



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Youth

COMMISSION

2025 Annual Report

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025





LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants – past, present, and emerging – as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation

Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

Coastal Band of Chumash Nation

Gabrielino/Tongva Nation

Gabrielino Tongva Tribe

To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website at lanaic.lacounty.gov.

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***Abbreviations: YC = Youth Commission, YEC = Youth Engagement Committee, OPS = Operations Committee**



MEET THE COMMISSIONERS

BOARD-APPOINTED MEMBERS



Florencia "Flo" Valenzuela
Commissioner



La'Toya Cooper
Commissioner
Served until Dec. 2025



Joshua Elizondo
Commissioner



Clarissa Peña
Commissioner



Amanda Hernandez
Commissioner

AT-LARGE MEMBERS



Martine Jones
Commissioner



Evelyn Karina Rodriguez
Commissioner
YC Co-Chair



Christian Gudiel
Commissioner
YC Co-Chair



Mercedes Jackson
Commissioner



Sherrie Bradford
Commissioner



Jessica Castillo
Commissioner



Cristopher Espino
Commissioner



Joseph Roa
Commissioner



Brittianna Robinson
Commissioner
Served until Aug. 2025



Miguel "Josh" Boykin
Commissioner



David De Leon
Commissioner



Luisa Flores Urrutia
Commissioner
Served until Aug. 2025



Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr.
Commissioner
Served until Aug. 2025

COMMISSION OFFICERS

YC CO-CHAIR(S)

Joshua Elizondo
Brittiana Robinson
Clarissa Peña
Christian Gudiel
Evelyn Rodriguez

SERVICE YEARS

Jan. 2025 – Nov. 2025
Jan. 2025 – Aug. 2025
Aug. 2025 – Nov. 2025
Nov. 2025 – Present
Nov. 2025 – Present

YEC CHAIR(S)

La'Toya Cooper
Sherrie Bradford

SERVICE YEARS

Jan. 2025 – Mar. 2025
Mar. 2025 – Present

OPS CHAIR(S)

Joshua Elizondo

SERVICE YEARS

Jan. 2025 – Present

COMMISSION STAFF



Tiara Summers
Executive Director



Ashley Carrillo-Lopez
Senior Board Specialist



Vivian Martirosyan
Management Analyst



Daniel Wheeler
Senior Staff Analyst

EXTENDED SUPPORT (COMMISSION SERVICES)



Guadalupe Duron
Head Board Specialist



Vanessa Antonio
Senior Board Specialist

COUNTY COUNSEL

NAME

Julia Almanzan
Angela Park

TITLE

Principal Deputy County Counsel
Senior Deputy County Counsel



KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On April 16, 2019, the Board of Supervisors, by motion of Supervisor Janice Hahn and former Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, directed the Commission for Children and Families and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to work in consultation with County agencies, stakeholders, foster and probation youth with lived experience, and key organizations. The purpose of this directive was to address the growing need for young people to have access to and influence on decisions that may affect them. The motion also explored the feasibility of creating a countywide Youth Advisory Body. As a result, the Los Angeles County Youth Commission (YC or Commission) was established on February 4, 2020.

OUR VISION

All youth-serving systems in Los Angeles County will be informed by and co-designed with the voices of youth with lived experienced.

OUR MISSION

The LA County Youth Commission seeks to help child welfare and juvenile justice systems center youth voice in their effort to co-design and improve policies, programs, and services.

YC PURPOSE

Los Angeles County Code Chapter 3.66 - Youth Commission

- Provide a platform for policy, practice, and service delivery to be informed and shaped by the lived experiences of people impacted by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.
- Provide leadership to effect transformative change for youth in Los Angeles County
- Focus on the policies, practices, budgets, and programs of the Los Angeles County child welfare and juvenile justice systems, which include the Department of Children and Family Services, the Probation Department, and all other youth and family-serving County departments.



THE YOUTH COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025:

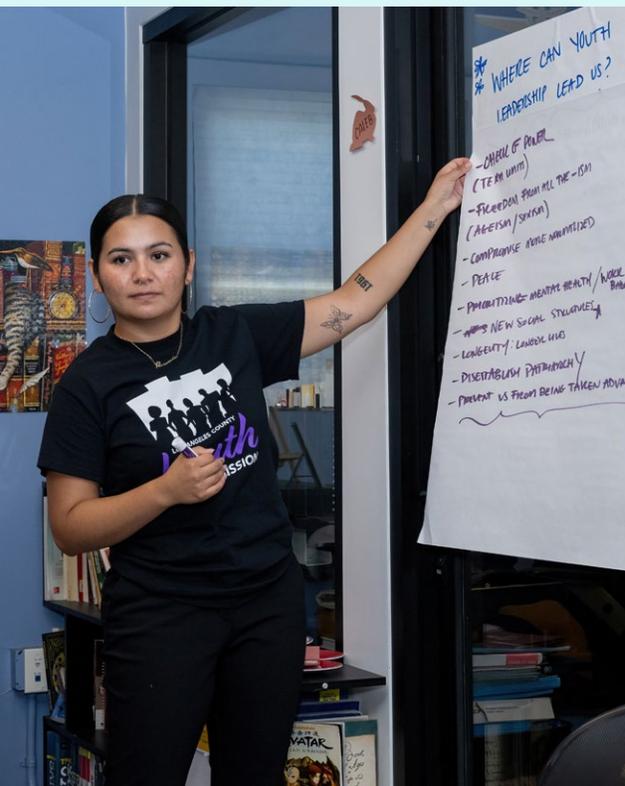
Grounded in the Commission's purpose, the commitment to transforming systems by elevating youth voice, providing transformative leadership through strategic engagement, and building partnerships that influence every aspect of youth-serving initiatives have been the driving force behind the Commission's success. During this review period, Commissioners drew on their lived experiences to ensure that policies, programs, and practices designed for youth were co-created, informed, and strengthened by their insights and recommendations.

As trailblazers, the Commission advanced its work through a foundational framework centered on three pillars: Inform, Engage, and Support. These critical elements laid the groundwork for the Commission's achievements throughout 2025. Let us take a moment to reflect on the Commission's year of excellence and outstanding leadership.

PILLAR ONE - INFORM

In order to inform and shape systems that impact LA County's youth, the Commission employed a multi-strategy approach to build and sustain meaningful partnerships. This approach included four key components: Roundtable Discussions, Strategic Partnerships, Board Motion Collaborations, and Special Projects. By leveraging these strategies, the Commission was able to inform with intentionality, effectiveness, and collaboration.

During the Commission's strategic planning process in November 2024, five focus areas were approved for calendar year 2025 (Mental Health, Employment, Entertainment, Education, and Juvenile Justice). These focus areas guided the Commission's overall efforts, including its informing initiatives. The Commission participated in over 75+ informing opportunities.



Roundtable Discussions

The Commission held roundtable discussions during its regular monthly meetings. These sessions provided space to deepen collective understanding, identify strengths and barriers, and offer guidance informed by lived experience. Stakeholders were invited to share updates on youth programs and policies aligned with the Commission's focus areas. During the review period, presentations were provided by the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Youth Development (DYD), the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Office of Child Protection (OCP), and the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC).

Roundtable discussions covered a wide range of topics, including school-based prevention, child-trafficking efforts, mental health services in juvenile facilities and in the field, youth justice diversion and re-entry, CalAIM supports, outreach and implementation of education-rights videos for foster and justice-involved youth, the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Podcast, creative well-being, civic engagement around immigration rights, and more. Throughout these conversations, Commissioners offered insights, shared lived-experience perspectives, and provided recommendations.



Highlights of Commissioners' feedback and recommendations from the roundtable discussions include:

- Commissioner Florencia “Flo” Valenzuela:** On September 25, 2025, during a presentation and roundtable discussion on the YEC End-Year Event led by Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Florencia “Flo” Valenzuela commented on the importance of safe spaces and what that specifically means for youth under the age of eighteen. She further noted that lived experiences today—such as exposure to school shootings—differ from those of her personal lived experience. She also suggested exploring ways to have youth specifically identify what a safe space looks like when completing the YC survey.
- Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez:** On March 27, 2025, during a DMH presentation and roundtable discussion on the Parent Empowerment Program (PEP) and Prevention Services, School-Based Community Access Points (SBCAP), Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez asked about post-program support for families completing the 10-week PEP. The presenters shared that they are in the process of creating a parent support group, which Evelyn appreciated. She also highlighted the program’s holistic and comprehensive approach and shared appreciation for presenters Vicky Rosales and Myla Lampkin.
- Commissioner Mercedes Jackson:** On July 31, 2025, during a presentation and roundtable discussion on the Education Rights Videos and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Podcast by the OCP, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson shared that she appreciated the visual representation of education rights for engaging youth. She suggested including “how it should go” scenarios in addition to “what went wrong” examples and recommended providing more guidance to youth on applying the tools learned through OCP engagement efforts.
- Commissioner Sherrie Bradford:** On June 26, 2025, during a presentation and roundtable discussion on Medi-Cal and CalAIM benefits for transition-age youth, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford highlighted the importance of transitional living skills, including affordable health insurance and financial literacy. She emphasized the need to meet youth where they are—such as at housing sites like STRTPs—keep the education process simple, and encouraged youth-led, peer-to-peer workshops.
- Commissioner Joseph Roa:** On August 28, 2025, during a DAC presentation and roundtable discussion on the Creative Wellbeing Program, Creative Career Pathways for Youth (CCPY), Arts Internship Program, and Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI), Commissioner Joseph Roa shared that art programs had a life-changing impact for him while in the system and asked how youth could acquire tangible skills to express themselves. He raised concerns about financial barriers for communities and suggested partnerships with guilds and community colleges to create arts career pathways. Presenter Larry Ulrich confirmed that participants receive certificates that can help them pursue careers in the arts after completion of the DAC program.
- Commissioner Miguel “Josh” Boykin:** On August 28, 2025, during a DAC presentation and roundtable discussion on the Creative Wellbeing Program, Creative Career Pathways for Youth (CCPY), Arts Internship Program, and Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI), Commissioner Miguel “Josh” Boykin asked about partnering with museums to display work created by youth in the juvenile justice system to raise awareness and provide potential compensation. Presenter Larry Ulrich noted that art is currently displayed through murals at juvenile camps but said they would explore transitioning to movable pieces, such as sculptures.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Commission engaged in both long-term partnerships and one-time collaborations to ensure that lived experience meaningfully informed youth-centered initiatives across Los Angeles County. The Commission participated in more than 25 strategic partnerships. The following provides a snapshot of the partnerships and collaborative efforts undertaken during the review period.

The Education Coordinating Council (ECC)

The ECC was established by the Board of Supervisors in 2004 to improve educational outcomes for youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Led by the OCP, the ECC voted in 2023 to add the Commission as a permanent member. Commissioner Joshua Elizondo served as the Commission's representative and co-chaired the ECC's Youth Engagement and Supports Workgroup. During the review period, the Commission participated in the ECC's quarterly meetings sharing lived experience insights to help reform educational outcomes for youth.



Behavioral Health Service Act (BHSA)

The BHSA - formerly known as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) - was led by the DMH and the Department of Public Health (DPH)/ Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC). The Commission served as a member of the BHSA Community Planning Team (CPT) which focused on supporting the development of Los Angeles County's Integrated Plan. During the review period, the Commission participated in the CPT's monthly meetings, both in person and virtually.



Systems Review Leadership Team (SRLT) – Juvenile Justice Systemwide Self-Assessment (JJSSA)

The SRLT was created to conduct a systemwide assessment of the Juvenile Justice System in Los Angeles County. The SRLT provided oversight and guidance to the scope of issues examined in the assessment, identified desired outcomes and goals, determined areas needing deeper analysis, and developed collaborative responses to the findings. In November 2024, the Commission was appointed to the SRLT following a recommendation from DYD. Commissioner Christian Gudiel and Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez served as members on the SRLT as lived experience leaders. During the review period, the Commission participated in three SRLT meetings.

LGBTQ+ Commission Ad-Hoc

The LGBTQ+ Commission created an ad-hoc subcommittee to focus on cross-departmental and cross-commission collaboration in support of LGBTQ+ youth. The Commission partnered with the LGBTQ+ Commission on these efforts, working jointly on the development and implementation of related initiatives. During the review period, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, and Commissioner Martine Jones participated in the subcommittee's monthly meetings to help shape strategies and goals aimed at improving outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth.



Prevention and Promotion Initiative - User Journey Mapping (UJM)

In coordination with the Los Angeles County Prevention and Promotion Systems Governing Committee (PPSGC), the Ernst & Young (EY) team facilitated a user-journey mapping process to document and analyze the County’s prevention and promotion service delivery for key service areas and populations, with the goal of informing a comprehensive, equitable, and responsive service model. To support this work, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commission Christopher Espino, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, and Commissioner Miguel “Josh” Boykin participated in the user-journey meetings to offer lived-experience insights and recommendations.

Department of Public Health Collaboration

On February 18, 2025, the Commission participated as a panelist at the DPH/SPA 4 Regional Health Meeting, held in collaboration with the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles (CHLA). The panel focused on supporting the health and well-being of system-involved youth. Commissioner Joshua Elizondo served as a guest speaker, sharing his personal story as a former foster youth, along with insights, challenges, and successes navigating the health system.

CalMatters Collaboration

On February 25, 2025, the Commission participated as a panelist in a CalMatters discussion held at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, focused on policy solutions for opportunity youth—defined as individuals ages 16–24 who are out of school and not working. Commissioner Amanda Hernandez represented the Commission, sharing her lived expertise as a former opportunity youth.

Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium

In July 2025, the RFK National Resource Center hosted the Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium, a platform for multidisciplinary professionals and youth-serving stakeholders. The event provided opportunities to learn, connect, and contribute to a national movement focused on improving outcomes for children and families

through transformative practices within the youth justice system. On July 18, 2025, the Commission facilitated a workshop titled Overview of the Los Angeles County Youth Commission: The Impact of Transformative Change through Lived Expertise. The workshop was led by Commissioner Christian Gudiel and the Commission’s Executive Director, with support from Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez.

First Star: Lunch & Learn Collaboration

On October 21, 2025, First Star, in partnership with the Pritzker Center at UCLA, invited the Commission to participate as a panelist and lived-experience expert at their inaugural Lunch & Learn event. Commissioner Sherrie Bradford represented the Commission on the panel. The convening brought together researchers, advocates, and practitioners dedicated to strengthening support systems and improving outcomes for youth in care across Los Angeles County and California. The event featured presentations and panel discussions that highlighted promising practices, elevated youth voices, and shared tools to empower those working directly with vulnerable populations.

2nd Annual Youth Summit: System Change

On October 22, 2025, the 2nd Annual Youth Summit: System Change was held at California State University, Northridge. The Commission was invited to participate as a panelist, with Commissioner LaToya Cooper representing the Commission. The panel discussion provided insights on housing and examined how Proposition 1, Measure A, and the BHSA are influencing funding and service delivery.





BOARD MOTION COLLABORATIONS

The Commission, as directed by the Board of Supervisors (BOS), engaged in collaboration with multiple County departments and organizations to inform policy, programs, and practices. In this review period, the Commission was included in four board motions and continued work related to previous motions.

2025 Board Motion Collaborations:

Board Motion on 7/1/2025, Agenda Item #11 – **Empowering Youth Through Know Your Rights Education for Civic Engagement**, authored(co) by Supervisorial Districts One and Four. The Youth Commission was included in directives #1-6.

- **YC Collaboration Efforts:** DYD facilitated several internal meetings with individual Commissioners (with fewer than a quorum present) to gather lived-experience perspectives and ensure the Commission addressed all elements of the board motion directives. Additionally, on November 20, 2025, during the Commission’s regular meeting, DYD provided an update on the Know Your Rights initiative.

Board Motion on 11/18/2025, Agenda Item #16 – **Support for Youth Through the Soluna App**, authored(co) by Supervisorial Districts Three and Two. The Youth Commission was included in directive #1.

- **YC Collaboration Efforts:** On 12/17/2025, the Commission’s Executive Director and outreach manager met with the Soluna team for a preliminary discussion. The conversation focused on potential outreach strategies, including ways to leverage existing partnerships to strengthen engagement efforts. The Commission plans to promote Soluna information through its Community Events (such as District Listening Sessions), a presentation at a regular Commission meeting, presentation at the Transition Age Youth (TAY) Table quarterly meeting, social media outreach, and integration within the Commission’s existing partnerships including the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), City of Los Angeles, and more.

Board Motion on 11/18/2025, Agenda Item #18 – **Strengthening Housing Supports, Care, and Services for Former Foster Youth and those Exiting DCFS Care**, authored(co) by Supervisorial Districts Three and One. The Youth Commission was included in directives #5, 7, and 9.

- **YC Collaboration Efforts:** On 12/8/2025, the Commission’s Executive Director met with DYD, DCFS, and OCP for an initial discussion focused on enhancing collaboration. The group explored strategies to align interdepartmental efforts to effectively address all components of the board motion directives. The goal is to leverage the TAY Table support to help with coordination and collaboration.

2024 Board Motions – Ongoing Collaborations:

Board Motion on 6/25/2024, Agenda Item #2 - **Understanding and Addressing Origin and Obstacles: Ending Intergenerational Homelessness and Housing Insecurity, Incarceration, and Systems Involvement and Ensuring Generational and Life-Long Success for Transition Age Youth**, authored(co) by Supervisorial Districts One and Three. The Youth Commission was included in directive #1.

- **YC Collaboration Efforts:** The TAY Table was created to coordinate efforts across County departments to better align services for youth who are disconnected or at-risk of disconnection, including youth involved in County systems. The Commission, alongside OCP, DCFS, and DYD, serve as leads for this work. During the review period, the leads engaged in bi-weekly coordination meetings, hosted quarterly TAY Table meetings for County stakeholders, and facilitated bi-monthly committee meetings that included non-County partners. Priority initiatives include developing a data dashboard, producing a TAY data handbook, conducting departmental self-assessments, and creating a TAY-focused online resource hub.

Board Motion on 8/6/2024, Agenda Item #16 – **Setting Youth Up for Success: Adulthood, Money Management, Personal Rights, and Education**, authored(co) by Supervisorial Districts One and Four. The Youth Commission was included in directive #1.

- **YC Collaboration Efforts:** During the review period, the Commission continued its collaboration with the Ombudsperson's Office by contributing lived experience perspectives to help shape the Foster Youth Bill of Rights (FYBOR) training curriculum for social workers. In partnership with the Ombudsperson's Office, the Commission will co-facilitate a pilot training cohort to support the rollout of the new FYBOR curriculum – implementation anticipated for 2026.

Board Motion on 8/6/2024, Agenda Item #26 – **Establishing New Reporting and Accountability Structure for the Child Trafficking Strategic Plan**, authored(co) by Supervisorial Districts Three and Four. The Youth Commission was included in directive #1.

- **YC Collaboration Efforts:** The Child Trafficking Leadership Team (CTLT) was established as the primary reporting and accountability structure for the Five-Year Strategic Plan to prevent and address child trafficking. During this review period, the Commission maintained active membership on the CTLT, participating in monthly CTLT meetings, monthly committee meetings, and contributing to two board motion report backs. To support implementation of the child trafficking strategic plan, the Commission prioritized hosting the inaugural Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Empowerment event, integrating child trafficking awareness videos into Commission meetings and district listening sessions, and actively participating in the Youth Empowerment Committee. The Commission will continue to work with the CTLT to establish priorities for 2026 to ensure child trafficking is integrated in the Commission's work.



PILLAR TWO – ENGAGE

The Commission’s most significant achievement was its success in meaningfully engaging youth across the community. By fostering peer-to-peer leadership and authentic participation, the Commission helped cultivate a lasting impact within the community.

During the review period, the Commission hosted one CSEC Empowerment event, four district listening sessions, and a stakeholder convening. Additionally, the Commission participated in approximately 28 events hosted by County and non-County partners. Engagement at these non-hosted events included tabling, distributing promotional materials, deploying youth surveys, facilitating workshops, supporting sponsorship opportunities, and participating in planning meetings. Overall, the Commission engaged more than 190 County and non-County partners through its hosted events, non-hosted events, and general outreach efforts. Engagement efforts were also captured through the YC’s Newsletter. To view the three published newsletters in 2025, refer to the below links.

- **YC Newsletter - April 2025 Edition** bit.ly/49B752Q
- **YC Newsletter - July 2025 Edition** bit.ly/4qVsta3
- **YC Newsletter - December 2025 Edition** bit.ly/3YKTK33

To ensure youth voices were elevated and authentically incorporated into the Commission’s work, the Commission - through leadership from its Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) - administered a youth survey at all hosted and non-hosted engagement events. Survey findings were used to directly inform the Commission’s priorities and strengthen its efforts to improve policies, programs, and practices impacting young people in Los Angeles County. Below is a snapshot of the Commission’s hosted and non-hosted engagement activities.

HOSTED EVENTS

CSEC Empowerment Event

In support of implementing the five-year strategic plan to combat child trafficking, the Commission hosted its inaugural CSEC Empowerment Event led by Commissioner Brittianna Robinson. The event took place on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at the DMH Vermont-Corridor Building in Los Angeles, CA.

The event focused on uplifting survivors of child trafficking, encouraging peer-to-peer connection and development, and empowering youth to become leaders within the CSEC community. Highlights of the event featured a powerful keynote speaker, LaToya Green, an engaging “Becoming Me” workshop, and a CSEC panel discussion featuring four women from different generations who shared their personal journeys of survival, growth, and empowerment. A resource fair complemented the event, featuring 13 vendors, including county departments and community-based organizations. Through a partnership with the Los Angeles County



Probation Department, girls from the Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) and the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) joined virtually, participating in workshops, listening to the panel discussion, and hearing directly from each tabling guest about the specific services available to them upon release.

The event was a tremendous success, with over 45 youth and approximately 50 supporting guests in attendance, all contributing to a day of healing, empowerment, and community building.



Fifth District Listening Session

On Saturday, March 22, 2025, the Commission hosted its Fifth District Healing Session at Pasadena City College—an intentional, youth-created space designed for young people to pause, connect, and heal. The session was thoughtfully planned and led by Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, and Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr. With a focus on mental health, wildfire relief, and creative expression as a pathway to healing, the event invited youth to care for themselves while building meaningful community. Participants engaged in grounding crafts, a dynamic speed-friending activity, and Connections Circles facilitated by trusted community partner Calibrate. Youth voices took center stage during an open mic that showcased powerful spoken word, music, and other creative performances. A curated resource fair brought together County partners—including the Youth Climate Commission and the Los Angeles County Library—alongside community organizations such as Youth Justice LA, offering services and support responsive to youth needs. Whether creating, reflecting, or simply being present, the session affirmed that healing is personal—and that when youth are given space, they rise with purpose, creativity, and heart.

Fourth District Listening Session

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, the Commission hosted the Fourth District Empowerment Forum at the South Whittier Community Resource Center. The event was thoughtfully planned and led by Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Cristopher Espino, and Commissioner Clarissa Peña. Despite rainy weather, the Commissioners remained committed and delivered a meaningful, interactive, and welcoming gathering. Commissioner Espino facilitated an impactful workshop, “Sound, Soul, and Society: Exploring Merengue, Cumbia, and Mental Health,” offering a culturally rich lens on wellness and self-expression. The forum also featured a resource fair that connected attendees with essential community services, creating a valuable and memorable experience for all who participated.

Second District Listening Session

On Saturday, May 3, 2025, the Commission hosted the Second District Listening Session: Community Conversation at Compton YouthBuild, featuring a Fireside Chat with Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, who engaged directly with youth to discuss key priorities and elevate youth perspectives. The event was planned and led by Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, and Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, and focused on critical topics including mental health, education, entertainment, and juvenile justice. The program opened with an energizing icebreaker, followed by commissioner-led peer workshops that fostered open dialogue and collaboration. Participants also enjoyed a group performance by community dance company Set It Off Entertainment. The day concluded with a resource fair and shared lunch, strengthening community connections and leaving attendees with a meaningful and lasting experience.



Third District Listening Session

On Friday, September 19, 2025, the Commission hosted the Third District Listening Session, “Reflections of Us,” at Los Angeles Valley College, convening youth for a powerful day centered on mental health, creativity, and connection. The event was thoughtfully planned and led by Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, and Commissioner Sherrie Bradford. Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath made a special appearance, actively engaging with youth by co-facilitating a “Step to the Line” activity and participating in a community dialogue. The session encouraged reflection and relationship-building through interactive engagement strategies supported by community partner Calibrate, including a Comfort Space and access to Department of Mental Health resources. Youth expression was celebrated through live performances, an art exhibit, and portrait drawing, while local small businesses La La Land Café & Foundation and Yummy Bird contributed refreshments. Thanks to a generous grant from Supervisor Horvath’s office, Commissioners also distributed tripods to attendees, empowering youth to continue exploring and sharing their creativity beyond the event.



First District Listening Session

Special Note: The First District Listening Session was cancelled following careful consideration of community safety concerns, with notifications sent on June 23, 2025. Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Florencia “Flo” Valenzuela, and Commissioner Martine Jones made the difficult decision to pause the session to prioritize the well-being of youth and community members. In alignment with the Commission’s commitment to safety and care, the Commissioners issued the following statement on June 23, 2025, to inform the community of their decision:

As First District Commissioners of the LA County Youth Commission, we’ve made the difficult decision to cancel our upcoming event, By Us, For Us: Juvenile Justice & Support Services, on Saturday, June 28, 2025, because recent events have created uncertainty, and we cannot guarantee a space free from violence during this challenging time. We love our community and want juvenile justice-impacted youth to know this event was created for you. Though we can’t gather now, we remain committed to uplifting your voices and needs. Our priority is to provide safe, welcoming spaces for all youth. We look forward to reconnecting when we can come together in safety and solidarity.



YEC End-Year Event

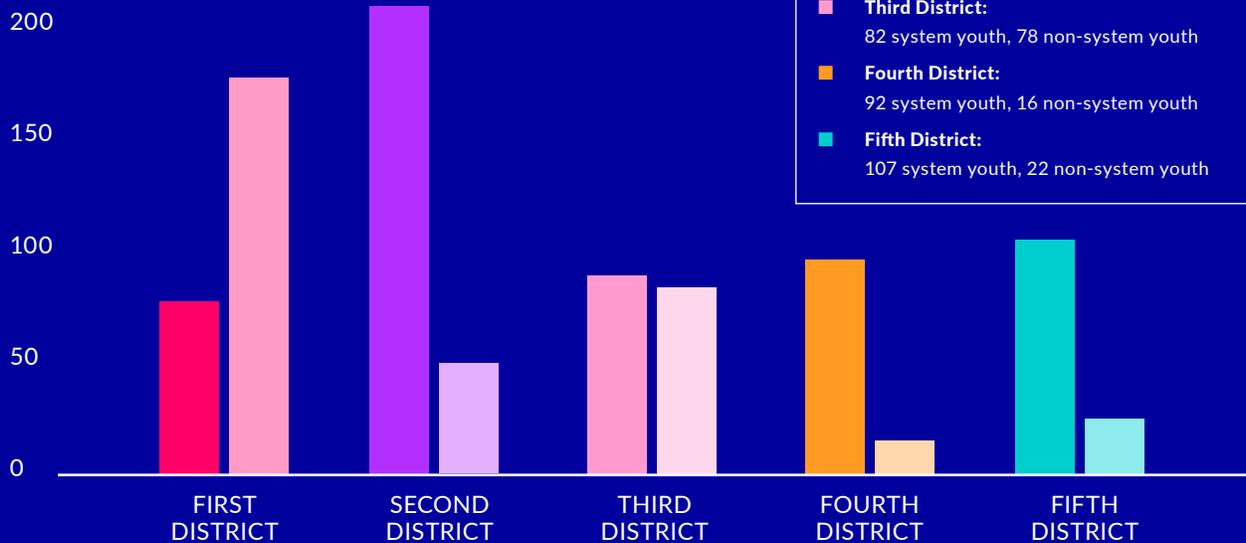
On Saturday, October 25, 2025, the YEC hosted its second annual YEC End-Year Event. This stakeholder convening centered on sharing youth survey findings through an interactive, youth-centered engagement model designed to build trust and foster authentic community connection.

The event convened more than 50 County and non-County partners and, most importantly, welcomed over 25 youth participants from the City of Los Angeles Youth Council cohort.

Programming included a demographic data overview presented by Commissioner Sherrie Bradford; a five-corner interactive activity highlighting advocacy priority data facilitated by Commissioner Amanda Hernandez; and a presentation of youth interest data featuring an interactive boxing demonstration led by the Fighting Chance organization. The event concluded with a storytelling and brainstorming session focused on mental health data, led by Commissioner Joseph Roa with support from Commissioner Clarissa Peña.

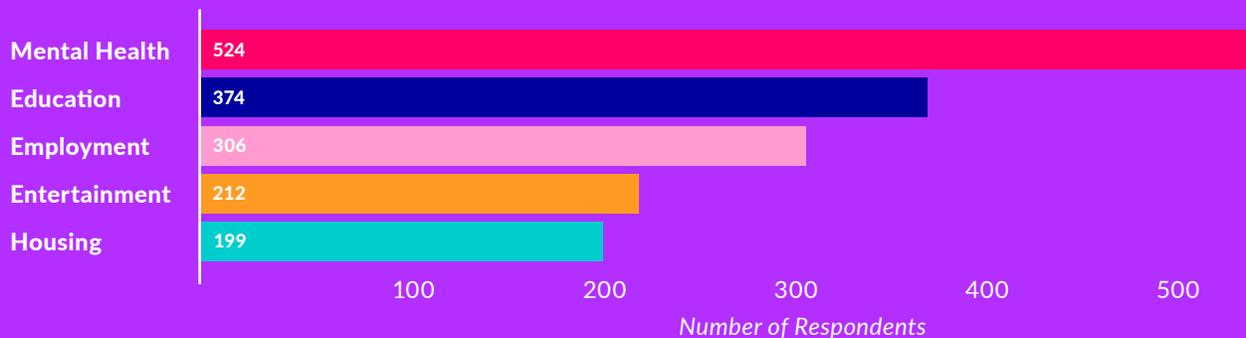
Snapshot of Youth Survey Responses from the YEC End-Year Event

A total of **881 youth** participated in the survey, with representation from both **system-involved (63%)** and **non-system youth (37%)** across all five Supervisorial Districts.



To learn more about the youth survey findings, please refer to **Appendix A**.

Youth Priorities and Areas of Concern (Total Respondents: 856)







NON-HOSTED EVENTS

Youth Civic Leadership Summit at USC with LA City Youth Development Department

On March 22, 2025, Los Angeles City's Youth Summit took place at USC, bringing together youth leaders, city partners, and community groups to talk policy, share resources, and spotlight youth-led solutions. Sessions covered education, foster care, and youth justice, with young people presenting their research and recommendations to decision-makers. Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez served as a presenter.

First Star Academy Creative Education Conference

On April 26, 2025, First Star hosted a one-day conference at UCLA for high school students and young adults with foster care experience, welcoming more than 60 youth participants. The conference focused on inspiring attendees as they envisioned and shaped their future paths. The Commission partnered in the event by facilitating interactive activities led by Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, and Commissioner Jessica Castillo. Through resource sharing, relationship building, idea exchange, and inspiration, the conference emphasized the importance of truly seeing, supporting, and caring for youth.

LAUSD Mental Health Awareness Symposium

On May 2, 2025, LAUSD hosted their 3rd Annual Mental Health & Wellness Symposium held at the East Los Angeles College. Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, and Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez supported by Commissioner Briittanna Robinson facilitated an interactive mental health workshop titled Fluid Emotions. The session encouraged open conversations on emotional awareness, challenged stigma, and highlighted the power of peer leadership in supporting youth mental health.

LA City Youth Expo

On May 31, 2025, the Commission hosted an information table at the Los Angeles City's Youth Expo, sharing resources and answering questions from young people and their families. The Commission's outreach team engaged youth in conversations about their experiences, encouraged them to take the survey, and promoted opportunities to get involved in shaping policies that impact their lives.

DCFS ILP Foster Youth High School Graduation Celebration

On July 11, 2025, the Commission joined the DCFS at Cal State Dominguez Hills to celebrate the achievements of foster youth graduates. This event honored students in the ILP Program who are advancing to college or university, highlighting their hard work, resilience, and promising futures. Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., and Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia represented the Commission to celebrate, uplift, and support the remarkable young scholars. More than a ceremony, the event was a powerful testament to the strength of foster youth and the community standing behind them.

DCFS 2nd Annual ILP College Fair Expo

On September 20, 2025, the DCFS 2nd Annual ILP College Fair Expo provided youth with opportunities to explore college pathways, learn about financial aid, and connect with higher education and support service representatives. During the event, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo represented the Commission by sharing insights and encouragement to youth. The Commission participated in tabling and survey deployment – efforts included interacting with young people, sharing resources, answering questions, and supporting youth in planning their post-secondary goals.

DYD Youth Summit

On November 14, 2025, the DYD Youth Summit convened hundreds of youth and community partners for a day of learning and connection. Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Christian Gudiel were on site engaging directly with young people, listening to their ideas, sharing resources, distributing merch while tabling, and amplifying youth voices across the region.



PILLAR THREE – SUPPORT

The Commission’s effectiveness depends on its commitment to intentional and sustained support for Commissioners. By centering community, leadership development, and individual well-being, the Commission ensures that Commissioners are equipped to lead, engage, and serve in ways that are authentic, sustainable, and impactful.

The Commission is comprised of youth and young adult leaders with lived experience in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems who contribute critical insight to inform policy, practice, and systems reform. While sharing personal experiences can be a powerful catalyst for change, the Commission recognizes that these moments represent only one component of each Commissioner’s broader leadership journey.

To support Commissioners holistically, the Commission prioritizes comprehensive services that promote stability, personal growth, and long-term success. During the review period, Commissioners received transportation support through HopSkipDrive (HSD). Additionally, the Commission partnered with RightWay Foundation to provide ongoing support services, including direct case management, service linkage, crisis intervention, resource navigation, team building, and leadership capacity building.

Services delivered through RightWay Foundation included individual therapy, housing support, financial literacy education, work readiness and vocational training, career development services, bonding activities, and other individualized supportive resources.

To further strengthen community and support personal growth, the Commission hosted a Mid-Year Retreat in June 2026. The retreat provided intentional space for reflection, connection, and renewal. Commissioners engaged in creative and reflective activities - such as vision board and affirmation board development - as well as team-building exercises designed to reinforce collaboration and collective leadership.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Guided by its three pillars - **Inform, Engage, and Support** - the Commission hosted an End-Year Strategic Planning Retreat in November 2025 to reflect on progress, strengthen alignment, and set strategic priorities for the year ahead. During the retreat, Commissioners reviewed the Commission's foundational structure, identified focus areas, reflected on engagement efforts, initiated preliminary planning for district listening sessions, and reassessed Commissioner support strategies.

To review the Commission's focus areas for 2026, refer to **Appendix B**.



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

YEC – The Youth Engagement Committee centers the voices of young people under the age of eighteen, ensuring their lived experiences directly shape the work and priorities of the Commission. The Committee leads the planning and execution of all Commission-hosted events, creating spaces that are youth-driven, inclusive, and impactful. In 2025, this included initiatives such as the CSEC Empowerment Event, five district listening sessions across the County, and the YEC End-Year Event—each designed to elevate youth voices, foster connection, and translate community insights into meaningful action.

Commissioner Sherrie Bradford
Commissioner Amanda Hernandez
Commissioner Mercedes Jackson
Commissioner Clarissa Peña
Commissioner Joseph Roa

OPS – The Operations Committee leads the full recruitment process for new commissioners (at-large vacancies only) —managing nominations, reviewing applications, and conducting interviews with a focus on equity, inclusion, and youth voice. In 2025, the Operations Committee continued to increase its outreach by developing youth-friendly animated recruitment videos, making the application process more engaging, approachable, and relatable for young people across Los Angeles County. These recruitment videos are scheduled to be released in 2026.

Commissioner Joshua Elizondo
Commissioner Jessica Castillo
Commissioner Martine Jones
Commissioner Clarissa Peña
Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez



MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONERS



MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners were asked to reflect on their work and community involvement and share, in a few words, their perspective on the current state of Los Angeles County's services impacting youth.

- **Commissioner Martine Jones:** "I think we are making a lot of progress and bridging gaps—we're not reinventing the wheel. I think we're uplifting a lot of other people's work, and I love that so much. I love that at almost every event or gathering, there is someone doing a project that we can uplift and all pick up. They're more than just passion projects. I think that's very telling of how much we've strengthened each other's efforts and how far they go."
- **Commissioner Christian Gudiel:** "I think we're in a moment where many resources have long existed, but awareness around them has been limited. Through consistent, genuine involvement, we're helping raise awareness and connect people to services—especially by addressing barriers like mental health, accessibility and transportation. With more organizations becoming involved and more resources being activated, I'm hopeful to continue advocating and supporting this growing momentum."
- **Commissioner Joshua Elizondo:** "LA County is leading the way in creating meaningful change for those involved in the child welfare system. With the support of the Board of Supervisors, the Youth Commission plays a crucial role in improving the lives of youth across the County."
- **Commissioner Clarissa Peña:** "I would say that as a County, we are actively transitioning from punishing young people to providing care and addressing the root of issues. We are focusing on mental health, behavioral health, supporting communities, schools, and various groups. This involves creating consistency and trust both in services and within the community. Overall, we are moving toward a care-first approach."
- **Commissioner Cristopher Espino:** "I was not among the original visionaries of the Youth Commission, but I am deeply shaped by the courage and intention that laid its foundation. When I reflect on the current state of LA County's youth-serving systems, I see a long but forward-moving transformation, with County agencies, community members, and the Board of Supervisors becoming more aligned. While the road remains uneven, progress is evident through stronger policy, deeper collaboration, and a growing recognition of lived experience as expertise. Progress may not be linear, but it is measurable, and LA County is moving toward systems that are more responsive, inclusive, and just for youth."
- **Commissioner Amanda Hernandez:** "I see it as work in progress. We've made strides in our relationships with County departments—moving to a space where we aim to help rather than dictate. Departments have heard our stories, creating a positive shift. The Youth Commission has been included meaningfully; our YEC end-of-year event was impactful, and partners were eager to collaborate after reviewing our data. There's always room for improvement, but little by little, departments are taking a more individualized approach to youth and showing willingness to improve. I'm proud to represent the Board of Supervisors by bringing youth concerns directly from the community to the departments."



MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONERS

Special Thank You to the Board of Supervisors

Thank you to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for your continued support of the Youth Commission and our District Listening Sessions. Your leadership and partnership have helped elevate youth voices and strengthen the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In 2025, this support led to four Board motions, four district listening sessions, and over 850 standardized surveys collected.

Special Thank You to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors

A special thank you to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, including Executive Leadership Commission Services, Graphics, Fiscal, IRM, Building Management, and all other supporting divisions, for your continued partnership and support of the Youth Commission.

Special Thank You to All Our County and Community Partners

We recognize our community and County partners, especially those who supported our hosted events in 2025 by tabling, sharing resources, collaborating, and amplifying our efforts. Your support is invaluable to our Commissioners, and together we connected many young people with meaningful opportunities. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the year ahead.

Special Thank You to All Our Partners

Departments

- Alternate Public Defender
- Arts & Culture
- Auditor Controller (Ombudsperson)
- CEO (Chief Executive Office)
- DBH (Department of Beaches and Harbor)
- DCBA (Department of Consumer and Business Affairs)
- DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services)
- DEO (Department of Economic Opportunity)
- DHR (Department of Human Resources)
- DHS (Department of Health Services)
- DMH (Department of Mental Health)
- DPH (Department of Public Health)
- DPR (Department of Parks and Recreation)
- DPSS (Department of Public Social Services)
- DYD (Department of Youth Development)
- Economic Opportunity (TAY Table)
- Economic Opportunity
- ISD (SD3 Youth App)
- JCOD (TAY Table)
- LA County Library
- Probation Department
- Public Defender (JJSSA)
- Youth Climate Commission
- & More

Organizations

- A Place for Youth
- A Sense of Home
- Alliance for Children's Rights
- Amity Foundation (LA)
- Antelope Valley Boys & Girls Club
- Antelope Valley College
- Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC)
- Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network (AIYN)
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
- Asian Youth Center
- Better Youth
- Beyond Shelter
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater LA
- Big Stistteerrrs
- Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory
- Brotherhood Crusade
- Calibrate
- California Youth Connection (CYC)
- Camp Fire SoCal
- Casa LA



- Cedar House Life Change Center
- Children of the Night
- Children's Institute, Inc. (CII)
- Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD)
- Compton Youth Build
- Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services
- East Los Angeles College
- El Nido Family Centers
- Families Forward Learning Center
- Find Your Anchor
- Five Acres
- Foothill Family
- Foothill Unity Center (basic needs)
- For The People (FTP)
- Foster Care Project - All Saints Church
- Friends Outside
- Girls Inc. of Greater Los Angeles
- Good Seed CDC
- Granada on Broadway Outreach Project
- Guardian Scholars CSULB
- Healed Women Heal
- Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA)
- Homeboy Industries
- Homeless Health Care Los Angeles (HHCLA)
- Journey House
- Korean American Federation of Los Angeles
- Khmer Girls in Action
- Kids in the Spotlight
- LA CADA
- La La Land Café & Foundation
- LA LGBT Center - Youth Services
- LACO Commission on Disabilities
- LA's BEST
- LATTCC EOPS
- Legacy LA
- Los Angeles Harbor College
- Los Angeles LGBT Center - Youth Services
- Los Angeles Youth Network / Youth Emerging Stronger (YES)
- Mend Poverty
- Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
- My Friend's Place
- NAMI Los Angeles County Council
- Our Generation Cares
- PATH
- Penny Lane Centers - TAY Drop-In Centers
- People Assisting The Homeless (PATH) - reentry supports
- Phoenix House California (LA programs)
- Project Q
- Prototypes
- Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission
- Rightway Foundation
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern California
- Saban Community Clinic (homeless youth health)
- Safe Place for Youth (SPY)
- San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission
- Sanctuary of Hope
- School on Wheels
- She Ready Foundation
- Soledad Enrichment Action (SEA)
- Suicide Prevention Center (LA)
- Sunflower Foster Youth Investment
- Tarzana Treatment Centers
- Television Academy & Foundation
- The LGBTQ Center Long Beach
- Treasures (CSEC)
- Valley Oasis
- Watts Labor Community Action Committee
- Youth Justice Coalition
- Youth Voices Rising
- YWCA Greater Los Angeles
- & More

CLOSING STATEMENT

As the Commission looks ahead to 2026, its commitment to youth, community, and impact remains unwavering. Guided by authentic engagement and a belief in the power of youth leadership, the Commission will continue to strengthen partnerships, deepen community connections, and elevate youth voices across Los Angeles County. Through collaboration, data-informed action, and service rooted in purpose, the Commission will advance the Board of Supervisors priorities while shaping more responsive systems for young people. By leading with integrity, empowerment, and example, the Commission is building a lasting legacy - one that inspires opportunity, equity, and meaningful change for generations to come.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
2025 END-YEAR REPORT

Los Angeles County Youth Commission

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Youth Engagement Committee's 2025 survey asked young people across Los Angeles County about their priorities, experiences with public systems, and visions for the future. Most responses came from paper surveys (80%), reflecting strong in-person outreach in schools, community programs, and high-need areas. Both system-involved and non-system youth participated, providing a broad view of challenges and goals. **For some questions, many youths selected multiple options, while others skipped the item entirely.** Percentages may exceed 100% or fall short. Figures reflect the share of respondents, not strict totals.

Representation by District

Youth from all five Supervisorial Districts participated, with a balance of system-involved and non-system youth. In total, **881 youth responded**, including **551 system-involved (63%)** and **330 non-system (37%)**. This mix allows the Commission to compare experiences and highlight the distinct needs of system-impacted youth while also reflecting the broader youth population.

- **First District:** 72 system youth - 171 non-system youth
- **Second District:** 198 system youth - 43 non-system youth
- **Third District:** 82 system youth - 78 non-system youth
- **Fourth District:** 92 system youth - 16 non-system youth
- **Fifth District:** 107 system youth - 22 non-system youth

Key Priorities Identified by Youth

Across the county, **mental health was the top concern**, with education and employment close behind. Housing and foster care also emerged as important issues, showing the need for both stability and supportive environments.

Interests and Engagement

Youth expressed the strongest interest in **music, sports, and art**. Many also favored physical activities like boxing, dancing, and martial arts. Smaller but meaningful groups highlighted creative expression and wellness practices such as poetry, journaling, yoga, and nutrition.

System Experiences and Mental Health Supports

System-involved youth overwhelmingly called for **safe spaces** where they feel respected and supported. They also prioritized better access to resources, reduced age barriers, and flexible, healing-centered care such as non-traditional therapy and trauma-informed practices.

Looking Ahead

The findings show that youth want both **immediate supports** (mental health, housing, safe spaces) and **long-term opportunities** (education, jobs, leadership). The Commission has a clear mandate to:

- Expand youth-centered mental health services
- Strengthen education and employment pathways
- Advocate for reforms in foster care and juvenile justice
- Ensure equitable access to safe, creative, and wellness-focused opportunities

By grounding its strategies in these insights and tailoring outreach by district, the Commission can advance **youth-driven, data-informed, and equity-focused** policies and programs.

About the Survey

This year's survey highlights how young people in LA County use public systems, what services they value, and the changes they want. Working with Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Probation Department, Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and community-based organizations, we connected with youth in person, capturing perspectives that might have been missed online. Most surveys (80%) were completed on paper, showing both preference and limited access to phones or internet. This approach matches national trends that in-person outreach better reaches youth who are often overlooked. The survey spanned from February 27 to September 20, 2025. Our combined on-the-ground outreach and stronger partnerships helped us hear from more youth than ever before - laying the foundation for youth - led policy recommendations.

Survey Questions: Why They Matter

What is your Age?

These insights guide how we target future outreach and ensure our programs and recommendations reflect the needs of youth at different stages of life.

What is your zip code?

This helps us track engagement across LA County, spot areas where youth voices may be missing, and focus outreach in neighborhoods with the greatest needs. Zip code data also allows us to compare responses with County equity maps to ensure our work is fair, inclusive, and reflective of youth from all regions.

What is your ethnicity?

This helps us see which communities are represented in our outreach and identify groups whose voices may be missing. Understanding this diversity allows us to create programs, policies, and advocacy efforts that are culturally relevant, inclusive, and reflective of the youth we serve across LA County.

What is your gender?

This ensures all genders are heard and helps shape inclusive, respectful, and responsive programs for youth.

What is your sexual orientation?

This ensures LGBTQ+ youth are included, their voices valued, and programs shaped to create safe, affirming spaces for all.

What would you be most interested in?

By centering youth interests and priorities, we can design activities and policies that ensure their voices drive real change. The data will guide how we incorporate engagement strategies into future youth and community events.

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?

We'll use the data to set a minimum of three priority focus areas, guiding advocacy and ensuring our 2025 Strategic Plan reflects youth needs and aspirations.

What is your current involvement?

This shows where youth are engaged, where gaps exist, and guides the Commission to expand access through stronger programs, partnerships, and outreach. It also highlights opportunities to reach opportunity youth - those disconnected from school and/or work - and encourage their reconnection through targeted support.

What systems have you encountered?

These insights show which systems impact youth most, guiding advocacy to focus on reforms that improve their experiences and outcomes.

Did you experience mental health concerns at any of the following times?

These insights help us spot patterns, provide timely support, and push for programs that address mental health early and effectively.

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems?

Youth feedback highlights the need for mental health supports that are timely, accessible, and inclusive. Young people want care they can access quickly, from providers who understand and reflect their backgrounds and experiences. This points to a demand for faster, fairer, and more youth-centered mental health care that builds both trust and access.

How would you prefer to learn about resources available to you?

Knowing youth preferences helps us use outreach methods they connect with, ensuring services are easier to find and more youth friendly.

Community Engagement Approach

We used a mix of outreach strategies to reach youth and gather feedback:

- Grassroots Outreach: Meeting youth in parks, county facilities, neighborhood markets, schools and colleges and community centers remain our most effective approach. Face-to-face conversations and word-of-mouth generate 80.0% of our connections.
- Social media: Regular posts strengthen our presence and keep youth informed.
- E-Newsletter (“Youthful Insider”): Sent quarterly to over 14,000 subscribers with strong open rates.
- Youth Commission Website: Offers event information, meeting details, and youth spotlights in one accessible location.
- Text Messaging: Our new SMS outreach allows youth on probation to share feedback without attending in person.

Spotlight On Youth Engagement

This year, Commissioners took an active role in getting the survey out to youth across LA County. We've included photos showing our in-person outreach with students, community partners, and the public. This section provides a narrative of our ongoing outreach activities, highlighting key partners such as schools, youth-serving nonprofits, community organizations, **and more**. These images and summaries show how Commissioners engaged across diverse settings, met youth where they are, built connections, and gathered meaningful feedback.

LAUSD Mental Health Awareness Symposium

On May 2, 2025, at East Los Angeles College, Youth Commission Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson—joined by Commissioners Christian Gudiel, Jessica Castillo, and Evelyn Karina Rodriguez—led Fluid Emotions, an interactive workshop at the 3rd Annual LAUSD Mental Health & Wellness Symposium. The session encouraged open conversations on emotional awareness, challenged stigma, and highlighted the power of peer leadership in supporting youth mental health.



LA City Youth Expo

The Youth Commission hosted an information table at the L.A. Youth Expo, sharing resources and answering questions from young people and their families. Outreach team engaged youth in conversations about their experiences, encouraged them to take the survey, and promoted opportunities to get involved in shaping policies that impact their lives.

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Youth Civic Leadership Summit at USC with LA City Youth Development Department

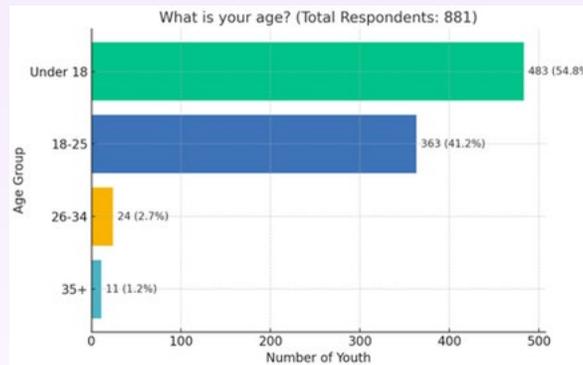
LA City's Youth Summit took place at USC on March 22, bringing together youth leaders, city partners, and community groups to talk policy, share resources, and spotlight youth-led solutions. Sessions covered education, foster care, and youth justice, with young people presenting their research and recommendations to decision-makers. Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez served as a presenter.

2025 Survey Analysis

The survey had two parts: demographics (age, gender, ethnicity, and location) to show who participated, and questions on experiences, priorities, and recommendations to shape this report. Both system-involved and non-system youth responded, for some questions, many youths selected multiple options, while others skipped the item entirely. Percentages may exceed 100% or fall short. Figures reflect the share of respondents, not strict totals.

DEMOGRAPHICS

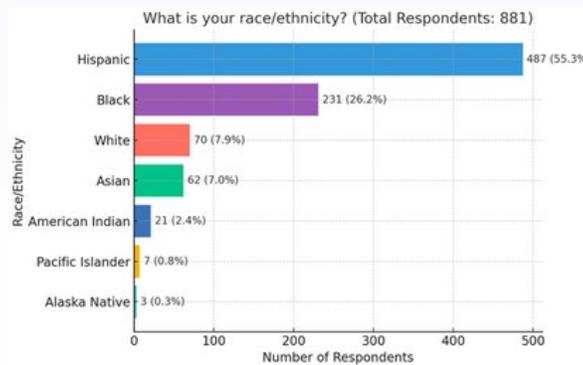
What is your age?



96.0% of Responses Came from Youth Ages 25 And Under.

Most participants were under 18, with a large share also ages 18–25. Smaller groups of older youth took part, showing outreach reached beyond school-aged respondents.

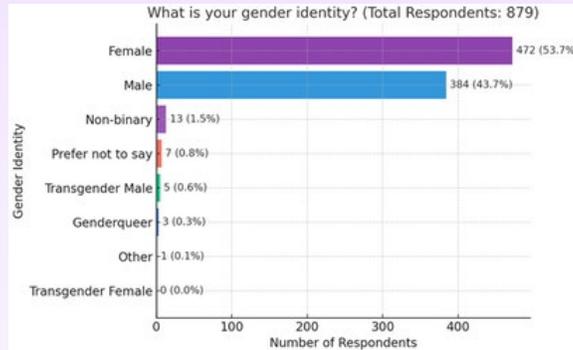
What is your ethnicity?



Nearly 8 in 10 Respondents Were Hispanic and Black.

Nearly eight in ten identified as Hispanic or Black. Smaller numbers identified as White, Asian, or other groups, reinforcing the need for culturally relevant supports.

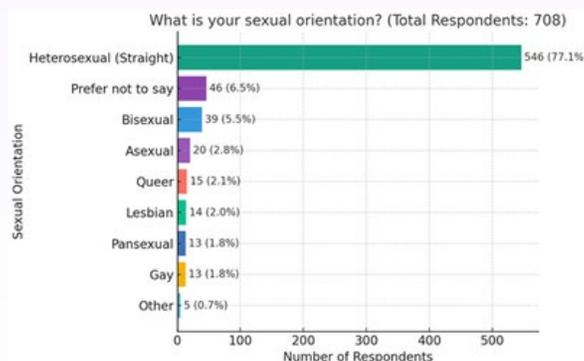
What is your gender?



Just Over Half of Respondents Were Female.

Responses were balanced between female and male, with a small share identifying as non-binary or other genders.

What is your sexual orientation? (this question is optional)



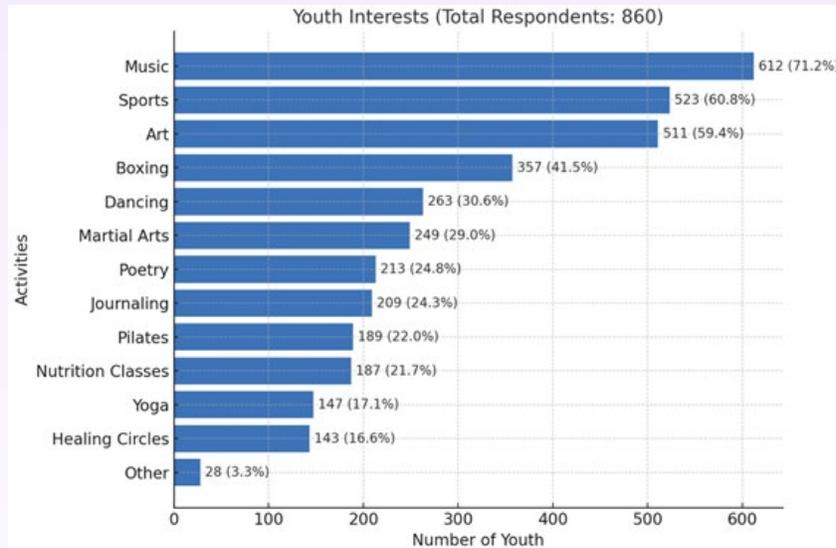
3 in 4 Respondents Identified as Heterosexual (Straight).

Most identified as heterosexual, while a meaningful share identified as LGBTQ+, underscoring the need for inclusive and affirming services.

YOUTH EXPERIENCES Q1-7

Note: For Questions 1-7, youth could select multiple priorities. **For some questions, many youths selected multiple options, while others skipped the item entirely.** Percentages may exceed 100% or fall short. Figures reflect the share of respondents, not strict totals.

Q1: What would you be most interest in?

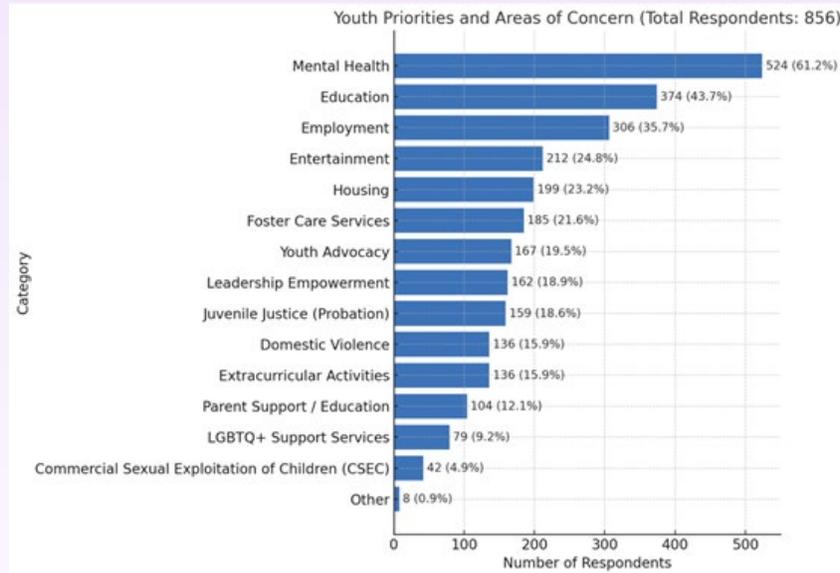


7 in10 Respondents Chose Music as a Top Activity.

Takeaway: Youth are most engaged by music, sports, and art, with strong interest in physical activities like boxing and dancing. Smaller groups value wellness and creative practices such as journaling and yoga.

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (860)
Music	612	71.2%
Sports	523	60.8%
Art	511	59.4%
Boxing	357	41.5%
Dancing	263	30.6%
Martial Arts	249	29.0%
Poetry	213	24.8%
Journaling	209	24.3%
Pilates	189	22.0%
Nutrition Classes	187	21.7%
Yoga	147	17.1%
Healing Circles	143	16.6%
Other	28	3.3%

Q2: What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3)

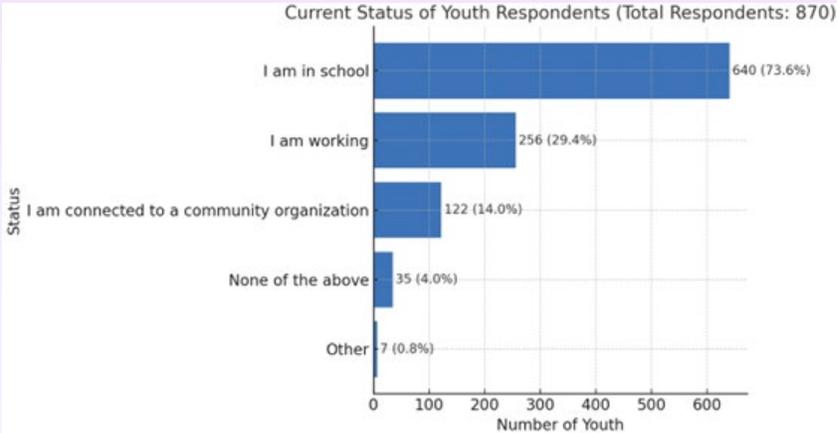


Nearly 2 in 3 Respondents Prioritized Mental Health.

Takeaway: Mental health leads youth priorities, followed by education and employment. Housing and foster care also rank highly, while fewer youth emphasized areas like LGBTQ+ support or parent education.

Category	# Youth	% of Total (856)
Mental Health	524	61.2%
Education	374	43.7%
Employment	306	35.7%
Entertainment	212	24.8%
Housing	199	23.2%
Foster Care Services	185	21.6%
Youth Advocacy	167	19.5%
Leadership Empowerment	162	18.9%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	159	18.6%
Extracurricular Activities	136	15.9%
Domestic Violence	136	15.9%
Parent Support / Education	104	12.1%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	79	9.2%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)	42	4.9%
Other	8	0.9%

Q3: What is your current involvement?

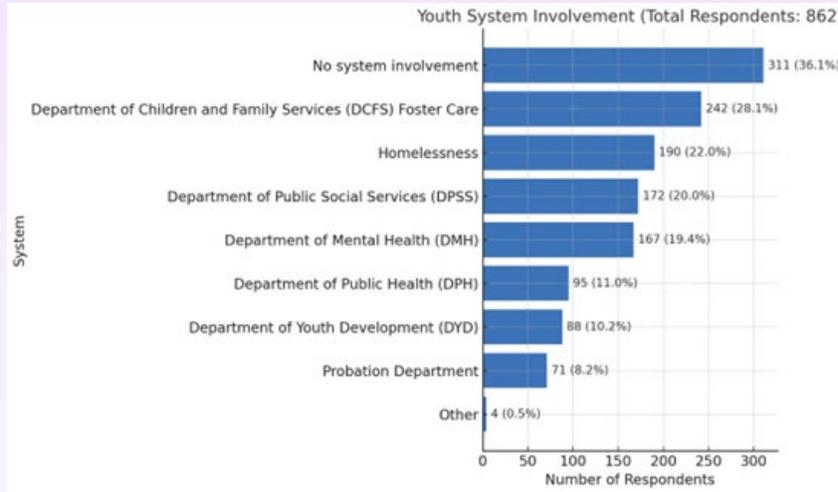


7 in 10 Respondents Are Currently in School.

Takeaway: Most youth reported being in school, with smaller groups working, connected to community programs, or disconnected from both.

Status	# Youth	% of Total (870)
I am in school	640	73.6%
I am working	256	29.4%
I am connected to a community organization	122	14.0%
None of the above	35	4.0%
Other	7	0.8%

Q4: What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)

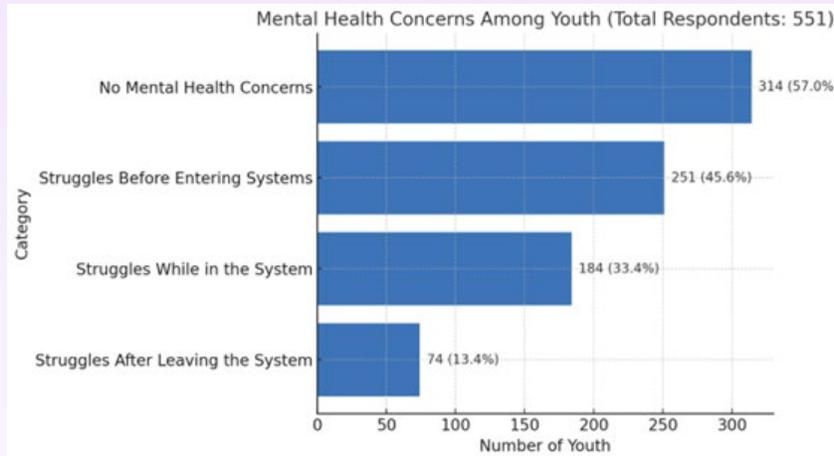


Nearly 2 in 3 Respondents Reported System Involvement.

Takeaway: Nearly two-thirds reported some system involvement, most often with foster care, homelessness services, or social services. A significant share reported no system involvement.

System	# Youth	% of Total (862)
No system involvement	311	36.1%
Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Foster Care	242	28.1%
Homelessness	190	22.0%
Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)	172	20.0%
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	167	19.4%
Department of Public Health (DPH)	95	11.0%
Department of Youth Development (DYD)	88	10.2%
Probation Department	71	8.2%
Other	4	0.5%

Q5: Did you experience mental health concerns at any of the following times? (Select all that apply)

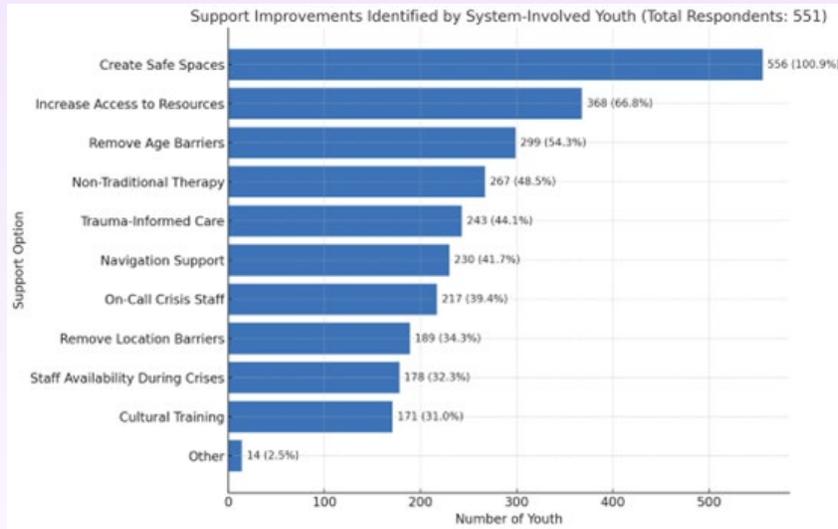


Over Half of Respondents Reported No Mental Health Concerns.

Takeaway: Over half reported no mental health concerns. Among those who did, challenges were most common before or during system involvement.

Category	# Youth	% of Total (551)
No Mental Health Concerns	314	57.0%
Struggles Before Entering Systems	251	45.6%
Struggles While in the System	184	33.4%
Struggles After Leaving the System	74	13.4%

Q6: What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems? (Choose your top 3)

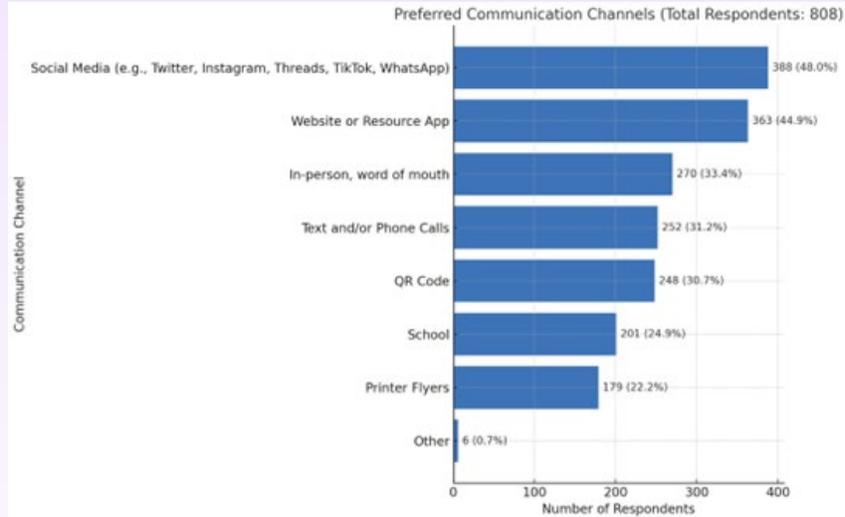


Over Half of Respondents Reported No Mental Health Concerns.

Takeaway: Over half reported no mental health concerns. Among those who did, challenges were most common before or during system involvement.

Support	# Youth	% of System Youth (551)
Create Safe Spaces	556	100.9%
Increase Access to Resources	368	66.8%
Remove Age Barriers	299	54.3%
Non-Traditional Therapy	267	48.5%
Trauma-Informed Care	243	44.1%
Navigation Support	230	41.7%
On-Call Crisis Staff	217	39.4%
Remove Location Barriers	189	34.3%
Staff Availability During Crises	178	32.3%
Cultural Training	171	31.0%
Other	14	2.5%

Q7: How would you prefer to learn about resources available to you? (Select all that apply)



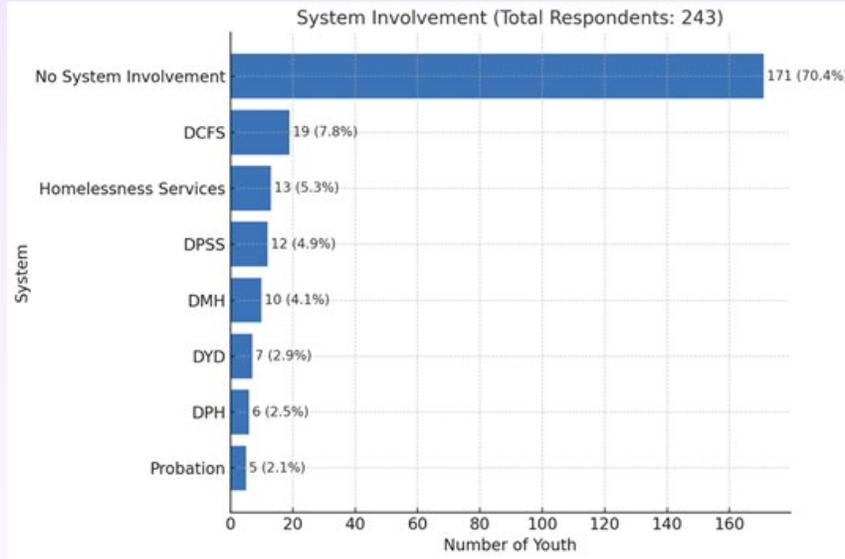
Social Media Was the Most Preferred Way to Learn About Resources.

Takeaway: Youth prefer to get information from **social media** and **websites/apps**, followed by word of mouth and text/phone communication. Flyers and school-based methods were less effective.

Category	# Youth	% of Total (808)
Social Media (e.g., Twitter, Instagram, Threads, TikTok, WhatsApp)	388	48.0%
Website or Resource App	363	44.9%
In-person, word of mouth	270	33.4%
Text and/or Phone Calls	252	31.2%
QR Code	248	30.7%
School	201	24.9%
Printer Flyers	179	22.2%
Other	6	0.7%

First District

What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)



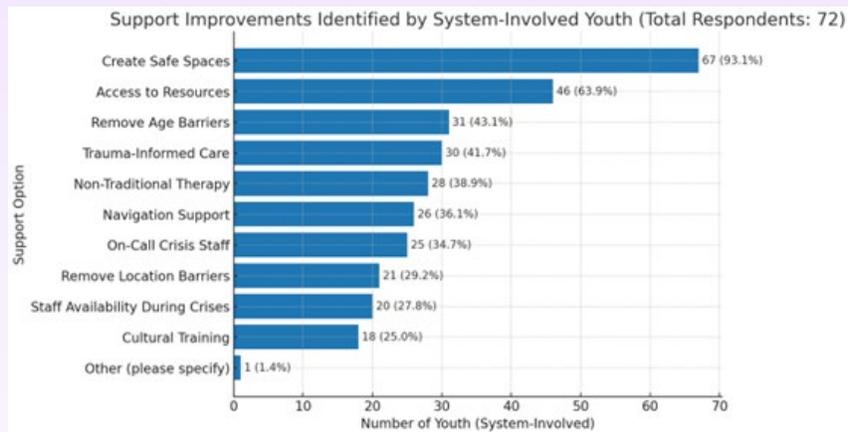
Youth Systems

- System-involved youth: 72
- Non-system youth: 171
- Total surveyed: 243

Takeaway: Most youth reported no system involvement. For those who did, DCFS, homelessness services, and DPSS were the most common, with fewer connected to mental health, youth development, public health, or probation.

System	# Youth	% of Total (243)
No System Involvement	171	70.4%
DCFS	19	7.8%
Homelessness Services	13	5.3%
DPSS	12	4.9%
DMH	10	4.1%
DYD	7	2.9%
DPH	6	2.5%
Probation	5	2.1%

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems (Choose your top 3).



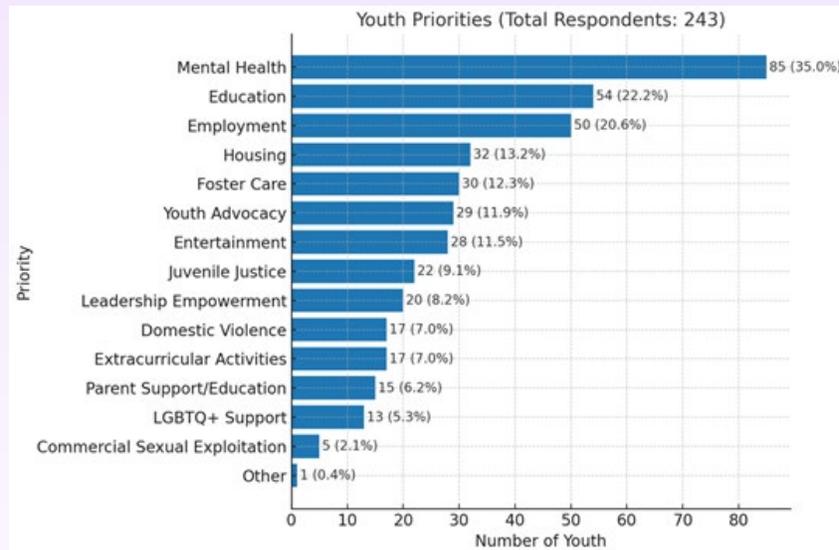
Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

- System-involved youth: 72

Takeaway: Youth prioritized safe spaces first, followed by access to resources and reducing age barriers. Trauma-informed care was also a recurring need.

Support Priority	# Youth	% of System Youth (72)
Create Safe Spaces	67	93.1%
Access to Resources	46	63.9%
Remove Age Barriers	31	43.1%
Trauma-Informed Care	30	41.7%
Non-Traditional Therapy	28	38.9%
Navigation Support	26	36.1%
On-Call Crisis Staff	25	34.7%
Remove Location Barriers	21	29.2%
Staff Availability During Crises	20	27.8%
Cultural Training	18	25.0%
Other (please specify)	1	1.4%

**What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?
(Choose your top 3).**

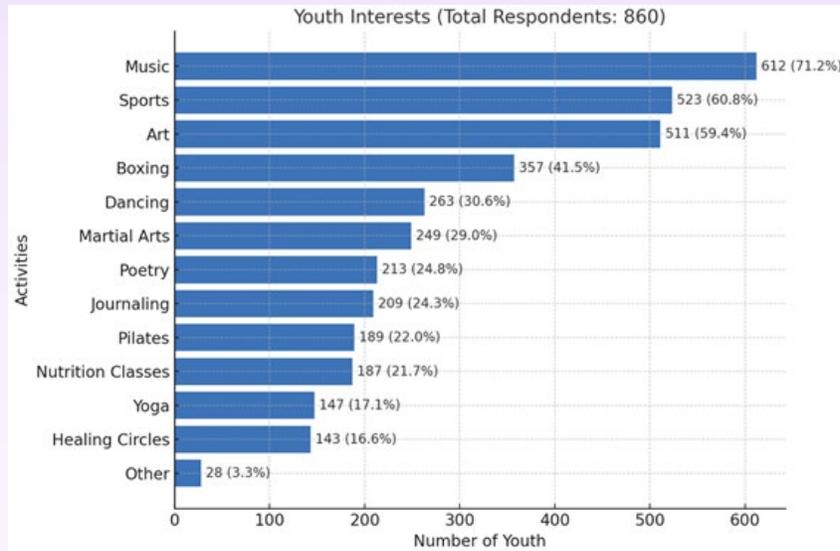


Advocacy Priorities: All Youth: 243

Takeaway: Youth prioritized mental health, education, and employment, showing a balance between immediate well-being and future opportunities.

Priority	# Youth	% of Total (243)
Mental Health	85	35.0%
Education	54	22.2%
Employment	50	20.6%
Housing	32	13.2%
Foster Care	30	12.3%
Youth Advocacy	29	11.9%
Entertainment	28	11.5%
Juvenile Justice	22	9.1%
Leadership Empowerment	20	8.2%
Domestic Violence	17	7.0%
Extracurricular Activities	17	7.0%
Parent Support/Education	15	6.2%
LGBTQ+ Support	13	5.3%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation	5	2.1%
Other	1	0.4%

What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)



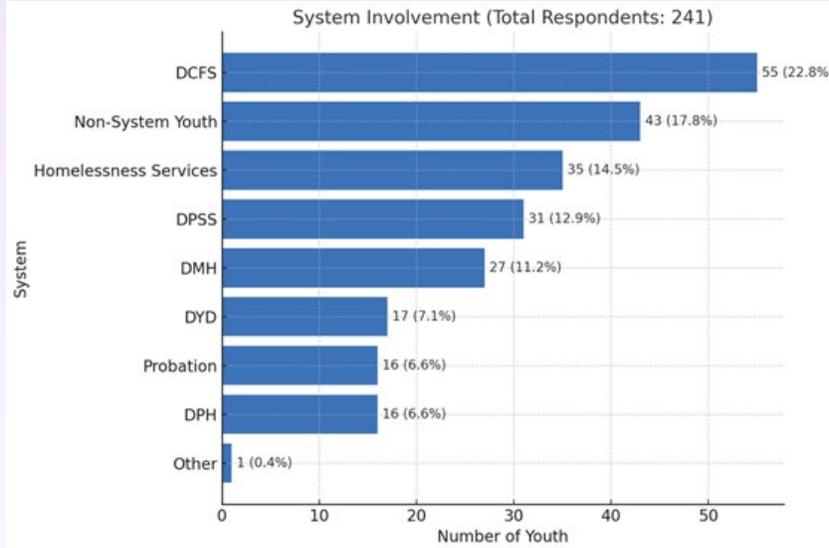
Youth Interests: All Youth: 243

Takeaway: Music was the top interest, followed by sports and art. Many also enjoyed wellness and movement-based activities.

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (243)
Music	84	34.6%
Sports	56	23.0%
Art	48	19.8%
Dancing	35	14.4%
Boxing	27	11.1%
Martial Arts	22	9.1%
Poetry/Journaling	19	7.8%
Pilates	15	6.2%
Yoga	15	6.2%
Healing Circles	14	5.8%
Nutrition	13	5.3%
Other	3	1.2%

Second District

What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)



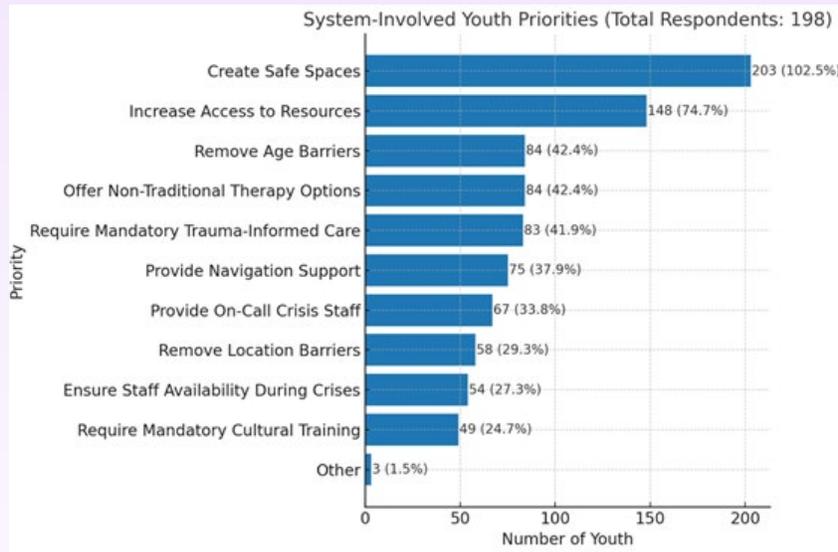
Youth Systems

- System-involved youth: 198
- Non-system youth: 43
- Total surveyed: 241

Takeaway: Many youths reported system involvement, most often with DCFS, followed by homelessness services, DPSS, and DMH. Smaller groups mentioned youth development, public health, or probation.

System	# Youth	% of Total (241)
DCFS	55	22.8%
Non-System Youth	43	17.8%
Homelessness Services	35	14.5%
DPSS	31	12.9%
DMH	27	11.2%
DYD	17	7.1%
DPH	16	6.6%
Probation	16	6.6%
Other	1	0.4%

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems (Choose your top 3).



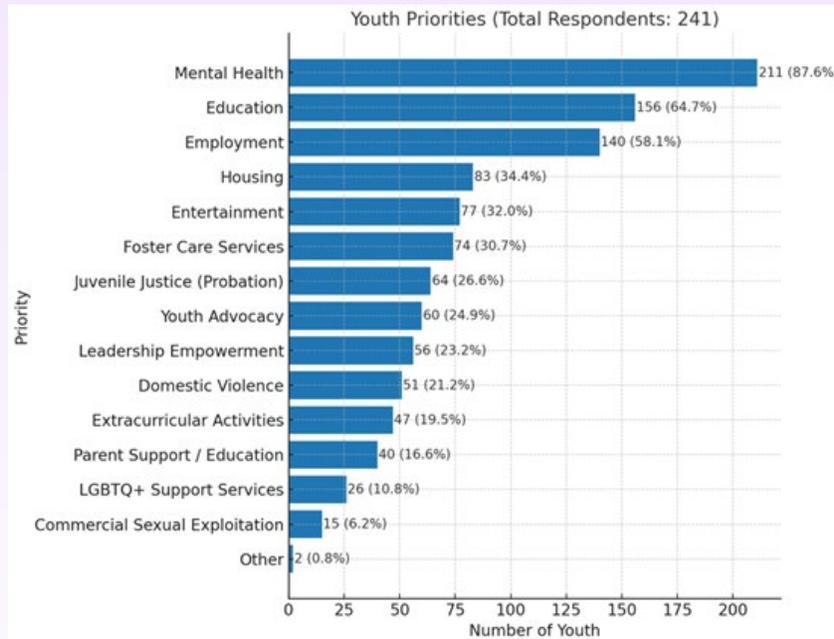
Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

- System-involved youth: 198

Takeaway: Safe spaces and resource access were the top needs. Youth also called for therapy, trauma-informed care, and removing age barriers, with fewer emphasizing staff or training supports.

Priority	# Youth	% of System Youth (198)
Create Safe Spaces	203	102.5%
Increase Access to Resources	148	74.7%
Remove Age Barriers	84	42.4%
Offer Non-Traditional Therapy Options	84	42.4%
Require Mandatory Trauma-Informed Care	83	41.9%
Provide Navigation Support	75	37.9%
Provide On-Call Crisis Staff	67	33.8%
Remove Location Barriers	58	29.3%
Ensure Staff Availability During Crises	54	27.3%
Require Mandatory Cultural Training	49	24.7%
Other	3	1.5%

**What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?
(Choose your top 3).**

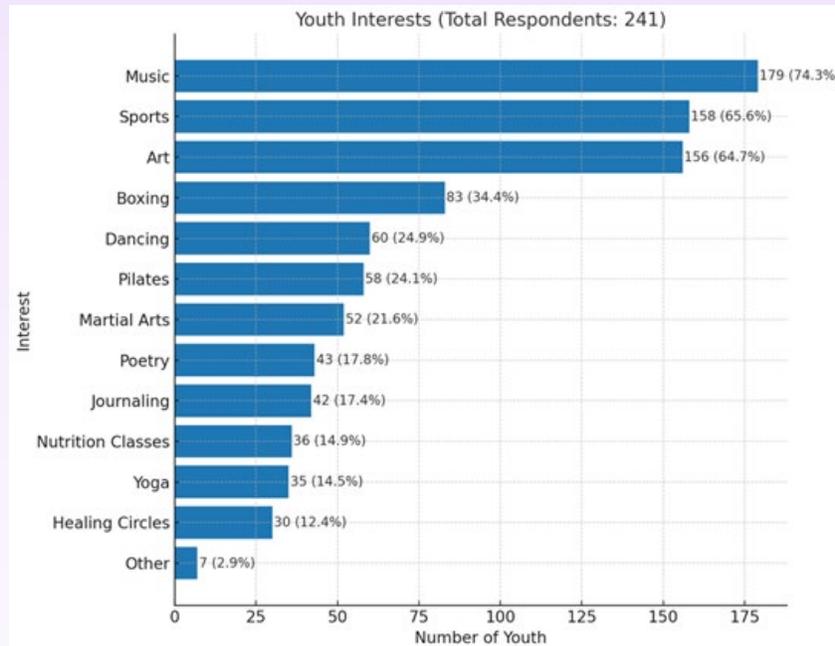


Advocacy Priorities: All Youth: 241

Takeaway: Mental health, education, and employment led priorities. Housing and foster care followed, while fewer youth emphasized parent support, LGBTQ+ services, or CSEC.

Priority	# Youth	% of Total (241)
Mental Health	211	87.6%
Education	156	64.7%
Employment	140	58.1%
Housing	83	34.4%
Entertainment	77	32.0%
Foster Care Services	74	30.7%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	64	26.6%
Youth Advocacy	60	24.9%
Leadership Empowerment	56	23.2%
Domestic Violence	51	21.2%
Extracurricular Activities	47	19.5%
Parent Support / Education	40	16.6%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	26	10.8%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation	15	6.2%
Other	2	0.8%

What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)



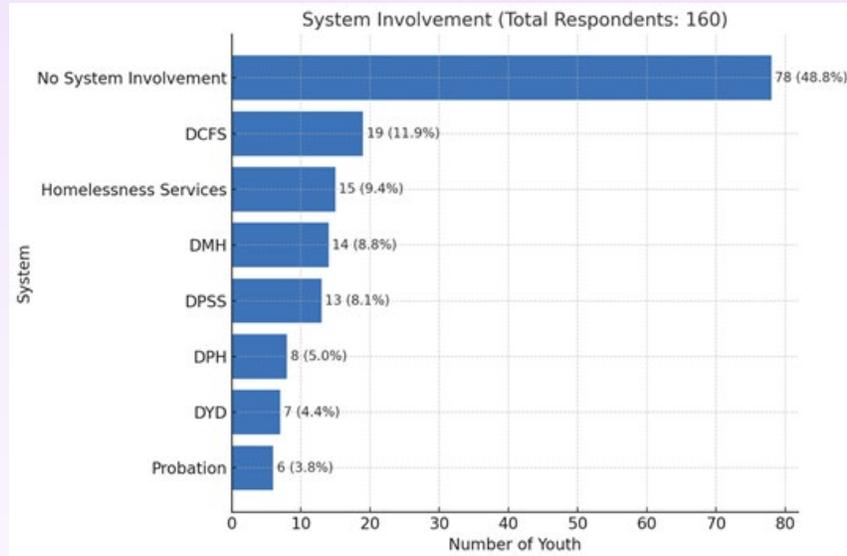
Youth Interests: All Youth: 241

Takeaway: Youth showed strong interest in music, sports, and art, with notable engagement in boxing, dancing, and Pilates. Fewer were drawn to journaling, nutrition, yoga, or healing circles.

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (241)
Music	179	74.3%
Sports	158	65.6%
Art	156	64.7%
Boxing	83	34.4%
Dancing	60	24.9%
Pilates	58	24.1%
Martial Arts	52	21.6%
Poetry	43	17.8%
Journaling	42	17.4%
Nutrition Classes	36	14.9%
Yoga	35	14.5%
Healing Circles	30	12.4%
Other	7	2.9%

Third District

What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)



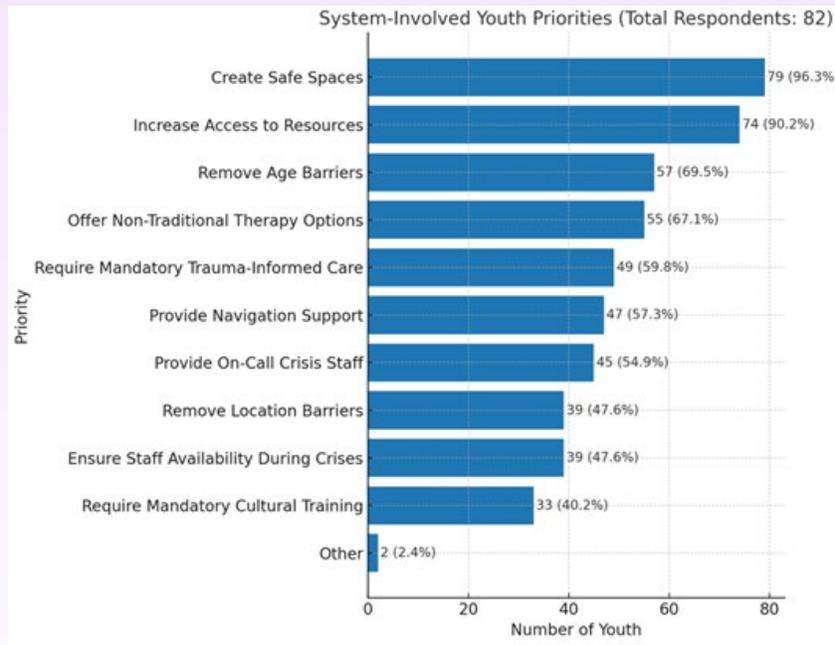
SD3 – Youth Systems

- System-involved youth: 82
- Non-system youth: 78
- Total surveyed: 160

Takeaway: Nearly half reported no system involvement. Among those who did, the largest shares were connected to DCFS, homelessness services, DMH, and DPSS, with smaller numbers in public health, youth development, or probation.

System	# Youth	% of Total (160)
No System Involvement	78	48.8%
DCFS	19	11.9%
Homelessness Services	15	9.4%
DMH	14	8.8%
DPSS	13	8.1%
DPH	8	5.0%
DYD	7	4.4%
Probation	6	3.8%

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems (Choose your top 3).



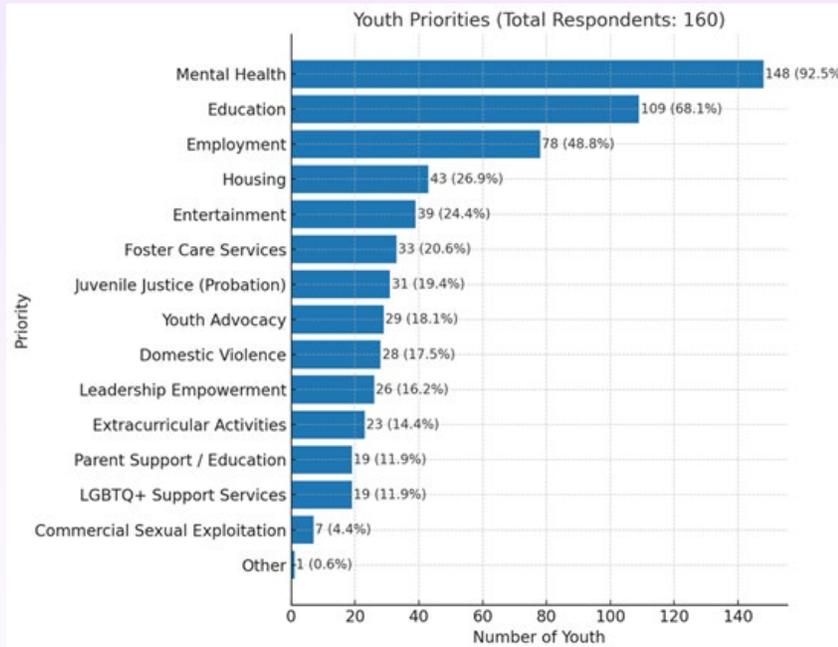
Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

- System-involved youth: 82

Takeaway: Youth emphasized safe spaces and access to resources, with mid-level interest in therapy, trauma-informed care, and reducing age barriers. Cultural training and staffing were less of a focus.

Priority	# Youth	% of System Youth (82)
Create Safe Spaces	79	96.3%
Increase Access to Resources	74	90.2%
Remove Age Barriers	57	69.5%
Offer Non-Traditional Therapy Options	55	67.1%
Require Mandatory Trauma-Informed Care	49	59.8%
Provide Navigation Support	47	57.3%
Provide On-Call Crisis Staff	45	54.9%
Remove Location Barriers	39	47.6%
Ensure Staff Availability During Crises	39	47.6%
Require Mandatory Cultural Training	33	40.2%
Other	2	2.4%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3).



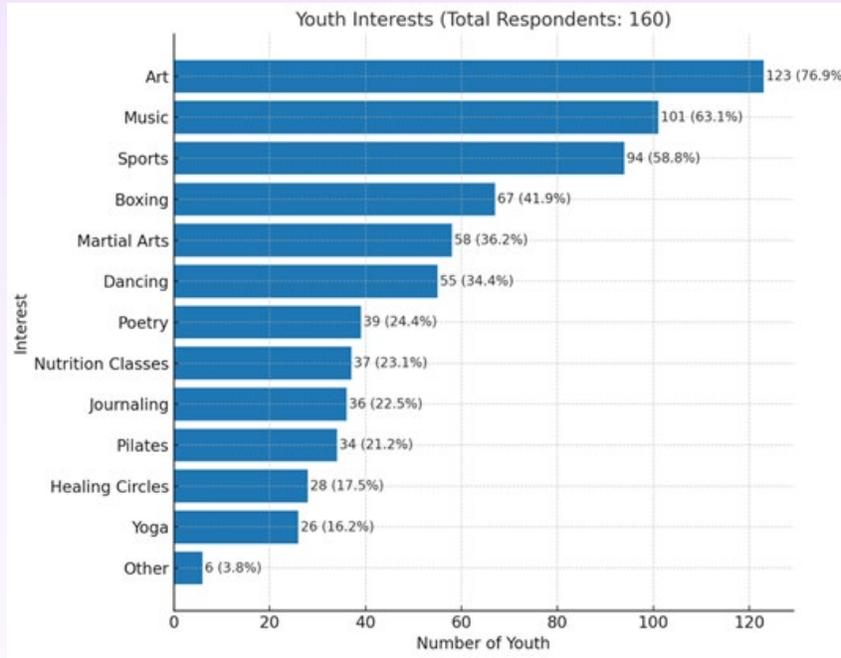
Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

- System-involved youth: 82

Takeaway: Youth emphasized safe spaces and access to resources, with mid-level interest in therapy, trauma-informed care, and reducing age barriers. Cultural training and staffing were less of a focus.

Priority	# Youth	% of Total (160)
Mental Health	148	92.5%
Education	109	68.1%
Employment	78	48.8%
Housing	43	26.9%
Entertainment	39	24.4%
Foster Care Services	33	20.6%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	31	19.4%
Youth Advocacy	29	18.1%
Domestic Violence	28	17.5%
Leadership Empowerment	26	16.2%
Extracurricular Activities	23	14.4%
Parent Support / Education	19	11.9%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	19	11.9%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation	7	4.4%
Other	1	0.6%

What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)



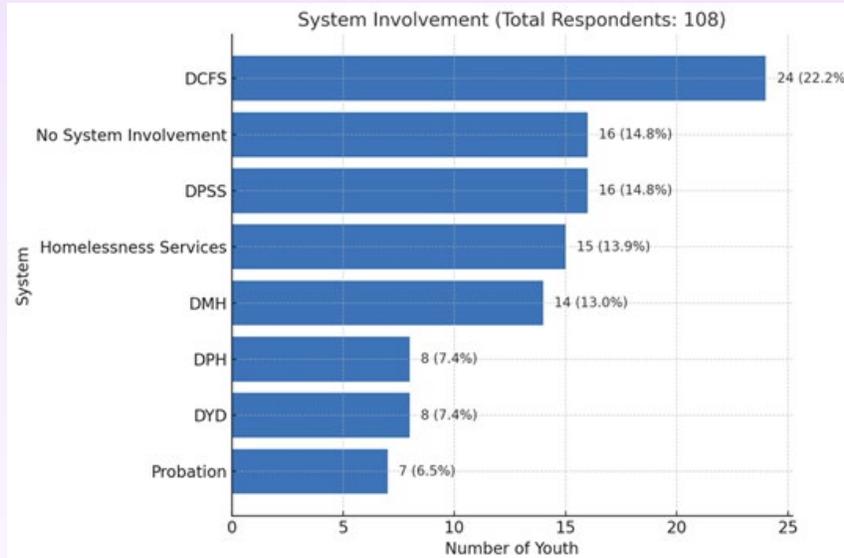
Youth Interests: All Youth: 160

Takeaway: Art, music, and sports were most popular, with moderate interest in boxing, martial arts, and dancing. Smaller groups leaned toward creative and wellness activities like poetry, journaling, and yoga.

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (160)
Art	123	76.9%
Music	101	63.1%
Sports	94	58.8%
Boxing	67	41.9%
Martial Arts	58	36.2%
Dancing	55	34.4%
Poetry	39	24.4%
Nutrition Classes	37	23.1%
Journaling	36	22.5%
Pilates	34	21.2%
Healing Circles	28	17.5%
Yoga	26	16.2%
Other	6	3.8%

Fourth District

What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)



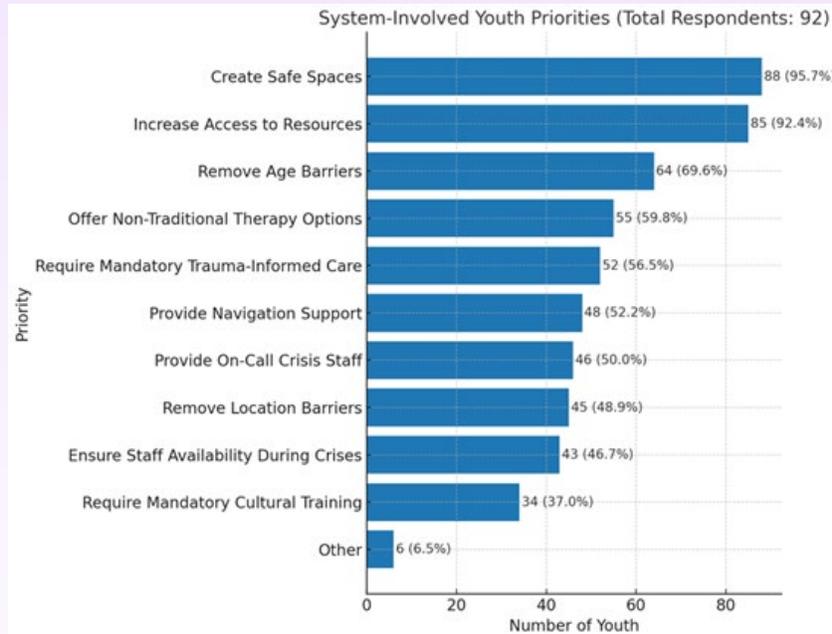
SD4 – Youth Systems

- System-involved youth: 92
- Non-system youth: 16
- Total surveyed: 108

Takeaway: System involvement was most common with DCFS, DPSS, homelessness services, and DMH. Few youths reported no system involvement, while youth development, public health, and probation were rarely selected.

System	# Youth	% of Total (108)
DCFS	24	22.2%
DPSS	16	14.8%
No System Involvement	16	14.8%
Homelessness Services	15	13.9%
DMH	14	13.0%
DYD	8	7.4%
DPH	8	7.4%
Probation	7	6.5%

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems? (Choose your top 3).



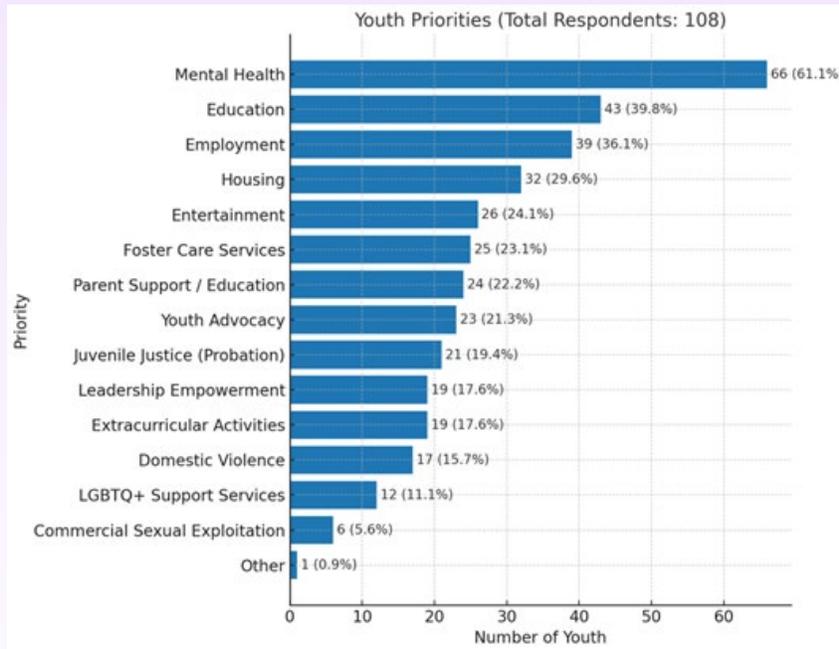
Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

- System-involved youth: 92

Takeaway: Safe spaces and resource access led priorities, followed by age barrier removal and therapy. Training and staffing were mentioned less often.

Priority	# Youth	% of System Youth (92)
Create Safe Spaces	88	95.7%
Increase Access to Resources	85	92.4%
Remove Age Barriers	64	69.6%
Offer Non-Traditional Therapy Options	55	59.8%
Require Mandatory Trauma-Informed Care	52	56.5%
Provide Navigation Support	48	52.2%
Provide On-Call Crisis Staff	46	50.0%
Remove Location Barriers	45	48.9%
Ensure Staff Availability During Crises	43	46.7%
Require Mandatory Cultural Training	34	37.0%
Other	6	6.5%

**What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for?
(Choose your top 3).**

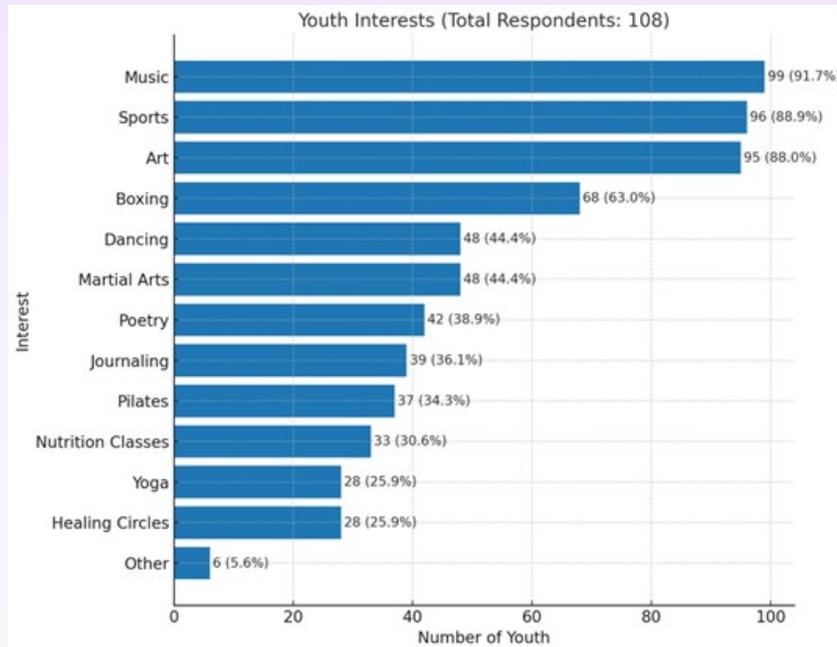


Advocacy Priorities: All Youth: 108

Takeaway: Mental health, education, and employment were the strongest priorities. Housing, parent support, and foster care were secondary, with fewer highlighting LGBTQ+ support or CSEC.

Priority	# Youth	% of Total (108)
Mental Health	66	61.1%
Education	43	39.8%
Employment	39	36.1%
Housing	32	29.6%
Entertainment	26	24.1%
Foster Care Services	25	23.1%
Parent Support / Education	24	22.2%
Youth Advocacy	23	21.3%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	21	19.4%
Leadership Empowerment	19	17.6%
Extracurricular Activities	19	17.6%
Domestic Violence	17	15.7%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	12	11.1%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation	6	5.6%
Other	1	0.9%

What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)



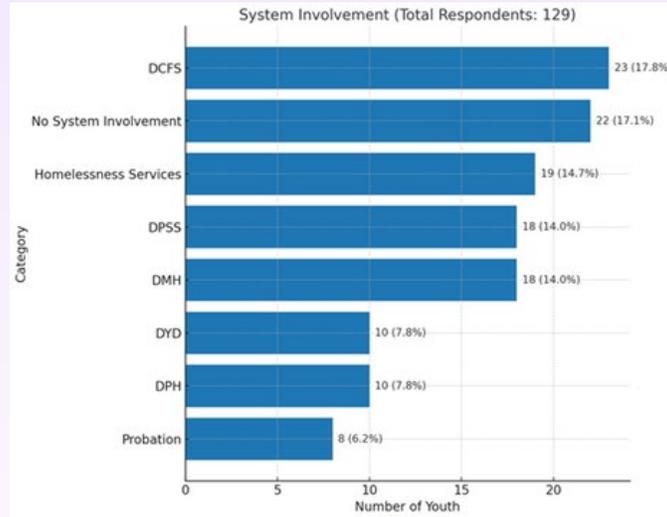
Youth Interests: All Youth: 108

Takeaway: Music, sports, and art led interests, with strong participation in boxing, dancing, and martial arts. Creative and wellness activities like poetry, journaling, and nutrition also appealed to some.

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (108)
Music	99	91.7%
Sports	96	88.9%
Art	95	88.0%
Boxing	68	63.0%
Dancing	48	44.4%
Martial Arts	48	44.4%
Poetry	42	38.9%
Journaling	39	36.1%
Pilates	37	34.3%
Nutrition Classes	33	30.6%
Yoga	28	25.9%
Healing Circles	28	25.9%
Other	6	5.6%

Fifth District

What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)



SD5 – Youth Systems

- System-involved youth: 107
- Non-system youth: 22
- Total surveyed: 129

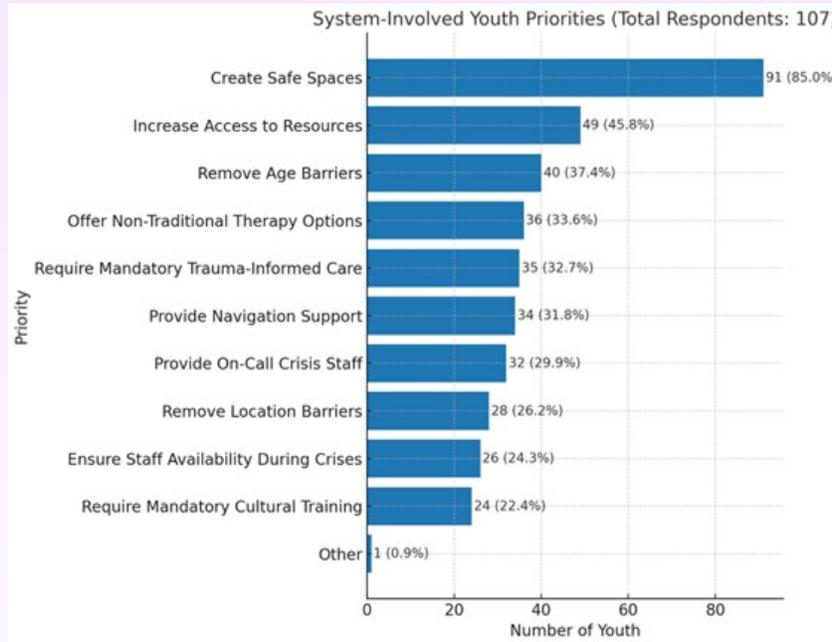
OPS

2024

Takeaway: Youth were most often connected to DCFS and homelessness services, with notable shares also in DPSS and DMH. Smaller groups engaged with youth development, public health, or probation, while non-system youth made up a significant portion.

Category	# Youth	% of Total (129)
DCFS	23	17.8%
No System Involvement	22	17.1%
Homelessness Services	19	14.7%
DPSS	18	14.0%
DMH	18	14.0%
DYD	10	7.8%
DPH	10	7.8%
Probation	8	6.2%

What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems (Choose your top 3).



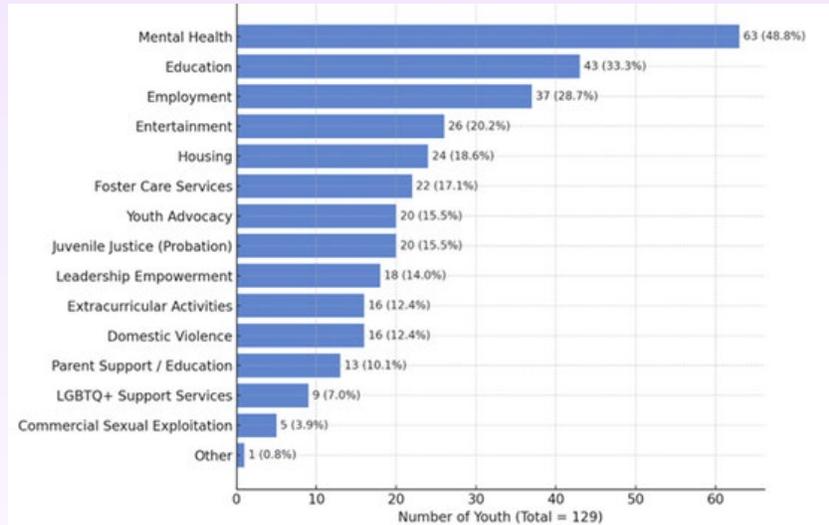
Youth Systems – Mental Health Supports

- System-involved youth: 107

Takeaway: Youth placed the strongest emphasis on safe spaces and resource access. Secondary needs included therapy, trauma-informed care, and age barrier removal, with fewer highlighting training or staffing.

Priority	# Youth	% of System Youth (107)
Create Safe Spaces	91	85.0%
Increase Access to Resources	49	45.8%
Remove Age Barriers	40	37.4%
Offer Non-Traditional Therapy	36	33.6%
Require Trauma-Informed Care	35	32.7%
Provide Navigation Support	34	31.8%
Provide On-Call Crisis Staff	32	29.9%
Remove Location Barriers	28	26.2%
Ensure Staff Availability Crises	26	24.3%
Require Cultural Competency	24	22.4%
Other	1	0.9%

What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3).

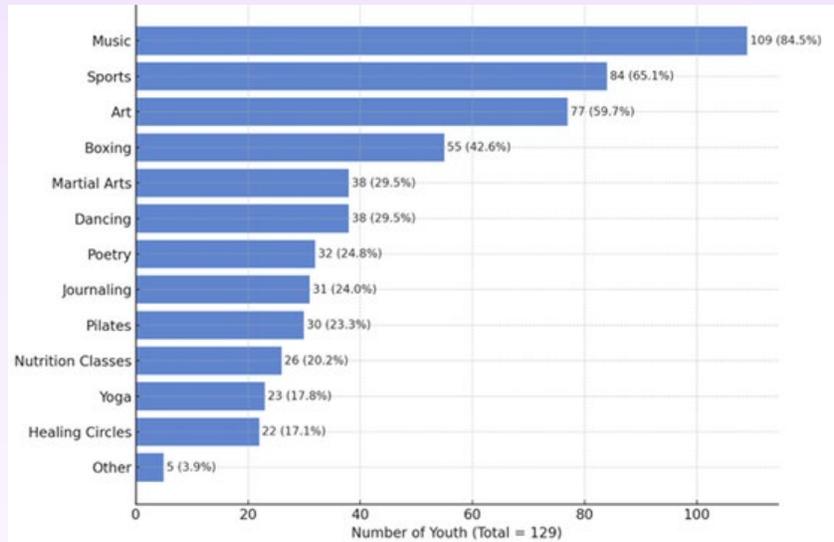


Advocacy Priorities: All Youth: 129

Takeaway: Youth prioritized mental health above all, followed by education and employment. Housing, entertainment, and foster care were secondary, while justice, leadership, family, and LGBTQ+ support were less emphasized.

Priority	# Youth	% of Total (129)
Mental Health	63	48.8%
Education	43	33.3%
Employment	37	28.7%
Entertainment	26	20.2%
Housing	24	18.6%
Foster Care Services	22	17.1%
Juvenile Justice (Probation)	20	15.5%
Youth Advocacy	20	15.5%
Leadership Empowerment	18	14.0%
Domestic Violence	16	12.4%
Extracurricular Activities	16	12.4%
Parent Support / Education	13	10.1%
LGBTQ+ Support Services	9	7.0%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation	5	3.9%
Other	1	0.8%

What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)



Youth Interests: All Youth: 129

Takeaway: Music was the leading interest, followed by sports and art. Youth also showed enthusiasm for physical and creative activities like boxing, dancing, and poetry.

Interest	# Youth	% of Total (129)
Music	109	84.5%
Sports	84	65.1%
Art	77	59.7%
Boxing	55	42.6%
Dancing	38	29.5%
Martial Arts	38	29.5%
Poetry	32	24.8%
Journaling	31	24.0%
Pilates	30	23.3%
Nutrition Classes	26	20.2%
Yoga	23	17.8%
Healing Circles	22	17.1%
Other	5	3.9%

Recommendations

- **Enhance Safe Spaces:** Create environments where youth feel welcome, respected, and supported, particularly those with lived experiences in child welfare and juvenile justice.
- **Improve Access to Services:** Work with County partners to ensure timely, youth-friendly, and culturally relevant supports are available across systems.
- **Develop a Centralized Hub:** Partner with the TAY Table to establish a single, accessible hub for services and resources that reduces duplication and confusion.
- **Expand Outreach to Disconnected Youth:** Design strategies to connect with youth who are outside traditional systems, including neighborhood-based, school-based, and digital engagement.

Next Steps

- **Convene Stakeholders:** Host year-end discussions with County departments, community-based organizations, and youth to refine strategies.
- **Engage Thought Partners:** Bring in both County and non-County partners to co-create approaches that are practical and responsive.
- **Leverage Data:** Use findings from surveys and listening sessions to inform engagement strategies and align with Board priorities.
- **Prepare for 2026 Strategic Planning:** Begin drafting a roadmap that connects current recommendations to the Commission's future strategic plan.

Looking Ahead (2026)

By 2026, the Youth Commission will be positioned to deepen youth engagement and influence systems change through expanded partnerships, stronger outreach, and data-driven planning. This long-term vision ensures sustainability and alignment with the Board of Supervisors' goals.

- **Strategic Convenings:** Hold countywide gatherings with stakeholders to shape the 2026 strategic planning retreat.
- **Expand Partnerships:** Strengthen relationships with community-based organizations, particularly those serving child welfare and justice-impacted youth.
- **Reach Youth Where They Are:** Explore new ways to connect with youth in schools, STRTPs, neighborhoods, and digital platforms.
- **Amplify Youth Voices:** Continue building trust, lifting youth experiences, and advancing policy recommendations that reflect real needs.

Sample Youth Survey

Appendix 1

2/27/2025 v6

Los Angeles County Youth Commission Survey

Please note this is a VOLUNTARY and OPTIONAL survey

<p>Age _____ (What is your age?)</p> <p>Ethnicity (Select all that apply)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White 	<p>Zip Code _____</p> <p>Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Male <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender Female <input type="checkbox"/> Genderqueer <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify _____) 	<p>Sexual Orientation <i>(This question is optional)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual <input type="checkbox"/> Gay <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual (Straight) <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian <input type="checkbox"/> Pansexual <input type="checkbox"/> Queer <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify _____)
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1. What would you be most interested in? (Choose your top 3)

<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Healing Circles	<input type="checkbox"/> Yoga	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry	<input type="checkbox"/> Pilates	<input type="checkbox"/> Martial Arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Journaling	<input type="checkbox"/> Boxing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition Classes	<input type="checkbox"/> Dancing	

2. What areas would you like the Youth Commission to advocate for? (Choose your top 3)

<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health	<input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ+ Support Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Advocacy
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Justice (Probation)	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster Care Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)
<input type="checkbox"/> Extracurricular Activities	<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent Support/Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	

3. What is your current involvement? (Select all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> I am in school	<input type="checkbox"/> None of the above
<input type="checkbox"/> I am working	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am connected to a community organization	

4. What systems have you encountered? (Select all that apply)

- Homelessness (e.g. LAHSA, LAC Homeless Initiative, Housing 4 Health, etc)
- Probation Department
- Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)
- Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Foster Care
- Department of Youth Development (DYD)
- Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Other (please specify) _____
- No system involvement (please proceed to Question 7)

5. Did you experience mental health concerns at any of the following times? (Select all that apply)

- Before interacting with the system
- While in the system
- After leaving the system
- I did not experience mental health concerns

6. What can the County do to enhance mental health supports when experiencing systems?

(Choose your top 3)

- Remove age barriers
- Remove location barriers
- Create safe spaces
- Provide navigation support
- Increase access to resources regardless of income
- Offer non-traditional therapy options (e.g., art, music, poetry, drumming, dance)
- Ensure staff are available during non-traditional work hours
- Provide on-call staff for crisis support
- Require mandatory trauma-informed training for staff
- Require mandatory cultural competency training for staff
- Other (please specify) _____

7. How would you prefer to learn about resources available to you? (Select all that apply)

- QR Code
- Website or Resource App
- Printed Flyers
- In-person - word of mouth
- School
- Text and/or Phone Calls
- Social Media (e.g., Twitter, Instagram, Threads, TikTok, WhatsApp)
- Other (please specify) _____

Youth Commission Partners

Appendix 2

The LA County Youth Commission works closely with a broad network of partners to ensure youth voices are heard and acted upon. Key partners include:

826LA, A Place Called Home, Alliance for Children’s Rights, All Saints Church, Asian Youth Center, Barrio Action Youth and Family Center, Beloved Village, Better Youth, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory, Boyle Heights Tech YouthSource Center, Boys Republic, Brotherhood Crusades, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Calibrate, California Institute of Health & Social Services, Inc., CASA LA, Children’s Institute, Commission for Children & Families, Communities in Schools of LA Inc., Compton YouthBuild, Covenant House, Danza Azteca, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Department of Youth Development (DYD), DYD Youth Expo, East LA College, First Place for Youth, Foster Care Project, Foster More, Friends of the Children, Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined, Heidi Duckler Dance Co., Hillsides, Homeboy Industries, I Am Treasure, Jail Guitar Doors, Jenni’s Flowers, Journey House, Kaimore, Khmer Girls, Kids in the Spotlight, Kollab Youth, Koreatown Youth & Community Center (KYCC), LA City Youth Expo, LA County Fire Department, LA County Library, LA County LGBTQ+ Commission, Lancaster Unified School District, Long Beach City (OYD) Youth Week, Long Beach City Office of Youth Development (OYD), Long Beach Forward, Long Beach Unified School District, Los Angeles City Youth Council (YDD), Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Los Angeles Valley College, Magnolia Public Schools, Next Shift Learning, OMBUDSPERSON for Youth in STRTPs, Pasadena City College, Pasadena City Youth Commission, Peace Over Violence, Penny Lane Center, Probation Department, Probation Oversight Commission, Proyecto Pastoral, Rainbow Labs, Rightway Foundation, Santa Monica-Malibu USD, Simon Rodia Continuation School, Soledad Enrichment Action, The Board of Supervisors, The Village Nation, UNICEF USA, United Friends of Children, Valley Oasis, Valley Oasis Shelter, Youth Justice LA, You Are Enough Foundation, and Young Women Freedom Center and More.

2026 Focus Areas/Subcategories

1. Mental Health

- a. Reducing Barriers
- b. Trauma Informed Care
- c. Education and Awareness
- d. Youth-Led Initiatives and creating safe spaces
- e. Accessibility, Advocacy, and Community Support
- f. Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, Etc.)
- g. System-Involved Youth (Justice & Foster)

2. Education

- a. Life Skills
- b. Transition Planning Support
- c. College and Career Readiness
- d. Youth Empowerment
- e. Education Stability, Community Engagement, and Support Networks
- f. Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, Etc.)
- g. System-Involved Youth (Justice & Foster)

3. Employment

- a. Reducing Barriers
- b. Equal Employment Opportunities
- c. Personal and Professional Development
- d. Mentorships
- e. Youth Employment Initiatives
- f. Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, Etc.)
- g. System-Involved Youth (Justice & Foster)

4. Entertainment

- a. Engagement and Creativity
- b. Craft Workshops
- c. Free Recreational Activities
- d. Youth-Led Community Events
- e. Collaborative Projects
- f. Safe and Inclusive Events
- g. System-Involved Youth (Justice & Foster)

5. Housing

- a. Age Barriers
- b. Substance Abuse
- c. Sustainability, Prevention, and Early Intervention
- d. Wraparound Supports
- e. Education Awareness and Workforce Development
- f. Child Trafficking (CSEC, Labor, Etc.)
- g. System-Involved Youth (Justice & Foster)



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Youth

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