Building Brighter Tomorrows 2026 Conference

A Pathway to Healthy Communities

Hosted by

FURMAN Institute for the Advancement of Community Health

Institute for Child Success

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 2026

Morning Session

8:30 a.m. Breakfast & Registration

8:50 a.m. Opening Remarks

9:00 am. Desmond P. Kelly, MD Keynote:
Risa Wilkerson, Executive Director
Healthy Places by Design
"The Power of Connection: Building Healthier, Safer, and More Resilient Communities"

10:00 a.m. Break

Featured Breakout Sessions
Sessions will be offered across three thematic tracks:

- Track 1: The Jairy Hunter Community Health Track: Exploring the social and environmental factors that shape health across the lifespan.
  Location: Shaw Room (Center)
- Track 2: Adversity, Resilience, and Well-being for Families & Communities
  Location: Atlanta Room (Left)
- Track 3: The Nurturing Developing Minds Track: Strengthening Families & Supporting Neurodevelopmental Health
  Location: Birmingham Room (Right)

10:15 a.m. ***Breakout Session 1:***

1. Healthy Places by Design: Social Connection
2. Supporting Families in Early Relational Health: Strategies from Clinic to Communities
3. Healthcare Experience for Patients and Caregivers

Afternoon Session

11:15 a.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. ***Breakout Session 2:***

1. Turning the Tide Against Youth Gun Violence
2. Addressing Child Care Needs Beyond the 9-to-5
3. State of the Field: Screenings and Interventions

1:30 p.m. Break

1:45 p.m. ***Breakout Session 3:***

1. Justice for Healthy Communities
2. Connecting Shocks, Stressors, Resilience, and Health
3. Tiny Humans, Big Worries: Understanding and Supporting Anxious Kids

2:45 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. ***Breakout Session 4:***

1. Innovative Financing to Catalyze Place-Based Change
2. Powerful Communities are Resilient Communities
3. The Policy and Practice Landscape for Preventing Exclusionary Discipline in Early Childhood

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

Younts Conference Center
Furman University
2005 Rugby Rd, Greenville, SC

Register today!

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