

The Pair of ACEs (Center for Community Resilience)

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Maternal Depression
Physical, Emotional or
Sexual Abuse
Substance Abuse
Domestic Violence



Physical or Emotional Neglect
Divorce
Mental Illness
Incarcerated Relative
Homelessness

Adverse Community Environments

Poverty
Discrimination
Community Disruption

**Systemic racism &
white supremacy**

Violence
Poor Housing Quality
& Affordability

Lack of Opportunity, Economic Mobility & Social Capital

The Pair of ACEs: Leaves to Soil

Adverse Childhood Experiences

Leaves = “symptoms” of ACEs
(physical, emotional, behavioral)

Branches = challenges families face
(physical, emotional, behavioral, economic)

Trunk = gaps in support and resources
(lack of available, affordable services)



Adverse Community Environments

Roots = systemic barriers
(eligibility criteria, “siloed” programs,
punitive rules designed to exclude others)

**Systemic racism &
white supremacy**

Soil = negative, harmful beliefs, attitudes, prejudice, bias in society
(racism, homophobia, ageism, colorism, sexism, etc.)

CORE Conditions for Health & Well-being

Condiciones de CORE para la Salud y el Bienestar



The Pair of ACEs x CORE Conditions

Adverse Childhood Experiences



-  **Housing Instability**
-  **Lack of Access to Technology, Remote Work & Education Opportunities**
-  **Food Insecurity**
-  **Maternal Depression**
-  **Emotional & Sexual Abuse**
-  **Substance Abuse**
-    **Domestic Violence**

-  **Lack of Access to Primary Care & Testing**
-  **Unemployment & Lack of Paid Leave**
-  **Higher Rates of Risk Factors & Mortality due to Chronic Disease**
-  **Physical & Emotional Neglect**
-  **Divorce**
-  **Mental Illness**
-  **Incarceration**
-  **Homelessness**

Adverse Community Environments





Theory of Change

Healthy Leaves
(equity in well-being outcomes)



Sturdy Branches
(family strengths, resources, protective factors)



Sturdy Trunk
(programs, practices, policies create CORE Conditions for equitable health & well-being)



Strong Roots
(integrated, trauma-informed, anti-racist & equity-centered system)



Stable, Affordable Housing & Shelter
Safe, Just Communities
Healthy Environments
Community Connectedness

Health & Wellness
Lifelong Learning & Education
Economic Security & Social Mobility
Thriving Families

Connected, Equitable & Accountable Systems & Supports



Vision
Thriving children & families in a resilient, just community



Healthy Soil
(antiracist, equity-centered community & systems norms)



Our Theory of Change

To fulfill our Vision of **thriving children and families in a resilient, just community**, we must address the root causes of the [Pair of ACEs](#) (Adverse Childhood Experiences that occur in Adverse Community Environments). This is possible...

IF we work together to cultivate **Healthy Soil** (community & system norms & narratives are strengths-based, community-centered, antiracist & advance equity)

AND establish **Strong Roots** (create an integrated, trauma-informed, anti-racist & equity-centered System of Prevention; Family & institutional leaders share power & co-design solutions)

AND develop a **Sturdy Trunk** (prevention programs, practices & policies create equitable opportunities to experience eight vital, interconnected CORE Conditions for Health & Well-being),

THEN Sturdy Branches will grow and multiply (families have what they need to build Protective Factors, provide Positive Childhood Experiences & influence policies & systems that impact their well-being)

SO THAT Healthy Leaves are vibrant and abundant (Children, youth, families & the community are healthy & thriving; Differences in well-being outcomes are not tied to race, gender, income, etc.)