

ACTIVITY MENU

Collaborative Solutions Cafe

Post Room 1st Floor: CHILDCARE in Jefferson County, KY & Texas | Madeline Kane

Texas Mixed Delivery Prekindergarten Design Collaborative

Convergence has partnered with [Child Care Associates](#) to convene a diverse group of stakeholders to analyze, design, and build consensus around **actionable solutions to strengthen and expand Texas's mixed-delivery system for preschool-aged children**. The work will focus on identifying barriers in the current system, aligning stakeholders around shared short and long-term goals, and producing an action plan that outlines policy and non-policy strategies to improve access, quality, and sustainability of publicly-funded Pre-K across all settings in Texas.

Jefferson County, Kentucky Early Childhood Education Stakeholder Collaboration

This project aims to bring early childhood partners in Jefferson County, Kentucky, together to **build an innovative system that functions as a coordinated unit rather than a set of separate organizations** – and design a grant structure that strengthens system alignment, reduces duplication, and incentivizes collaboration rather than simply funding activity.

Hamlin Room 1st Floor:
ENERGY & CLIMATE in Virginia & Iowa

Monika Glowacki &
Mark Rubin

Collaborative on Driving Virginia's Sustainable Energy Future

This Collaborative aims to **address the widening electricity supply-demand gap in a way that is affordable, reliable, and clean**. The group includes representatives from solar, energy, utility, environment, local government, and more. Collaborative members will work together to chart a vision for Virginia's energy future focused on consensus policies and practices that can best deliver a strong economy and a healthy environment for the state; and foster relationships and social capital needed to work together across divides to implement these changes.

Collaborative on Siting of Renewable Energy in Iowa

This Collaborative is focusing on **navigating Iowa's growing energy demand by encouraging statewide renewable energy development in a way that strengthens local communities and fosters a strong economy**. The consensus solutions will outline actionable recommendations to harmonize state and local decision-making, ensure rural communities share in clean energy prosperity, and accelerate Iowa's transition to a sustainable energy future.

Pubroom 2nd Floor: ELECTIONS | Suzanne Ghais

Collaborative on Voter Registration Modernization for Trustworthy Elections

Convergence is partnering with the [National Conference of State Legislatures](#) (NCSL) to build cross-state, cross partisan consensus around best practices and policies for modernizing voter registration, including voter list maintenance, data sharing, and closely related topics such as security and privacy, in service of trustworthy elections. Participants include representatives of national organizations (think tanks, advocacy groups, etc.), as well as state legislators and election administrators.



Ballroom 1st Floor:**Round 1 – St. Louis ECONOMIC MOBILITY****Round 2 – LEARNING LAB COHORTS****Gabriel Herrera &
Jason Purnell*****Economic Mobility in St. Louis***

The [Inclusive Prosperity Partnership](#) (IPP) is a new, decade-long initiative to strengthen the St. Louis region's civic infrastructure and advance inclusive economic growth. It emerged from the 2024 Regional Collaboration Conversation, a process that brought regional stakeholders together to explore how cross-sector collaboration could drive long-term, equitable economic growth. The IPP was launched by the [James S. McDonnell Foundation \(JSMF\)](#) in collaboration with a team of local and national partners, including Convergence.

Over the next 10 years, the IPP will address five major barriers to an inclusive economy, dedicating approximately two years per issue for designing, planning, and launching scalable interventions. The first of the five issue cycles focuses on expanding access to better-paying, high-quality jobs for people with low incomes in the St. Louis region, recognizing that many high-paying, quality jobs are inaccessible to residents. For each issue, a Solution Design Cohort (SDC) – comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders with different connections to the issue – will be convened to co-create scalable solutions and an actionable implementation plan. Following a thorough Discovery & Design process, the first SDC officially launched in July 2025. This group of 30 cross-sector stakeholders is meeting regularly through 2026.

Convergence Compass Collaborative Problem-Solving Cohorts

As part of our Learning Lab, we launched [Convergence Compass](#) in fall of 2025. Convergence Compass is a first-of-its-kind online learning experience designed to help individuals understand the root causes of division and develop practical, evidence-based strategies for dialogue and problem-solving – even on the most challenging issues. The content was designed in partnership with Constructive Dialogue Institute and UC Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center.

Convergence Compass is offered in two formats:

- **Self-Paced:** This option allows learners to move through the 5 online courses at their own pace; approximately 6-8 hours of content.
- **Cohort Program:** This blended learning experience, combines the asynchronous online courses, assigned reading, and live cohort sessions

Building on the strong foundation of our inaugural cohort with county leaders from across the country, our first public cohort launched in January 2026 with participants representing a diverse set of sectors. Drawing on lessons from last year's pilot, the program was refined to strengthen the participant experience. In partnership with the [National Governors Association](#) (NGA), Convergence will launch a cohort program this summer for NGA members working in the youth mental health space. The program will equip participants with collaborative problem-solving skills and practical leadership tools for navigating disagreements and building common ground.



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