

# Children's Cabinet

July 28, 2025

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Vote on adoption of May & June meeting minutes
- FY26 Budget Highlights for Children and Families
- Children's Cabinet Strategic Plan Conversation
- Public Comment
- Adjournment

# FY2026 Budget Highlights

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# RI Department of Education

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# Rhode Island Department of Education

## FY 26 Highlights

RIDE continues to find ways to support three (3) significant bodies of work both with state funds and additional funding sources:

- 1. *Middle and High School Students:*** Ensuring high school graduates leave ready for life and post-secondary careers and college. CTE Categorical funding was reduced by \$2.0M in FY26.
- 2. *Multilingual Learners:*** Implementing new program models and educator professional learning as key aspects of recently promulgated regulations for Multilingual Learners. Funding formula increase of \$8.0M dollars.
- 3. *Literacy and High-quality Curriculum Materials:*** Supporting leaders and teachers with skillful implementation and shifts in instruction. Funding in the budget remains at FY 25 levels.
- 4. *RI Pre-K:*** LEAs are fully integrating with the BrightStars process. RI PK funding was reduced by \$1.1M for FY 26.
- 5. *Learn 365:*** Unspent FY25 funds will be rolled into FY26. There's \$1.2M in general revenue in FY26.

# Executive Office of Health and Human Services

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# Executive Office of Health and Human Services

## FY26 Budget Highlights - Overview of key outcomes for children and youth:

- Mobile Response and Stabilization Services Commercial Coverage – Legislation passed requires every individual or group health insurance plan issued in state on or after January 1, 2026, to cover MRSS. The Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) model is a **youth-and-family specific** crisis intervention model that provides immediate, on-site intervention and support to children and youth experiencing a behavioral health crisis.
- \$900,000 for Mobile Response and Stabilization Services for uninsured and underinsured children and youth to cover services and costs not otherwise reimbursed.
- Authority for EOHHS to pursue and implement any state plan amendments needed to establish a rate methodology for 24-hour mobile response and stabilization services for children and youth ages two through 21 (start date no later than October 1, 2026)
- \$500,000 General Revenue for Thundermist's Family Residence Program contingent upon receiving federal funds.
- \$1M for Infrastructure for School Based Services Federal Grant

# Department of Human Services

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# Department of Human Services

The FY26 budget and broader legislative session included funding to sustain current level of services as well as new investments for child care, which impacts providers, families, and children.

- **Child Care for Staff Pilot Extension to 2028** – The budget added \$2.7 million to extend the pilot to 2028. The pilot provided child care workers with access to child care, which helps the sector retain employees. *Effective immediately.*
- **Child Care Rate Increase** – Rates for infants increased by 20%. Rates for toddlers and preschoolers remained the same. The budget added \$3 million.
- **RI Baby Bond Bill** – This bill allows for the creation of a \$3,000 trust for each RI child born to a family enrolled in RI Works during the preceding calendar year. The RI Treasurer is responsible for securing funding for the pilot.

# Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals

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# BHDDH Investments in Youth Services

This FY26 budget includes funding from the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block grant, State Opioid Response grant, Opioid Settlement/Stewardship Funding, and SAMHSA's Partnerships for Success grant.

## FY26 BHDDH YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES FUNDING

### FY26 Investments- Prevention Services

Rhode Island Student Assistance Services	Includes universal prevention curriculum, SBIRT, parent engagement, and other school-based prevention work in 75 middle and high schools	\$4.95M
Regional Prevention Task Force Coalitions	There are Seven Regional Prevention Task Forces which oversee the planning and delivery of substance use prevention activities across the state and at the community level. Each regional coalition engages locally for a needs assessments which includes planning, implementation, and evaluation of strategies, policies, and programs to produce long-term reductions in substance use and abuse.	\$1.85M
RI Teen Institute	Teen Institute is a positive youth development approach that seeks to mobilize youth leaders as prevention advocates in their respective schools and communities. The program looks to identify middle and high school youth leaders who may be formal or informal leaders, involved in either positive or negative activities, and seeks to direct their natural leadership abilities to motivate and lead their peers toward prevention advocacy work.	\$200K
Municipal Partnership For Success Coalitions	The Partnerships for Success Grant is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and supports community-building and partnership with schools in high-risk communities particularly to address underage drinking among persons aged 12 to 20. Highlights include evidence-based programming, and youth initiatives.	\$174K
MADD Media Campaign	Focuses on reducing "Drugged" driving utilizing podcasts and other streaming services	\$61K
Tobacco Compliance	Includes youth retailer compliance for Synar (\$35K) and FDA contracted compliance work on youth sales and signage	\$35K
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$7,270,000</b>

# BHDDH Investments in Youth Services

This FY26 budget includes funding from the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block grant, State Opioid Response grant, Opioid Settlement/Stewardship Funding, SAMHSA Partnerships for Success grant, and state general revenue funding.

## FY26 BHDDH YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES FUNDING

### FY26 Investments Treatment Services- Not paid through Medicaid

Increasing Licensed Family Therapist Trained in SUD, Practicing in RI Facilities	Funding investment to keep more Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (LMFT-A) working in RI, by offering SUD training and supervision toward their licensure. LMFT's are embedded in current practices to treat family issues	\$271 K
Statewide Media Campaigns	Unintentional Poisonings, Toxic Drug Supply, Small amounts and Polysubstance dangers and Substance Exposed Newborn campaign	\$446 K
“Safe Storage Saves Lives“ Medication lock bags	Diversion activity –BH division is purchasing 5,000 Locked medication storage bags to be shared with DCYF, Probation and SUD facilities across RI	\$75K
Hope Initiative-Overdose Response teams	Clinical response - Post overdose for family members and the individual themselves	\$213k
Adolescent SUD Residential Expansion	Funding will cover the start-up costs for two Adolescent residential facilities expected by the end FY26 early FY 27	\$1.3M
Seven Challenges Training (Fidelity)	Statewide implementation of a SAMHSA approved Evidence Based Practice that Addresses-Prevention, Treatment and Recovery	\$90K
Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN)	Supporting Peers who support families throughout SEN services-1,251 individuals served since 2023	\$224K
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,619,000</b>

# Department of Children, Youth and Families

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# FY26 Enacted Budget

## Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Source of Funds	Sum of 2023 Actuals	Sum of 2024 Actuals	Sum of 2025 Final Enacted	Sum of 2026 Enacted	FY25 vs. FY26
<b>Federal Funds</b>	\$92,585,761	\$97,594,044	\$124,493,928	\$118,620,365	\$(5,873,563)
<b>General Revenue</b>	\$192,600,444	\$215,101,482	\$261,352,456	\$262,775,058	\$1,422,602
<b>RI Capital Plan Fund</b>	\$157,058	\$1,531,768	\$28,968,231	\$11,250,000	\$(17,718,231)
<b>Restricted Receipts</b>	<u>\$1,023,457</u>	<u>\$1,452,514</u>	<u>\$1,477,948</u>	<u>\$1,744,971</u>	<u>\$267,023</u>
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$286,366,720</b>	<b>\$315,679,808</b>	<b>\$416,292,563</b>	<b>\$394,390,394</b>	<b>\$(21,902,169)</b>
<b>FTE's</b>	<b>702.5</b>	<b>705.5</b>	<b>714.5</b>	<b>713.5</b>	

# FY26 Children's Cabinet

## DCYF FY26 – FY25 vs. FY26 Budgetary Items:

- Federal Funds: \$(5.8M) reduction
  - \$(2.4M) State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF)/Wage Stabilization – Sunset of Federal Funding
  - \$(5.3M) Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) (Funds will be requested in FY26)
  - \$1.9M Child Welfare Case Load Estimates
- General Revenue: \$1.4M increase
  - \$3M Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)
  - \$(1.6M) Contract Services – Primarily Medicaid Independent Rate Model & Direct Billing Consulting Costs
- RI Capital Plan Fund: \$(17.7M) reduction reflects the progress of the Residential Treatment Facility (aka Exeter) construction efforts.
- Restricted Receipts: \$267K increase – Grant Funding

# Department of Health

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# Rhode Island Department of Health

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## Highlights

- ***MomsPRN*** RI's MomsPRN program received funding for FY 26 to continue to support psychiatric telehealth for pregnant and post-partum persons, in partnership with Women and Infants Hospital.
- ***Home Visiting Programs:*** All four of RIDOH's home visiting programs maintained the 2025 rate increases. This will maintain program capacity allow as many families as possible to have their needs met.
- ***Drowning Prevention Program:*** Funds a drowning prevention program, which will provide adaptive swim lessons to 50 youth with special needs, conduct swim program outreach (Stages of Freedom) and enroll 50 BIPOC youth in swim lessons, purchase 300 lifejackets and disseminate them through key community partners, launch a public awareness campaign to raise awareness about water safety practices, the importance of supervision, and the use of lifejackets.

# Department of Labor and Training

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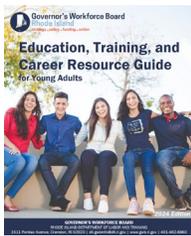
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# Our Programs and Services



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## DLT/GWB programs and services benefiting youth and young adults include:

- The PrepareRI 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Exploration Fair (JA Inspire) 
- The PrepareRI High Schools Summer Internship Program 
- The Real Skills for Youth Program (Paid Internship and Work-Based Learning Opportunities) 
- The Real Jobs Rhode Island Program (Free Job Training Opportunities) 
- The Work Immersion Program (Small grants to employers to hire and train workers lacking experience)
- Career Exploration Equity Grants (for Schools and Community-Based Organizations)
- Rhode Island Experiential Learning Navigator for Schools, CBOs and Employers 
- Youth WIOA Services (Ages 14-24)
- Adult WIOA Services (including Individual Training Accounts & On-the-Job Training)/VEC Partnership
- The Education, Training, and Career Resource Guide for Young Adults 

# Youth-Specific Initiatives in FY26



DLT/GWB Program or Initiative	FY26 Funding	Funding Source	Target Served	Administering Entity	Aggregate Total
Youth WIOA	\$2,482,671	WIOA (Federal)	+/-200 Youth Aged 14-24	DLT/GWB (grants to local CBOs)	+/- \$2.5M
Real Skills for Youth	\$2,800,000	JDF (State)	3,200+ Youth Aged 14-24	DLT/GWB (grants to partnerships)	Youth Work- Based Learning Activities  <b>\$4.35M</b>
PrepareRI High School Summer Internships	\$1,250,000	JDF (State)	250+ Rising Seniors	Skills for RI's Future	
PrepareRI Work-Based Learning Navigator	\$300,000	JDF (State)	TBD	Skills for RI's Future & Junior Achievement RI	
JA Inspire 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Career Exploration Fair	\$275,000	JDF (State)	5,000+ 8 <sup>th</sup> Graders	Junior Achievement RI	Youth Career Exploration Activities  <b>\$375k</b>
Career Exploration Equity Grants	\$100,000	JDF (State)	TBD	DLT/GWB (grants to schools/CBOs)	

**Approximately \$7.2M in Investments**

# Summary: 10,000+ Youth Served



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## Estimated Youth and Young Adults to be Served by Program:

PrepareRI High School Summer Internships  
250+

Real Skills for Youth Program  
+/-3,200

Youth WIOA Services  
+/-200

Adult WIOA  
(VEC Youth, OJTs, ITAs, Apprentices, etc.)  
+/-100

Real Jobs Rhode Island Program  
+/-1,000

Work Immersion Program  
+/-50

Career Exploration Equity Grants  
+/-1,000

JA Inspire 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Fair  
+/-5,000



# Other Budget highlights not reported?

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# Children's Cabinet Strategic Plan

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# RI Children's Cabinet Strategic Plan 2026 – 2030

RI Children's Cabinet Meeting 1  
Overview and Process

July 28, 2025

# Overview

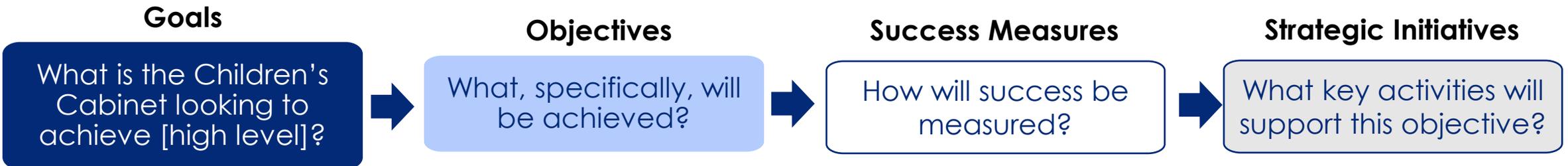
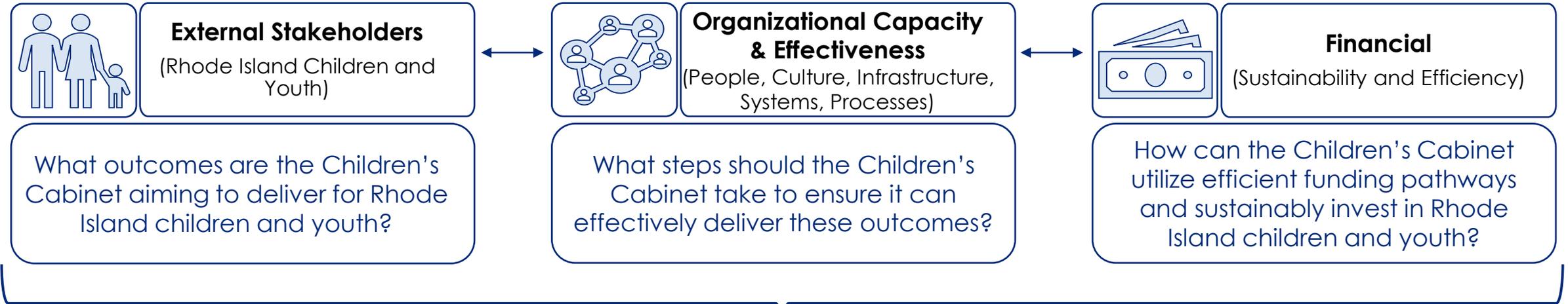
Over the next few months, we will be engaging closely with the Children's Cabinet to develop a 2026 - 2030 RI Children's Cabinet Strategic Plan.

## This strategic planning process will seek to answer five key questions:

- 1 How will the Children's Cabinet advance the goals of the RI 2030 Plan and ensure that RI children and youth have opportunities for safe, healthy and bright futures?
- 2 What external forces and internal constraints will influence the Children's Cabinet's future direction and success? How will these factors impact the Children's Cabinet's strategy?
- 3 What are the Children's Cabinet's strategic goals and objectives for the next five years [the "what"]?
- 4 How will success be measured?
- 5 What strategic initiatives will support the achievement of these goals [the "how"]?

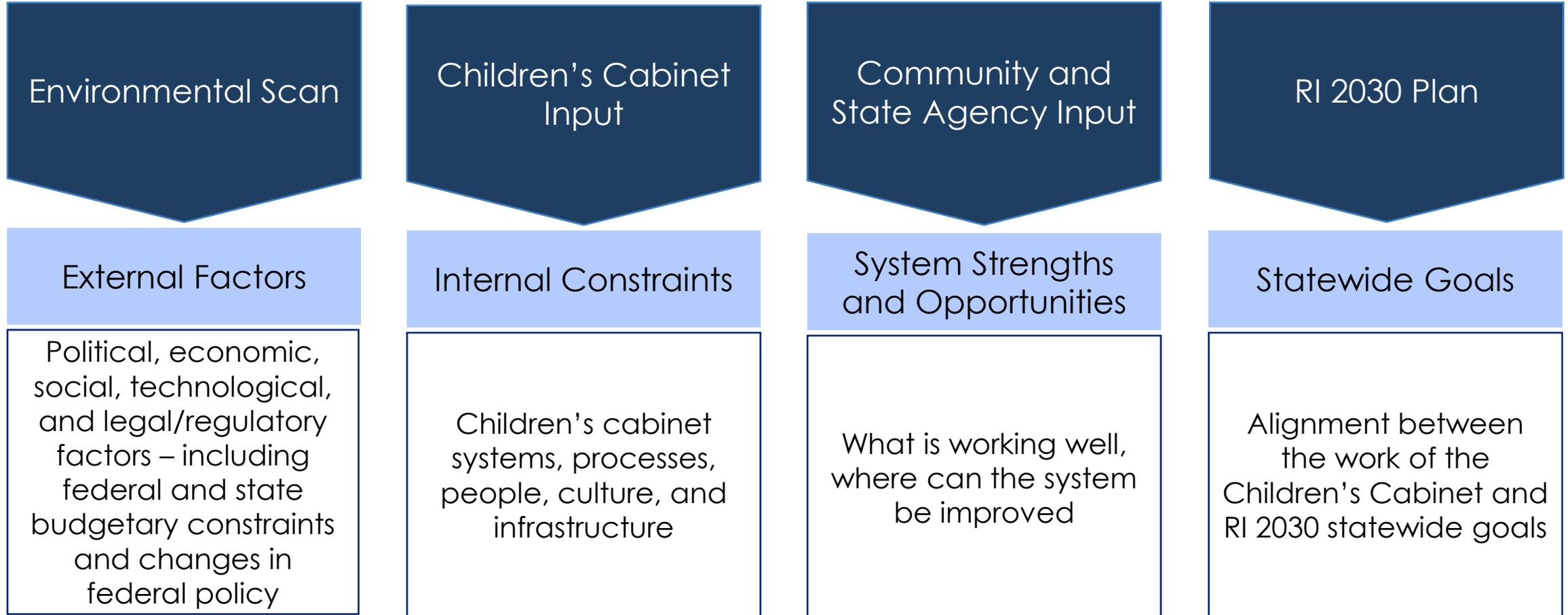
# Strategic Planning Framework

Our strategic planning framework will be organized around three key domains, each with one or more associated goals, objectives, success measures, and strategic initiatives.



# Strategic Planning Key Inputs

Our strategic planning process will include a range of key inputs.



# Strategic Planning Process & Timeline

Development of the Children’s Cabinet Strategic Plan will occur in three phases.

1	<b>Children’s Cabinet Session 1 - July 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Review approach and process and preview upcoming activities and inputs needed</i>
<b>Establish Starting Point and Assess</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect baseline information; conduct environmental scan and research</li> <li>• Conduct interviews with Children’s Cabinet agencies</li> <li>• Conduct focus groups and public input sessions to identify system gaps and opportunities</li> <li>• Draft summary of key findings and initial strategic plan goals and objectives</li> </ul>		
2	<b>Children’s Cabinet Session 2 - Sept 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<i>Review findings from the community engagement process and discuss how to reflect within initial strategic plan goals and objectives</i>
<b>Develop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss, refine and adopt strategic plan goals and objectives</li> <li>• Develop success measures and identify strategic initiatives</li> </ul>		
3	<b>Children’s Cabinet Session 3 - Oct 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Review full draft of strategic plan and gather feedback on success measures and strategic initiatives</i>
<b>Refine and Finalize</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate feedback on draft strategic plan</li> <li>• Finalize strategic plan</li> </ul>		
	<b>Children’s Cabinet Session 4 - Nov 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Review and confirm final strategic plan</i>

# Next Steps

Over the next two months we expect to:

## Conduct Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

- 1) Interviews with Children's Cabinet agencies to identify agency priorities and system strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats (SWOT)
- 2) Focus groups with providers and families to gather input on system gaps and opportunities
- 3) Public input session to create awareness of the project and gather input on system gaps and opportunities
- 4) RI Early Learning Council session to create awareness and gather input

## Draft Children's Cabinet Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

- 1) Analyze and develop a summary of key findings from stakeholder engagement
- 2) Develop initial draft of strategic plan goals and objectives to review with this group at the September meeting

## Where we need your help:

1. **Confirm attendees for agency interviews.** We will invite those of you who attend these meetings, and you can forward to other attendees you would like to participate. Alternatively, you can identify who should attend in your place.
2. If you have not yet suggested **provider or family focus group contacts**, or you have contact lists we should notice about the public input session, **please email them to Nicole by this Wednesday 7/30**
3. Provide input/assistance for **recruiting attendees for focus groups and the public input session!**

# Public Comment

