

Department of Youth Development

MISSION

DYD's mission is to be a catalyst for transformation by providing innovative pathways to youth development through intersectional, anti-racist, youth-centered strategies so that all young people can access resources that nurture their growth, well-being, & connection to community.

MANDATORY & MAJOR DUTIES

- Transition the County's Youth Justice system consistent with the County's Care-First model.
- Strengthen community-based services to equitably serve Youth, including Transition Age Youth (TAY).
- Implement a continuum of multi-disciplinary care coordination for justice-involved Youth and TAY.
- Advance cross-sector, evidence-informed youth development priorities to deliver more seamless and impactful services.
- Ensure strong oversight, accountability, and responsible use of public funds.



Department of Youth Development



CURRENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

FY 2025-2026
Final Adopted Budget
(\$ Millions)

Total Appropriation

(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)

\$93.1



Salaries & Employee Benefits (99 positions)

21.1 (23%)



Services & Supplies

71.9 (77%)



Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)

0.1 (<1%)

Sources of Funding

(How We Pay For All of This)

\$93.1



Federal Assistance

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State Assistance

29.2 (31%)



Fees/Charges for Services*

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Other Resources**

55.3 (60%)



Net County Cost

remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues

8.6 (9%)

* Some State and Federally funded services are reflected as "Fees/Charges for Services" through reimbursement mechanisms (e.g., Medi-Cal billing)

** "Other Resources" includes miscellaneous revenues not otherwise classified, including fines, settlements, interest earnings, and interdepartmental billing

BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA

What These Investments Deliver For Residents

General Program Category	% of Dept Budget
Youth Development	21%
Youth Diversion	26%
Youth Justice Supports & Services (Facilities/Reentry)	28%
Coordination & Innovation	9%
Administration	16%

Program categories shown here are presentation-level groupings created to consolidate information from the new LA County Enterprise System (LACES) for this briefing. Note that as part of the County's initial rollout of data-driven budgeting through LACES, categories and outcome measures will continue to evolve based on practical use and data insights as departments operationalize the system in FY 2026–27.

DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES, METRICS & OUTCOMES

Priority	Metrics & Outcomes
Strengthen Systems and Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased administrative efficiency• Increased community and County partnerships
Expand Youth Development Learning Collaborative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased adoption of proven youth development practices
Expand the Youth Development Continuum: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invest in regional Youth Development Networks and Youth Centers;• Expand alternatives to arrest and expulsion• Advance restorative approaches• Build pathways that reduce harm and avoid incarceration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased access to supportive services• Increased social-emotional well-being and other protective factors• Reduced recidivism (subsequent arrests, petitions, convictions)• Fewer youths in Juvenile Hall, Camp, Secure Youth Treatment Facilities

BUDGET REQUEST (FY2026-2027)

Total New Appropriation Request*	\$34.8M
Additional positions requested	104.0
Additional NCC requested	\$34.6M

Key Budget Requests	Amount (\$Millions)	One-Time/ Ongoing?	Positions
Care Coordination, Facility, and Reentry Programming	\$16.0	Ongoing	76.0
Youth Development Networks Support	\$15.8	One-time	0.0
Community Programming and Engagement	\$2.8	Ongoing	13.0
Operational Sustainability and Infrastructure Stability	\$0.2	Ongoing	15.0

* Priority budget and unmet needs requests

CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Category	Challenge	Mitigation Strategy
Funding Stability	Heavy reliance on time-limited and partner funding	Use one-time funds strategically while pursuing sustainable long-term revenue
Coordination & Access	Program success depends on consistent cross-departmental alignment and operational access	Formalize roles through MOUs and Board direction while advancing systemwide coordination
Administrative Capacity in a Contract-Driven Model	Limited contracts, HR, and IT capacity slow implementation and increase service delivery risk	Standardize contract term extensions for now reduce repetitive administrative workload , while building more sustainable contracting solutions long-term