

Community Resource Center Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 27th , 2026

Attendance:

Members

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| ☐ Amy Arnt-Buzzard | ☐ Jayne Gibson | ☒ Jessica Jungroth | ☒ Zerina Said |
| ☒ Suzanne Arntson | ☒ Marlena Hanson | ☒ Jessica Little | ☐ Wahbon Spears |
| ☒ Kanisha Bliss | ☒ Lee Her | ☐ Julie Neitzel Carr | ☒ Molly Schroeder |
| ☒ Jennifer Compeau | ☒ Jeff Horton | ☒ Felicia Orozco | ☒ Catherine Wright |

Staff

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☒ Hafsa Abdi | ☒ Sherri Killins |
| ☒ Heather Reynolds | Stewart |
| ☒ Rebecca Juarez | ☒ Megan Waltz |

Location: Teams

Purpose of the council:

To advise the commissioner of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families on the development, implementation, evaluation and ongoing governance of Community Resource Centers in Minnesota.

Duties of the council:

Duties include, but are not limited to, advising the commissioner on:

- The development and funding of a network of community resource centers
- The development of requests for proposals and grant award processes
- The development of program outcomes and accountability measures, and
- Ongoing governance and necessary support in the implementation of community resource centers.

Meeting objectives

1. Review and orient the council to its purpose, goals and objectives responsibilities, deliverables, and the timeline to ensure co design, implementation and monitoring, as per the legislation.
2. Build relationships amongst the council members to increase communication and support the sharing of individual values, experiences and interest to benefit the collective interest.
3. Reflect on key learnings and data from relationship-based services, programs and initiatives which seek to connect families to state, local and regional resources.
4. Discuss the characteristics and essential resources for coordination, planning and partnerships for collaboration that are responsive and contribute to families getting what they need for wellbeing of children, families, and communities.
5. Recommend potential measures of success for **culturally responsive, relationship-based service navigation** through programs, services or initiatives intended to benefit children, families, and communities.

Agenda with added Minutes

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Agreements

- A. What's one thing you're on the fence about?
- B. Review of meeting objectives, meeting agenda, meeting agreements.

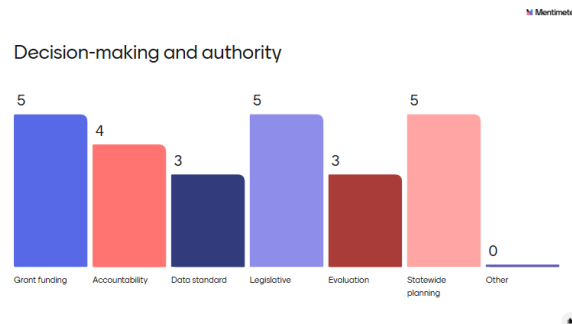
2. Review Governance Recommendations

- A. For each governance task, ask
 - Do we still agree with the recommendations?
 - Are the current recommendations missing a key partner?
 - What would make this recommendation stronger or clearer?
- B. Tasks
 - Accountability and Performance Management
 - Resource Coordination and Equity
 - Capacity-building and Technical Assistance
 - Policy and Systems Navigation Support
 - Partner Engagement and Communication
 - Data Governance and Knowledge Sharing
 - Sustainability and Strategic Planning
 - Strategic Alignment and Shared Vision
- C. Results
 - See Appendix A to these minutes.

3. Final Governance Task: Decision-Making and Authority Structure

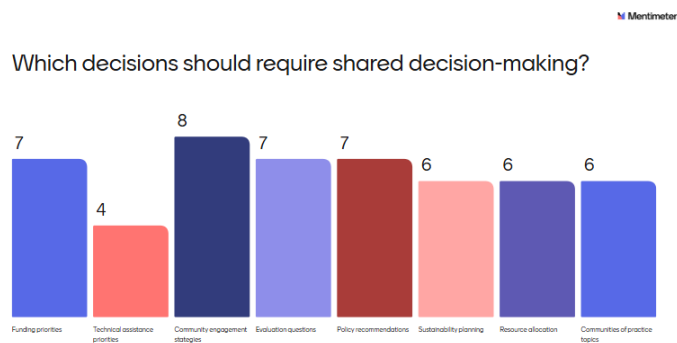
- A. Menti Question 1: Which decisions should remain primarily with state government?

- Result:



- B. Menti Question 2: Which decisions should require shared decision-making?

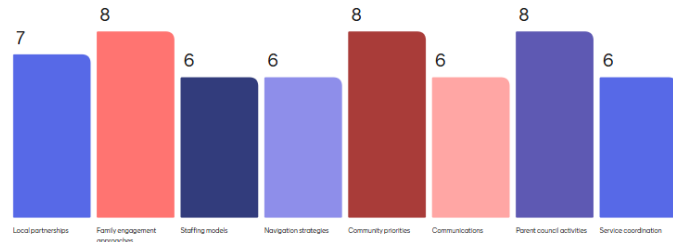
- Result:



- C. Menti Question 3: Which decisions should be made closest to communities?

- Result:

Which decisions should be made closest to communities?



4. Governance Reflection

- Governance exists to ensure that strategic alignment, accountability, inclusion, opportunity and barrier removal, communication, sustainability, and policy change remain centered on improving outcomes for families while distributing responsibility appropriately across state, local, nonprofit, and community partners.
- Menti Question: If CRC governance became a permanent statewide structure after 2027, what is the one governance task that should never change?

- Result:

If CRC governance became a permanent statewide structure after 2027, what is the one governance task that should never change?



5. Next Steps and Check Out

- Check-out question: I believe I've been able to impact the C/FRCs in this way

- Responses:

What way have you felt like you were able to impact CRC's?

Bring the work of the CRCs to other statewide groups I am a member of

To voice for the people who cant speak for themselves and walking a different road

Ensuring lived experience remains central to discussions and decisions.

By asking questions about local capacity in tandem with the complex reality of working with individuals and families who find it difficult, impossible, and frustrating to access government resources.

Share a perspective from a community level- both as an organization- community member and family. About removing barriers and unnecessary busy work while still being impactful and being held accountab

Continue to support families and make sure their needs/voice is being considered in some of these decisions as well as centering nonprofits and the challenges we encounter with funding and serving

I have been able to share my lived experiences through developing and guiding a structure to better serve families across our state.

Creating space for thoughtful discussion and helping move the group toward collaborative solutions.

Bringing the perspectives from the staff who are working with the community to support the family and children



Appendix A: Governance Task Recommendations Survey and Responses

CRCAC Members should complete this form to finalize Governance Task Recommendations

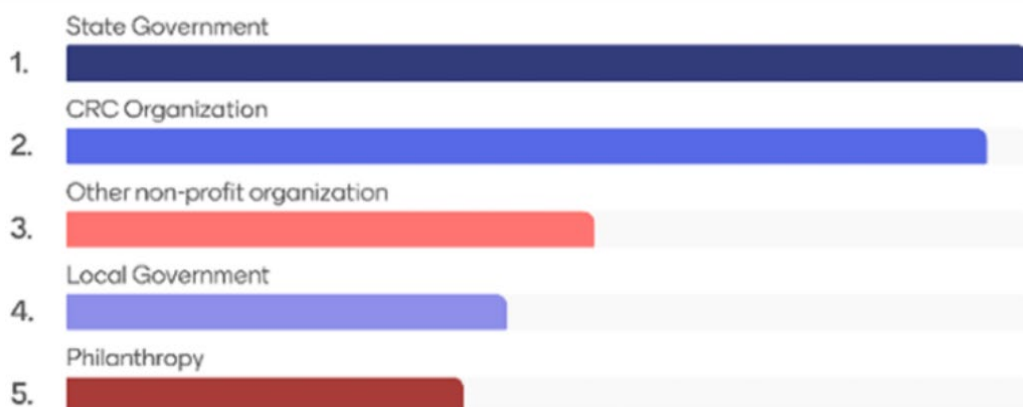
Directions: Thinking about the conversations we just had, please review each recommendation on your own and answer the corresponding questions.

Section 1: Enter Name

Section 2: Accountability and Performance Management

This task will coordinate the following activities: a)Develop and monitor shared metrics, continuous improvement plans, and site-level progress reporting. b)Provide feedback loops that enable site learning, adaptation, and transparency to funders and communities.

Recommendation: The response from CRCAC members does not show a clear responsible group, rather a partnership between state government and CRC organizations is necessary to support this task.



2. Do you still agree with the recommendation? *



3. If no or unsure, why?

1	anonymous	I now believe it makes more sense to have this be the local government and crc as they are more hands on.
2	anonymous	This function belongs with the holder of the "Network " which should be a community organization. It will require partnership with state agency

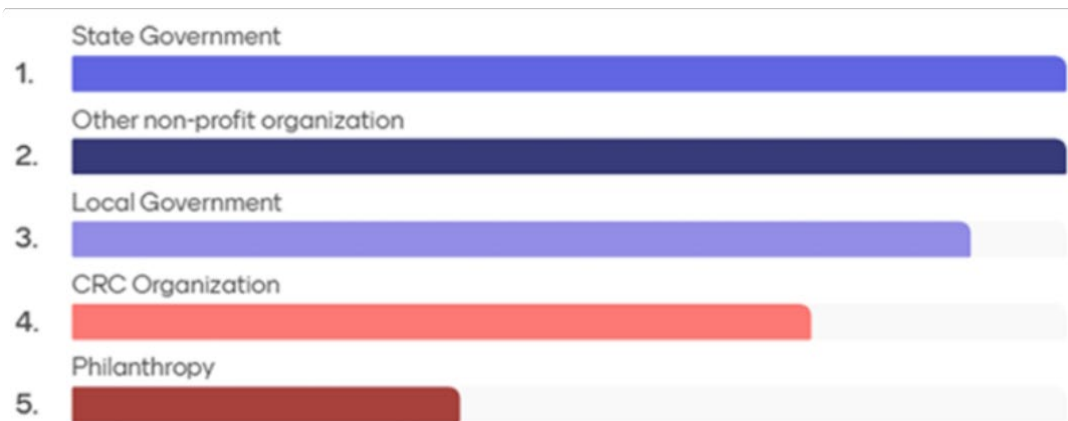
4. What would make this recommendation stronger or clearer?

1	anonymous	Clarify who has primary responsibility, while emphasizing that implementation should be carried out through a partnership between state government and CRC organizations.
2	anonymous	Require partnership at all levels to inform metrics.
3	anonymous	There should be strong partnerships and communication between state and local government, CRC, and nonprofit organizations.
4	anonymous	Being able to see clear graphics of the outcome and how the graphics show up
5	anonymous	This work is done in partnership and requires the state, CRC, and other non-profit organizations (i.e. backbone organizations) to collaborate in addition to working with the local government. But I would say the main three players are the ones we selected. The state is the one that can provide the necessary structure, while the CRC and the backbone or supporting non-profit have the team and families to provide the services and monitor feedback loops.
6	anonymous	Clarification about what a partnership means- who is the fiscal host, what duties are given to community? How are both held accountable?

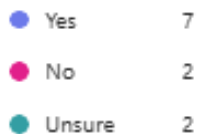
Section 3: Resource Coordination and Equity

This task will coordinate the following activities: a)Oversee equitable distribution of state funding and other resources, based on community and site needs. b)Support cross-site resource sharing, joint staffing strategies, and collaborative training and capacity-building efforts.

Recommendation: The response from CRCAC members does not determine a clear recommendation. Rather a partnership between state government and another non-profit organization is necessary to support this task.



5. Do you still agree with the recommendation? *



6. If no or unsure, why?

1	anonymous	I believe the local government-while already heavy with work may be a better "neutral" to handle this.
2	anonymous	Wilder Foundation is currently acting at FRC network home and has stable funding for foreseeable future. This would require strong partnership between state agency and Wilder. State may hold role of disbursing funding, Wilder could hold role of training /TA, etc
3	anonymous	Will be roles be defined and accountability?
4	anonymous	What is an other non-profit organization?

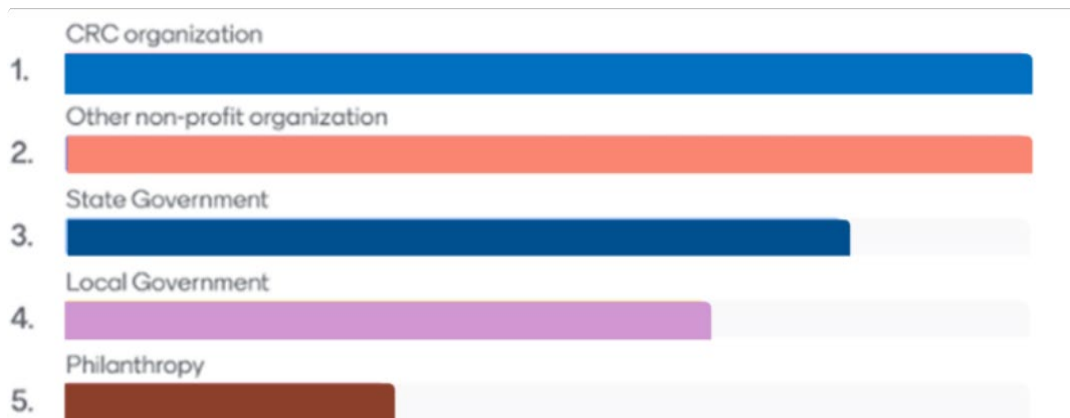
7. What would make this recommendation stronger or clearer?

1	anonymous	Clarify that state government leads resource allocation, with nonprofit organizations serving as implementation partners.
2	anonymous	Making sure it is a partnership and there is strong communication between the state/local government and nonprofit organizations.
3	anonymous	Using the graphics and timeline to differ which one is really using the information and which one is not. How long is the demographics of the State or nonprofit
4	anonymous	In order to offer equitable distribution, the state really needs to pay attention to those supporting nonprofits and smaller communities. Some organizations are doing great work but simply understaffed to even compete for a grant, however, that doesn't make them any less deserving, and so listening to the community and backbone organizations or even those serving families is crucial here.
5	anonymous	Again clear on how will the entities be held accountable.

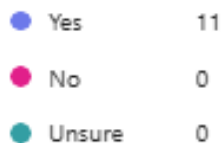
Section 4: Capacity-building and Technical Assistance

This task will coordinate the following activities: a) Identify and respond to differences in staff skills, site capacity, and organizational readiness. b) Offer tailored supports and professional development that promote staff effectiveness and program quality.

Recommendation: The response from CRCAC members demonstrates a need for partnership and collaboration between CRC organizations and another non-profit organization to fulfill this governance task.



8. Do you still agree with this recommendation? *



9. If no or unsure, why?

1	anonymous	Need better definition/clarification between CRC org and other non profit.
2	anonymous	Clarify again about an other non profit organization

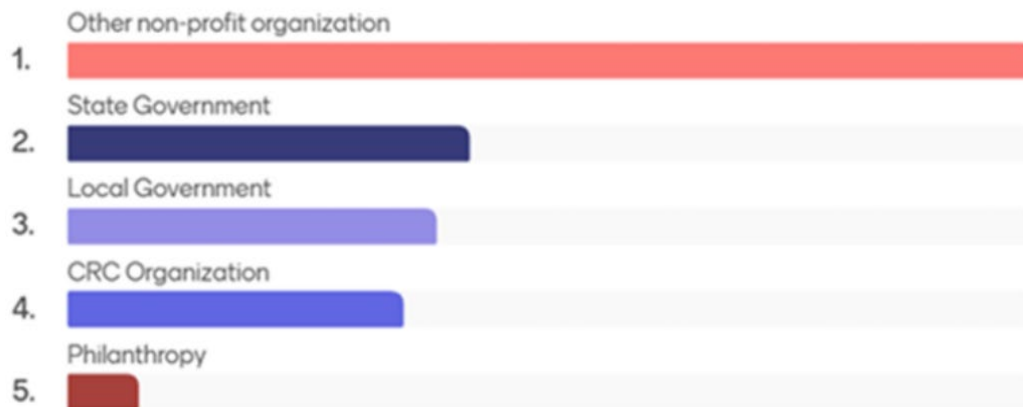
10. What would make this recommendation stronger or clearer?

1	anonymous	Clarify that CRC organizations lead capacity-building efforts, with nonprofit partners providing technical assistance, training, and specialized expertise.
2	anonymous	I would like to make sure that there is rural voice included in this. Wilder is a great organization that can serve St.Cloud and below, but there are different needs in northern MN. I also believe that this could be a great place to add philanthropy in as a partner.
3	anonymous	That the CRCAR Can see what happens at the enforcement the year and what the Data looks like when both of them come together
4	anonymous	N/A
5	anonymous	Who will be providing the training to staff- will there be data collection and then state-wide support for training etc.

Section 5: Policy and Systems Navigation Support

This task will coordinate the following activities: a) Monitor barriers in state, federal, or local systems that impact service delivery or access. b) Use insights from sites to inform state-level feedback and policy adjustments that improve family access and navigation.

Recommendation: The response from CRCAC members clearly indicates another non-profit organization leads this governance task.



11. Do you still agree with this recommendation? *

- Yes 8
- No 1
- Unsure 2

12. If no or unsure, why?

1	anonymous	.
2	anonymous	Because until we look at the data things might change and move in a different perspective
3	anonymous	What is an other nonprofit organization- this may be better suited for a research entity.

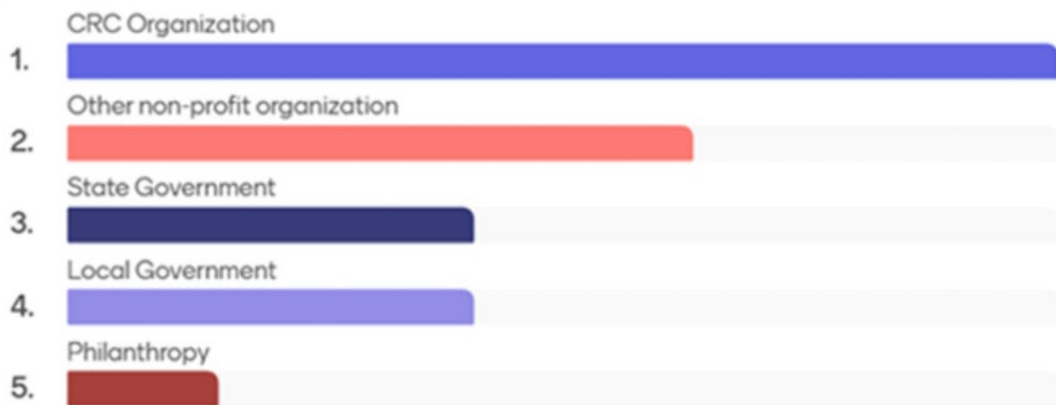
13. What would make this recommendation stronger or more clear?

ID ↑	Name	Responses
1	anonymous	Clarify that nonprofit organizations lead this work, with state government serving as a key partner for policy feedback and systems change.
2	anonymous	It's important to keep in mind that the monitoring non-profit organization may be more effective if it is also aligned with or in partnership with the corresponding CRC organization.
3	anonymous	Identify who all needs to be at the table to assure representation reporting "up to" a non profit (eg like Wilder)
4	anonymous	I am not sure, but I do believe we need to make sure that the diversity across Minnesota has accurate representation, and it may take multiple nonprofit organizations as partners, not just one for the entire state.
5	anonymous	I would say other non-profits and the state would work very closely here. The CRC would be providing the backbone organization feedback on challenges, and backbone organizations and the state should take that information and find ways to address them.
6	anonymous	Not sure how this will work- clarify is this research and then how are entities held accountable?

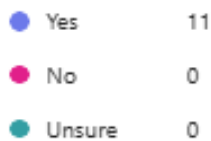
Section 6: Partner Engagement and Communication

This task will coordinate the following activities: a) Maintain regular communication channels across sites and with funders. b) Elevate family, youth, and community voice in program design, implementation, and governance structures.

Recommendation: The response from CRCAC members clearly indicates that each CRC organization should lead this task.



14. Do you still agree with this recommendation? *



15. If no or unsure, why? N/A

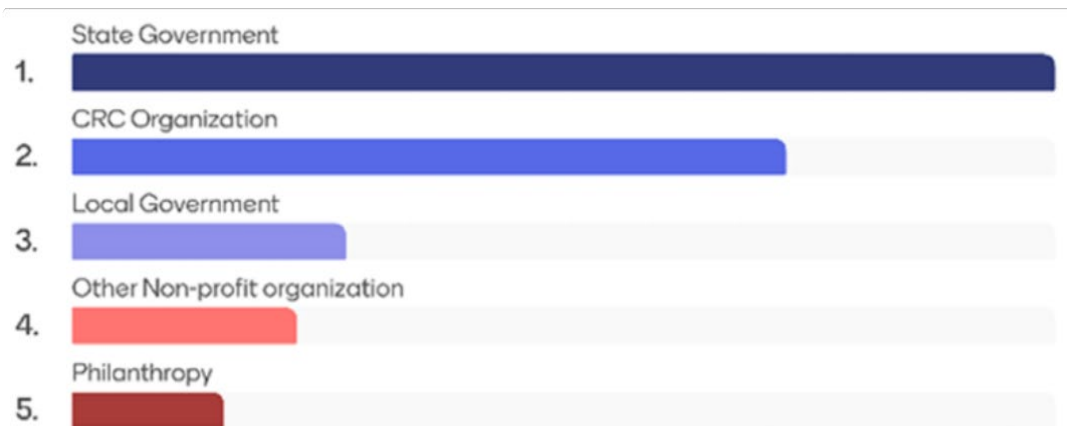
16. What would make this recommendation stronger or clearer?

1	anonymous	Clarify that CRC organizations lead partner engagement, with nonprofit partners supporting outreach, collaboration, and community engagement.
2	anonymous	Needs to be a strong partnership between the "network holder" and specific CRC org.
3	anonymous	N/A
4	anonymous	Would be great if there was a state-wide system for communication rather than asking CRCs to develop their own.

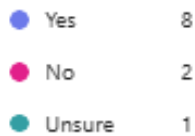
Section 7: Data Governance and Knowledge Sharing

This task will coordinate the following activities: a) Develop data-sharing agreements and protocols that protect confidentiality and enable coordinated care. b) Facilitate learning across sites through communities of practice, shared insights, and evaluation findings.

Recommendation: The response from CRCAC members shows a clear desire for state government to be responsible for data governance and knowledge sharing.



17. Do you still agree with this recommendation? *



18. If no or unsure, why?

1	anonymous	Not clear why state gov needs to be the one to execute data sharing agreement. Can a non profit execute data sharing agreements? There is a lot of bureaucracy in gov (state and local). Is having this within a non profit org make is easier, less expensive/less intrusive??
2	anonymous	Make sure that rural Minnesota is represented, our needs are very different than the metro.
3	anonymous	I would say the state should work with other non-profits on this one and leave the CRC to provide the information/feedback, but to really focus on serving the families since this is more of an admin, time-consuming task that not all nonprofits have the capacity to do.

19. What would make this recommendation stronger or clearer?

1	anonymous	Clarify that state government leads, with CRC organizations serving as implementation and knowledge-sharing partners.
2	anonymous	Wouldn't it make sense for this to be a partnership between nonprofit organizations and state government?
3	anonymous	NA

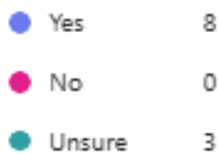
Section 8: Sustainability and Strategic Planning

This task will coordinate the following activities: a)Guide long-term planning, funding diversification, and sustainability strategies. b)Prepare for transitions in leadership, funding, or policy context with continuity plans.

Recommendation: The response from CRCAC members clearly indicates that another non-profit organization should lead this governance task



20. Do you still agree with this recommendation? *



21. If no or unsure, why?

1	anonymous	I think it needs to be a partnership between nonprofit organizations and the state and local governments.
2	anonymous	Because different data might look different in the near future
3	anonymous	How is an unnamed organization going to sustain CRCs?

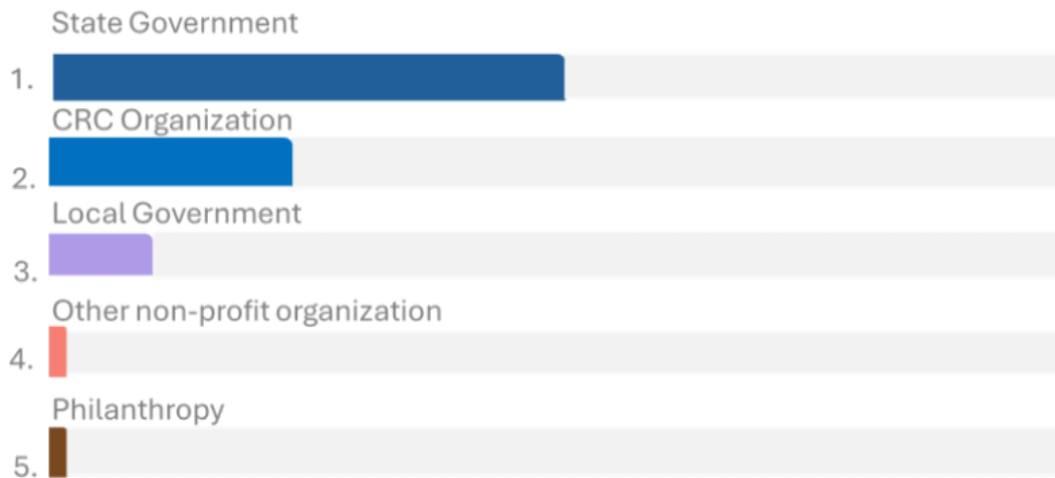
22. What would make this recommendation stronger or clearer?

1	anonymous	Clarify that a nonprofit organization leads long-term planning, with state government serving as a strategic partner for sustainability and funding.
2	anonymous	The sustainability and strategic planning, for effectiveness, needs to be guided by a non-profit that has been or is successful with similar programs.
3	anonymous	Emphasize need for partnerships across gov agencies and CRC/FRCS.
4	anonymous	Same as above.
5	anonymous	N/A
6	anonymous	This needs to happen now- what is the plan for sustainability? Are CRCs merging with FRCs?

Section 9: Strategic Alignment and Shared Vision

This task will coordinate the following activities: a)Co-develop and affirm a shared mission, core values, and outcomes across all sites. b)Ensure alignment between site-level operations and the overarching goals related to education, employment, housing, and well-being.

Recommendation: The response from CRCAC members clearly indicates that another non-profit should lead this governance task. *



*This recommendation was printed incorrectly on the survey and should have said “clearly indicates state government...” Members were advised of this needed correction during discussion.

23. Do you still agree with this recommendation?

- Yes 9
- No 2
- Unsure 0

24. If no or unsure, why?

1	anonymous	Because the survey clearly says otherwise
2	anonymous	Non profit can lead this work.

25.What would make this recommendation stronger or clearer?

1	anonymous	Change recommendation to state government
2	anonymous	Clarify that state government leads, with CRC organizations supporting long-term planning and implementation.
3	anonymous	Continued partnerships, state governments need to listen to the organizations doing the work.