



Child Friendly Cities in North America

Expert Group Meeting | Jacksonville, FL | May 6 – 7, 2019

BACKGROUND

The [United Nations Children's Fund](#) (UNICEF) works in more than 190 countries and territories to put children first. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization, by providing health care and immunizations, safe water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more. [UNICEF USA](#) (UUSA) supports UNICEF's work through fundraising, advocacy and education in the United States. Together, we are working toward the day when no children die from preventable causes and every child has a safe and healthy childhood.

UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI) is a global framework for local municipalities to actively work to establish and protect the rights of children. Launched in 1996 by UNICEF and UN-Habitat, the CFCI has over two decades of experience in 3,000 municipalities in over 40 countries, with an estimated 30 million children impacted. At its core, a child-friendly city is a local system of good governance committed to fulfilling children's rights, where the voices, needs, priorities and rights of children are at the center of all public policies, programs and decisions.

The CFCI builds on several trends in the United States today that make local governments increasingly important in advancing children's well-being. Firstly, as federal investment in children is shrinking, public spending on children increasingly comes from state and local governments. Secondly, the past decade has seen an increase in city-based pilots that build on the dynamism and capacity of local governments to test innovative policies. Finally, there is a rising focus on young people raising their voices on issues affecting them – a development that UNICEF has contributed to by providing a platform to elevate the voices of young people.

OBJECTIVES

The expert group meeting (EGM) aims to build a learning community to assist in the development of CFCI in North America together with local government representatives and staff, childhood policy and child rights experts and UNICEF. The EGM is convened to achieve the following objectives:

- Familiarize participants with UNICEF and the CFCI concept, process, methodologies and tools;
- Identify risks, strengths and opportunities related to scaling up the CFCI in North America;
- Develop a national network committed to advancing CFCI principles in the U.S. and Canada;
- Solicit input on models for the CFCI in North America;
- Co-develop a road-map for translating brainstorming and discussions into concrete actions, with the goal of achieving tangible wins for local children; and,
- Start a grassroots movement around the CFCI in U.S. cities and communities.



POTENTIAL OUTCOMES AND DELIVERABLES

Participation is not restricted to those whose technical expertise currently centers on child and youth issues; rather, the EGM intends to engage a wide variety of stakeholders with the potential to integrate a child-rights based approach throughout all levels of local governance. Accordingly, attendees can expect to leave the EGM with tangible next steps and commitments for implementing child-rights based approaches within their own municipalities, such as:

- Conducting a local child rights analysis;
- Instituting a child-friendly policy, such as a Mayor's platform for children;
- Designating a youth-participatory budgeting process;
- Integrating child rights educating and trainings across government departments;
- Participating in World Children's Day on November 20, 2019... and much more.

AGENDA

| Day 1 – May 6, 2019 | | |
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| 8:00 – 8:30 AM | Registration | |
| 8:30 – 9:00 AM | <p><u>Welcome, Introductions and Objectives</u></p> <p>Welcomes will include a brief introduction to UNICEF global and National Committee (NatCom) offices, meeting objectives, as well as upcoming key events, such as CRC@30 and World Children’s Day.</p> | <p>Anucha Browne, Chief Engagement, Advocacy and Global Programs Officer, UNICEF USA</p> <p>Jeffrey L. Goldhagen, M.D., M.P.H, Professor, College of Medicine – Jacksonville, University of Florida; Medical Director, Partnership for Child Health</p> <p>Mary Tobin, COO, Kids Hope Alliance</p> <p>Lisa Wolff, Director of Advocacy and Policy, UNICEF Canada</p> <p>Danielle Goldberg, Director, Advocacy and Engagement, UNICEF USA</p> |
| 9:00 – 10:30 AM | <p><u>An Introduction to Child Rights: Understanding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Theory and Practice</u></p> <p>CFCI is rooted in the principles and standards laid out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), but what does a child rights-based approach look like? Focusing on both theory and application, this session will provide an overview of the CRC’s contents and implementation, and how it provides a powerful framework to guide, monitor and evaluate our work for and with children.</p> <p>Session presentations will be followed by Q&A and respondent interventions.</p> <p><u>Background resources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Convention on the Rights of the Child • Agora Course: Child Rights and Why They Matter • CRC and the U.S. FAQ | <p>Gerison Lansdown, RightsOn</p> |
| 10:30 – 10:45 AM | Coffee break | |
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| <p>10:45 AM – 12:00 PM</p> | <p><u>Introduction to the Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI)</u> CFCI global colleagues will jumpstart CFCI conversations with an introduction to CFCI processes and guidelines overall. Technical guidance and overview will specifically touch on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFCI history, mission and definition • Governance, coordination and partnerships • The CFCI Framework for Action, Minimum Criteria and Implementing Strategies • Process and program cycle <p>Session presentations will be followed by Q&A.</p> <p><u>Background resources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Friendly Cities global website • CFCI Handbook, 2018 • CFCI Toolkit, 2017 | <p>Louise Thivant, CFCI Advisor, UNICEF PFP</p> |
| <p>12:00 – 1:00 PM</p> | <p>Lunch</p> | |
| <p>1:00 – 2:45 PM</p> | <p><u>Keynote</u></p> <p><u>Global CFCI Models & Good Practices</u> There are many strategies and considerations to take into account when localizing the CFCI model. This session will provide insights on lessons learned and best practices globally, with a particular emphasis on CFCI in Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A • Respondent interventions • Open discussion <p><u>Background resource:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFCI vision and concept in Canada | <p>Mayor Shane Bemis, City of Gresham, OR; Chair, Youth Involvement Taskforce, U.S. Conference of Mayors</p> <p>Louise Thivant, CFCI Advisor, UNICEF PFP</p> <p>Lisa Wolff, Director of Advocacy and Policy, UNICEF Canada</p> |
| <p>2:45 – 3:00 PM</p> | <p>Coffee Break</p> | |
| <p>3:00 – 4:30 PM</p> | <p><u>Child and Youth Engagement & Social Inclusion</u> Children and youth are critical stakeholders in developing and implementing Child Friendly Cities. This session will explore best practices for including children and community volunteers in advancing CFCI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A • Respondent interventions • Roundtable discussions and report-out | <p>Gerison Lansdown, RightsOn</p> |

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| | <u>Background resources:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFCI Brief on Inclusive Child Participation, 2018 • CFCI Handbook, 2018 • CFCI Toolkit, 2017 | |
| 4:30 – 4:45 PM | Coffee Break | |
| 4:45 – 5:15 PM | <u>CFCI Principles in Practice in the US Case Study: Jacksonville's Integrated System of Care</u> With 20 years of experience independently CFCI, Jacksonville colleagues will provide context as to the progress and challenges faced putting CFCI principles into practice in Jacksonville, FL. Remarks will particularly focus on Rights Respecting Schools and how the team leveraged child health and well-being as an impetus for realizing CFCI goals on the local level. | Jeffrey L. Goldhagen, M.D., M.P.H, Professor, College of Medicine – Jacksonville, University of Florida |
| 5:15 – 6:00 PM | <u>Fireside Chat: Jacksonville Youth Council in Action</u> Drawing upon earlier discussions of the importance of youth engagement in promoting CFCI, youth leaders from Jacksonville will participate in an informal discussion about their views on effectively engaging youth as critical stakeholders in advancing CFCI. | Youth participants from Jacksonville and elsewhere Garry Bevel, Children's Ombudsman, Jacksonville |

| Day 2 – May 7, 2019 | | |
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| 8:00 – 8:30 AM | Coffee and Networking | |
| 8:30 – 10:00 AM | <u>Child-friendly initiatives in the U.S.</u> In order to promote success, CFCIs must be adapted to fit the unique context of each country. UNICEF USA will share their vision for contextualizing the CFCI Framework as well as ongoing work to promote child-friendly practices within both countries. Session presentations will be followed by Q&A, breakout discussions and large-group report-back. <u>Background resources:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFCI vision and concept in the US • UNICEF USA Situational Analysis | Danielle Goldberg, Director, Advocacy and Engagement, UNICEF USA Jeremy Cole, Managing Director, Southeast Region, UNICEF USA Pamela Wridt, Director of Evaluation Services, Algorhythm |
| 10:00 – 10:15 AM | Coffee break | |
| 10:15 – 11:30 AM | <u>CFCI Roadmap: Roundtables</u> Facilitated roundtable discussions will provide the opportunity for participants to brainstorm ways to adapt the CFCI model to the local context, ensure local government buy-in, and strategize on next steps. and reporting back in plenary. | |

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| 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM | Working Lunch | |
| 12:30 – 2:00 PM | <u>CFCI Roadmap: Roundtable Report-Out</u> Roundtable groups will have the opportunity to report back to the larger group on discussions and next steps for CFCI implementation within the U.S. and Canada. | |
| 2:00 – 2:30 PM | Wrap-Up and Next Steps | Danielle Goldberg, Director, Advocacy and Engagement, UNICEF USA Jeremy Cole, Managing Director, Southeast Region, UNICEF USA |