

# THE IMPACT OF YOUTH DIVERSION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Enrolling in Los Angeles County's Youth Diversion and Development programs helps youth and families thrive and significantly reduces future involvement in the legal system, which benefits us all now and in the future.

**95%** of youth enrolled in diversion stayed out of trouble with the legal system

**\$40K** saved per youth enrolled compared to costs of arrest or court

**5 out of 5** key strengths improved supporting both youth & families

**RECOMMENDATIONS** for expanding and improving access to benefits of diversion

Only 5% of youth who enroll in diversion had a petition filed within 12 months\*

Compared to around 20% of youth who did not enroll in the program

\* This result is statistically significant and equitable by race and ethnicity, gender, and age. Enrolling in diversion has the greatest impact on reduced recidivism for youth referred for alleged felonies.



**DIVERSION  
COST SAVINGS  
PER YOUTH**



**ANNUAL COST TO CONNECT  
20 YOUTH  
WITH A MENTOR\***

\* U.S. Department of Education



**EMOTIONAL  
REGULATION**



**SCHOOL  
ENGAGEMENT**



**SOCIAL  
SUPPORT**



**CONFLICT  
RESOLUTION**



**CARING ADULT  
RELATIONSHIPS**

**1**

Address Racial Disparities in Stops and Enrollment to Equitably Improve Access to Diversion

**2**

Increase Training & Coordination for Providers, Partners, and Other Youth-Serving Agencies

**3**

Improve Law Enforcement Partner Compliance with Record Sealing After Program Completion

**4**

Update Assessment Processes to Respond to Populations with Unique Needs

Key findings outlined above summarize the comprehensive Outcomes, Equity, Cost, and Youth Participatory Action Research Evaluation project conducted by RDA Consulting for the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development.

This evaluation would not have been possible without the incredible Youth Participatory Action Research team who made sure the stories of youth, families, and partners were part of the fabric of youth diversion's impact, built their own research skills, and shared their experiences.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
YOUTH  
DEVELOPMENT**

TO LEARN MORE,  
SCAN QR CODE:

