**VISION**

All children, teens and their families will have access to evidence-informed, sustainable programs and policies that address their unique needs and allow them to be their healthiest selves.

At PolicyLab, our care for children and families drives our research, informing practice and policy to improve child health. Our innovative model pairs researchers with communications and policy professionals to get research into the hands of decision-makers and advocates.

We are inspired by today’s children and teens who are more perceptive, resilient and motivated to better the world than ever before. In the midst of these strengths, youth and their families continue to face significant challenges to being their healthiest selves. For example, after years of decline, we recently saw an uptick in the children’s uninsurance rate. Many youth and their families continue to face racial, socio-economic and geographic disparities in their health outcomes. And today, more than 20% of youth in the United States have experienced a mental health disorder during childhood or adolescence.

Since 2008, PolicyLab’s mission has been to achieve optimal child health and well-being by informing program and policy changes through interdisciplinary research. PolicyLab, based at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, is a unique academic research center grounded in clinical care and driving impact. We have grown to include more than 30 faculty and 60 staff who are experts in medicine, public health, social work, psychology, law, biostatistics, health services research, population health, policy and communications. PolicyLab’s interdisciplinary work is organized into five strategic research portfolios:

- **Adolescent Health & Well-being**;
- **Behavioral Health**;
- **Health Care Coverage, Access & Quality**;
- **Health Equity**; and
- **Intergenerational Family Services**

At PolicyLab, we research, develop and implement evidence-based solutions that are responsive to community needs and relevant to child health policy priorities. Our research and evidence-informed policy recommendations have gone on to shape city-level interventions for youth and families, statewide program design in the fields of home visiting and child welfare, federal appropriations requests, and much more. To ensure we are having the greatest impact on the lives of youth and families, this strategic plan will guide our priorities and engagement with partners for the 2020–2023 fiscal years.

**VALUES THAT DRIVE OUR WORK**

Every youth should have access to high-quality physical and behavioral health care.

Every youth should have the opportunity to live in a safe and nourishing community that fosters healthy lifestyles for families.

Every youth should receive patient-centered and family-centered care.
THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH

What we’re doing:
We are working to ensure our talented researchers can meaningfully collaborate with community members and experts from many disciplines to push forward innovative projects. We are also providing our teams with a variety of training opportunities that will give them the diverse skill sets they need to conduct impactful, meaningful, policy-relevant research.

How we can work together:
• Identify research questions that are responsive to community needs and relevant to policy priorities
• Develop trainings that prepare our researchers to best align research with stakeholder and community needs
• Collaborate on research that better engages multidisciplinary partners around shared, meaningful priorities

Meaningful Policy Change

What we’re doing:
We seek to identify and communicate policy priorities that reflect our values for youth and family health and are grounded in our research and patient care. At the same time, we are pursuing strong collaborations with key stakeholders in ways that can influence and contribute to accomplishing our policy goals.

How we can work together:
• Align goals and strategies to create greater policy impact
• Finance projects that measurably impact or sustain evidence-informed programs and policies focused on children’s health
• Ensure the translation of research is clear and impactful to policymakers

Strong Partnerships

What we’re doing:
If we are to achieve a collective vision of equitable and optimal youth health outcomes, we must partner with important stakeholders across our own institution and within the community. We hope to take part in more community collaborations focused on bettering child health, target our communications in ways that provide key updates to partners, and organize more opportunities to bring together physicians, researchers, community organizations and policymakers to have meaningful, actionable conversations about the needs of youth and their families.

How we can work together:
• Identify thought leaders in the community who can inform our work
• Develop co-branded policy briefs or other products that increase visibility of our collaborative projects and priorities
• Convene a child health practice and policy forum that raises awareness about shared work and outlines emerging and innovative policy and program solutions

Create an environment that allows the next generation of child health researchers to successfully conduct high-impact research that helps policymakers, health systems and advocates make better-informed decisions on how to address children’s and families’ needs.

Increase PolicyLab’s capacity to create meaningful policy change on behalf of youth and families.

Establish and maintain strong engagement with important partners throughout the community.
Collaboration drives our work. We partner with practitioners, families, communities and policymakers because we know we cannot achieve improved child health outcomes alone.

**Will you join us in the pursuit of this vision?**

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The mission of PolicyLab at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) is to achieve optimal child health and well-being by informing program and policy changes through interdisciplinary research. PolicyLab is a Center of Emphasis within the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute, one of the largest pediatric research institutes in the country.