



All Children Thrive  
California

ACT SPOTLIGHT

# Coaches, Team Members, and Technical Assistance

## Erica Burton

*Coach Manager, All Children Thrive*

"My goal is always to leave people, places, and communities better than I found them."



## What first inspired you to do this work, and what drew you to Public Health Advocates?

I have always been drawn to helping others and serving my community. I believe healthy communities are built through access to nutrition, physical activity, wellness initiatives, and opportunities that allow people to thrive. What drew me to Public Health Advocates was the opportunity to turn that passion into purpose by advocating for underserved communities and working alongside partners who are committed to creating lasting change.



## You recently transitioned from supporting communities through the REACH program to serving as an ACT Coach. What has that transition been like, and what excites you most about this new role?

The transition has been bittersweet. Leaving the work I was doing with REACH wasn't easy because of the strong relationships and connections I built along the way. Those relationships are lifelong, and I will always support my REACH community. At the same time, transitioning to ACT has been exciting because it allows me to focus more deeply on policy and systems change. I enjoy coaching and guiding organizations through the policy adoption process and helping them turn their vision into action. This role has been challenging because there are a lot of moving parts however I love learning something new every day.



## How has your experience with REACH influenced the way you approach your work with ACT communities?

My experience with REACH strengthened my ability to build relationships, engage communities, and meet people where they are. It taught me that meaningful change happens when trust is established and communities are empowered to lead. I care deeply about the work and am committed to doing everything I can to support communities as they work toward creating healthier, stronger futures.



## What have you learned from the communities you work alongside, and what continues to inspire you about their leadership?



One of the biggest lessons I've learned is that not all communities have access to the same opportunities, resources, or support systems. When you're in a position to make a positive difference and advocate alongside communities, it's important to do so. What inspires me most is the incredible leadership that often happens behind the scenes. There are so many people doing impactful work without seeking recognition. Their commitment, resilience, and dedication to creating change for others remind me that true leadership is not about recognition, it's about making a difference.

## What belief, value, or guiding principle shapes the way you show up in this work?

I believe this is God's work and that serving others is part of my calling. That belief guides everything I do. As long as I am able, I will continue to show up, lead, guide, serve, and support communities in whatever way is needed. My goal is always to leave people, places, and communities better than I found them.

