

all hands raised



Education, Equity and Excellence
from Cradle to Career

Cradle to Career Collaboratives Frequently Asked Questions

What is Cradle to Career (C2C)?

C2C drives long-term, systemic change to increase student success by engaging individuals and organizations representing a cross-sector of the community. The goal of the work is to ensure that every young person in every neighborhood throughout Portland and Multnomah County achieves their full potential both inside and outside of the classroom. C2C facilitates collaborative action rooted in data-driven decision-making and a commitment to continuous improvement.

What is All Hands Raised?

All Hands Raised (formerly the Portland Schools Foundation) is the managing partner of C2C in Portland and Multnomah County.

What are the goals of C2C?

Children and youth in Portland and Multnomah County will 1) be prepared for school, 2) be supported inside and outside of school, 3) succeed academically, 4) enroll in postsecondary education, and 5) complete a postsecondary credential.

What are the priorities of C2C?

Three priorities were established to guide the initial action steps of C2C. They are: 1) eliminating disparities in children and youth success, 2) linking community and family supports to children and youth success, and 3) ensuring that every child enters school prepared to learn.

What is a C2C collaborative?

A collaborative is a cross-sector work team that comes together to develop a shared action plan to address a specific C2C priority area (or multiple areas) in order to advance the C2C goals. The action plans are grounded in data and members commit to a process of continuous improvement.

How are C2C collaboratives structured?

Collaboratives are coordinated by a “convening partner” that brings together a broad set of organizations, coordinates meetings, and supports the development and implementation of a shared action plan. All members agree to participate actively, share data, information and resources, and align their work to maximize their impact on outcomes for children and youth.

How are convening partners selected?

On October 26, 2011, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Convening Partners was released to the community in order to begin the process of identifying convening partners for the initial collaboratives. The RFQ may be viewed by clicking on “Cradle to Career Partnership” at www.allhandsraised.org. Responses to the RFQ are due by December 1, 2011 in order to be considered in the initial round of collaboratives; responses will also be considered on an ongoing basis and staff from All Hands Raised will work with any organization interested in exploring this role. Up to two organizations may propose to “co-convene” a given collaborative.

Have specific focus areas for each collaborative already been determined?

Convening partners are asked to identify one (or more) of the priorities of C2C (listed above) to be addressed and collaboratives are not expected to address all aspects of any given priority. Convening partners are also

asked to define a general focus for the work of the collaborative and the indicators that will likely be addressed. However, specific strategies, goals, and metrics will be defined by the collaborative itself through a structured action planning process. A specific geographic focus for the activities of each collaborative has not been pre-determined by All Hands Raised.

What support does All Hands Raised provide to the C2C collaboratives?

All Hands Raised will deploy a skilled facilitator to guide collaboratives through the development of a shared action plan using “continuous improvement” techniques. All Hands Raised will also ensure the review of the collaboratives’ action plans by experts in data, research, and evaluation (this does not include in-depth program evaluation and analysis which may require additional resources). All Hands Raised will also link the work of each collaborative to one another and to broader community leadership.

Do convening partners receive funding directly from All Hands Raised?

No. Convening partners are responsible for developing their capacity to effectively coordinate the work of the collaborative. All Hands Raised will advocate, with convening partners, for funding to support the work of convening the collaborative. All Hands Raised also has a goal of aligning funding to support the action plans of C2C collaboratives.

What is the benefit of becoming a convening partner of a C2C collaborative?

Serving as a convening partner for a C2C collaborative will provide organizations with increased visibility, leverage, and momentum, as well as access to additional partners and community leaders – all of which contribute to increased impact. Leadership provided by conveners will be highly valued by the community.

How do C2C collaboratives measure their success?

Collaboratives gather baseline data, set measurable goals, and share data to measure their progress. Specific measures are collaboratively developed by each collaborative.

How many C2C collaboratives will there be?

All Hands Raised anticipates incorporating approximately two to four collaboratives in January 2012, with the potential of adding more by summer 2012. Collaboratives will be incorporated into C2C based on the demonstrated readiness of convening partners to convene the given collaborative.

How does a person or organization become part of a C2C collaborative?

All Hands Raised and the identified convening partners will communicate to stakeholders as the initial collaboratives are selected to ensure that community partners are aware of the focus of the collaboratives and have an opportunity to get involved. Participation in C2C collaboratives is open to a broad set of stakeholders. Interested groups or individuals who do not currently receive regular updates from All Hands Raised should email jeanie-marie@allhandsraised.org to be added to our distribution list. Information on collaboratives will also be posted at www.allhandsraised.org

How often do C2C collaboratives meet?

Meeting schedule will be determined by the convening partner through consultation with the collaborative members. In the initial action planning phase collaboratives may meet as often as twice per month. Once an action plan has been developed by the collaborative and reviewed by All Hands Raised, collaboratives may meet less frequently, depending on their needs.

Do C2C collaboratives exist for a certain amount of time?

The work of the collaboratives is ongoing. All Hands Raised has not set a pre-determined amount of time for C2C collaboratives to exist; however collaboratives will evaluate their progress toward stated goals on an ongoing basis and may elect to change or end their work based on progress made. All Hands Raised will make any final designation of a group’s ongoing status as a C2C collaborative.