



**Bloom Kentucky is an initiative supported by several grantmaking organizations from across the Commonwealth who are all invested in ending Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). The Bloom Kentucky initiative is focused on statewide policy change that aims to prevent and mitigate the impact of childhood adversity.**

**We know that thriving communities launch strong families, strong families launch successful kids, and successful kids launch a prosperous future for Kentucky. Bloom Kentucky addresses the multi-generational challenges of childhood adversity, how communities can help foster opportunities for all kids and families, and the future of Kentucky's workforce and prosperity.**

## What are ACEs?

ACEs are traumatic or stressful events that occur prior to the age of 18, such as:

- Experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect
- Witnessing violence in the home or community
- Having a family member attempt or die by suicide
- Substance use problems in the household
- Mental health problems in the household
- Instability due to parental separation or household members being in jail or prison

(Please note that this is not a complete list of ACEs.)



## What do we know about ACEs?



ACEs are **common**. 1 in 5 Kentucky children have already experienced at least two ACEs.<sup>1</sup>



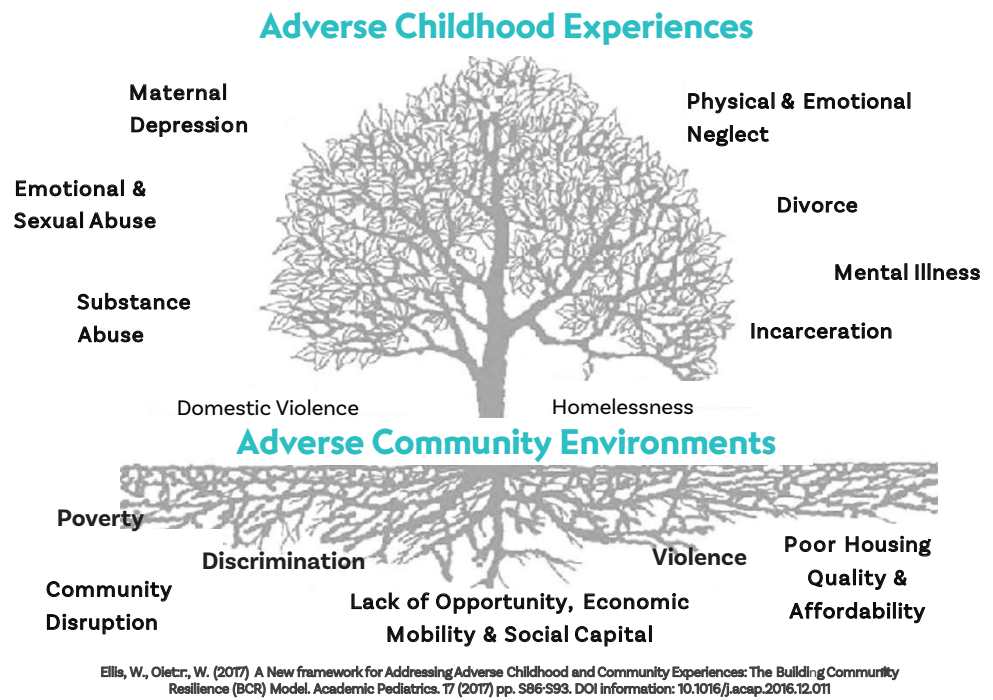
ACEs have **lifelong effects** on health and overall success and well-being. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use problems in adulthood, and can also negatively impact education and job opportunities.



There are **steps we can take** to reduce the impact of ACEs so that kids grow up healthy and hopeful and contribute to the future prosperity of Kentucky.

## The pair of ACEs

We must address Adverse Community Environments in order to address Adverse Childhood Experiences. Challenging environments that kids grow up in, such as poverty, discrimination, and community violence, create a negative cycle of ever worsening "soil" for a child's "tree" of experiences.



## Why policy?

State policy change and budget investments can address multi-generational challenges on a broad scale and move upstream to prevent adverse experiences from occurring in the first place. These systemic changes can support all Kentucky communities in fostering opportunities for all kids and families to flourish.



**Bloom Kentucky is supported by a growing list of grantmakers, including:** Blue Grass Community Foundation, Brown-Forman Foundation, C.E. & S. Foundation, Central Kentucky Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Louisville, Community Foundation of South Central Kentucky, Community Foundation of West Kentucky, Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation, Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, The Gheens Foundation, Inc., The Gilbert Foundation, Inc., The Greater Clark Foundation, Harshaw Family Foundation, Humana Foundation, James Graham Brown Foundation, Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Kentucky Foundation for Women, Kosair Charities, Laura Goad Turner Charitable Foundation, Lawrence & Augusta Hager Educational Foundation, Lexington Clinic Foundation, Lift a Life Novak Family Foundation, The Marilyn & William Young Charitable Foundation, Inc., Mildred V. Horn Foundation, Nicklies Foundation, The Norton (Family) Foundation, Inc., Public Life Foundation of Owensboro, Snowy Owl Foundation, The V.V. Cooke Foundation, and Wood & Marie C. Hannah Foundation.