infant and preschooler – licensed family home)
  • Food = $525
  • Transportation = $771
  • Health care = $704
  • Technology = $75 (smart phone)
  • Misc. and taxes = $893
Harris County

- ALICE Households – 28%

- Combined with Poverty (690,752 households struggling) – 43%

- Median income - $56,377
Three Principles to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families

BIB Babies in Baytown
for all families with young children
Powered by First3Years

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Discussion questions

• What types of policies and strategies can support family well-being and support early childhood? E.g. paid leave, childcare subsidies. What else?

• What needs to be strengthened in the early childcare/education space to support wellbeing?

• How can ALICE data support your work?
Building the education to employment pipeline

- Reduce or eliminate suspensions and expulsions
- Mental health supports in early learning settings
- Affordable, high-quality education
- Job readiness support
- Local hiring policies
- Living wages
- Family supportive paid leave policies
- AND MUCH MORE

https://preventioninstitute.org/sites/default/files/publications/PI_Cradle%20to%20Community_121317_0.pdf

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