



All Children Thrive  
California

ACT SPOTLIGHT  
**Coaches,  
Team Members,  
and Technical  
Assistance**

**Crystal Harding**

*Program Manager, All Children Thrive*

**“Those closest to the issues  
are best equipped to build  
the solutions.”**



## What first inspired you to do this work with All Children Thrive?

Before PHA, I worked downstream — with people already in crisis, when harm had already happened. That burned me out. I was ready for something different: upstream work, prevention, building the protective factors that stop harm before it starts.

When I learned about ACT in 2022, I applied immediately. The model spoke to me — grassroots, youth-led, coalition-driven, with real policy wins and elected champions at the table. That's the kind of collective power that actually moves the needle for children and families.



## What does it mean to serve as an ACT Coach and support communities in their local change efforts?



It's been a privilege. Four years, eight projects across California — and counting. I get to build real relationships, hear local stories, and learn what shapes health and life outcomes in communities I'd never otherwise reach. That kind of connection is irreplaceable.

This has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I've grown so much, and I'm more enthusiastic about the road ahead than ever. I have fun at work — and I show up every day ready to be a catalyst for change.



## What have you learned from the communities you work alongside through ACT?



The communities I work alongside are doing revolutionary work — and they don't wait for permission. Together we empower youth, residents, and decision-makers to create systems change from the inside out. I travel to communities whenever I can, because being present matters, and the impact they're making — locally and statewide — deserves to be amplified and celebrated.



## What kind of impact have you seen when communities are trusted to lead solutions for children and families?



**2025 ACT Conference**  
**Public Health Advocates**  
April 2-3, 2025 | Sacramento, CA



People discover their voice. They build advocacy skills, civic knowledge, cross-sector networks — and they become the spokespeople for solutions that actually work.

I've seen decision-makers actively listen, shift their positions, and unanimously pass measures, ordinances, and funding recommendations developed by ACT projects. That's community power made real ... that's hella dope.

## What belief or value guides the way you show up in this work?



Everything about us, with us. Those closest to the issues are best equipped to build the solutions — listen to them, and believe them.

We the People — especially our young people — have power of all kinds. This work is about helping communities learn how to use it.