

Request for funding to improve the lives of Maryland's children by establishing the

# Center for the Neuroscience of Social Injustice



Dante's parents often hurt one another.



Casey's family is homeless.



Addie has seen violence outside her front door.



Thomas has been called racist, hurtful names.

Develop new, evidence-based interventions to improve equity and reduce the disparities that impact our children.

**1** Study the social, economic and environmental factors that impact children's development.

**2** Develop new treatment approaches and offer training.

**3** Improve the lives of Maryland's children.



Kennedy Krieger Institute



# KENNEDY KRIEGER INSTITUTE'S BUDGET REQUEST



To be used to establish and launch the operations of the Center for the Neuroscience of Social Injustice at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

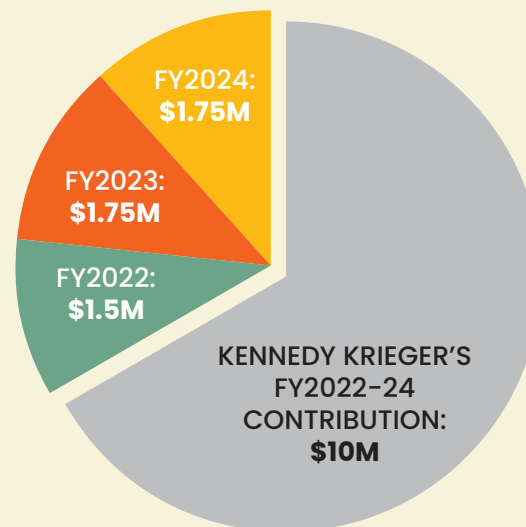


The center must recruit and support innovative researchers to investigate the social, economic and environmental risk factors that can harm a child's developing brain and body. This requires a substantial investment in both renovated physical space and staff recruitment. That's why we need the state's help.

- Our existing research space dates to the 1960s.
- The research space is not equipped to conduct enhanced pediatric developmental neuroscience research.
- We request funding to modernize the space so we can successfully recruit expert neuroscientists and discover treatments for childhood trauma caused by social injustice.
- **Kennedy Krieger will contribute \$10M to the total renovation cost of \$15M and \$10M to the operating cost of \$14.5M.**

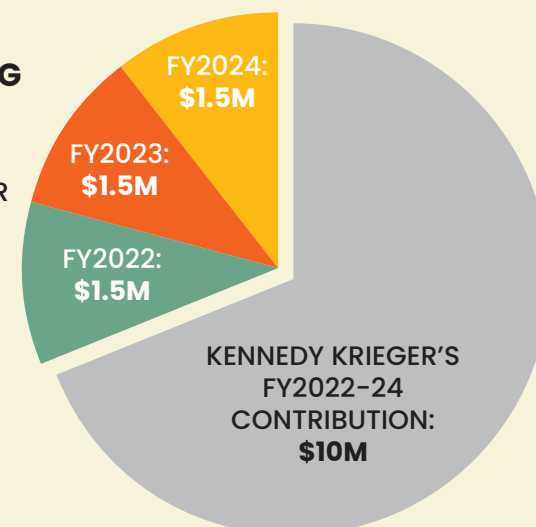
## CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

\$5M OVER 3 YEARS



## OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST

\$4.5M OVER 3 YEARS



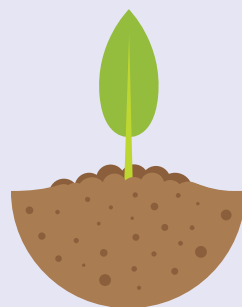
## HOW THE CENTER WILL WORK

The Center for the Neuroscience of Social Injustice will:

- Address the immediate needs of the Maryland community by developing a better understanding of the impact of social influences and injustices on child development.
- Allow Maryland to be a national leader in understanding and addressing the effects of social injustice on children.
- Work closely with Kennedy Krieger's Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress (CCFTS), which offers clinical treatment for children experiencing trauma, depression, anxiety, behavioral and other conditions that can result from social injustice.
- Learn the exact mechanisms by which social injustice affects child health and outcomes.
- Study CCFTS data and data collected from the community to determine the best approaches—and develop new approaches—for treating the effects of social injustice on children.
- Offer training opportunities for scholars from underrepresented groups and members of the community.
- Help children as soon as it opens, coordinating new treatments and therapies through clinical and community providers.

**We ask for your support, so that together, we can improve the lives of Maryland's children. Our children cannot wait. Children's lives and future livelihoods—and the success of our state—depend on it.**

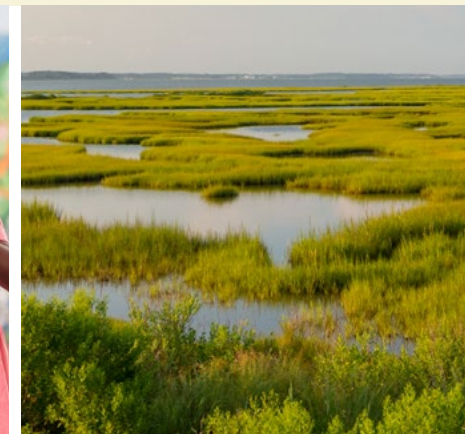
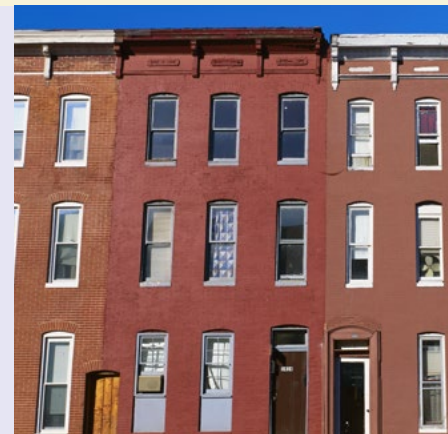
Study the social, economic and environmental factors that impact children's development.



Develop new treatment approaches and offer training.



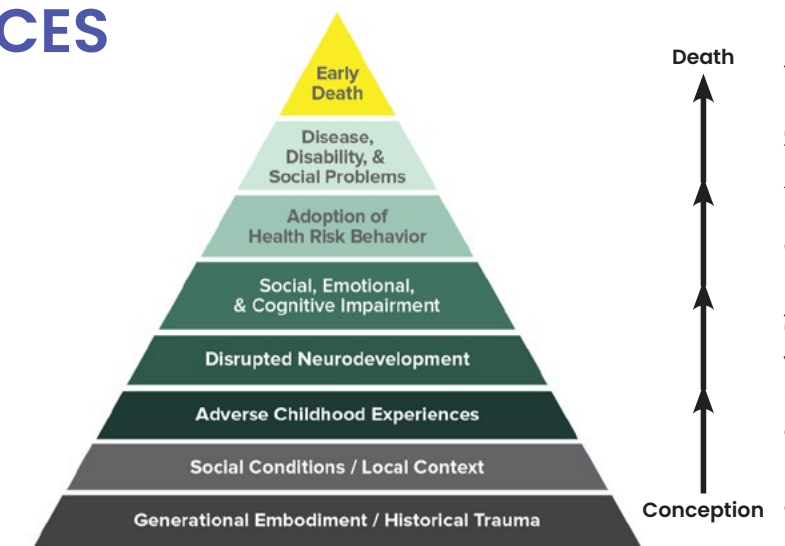
Improve the lives of Maryland's children.



## THE GOAL: MITIGATING THE IMPACT OF ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can harm a child's developing brain and nervous system, leading to lifelong mental disorders and disabilities. These experiences are often the result of social injustice.

The exact mechanism by which social injustice affects a child's health is currently unknown. But because of Kennedy Krieger's established expertise in, and commitment to helping patients exposed to, trauma and other ACEs, it has the expertise and wherewithal to lead in developing new, rational and more effective evidence-based treatments.



Mechanism by Which Adverse Childhood Experiences Influence Health and Well-Being Throughout the Lifespan

# THE TIME IS NOW.

Recent events across Maryland and our nation underscore the importance of the work that this center will undertake, and the need to begin this work immediately. There is no other organization in the nation more experienced in treating children facing such life-threatening conditions. We are proud to be based here in Maryland, and ready to make Maryland the leader in solving this nationwide challenge.

Kennedy Krieger has developed plans for a **new center to understand the neuroscience of social injustice—the ways that social injustice affects the developing brain and nervous system, and ultimately, a child’s overall health.** The center will also develop solutions to address the effects that social injustice has on children.

**Kennedy Krieger respectfully asks you to support the state of Maryland’s approval of capital and operating funds to outfit—i.e., create renovated space within existing buildings and hire additional staff members—and operate its new Center for the Neuroscience of Social Injustice.**

**It is imperative that the center’s work begin as soon as possible.** Maryland’s children are suffering from the effects of social injustice right now. Daily, we work with children from across the state—from rural to urban communities—who are falling behind in school, going to bed hungry, facing violence and drug abuse, and coming to terms with what their ethnicity or the color of their skin means to others who don’t look like them, and they are suffering.

## **CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST: \$5M OVER 3 YEARS**

**FY2022: \$1.5M**

**FY2023: \$1.75M**

**FY2024: \$1.75M**

**KENNEDY KRIEGER TO CONTRIBUTE: \$10M**

## **OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST: \$4.5M OVER 3 YEARS**

**FY2022: \$1.5M**

**FY2023: \$1.5M**

**FY2024: \$1.5M**

**KENNEDY KRIEGER TO CONTRIBUTE: \$10M**

**THANK YOU. YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL.**

# MARYLAND’S CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT NOW.

Our children are our state’s future. Maryland can and will lead the way to better health for our children and families.

We welcome your questions and hope you will support the establishment and operation of this important center to help Maryland’s children.

Please contact **Jacqueline Stone, PhD, MPA, PT, chief clinical officer**, at [Stone@KennedyKrieger.org](mailto:Stone@KennedyKrieger.org) or visit [KennedyKrieger.org/MarylandKids](https://KennedyKrieger.org/MarylandKids) for more information.

