

A young boy with curly hair and a bright orange shirt is smiling broadly, showing his teeth. He is standing behind a weathered wooden fence. To his right, a young girl with dark hair and bangs is peeking over the same fence, also smiling. She is wearing a yellow shirt with a colorful graphic of smiling fruits and flowers. The background is a soft-focus green park with trees and a grassy area. The overall mood is joyful and carefree.

our work

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

**brighter futures
for kids, families
and communities**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private philanthropic organization that works to build a brighter future for disadvantaged children in the United States. Jim Casey and his siblings established the Foundation in 1948 and named it to honor their mother, who kept the family together and provided them a secure and nurturing upbringing despite the struggles they endured after her husband died.

At 11, Casey left school to help make ends meet. Eight years later, he launched a bicycle messenger service that evolved into the global, multibillion dollar transportation company UPS. Casey began the Foundation with his siblings out of an appreciation of his own family's challenges, but also because he recognized a pattern among his employees. Many of those who did not succeed were from homes unable to provide for them materially and emotionally.

From its earliest grants to fund a small camp for disadvantaged children in Seattle, the Foundation evolved to focus on providing high-quality child welfare services and improving the treatment of children entering the foster care system. When Jim Casey died in 1983 and the Foundation's assets grew, more than half of the endowment was reserved to broaden our focus through grants to improve public agencies and systems serving disadvantaged children throughout the United States. In 1994, the Casey Foundation relocated from Greenwich, Connecticut, to Baltimore and began to pursue a series of major multiyear, multisite system reform initiatives that would shape our current and future projects.

Today, our mission is to improve the future for millions of disadvantaged children and their families. Our approach is to find solutions to overcome the barriers to success, help communities demonstrate what works and influence decision makers to invest in successful strategies. Integral to all of our work is a belief that a child's race or ethnicity should not determine his or her future.

Children need stable and resilient families to thrive, so we invest to help families stay strong and to ensure every child has a strong family for life. Families also need thriving neighborhoods to succeed, so we work to help communities become nurturing places to raise a family, with good homes, effective schools, safe streets, vibrant businesses and supportive services.

We make grants and forge partnerships to help increase opportunity for low-income families, reduce the number of children growing up in poverty and ensure that parents and their children are on a path to financial stability. We invest in strategies to help parents find good jobs, plan for their financial future and help their children prepare for success through a good education.

In all of our work, we are driven by a relentless focus on data and results and hold ourselves and our partners accountable for making a measurable difference for the largest number of children and families possible, using strategies backed by solid evidence. Strong leadership makes all the difference, so we work to develop the leaders that serious reforms demand and the tools they need to succeed. Finally, we help communities build the capacity for long-term change and invest in state and federal policy reforms that contribute to more efficient and effective public systems and services.

KEY AREAS OF OUR WORK

economic opportunity Every child deserves to get the best possible start in life, and parents should be able to promise their children that if they work hard, they will succeed. Yet nearly 24 million children have parents without full-time jobs, and many others earn too little to stay ahead of their bills and help their families flourish. At the same time, too many children enter school lacking the early childhood education resources, services and skills to keep up, leading to poor educational outcomes that ultimately perpetuate the cycle of poverty. Our two-generation approach ensures that disadvantaged children get the best possible start in life and simultaneously connects their parents to economic opportunity so that the whole family can thrive.

We invest in solutions that demonstrate ways to:

- Help low-income adults gain the skills and experience to find good jobs and move up the career ladder, gain long-term financial stability and overcome barriers to employment such as housing and a lack of transportation and child care.
- Help low-income parents plan for themselves and their children by accessing affordable financial products and services, building assets, and investing in homes, small businesses and education.
- Ensure that children are reading proficiently by the end of third grade — a key predictor of school success and high school graduation — by improving school readiness efforts, tackling chronic school absence and providing summer enrichment opportunities.

Developing strategies to help low-income families achieve financial stability and keep their children on a path to success.



IMPROVING CHILD WELL-BEING HELPING COMMUNITIES SUCCEED EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADVANCING GRADE-LEVEL

Building communities where parents can be financially successful and children have opportunities for healthy development.

supportive communities Too often, children's access to opportunity is limited by the places where they grow up. Nearly 8 million U.S. children live in high-poverty communities, with their promising futures derailed by the economic instability of their parents, inadequate housing and few community resources to help them succeed in school and life. We forge public- and private-sector partnerships to promote responsible community change that puts families first and reflects their needs, voices and leadership. While this work is national in scope, we have significant investments in our hometown city of Baltimore and the UPS headquarters city of Atlanta to demonstrate the impact of comprehensive, family-focused strategies and social investments.

child welfare system reform Some families need the help of child welfare systems to address their challenges. But too many kids are removed from their homes unnecessarily, are transferred between multiple foster families, spend time in group homes without the individualized attention of a caregiver, lose their connection to family and face lifelong consequences as a result. Each year, thousands of young people exit the foster care system without a permanent home or a family to guide them toward productive adulthood. To address these issues, we work with public agencies and foster care providers and invest in technology to better support families so fewer children enter the system, and to ensure that those who do get connected to lifelong families as quickly as possible.



READING

PROMOTING PROVEN PRACTICES PROVIDING DATA REDUCING YOUTH INCARCERATION DEVELOPING LEADERS

juvenile justice system reform

Expensive locked institutions are no place for kids — and the evidence shows they do not make neighborhoods safer, either. Through efforts such as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, communities nationwide have made great strides in keeping young people from being confined for minor offenses before trial and in reducing racial disparities in the incarceration of juveniles. Some of our community and public system partners are exploring the best alternatives to confinement for juvenile offenders whose cases have gone further into the system.

Helping public systems and communities provide at-risk children and youth with the support they need to stay with their families and become successful adults.

proven programs To change the trajectory for children and families facing challenges, systems need to adopt programs and practices that are rigorously researched, tested and proven. We use our investments and grants to test what works and establish partnerships that can scale up and sustain the use of evidence-based approaches.

• • •
: *Promoting the widespread use of evidence-based practices that support child well-being and strong families.*

community



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES IMPROVING CHILD WELL-BEING HELPING COMMUNITIES SUCCEED EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADVANCING GRADE-LEVEL

leadership to drive change

Policymakers, advocates and opinion leaders need reliable data, leadership and innovative solutions to achieve significant and sustainable results for children and families.

Three ways we promote results-based policy reforms are:

• *Encouraging better outcomes for larger numbers of kids and families through more informed, results-driven policies and practices.*

- Tracking, analyzing and publicizing national and state-by-state data on child well-being through KIDS COUNT, which provides critical information to raise the visibility of children's issues and advocate for policy reforms;
- Offering results-based leadership programs, including the Children and Family Fellowship, to equip influential community, nonprofit and public-sector leaders to bring about change on a greater scale, coaching teams of leaders to help them achieve results on specific issues and equipping the next generation of leaders with the values of data- and results-driven management and racial equity; and
- Investing in efforts that help state and federal policymakers, experts and organizations forge coalitions and advance data-based solutions to improve public systems and supports.



OUR GRANT MAKING

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is among the largest private foundations in the United States. The Casey Foundation has distributed \$2.2 billion in grant making over the past decade to support programs and policies designed to improve the lives of children in America.



The Annie E. Casey Foundation:

www.aecf.org

www.facebook.com/AnnieECaseyFndn

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www.youtube.com/user/AnnieECaseyFound

KIDS COUNT Data Center:

datacenter.kidscount.org

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THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

701 ST. PAUL STREET BALTIMORE, MD 21202 410.547.6600



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