

All Children Thrive: Local Action, Statewide Results

Empowering Youth to Lead and Shape Their Communities

THE CHALLENGE

Youth often lack a voice in local decisions

California is home to 1.6 million youth ages 15-17. These future leaders often lack the opportunities to shape the public policies that affect their lives and are too frequently left out of the decisions that impact them.



ACT taught me that young people like me can shape the world—and that every young person deserves safe spaces, healthy food, and mental health support.

*Raul Rodriguez, 10th Grade Student, ACT Design Team Member,
Tzu Chi Foundation, San Bernardino, CA*

OUR APPROACH

All Children Thrive (ACT) equips youth to drive change in their communities

Through training, mentorship, and hands-on experience, youth work alongside adult allies to identify local needs, mobilize their peers, and influence policy decisions. Each ACT community includes youth on its design team to ensure their voices guide the project's direction, and adults are trained to engage youth as equal partners in decision-making. The Statewide ACT Youth Action Committee trains youth leaders and elevates their perspectives to inform policy across California.

OUR IMPACT

Youth leaders are driving local policy change

- **All 31 ACT projects** have engaged youth in setting priorities and participating in the community engagement process.
- **Maywood:** Codified a five-member **Youth Commission** to advise the City Council; **ACT youth leaders hold three seats.**
- **Sacramento:** **ACT youth** helped design and gain passage of *Measure L*, including the creation of Sacramento's \$10M annual Children's Fund and a **survey of 1,200+ peers** to inform funding priorities.
- **Modesto:** Established a **Park Youth Committee** shaping the city's **Parks Master Plan.**

Youth development and safety are local priorities

- **Bakersfield:** ACT partners and the Greenfield Walking Group secured **\$11.5M** for street safety to improve walkability and safer commutes for students.
- **Sacramento:** Funding from *Measure L* is expanding youth development and violence prevention programs for nearly **162,000 residents under age 25.**¹
- **Vallejo:** Made available **\$400K in city funds** for youth development and violence prevention programs, benefiting **36,000 youth under age 25.**¹
- **Sacramento:** Expanded the definition of public safety to include **youth-centered prevention and emergency response services.**



All Children Thrive
California