



All Children Thrive
California



Youth Forward

SACRAMENTO

In Sacramento, Mental Health Became Policy Action.

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THE CHALLENGE

Too many Sacramento youth were falling through the cracks.



This Mental Health Awareness Month, we're lifting up a story that deserves to be told. For years, untreated mental health issues, rising homelessness, and limited after-school programs left Sacramento's young people — especially those in the city's most underserved communities — without the support they needed to survive, let alone thrive. The barriers weren't just inconvenient. For a lot of kids, they were life-defining.



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WHY IT MATTERS

Youth don't just need programs. They need to know someone is fighting for them.



Youth Forward and the Sac Kids First coalition started from a simple belief — that young people aren't just the future; they're the solution right now. Investing in their mental health, safety, and leadership isn't charity. It's how a city takes care of itself.



"Young people throughout Sacramento have demanded that we prioritize them." — Councilmember Mai Vang

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THE SOLUTION

35 organizations. 2,000+ people. One historic win for Sacramento's kids.



Youth Forward coordinated the Sac Kids First coalition to pass Measure L — creating a permanent Children's Fund in Sacramento's city budget, fully sustained by cannabis revenue. In 2024, the city unanimously approved a five-year investment plan that includes a basic income program for youth aging out of foster care. The coalition still meets monthly, holding the city accountable and making sure equity remains more than a promise.



Learn more at www.act-ca.org or connect with ACT Director, Lourdes Perez at LP@PHAdvocates.org



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