Kids First Richmond

The Kids First Richmond (KFR) Campaign successfully passed Measures E & K in the June 2018, and Measure H in November 2018, establishing a Department of Children, Youth and their Families and a Richmond Fund for Children and Youth. It took years of coalition work, but with all measures passed, there is now $45 million available over 10 years towards services for children, youth, families, including:

- Violence prevention and response
- Alternatives to incarceration and re-entry for systems involved youth and young adults
- Education and job training
- Parent and guardian support
- Media, arts, culture and technology
- Young people and family leadership, organizing, and civic engagement
- Health and well-being
- Environmental justice education, outdoor recreation.

In December 2018, a Director was appointed for the Department and Fund. Since then, RYSE, alongside the Invest in Youth Coalition and the Richmond Kids First Campaign Committee, has been in deep partnership to ensure that the vision and goals of the Kids First Initiative is enlivened within the implementation and launch of the Department and community and youth oversight board.

Schools and Communities First

RYSE will support the November 2020 Ballot Initiative that will reform Prop 13 by closing the loophole for large corporations, forcing them to pay their fair share of property taxes. Schools and Communities First will result in $11 billion annually in new money for schools and other location services.

West Contra Costa County Positive School Climate Resolution

RYSE Center and allies successfully advocated for and passed WCCUSD’s Positive School Climate Resolution.

- Implement culturally relevant teacher trainings
- Commit to implementing restorative trauma informed polices and practices
- Clarify the role of SROs
- Commit to collecting and using qualitative and quantitative data on use of SROs to make data-driven decisions on SRO staffing levels
- Encourage positive supports and alternatives to suspensions
- Reduce class sizes

RYSE is also a network member of the Welcoming and Safe Schools statewide workgroup.

Contra Costa Justice Reinvestment is a current policy focus. RYSE is working with allies to develop advocacy strategies that will redirect funds toward efforts of decarceration and community-based solutions to support and empower youth and families. A RYSE youth member and staff were recently elected to serve in two of 6 total seats on the Contra Costa Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.
POLICY WINS & CAMPAIGNS at RYSE (cont'd)

Restorative Justice Diversion Pilot
In 2019, RYSE launched an agreement with the District Attorney’s Office to bring restorative justice diversion to Contra Costa County. This is the result of early conversations and coalition-building meetings held over the past 5+ years, as well as ongoing advocacy by young people about the harms of our current system.

The program is post-arrest/pre-charge where the young person will be diverted instead of processed through the juvenile legal system. The program will be run by RYSE independent of any law enforcement or systems partner.

Racial Justice Oversight Body
In 2016, RYSE and allies advocated for the county to establish a Racial Justice Task Force. The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors established a 17-member body, which included a RYSE staff member, to:
• Research and identify measures to reduce racial disparities in the justice system
• Plan and oversee implementation of measures
• Report on progress made toward reducing racial disparities within the justice system
• Establish an ongoing Oversight Body to ensure implementation of recommendations

A RYSE staff member was elected to serve a 2 year term on the current Racial Justice Oversight Body.

California Alliance for Arts Education
RYSE partnered with the California Alliance for Arts Education as the Arts Now Communities Lead for WCCUSD in collaboration with Richmond Art Center and East Bay Center for the Performing Arts to develop a district arts plan and advocate for increases in arts funding and the presence of youth voice and power in school decision making.

CA Assembly Bill 656
RYSE co-sponsored the CA Assembly Bill 656, which would create an Office of Healthy and Safe Communities under the State Department of Public Health. The bill’s requirements would include the development and implementation of a monitored California vision and plan for violence prevention, safety, healing, and the strengthening of professional and licensed community violence intervention and prevention. There would be greater coordination and alignment of programming state-wide, and accountability overseen by an advisory committee.

Prop 64 (2016 Marijuana Legalization and Community Reinvestment)
RYSE was part of the Advisory Council that co-authored the Recommendations Roadmap for Prop 64 report. RYSE helped develop guidance materials and forums for communities to reflect on the opportunities presented by Prop 64, and to consider their local, regional and statewide application of funds. We are in conversation with the Governor’s Office of Business Development, the Director of CA Healthcare Services Agency, and other public officials and partners to ensure fund allocation is defined by and centered on community needs. We also focus on acknowledging and addressing the structural harms created by the War on Drugs.

RYSE is actively engaged in the 2020 Census, the WCCUSD Local Control and Accountability Plan, the YO! California Young People’s Agenda, and other local and statewide measures impacting young people’s health, safety and wellbeing.