

Children's Cabinets Make Smarter Decisions for Kids

When budgets are tight, families count on leaders to make smart decisions that will be more efficient while also improving outcomes for children and youth. Governors across the country are creating, cross-agency coordinating bodies, called Children's Cabinets, to help meet this growing demand.

Children's Cabinets are systematically changing the fragmented ways states typically do business for children and youth by using a data driven, results oriented approach, Children's Cabinets can streamline and integrate government programs and services. This improves efficiency and creates better outcomes for kids.

Sometimes known as councils or commissions, Children's Cabinets are established through executive order or legislation. Though they vary in structure from state to state, Children's Cabinets are typically made up of the heads of all state government agencies with child and youth-serving programs. Members of Children's Cabinets meet on a regular basis to coordinate services, develop a common set of outcomes, and collaboratively decide upon and implement plans to foster the well-being of young people in their state.



**CHILDREN'S CABINET
NETWORK**

Managed by the Forum for Youth Investment

About the Children's Cabinet Network

States with Children's Cabinets have joined together in a National Children's Cabinet Network, managed by the Forum for Youth Investment. Members of the Children's Cabinet Network share best practices and receive technical support, coaching and tools and to focus on bringing efficiency and effectiveness to state efforts to improve child and youth outcomes.

The Children's Cabinet Network Is open to:

- The chairperson, the staff and members of a state Children's Cabinet
- Staff to governors considering creating a Children's Cabinet

Opportunities provided through the Children's Cabinet Network:

- Monthly peer to peer conference calls on topics identified by network members
- Regular updates on federal funding opportunities
- Publications on topics of interest to Children's Cabinets
- Technical assistance, meeting facilitation and coaching on projects like children's budgets
- Convenings such as roundtable discussions, trainings and meetings with federal policymakers

Technical Assistance

The Forum provides technical assistance to Children's Cabinets in various capacities. The Forum's areas of expertise include helping states to create a Children's Cabinet, develop common goals, create a statewide plan for all children and youth, as well as map state's fiscal resources for young people.

Background materials and other resources:

- State Children's Cabinets and Councils Series (best practices & directory): <http://forumfyi.org/node/54>
- Children's Cabinet Network website: <http://forumfyi.org/readyby21/childrens-cabinets>
- A Governor's Guide to Children's Cabinets: <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0409GOVGUIDECHILD.pdf>

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