

## ABOUT

The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) is a national, nonprofit organization recognized for its leadership in shaping policy, reforming public systems and building the capacity of communities. For more than 30 years, CSSP has influenced and supported elected officials, public administrators, families and neighborhood residents to take the actions they need.

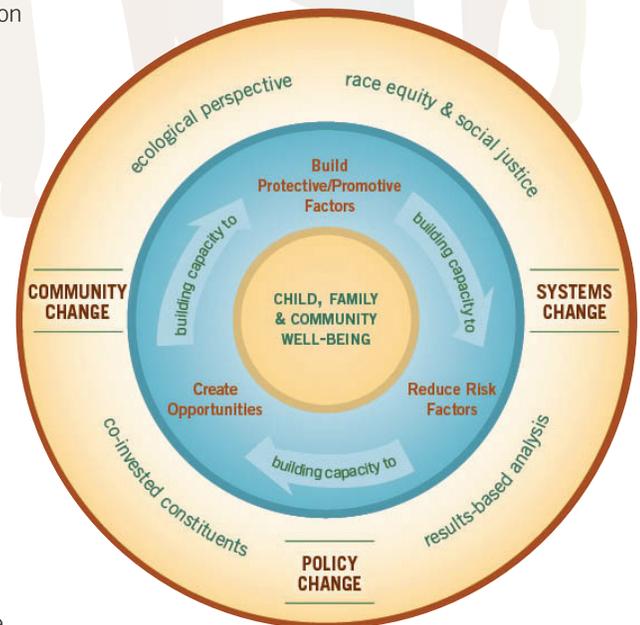
Headquartered in Washington, D.C., with offices in New York and Los Angeles, CSSP translates research and new ideas into on-the-ground solutions. We then use the knowledge from those real experiences to better inform the next generation of ideas, programs and policies.

All of CSSP's work is devoted to ensuring low-income children and youth can learn, develop and thrive with the support of strong families in safe and healthy communities.

To achieve this goal, we focus on those who face the most significant barriers to opportunity, including racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants and refugees, families in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty and families in contact with intervening public systems (e.g., child welfare, juvenile justice). Our work positively impacts outcomes for multiple generations—both parents and their children.

CSSP's work covers several broad areas, including:

- Promoting public policies that support child and family well-being
- Accelerating the development of effective, integrated, local early childhood systems and family supports
- Ensuring optimal development for young children and youth through strategies to develop protective and promotive factors
- Providing neighborhoods with the tools needed to help leaders mobilize and ensure parents and their children succeed
- Improving healthy sexual and gender identity development for all children and youth in the child welfare system
- Confronting inequities and structural barriers to creating an even playing field for children of all races, ethnicities and income levels



**CSSP's Theory of Change**

## Mission

To create new ideas and promote public policies that produce equal opportunities and better futures for all children and families, especially those most often left behind

## Equity Statement

Equity is central to CSSP's mission and values. We work to promote equity and reduce disparities based on race, ethnicity, sovereignty, gender, sexual orientation/gender identity and socioeconomics. Recognizing the central role that race has played historically in contributing to persistent inequities, CSSP identifies as an anti-racist organization, committed to confronting and addressing all forms of racism, particularly institutional and structural.

## PUBLIC POLICY

Public policy affects the opportunities we have and the distribution of resources to individuals and communities. CSSP has identified policy priorities that have the greatest potential to promote child and family well-being, advance equity, improve the performance of public systems and strengthen communities.

The goal of CSSP's policy work is focused on ensuring that all:

- children are healthy
- children enter school ready to learn and are prepared to succeed
- youth are prepared to succeed as adults
- children grow up in safe, supportive and economically successful families
- communities have the resources and opportunities families need to thrive

PolicyforResults.org—a unique Web-based tool—offers examples of effective policies, programs and practices used across the country, as well as state-by-state data. It also has tools to address disparities, because strategies that take into account the existence of disparate opportunities and outcomes are the best way to meet the needs of individuals and communities of color and broader societal goals.

We're grounded in the belief that no public policy is race or ethnicity neutral. Every policy has an impact, through benefit or burden, on the lives of families. Policymaking with attention to equity and results creates solutions that best meet the needs of the entire community.

## SYSTEM REFORM

Every child deserves to grow up within families that are safe, healthy, happy, financially secure and fulfilled.

When the public systems designed to protect children are uncoordinated, subject to ineffective policies, shaped by structural racism and lack funding, they cannot effectively help the children, youth and families they serve.

This leads to widespread mistrust, lack of accountability and agencies that tend to—intentionally or unintentionally—lock families into these systems for longer than necessary.

Reforming child- and family-serving public systems and creating policies and practices that give every child and his/her family a fair shake and chance to succeed means kids will be safe, families will be stronger and communities will prosper.

In our system reform work, CSSP is focused on encouraging the best work by child welfare and other human services professionals, addressing the complex problems facing families in public child- and family-serving public systems; and helping elected officials and other leaders find the evidence of what works and financial resources needed to make changes.

## COMMUNITY CHANGE

Place matters and strongly impacts the health, safety, educational and employment opportunities of children and families. Unfortunately, many communities face significant obstacles due to years of disinvestment, including high rates of poverty and unemployment, failing schools and housing instability.

CSSP's focus on place-based initiatives is driven by the belief that taking a comprehensive approach to addressing these issues, while leveraging community strengths and targeting public and private investments, can be transformative for communities and for families. Central to our approach is the importance of the participation of communities themselves in establishing their desired results. Doing this work successfully entails dismantling the structures that perpetuate disparities in outcomes and opportunities—and replacing them with innovative solutions that take into account the unique strengths and needs of every community.

With a decades-long history of providing on-the-ground assistance and consultation across the country, CSSP continues to co-invest with communities to make sustainable changes.

## KEY INITIATIVES

POLICY for RESULTS.org



Center for the Study of Social Policy's  
**strengthening families**  
A PROTECTIVE FACTORS INITIATIVE

**Child Welfare & Supportive Housing**  
RESOURCE CENTER



Choice Neighborhoods



PROMISE NEIGHBORHOODS INSTITUTE  
AT POLICYLINK



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