

All Children Thrive: Local Action, Statewide Results

OVERVIEW

All Children Thrive (ACT) is a statewide, **community-driven initiative where youth and residents** and local leaders co-design policies to transform cities into places where all children thrive. Funded by the California Department of Public Health (in partnership with Public Health Advocates and the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities), ACT has **supported 31 communities** from 2019 to 2025 in fixing broken systems, promoting equity, and securing sustained financial investments.

We have developed a successful model of grassroots leadership that links local action, statewide collaboration, and policy change, creating a ripple effect where local victories drive statewide progress. With ACT's support, experienced partners like LA Voice and Long Beach Forward

helped pass Measure A, a half-cent sales tax for homelessness services and affordable housing. Earlier cohorts now mentor newer sites to replicate success.

STATE LEGISLATURE'S INVESTMENT AT WORK

In 2022, the California Legislature made a strategic **\$25 million investment** in ACT to prevent childhood trauma and mitigate the effects of **adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)**. More than two-thirds (**68%**) of California adults report one or more ACEs,¹ with the highest rates among low-income people, people of color, and LGBTQIA+ individuals.^{2,3} California's children deserve to grow up in strong, healthy communities, yet local policy efforts often fall short of creating lasting change. ACT bridges this gap by **strengthening local capacity and securing sustained funding** that reduces long-term costs and advances the state's vision of *California for All*.

STATEWIDE RESULTS AT A GLANCE

31 participating communities
(cities, counties, and tribal nations).

10 local policies adopted,
with many more expected by 2026.

2.8M youth positively impacted by ACT's
local policy and budget wins.

\$37M in funding secured for community
improvements via local policy victories,
exceeding the state's **\$25M investment**.

1,000+ youth and adults and **100+ community organizations**
strengthened their civic engagement and leadership skills.



OUR IMPACT

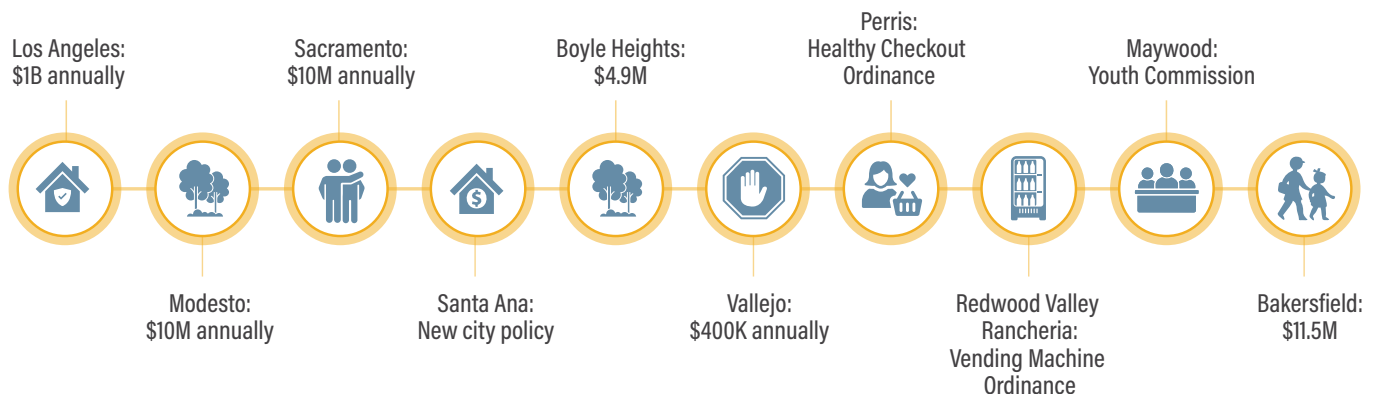
ACT's strategic investments in local leadership and innovation are transforming communities and have led to change throughout California.

- **Los Angeles:** Voters enacted *Measure A* (half-cent sales tax), which generates **\$1B annually** for homelessness services and affordable housing.
- **Modesto:** The city incorporated youth recommendations into transformative new policies that prioritized park equity, including a Park Master Plan supported by **\$10M annually** from Measure H. Youth input also helped shape the **city's General Plan update**.
- **Sacramento:** Voters approved *Measure L*, dedicating **\$10M annually** from cannabis tax revenue to youth services. The city also broadened its **definition of public safety** to include promoting healthy youth development.
- **Santa Ana:** A new city policy established **rent control and eviction protections**; park equity recommendations were incorporated into the **Parks Master Plan update**.
- **Boyle Heights:** The city adopted Community plan recommendations, including **\$4.9M** for **park safety and beautification**.
- **Vallejo:** City voters approved *Measure P*, dedicating **\$400K annually** in city funds for **youth development and violence prevention**.
- **Perris:** The city enacted a **Healthy Checkout Ordinance**, ensuring supermarkets offer healthier food and beverage options in checkout lanes.⁴
- **Redwood Valley Rancheria:** The tribe established a **Healthy Vending Machine Ordinance** expanding access to traditional Native foods within the Rancheria.⁵
- **Maywood:** The city established a five-member **Youth Commission** to advise the City Council and elevate youth perspectives in local policy decisions.
- **Bakersfield:** The city dedicated **\$11.5M** in funds for **safer routes to school and neighborhood improvements**.



What made this work powerful was that the leadership came from within the community, especially our young people. ACT did not just teach advocacy. It created space for us to own it, sustain it, and grow it.

Socorro Chacon, Project Coordinator, Social Model Recovery Systems (ACT Boyle Heights, Los Angeles)

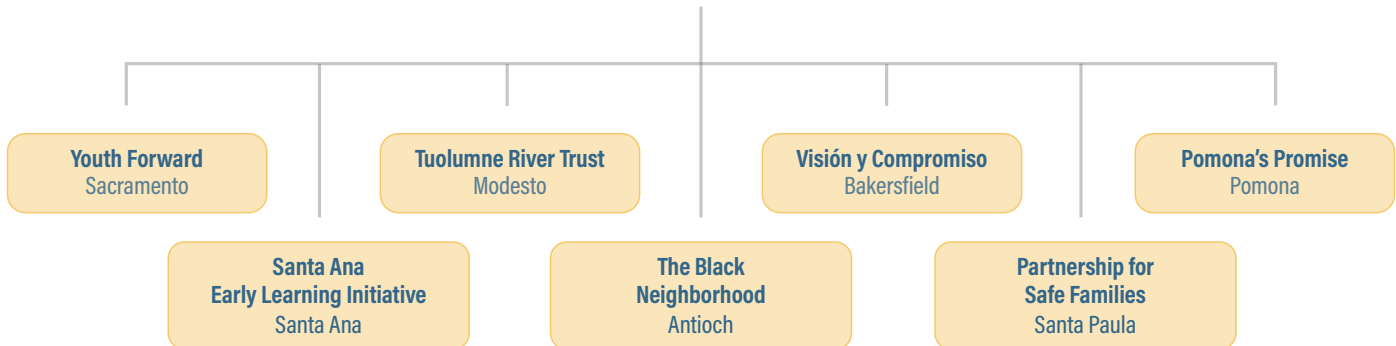


BUILDING ON SUCCESS

ACT communities are turning local wins into statewide momentum. Seven older projects are now mentoring new sites to replicate successful policy strategies, and a growing cohort of youth leaders is shaping local decisions.



The 7 Mentor Projects



HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can help expand ACT's impact by making sure communities have the tools and resources to meet local needs and deepen civic engagement in the face of growing adversity. We invite lawmakers to:

- Let us know how ACT can best meet the current needs of young people in your district.
- Champion community-driven health and equity initiatives.
- Share ACT's impact with colleagues and constituents.



For more information or to discuss ACT's impact in your district, please contact:

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All Children Thrive
California

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1. <https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/our-work/askchis>
2. <https://www.shadac.org/news/improve-health-equity-treat-disparities-adverse-childhood-experiences>
3. <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/aces-lgbtq-plus.pdf>
4. 2019-2023 U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS) via Policy Map
5. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/643743820f884875af71644d488934ff>