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**From:**

LA County Department of Youth Development <DYD@subscriptions.lacounty.gov>



Today, I am excited to share the promising findings from the first comprehensive, external evaluation of the County's Youth Diversion and Development Program. **The evidence is undeniable: community-based youth diversion and development works.**

The evaluation shows that 95% of youth who enroll in diversion avoid future contact with the legal system. Enrolled youth also experience significant improvements in five protective factors: emotional regulation, school engagement, social support, conflict resolution, and caring adult relationships. Compared to the costs of court and arrest, diversion generates approximately \$40,000 in net savings per youth, with total program savings of about \$300 million between 2017 and 2026. Investments in youth benefit us all, both now and into the future as young people grow into adulthood.

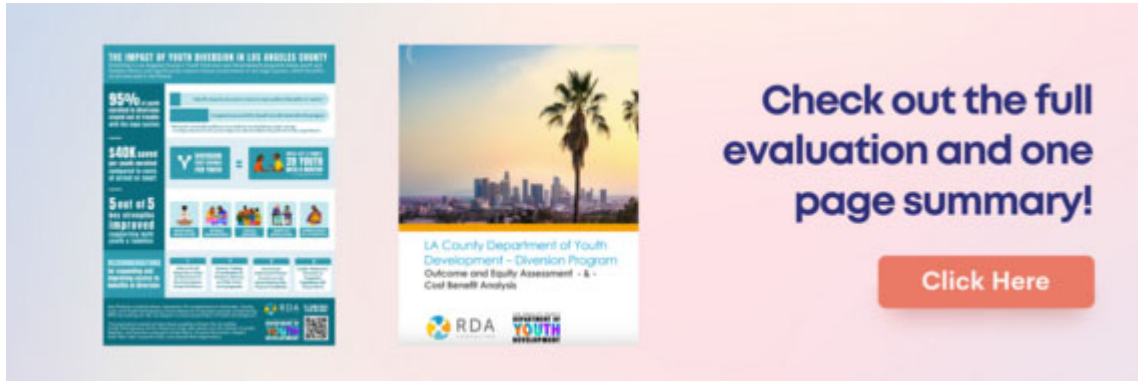
Since its inception, the diversion program has offered an alternative path for youth who have come into negative contact with law enforcement. Designed in collaboration with youth leaders, community providers, and County partners, this program connects young people with the individualized support they need to grow and take accountability for their actions.

This evaluation also highlights the need for improved equity in referral and enrollment, particularly for Black youth who face disproportionate and unjust barriers to diversion. Although Black youth who enroll in diversion see equal or higher success rates than their peers, they are still more likely to be arrested instead of referred and less likely to enroll in services. By working together to increase equitable access to alternatives to arrest, we can make Los Angeles County a better, safer place for us all.

The evaluation, conducted by RDA Consulting, includes outcomes, equity, and cost benefit analyses, as well as Youth Participatory Action Research that centered youth voices and made the evaluation

even more meaningful. To read the full evaluation and learn more about the program’s network of community-based providers and referral partners, visit: <https://dyd.lacounty.gov/diversion/>.

Stay tuned over the next several months as we share more about these important findings and offer more opportunities for you all to engage with the stories uplifted by this evaluation.



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## Youth Development Networks Launch

DYD has officially partnered with 34 community-based organizations for our initial investments in regional Youth Development Networks (YDNs)! This collaborative effort marks an important step forward in our commitment to supporting and empowering young people.

The first regional YDNs will be based in the Antelope Valley, East Los Angeles, Long Beach, the San Fernando Valley, and South Central Los Angeles. These YDNs will offer support in three key areas:

- Academic and Youth Mentorship Support
- Crisis Intervention and Wellness
- Employment and Youth Development

Please visit our [website](#) to learn more and stay tuned for updates as our Youth Development Networks continue to grow.

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## DYD's Trip to the Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Sites



In May, the DYD team had the honor of visiting with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) for a powerful learning opportunity at the Legacy Museum, National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and new Freedom Monument Sculpture Park. Our team was deeply moved by this experience.

Here are a few reflections from both programmatic and administrative team members:

*"The trip will inspire a more informed and empathetic approach to our work. By integrating a deeper understanding of historical and structural racism into our daily tasks, we can be more deliberate in the curating outcomes to align with our departments' goals. It will also inform our partnerships, ensuring we collaborate with organizations that share a commitment to justice and equality."*

*"Overall, this trip will enhance my daily work and decision-making by deepening my understanding of the issues facing incarcerated youth, fostering empathy and perspective, and providing inspiration and passion for implementing more effective alternative solutions to youth incarceration. This trip definitely enhanced my understanding of the importance and urgency to roll out school-based diversion and YD services countywide."*

To learn more about the history and legacy of slavery, structural racism, and mass incarceration (and why transforming youth justice system involvement is such an important step in building a more equitable world), please visit [www.eji.org](http://www.eji.org).

## Juneteenth Celebration and Resource Fair





You're invited to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth Celebration and Resource Fair on **Friday June 21** from **4:00-8:00pm** at **Victoria Community Regional Park: 419 Martin Luther King Jr. Street, Carson CA 90746**. This family friendly event will feature music, food trucks, live performances, access to County services and resources, fun activities and more! All residents are welcome to attend this **FREE** event. Register today, [here!](#)

## Youth Expo 2024

Join the City of LA Youth Development Department for a summer resource fair for all youth and young adults! This event will bring together hundreds of young people from Los Angeles and offer a wide range of community resources, referrals to youth programs, job opportunities, and giveaways. Click [here](#) to register and learn more!

## 2024 Arts Internship Program



Positions for the 2024 Arts Internship Program are now available! This program will provide 228 university and community college students with paid on-the-job experience in the arts at over 160 nonprofit organizations across the LA region. What's more, all Arts Internship Program internships provide 400 hours of work experience at \$17.28 an hour.

Positions will continue to be posted on a rolling basis through July 2024. Visit the [LA County Arts & Culture website](#) to learn more!

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