

Department of Youth Development August 2025 Updates



Happy third anniversary to DYD! I'm so proud of the department's growth since our launch in July 2022. To celebrate, we will soon release our 3rd Annual Report, highlighting our programs, accomplishments, and vision for providing Los Angeles County youth with equitable access to resources they need for healthy development. It includes powerful stories from young people and providers, highlighting how our programs have improved youth well-being. We've packed it with

details on the ways we've grown this year so keep an eye on our website and social media for the full report coming soon!



I recently met with the Youth Justice Funders Collaborative, a group of Los Angeles County foundations and philanthropists dedicated to transforming the local youth justice system. Our discussion focused on the vital role of philanthropy in supporting youth services, especially as county departments face significant budget pressures. These financial cuts could deeply impact social and health programs, disproportionately harming our most vulnerable young people.

Amid the shifts within the juvenile justice system, a judge is expected to rule in the next several weeks on whether LA County juvenile halls will be placed under state receivership. This comes as the Probation Department has begun relocating young people from Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall to other facilities as part of a larger plan to depopulate it. Throughout these changes, our DYD staff in these facilities and those working on reentry are steadfast in their resolve to ensure that every young person has consistent access to the vital programs and services they need to not only survive but thrive.



For a second year, a group of DYD team members were fortunate to journey to the [Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Sites](#) in Montgomery, Alabama. The Legacy Sites are three interconnected spaces that stand as powerful testaments to America's history of racial injustice and violence, from the era of slavery to today's system of mass incarceration.



While often painful to experience, these sites inspire a commitment to a more equitable future by confronting the truth of the past. To understand how this history connects to the present-day need to transform the youth justice system, please [visit the Equal Justice Initiative website](#).



Save the date! Our Annual Youth Summit will be taking place on November 14, 2025. To build excitement and increase awareness for this special event, DYD launched our Summer Series events at LA County parks this August and September. These gatherings offer a safe, communal space for

young people and families to enjoy music, food, fun activities, and access to valuable resources. Our events in the Antelope Valley, East LA, South LA and Long Beach have been joyful experiences for all, and we hope to see you at our final Summer Series celebration in the San Fernando Valley on September 13th. To register for this event and our November 14 Summit, please visit our [Eventbrite](#) page.

As always, I value your input and feedback. Connect with us at info@djd.lacounty.gov with any questions or concerns and please explore DYD.LA for more information and resources.

David
DAVID J. CARROLL
DIRECTOR



Credible Messengers Program Expansion



[DYD's Credible Messenger program](#) offers community support to detained and recently released youth. Credible Messenger mentors, with lived experience in the justice system, provide culturally

sensitive role models and care coordination. This shared understanding fosters trust and empathy crucial for positive youth development.

We're excited to announce that Credible Messenger services have expanded to all juvenile halls and camp facilities in the county, providing invaluable support to more young people, including those with developmental disabilities and those in Secure Youth Treatment Facilities. Recently, [Impact Justice](#) met with Credible Messenger agencies to discuss the LeadOn Reentry Navigation Program, a six-year-old initiative designed to create smoother transitions for youth leaving detention facilities. Co-created with DYD, the program ensures that youth receive consistent support from trusted mentors as they return to their communities.

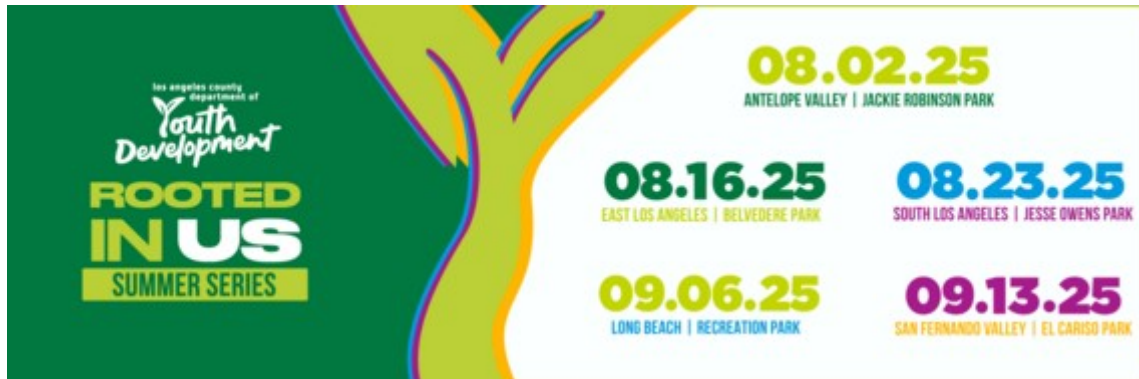
DYD's Rooted In Us Summer Series + Youth Summit



DYD's Rooted In Us Summer Series features free events packed with food, music, resources, giveaways and activities, all celebrating youth leadership and empowerment. We're bringing fun to LA County parks in all five supervisorial districts, so everyone can easily access this inspiring series!

Check out these photos and [this awesome video](#) highlighting Summer Series events in South LA, East LA and Antelope Valley! And be sure to visit bit.ly/DYDRootedInUs2025 or click the banner

below to register for our final San Fernando Valley Summer Series celebration and our November Youth Summit!



Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined Gatherings



Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined (HYJR) in San Fernando Valley kicked off the school year by welcoming new members to a spectacular open-mic night featuring fantastic free food, clothing workshops and live music! HYJR meetings are monthly, in-person gatherings co-led by young people that offer a great opportunity to build leadership skills and connect with peers. Youth who attend

receive a gift card for their participation. Check the flyer below to discover what youth are saying about HYJR and use the bit.ly links or QR codes to sign up for a HYJR meeting near you!

"I loved how it was a safe space. Everyone was so nice to each other & I felt comfortable."



"HYJR has shown me a new perspective of cooperation and collaboration and helped me get a JOB!"



HEART OF YOUTH JUSTICE REIMAGINED

EAST LOS ANGELES bit.ly/HYJRELA2025	
September 4th 5pm - 6:30pm	4876 Gleason St. Los Angeles 90022
	
ANTELOPE VALLEY bit.ly/AVHYJR	
September 11th 5pm - 7pm	38417 20 th Street East, Suite A. Palmdale 93550
	
SOUTH CENTRAL bit.ly/sclahyjr2025	
September 18th 5pm - 7pm	7625 S. Central Ave. Los Angeles 91340
	
LONG BEACH bit.ly/DYDHYJRLB	
September 24th 4:30pm - 6:30pm	2217 E. 6 th Street Long Beach 90814
	
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY bit.ly/818youthjustice	
September 25th 6pm - 8pm	1101 San Fernando Rd. San Fernando 91340
	

September Gatherings for Heart of YJR Youth Leadership Work Groups



"I noticed drastic changes in my attitude and the way I carry myself; I also am more confident expressing myself."



"I feel more connected and informed with my city and government; I look forward to this meeting every month."



Our SPOT Park Programs

DYD is proud to provide support for Our SPOT, LA County Parks and Recreation's free, weekday, park-based program for teens aged 12-18! Our SPOT offers LA County teens access to a safe and supportive environment where they can socialize, explore interests, receive homework help, and enjoy hot meals, mentoring, sports, and career exploration. Our SPOT offers engaging, meaningful programming year-round during critical after-school and evening hours. Learn more about Our SPOT and find a park location near you by [clicking here](#).




COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF
Parks & Recreation





OUR SPOT - TEEN CENTER

Looking for somewhere fun to hang out after school? We've got you! Activities include:

- Field trips and Teen nights
- Cultural Arts Workshops
- Mentorship and job pathways
- Supper served at 7:00 PM

HOURS

- During School Year:
Afterschool – 9:00 PM
- Summer: 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM

REGISTER NOW ➔

parks.lacounty.gov/ourspot



OUR SPOT LOCATIONS

100% FREE for teens ages 12–18 (Grades 6–12)

AMELIA MAYBERRY PARK
13201 East Meyer Road,
Whittier, CA 90605, (562) 944-9727

BELVEDERE COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK
4914 East Cesar Chavez Avenue,
Los Angeles, CA 90022, (323) 260-2342

CITY TERRACE PARK
1126 North Hazard Avenue,
East Los Angeles, CA 90063, (323) 260-2371

EARVIN MAGIC JOHNSON PARK
905 E. El Segundo Blvd.,
Los Angeles, 90059 (323) 942-8457

EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK
15116 South Atlantic Avenue,
Compton, CA 90221, (310) 603-3724

EL CARISO COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK
13100 Hubbard St.,
Sylmar, CA 91342, (818) 367-5043

EUGENE A. OBREGON PARK
4021 E. First St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90063 (323) 260-2344

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PARK
7600 Graham Avenue,
Los Angeles, CA 90001, (323) 586-7228

JACKIE ROBINSON PARK
8773 East Avenue R
Little Rock, CA 93543 (661) 944-2880

LENNOX PARK
10828 South Condon Avenue,
Lennox, CA 90304, (310) 419-6712

LOMA ALTA PARK
3330 N. Lincoln Ave.,
Altadena, CA 91001, (626) 398-5451

MONA PARK
2291 E. 121st St.,
Compton, CA 90222, (310) 603-3729

PAMELA PARK
2236 Goodall Avenue,
Duarte, CA 91010, (626) 357-1619

RUBEN F. SALAZAR PARK
3864 Whittier Boulevard,
Los Angeles, CA 90023, (323) 260-2330

SAN ANGELO PARK
245 South San Angelo Avenue,
La Puente, CA 91746, (626) 968-2666

STEPHEN SORENSEN PARK
16801 E. Ave. P,
Palmdale, CA 93591, (661) 264-1249

Hilda L. Solis
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Join the DYD Quarterly Public Convening!

JOIN US FOR DYD'S QUARTERLY VIRTUAL MEETING!
(FORMERLY THE DYD STEERING COMMITTEE)

QUARTERLY PUBLIC CONVENING

Thursday, October 2nd
From 3–5PM on Zoom

- DYD Updates
- Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined (HYJR) Youth Leader Share Back
- A workshop on alternatives to punitive discipline & an introduction to DYD's new school-based program!



REGISTER BELOW TO JOIN!
bit.ly/dydqpc3



Want to stay up to date on future convenings?
Sign up for DYD's newsletter at:
bit.ly/dydnewsletter

Get ready to connect, learn and contribute! The DYD Quarterly Public Convening (QPC), formerly known as the Steering Committee, is your essential platform for all things DYD. Whether you're already familiar with DYD or new to our work, the QPC is your chance to learn more and get involved. You'll discover what's currently happening at DYD, engage in shared learning around

youth development topics, and hear directly from youth themselves about programs, key issues, and their impact on young lives.

Missed the last meeting? No worries- catch up with these [notes](#) and [slides](#) from the July meeting, which include an overview of DYD's new [Reentry Action for Youth \(RAY\) program](#) and other program updates. Ready to join us? Register for our next Quarterly Public Convening on Thursday, October 2nd from 3-5 PM by [clicking here](#). We can't wait to see you there!

DYD's GOATs of the Month



August GOATs!



Once a month, we shine a spotlight on DYD team members who exemplify our commitment to inspiring, uplifting and supporting youth. This month, we're excited to recognize our Human Resources and Research, Policy and Innovation teams as our August GOATs (Greatest of All-Timers)!

RPI team members Samantha Ruiz, Joshua Arechiga, Alexia Vartanian, Mike Makkouk, Eva Levingston, Sahar Moheize and Chelsea Busby accepted the GOAT award for their work in providing critical research and evaluation support to our youth programs. The team manages all internal,

local, and legislative policy work in close collaboration with youth, community, and county partners, ensuring a data-driven approach that is ethical, participatory and transparent.

We also thank the DYD HR team, represented by Angelique Franco and Taura Gordon, for their tireless efforts to keep us informed about our benefits, aligned with county regulations and for always being a reliable resource for our most complex questions. Your dedication and hard work make a world of difference for everyone at DYD!

Congratulations to our August honorees!

DYD Request for Information (RFI)



DYD is looking for a Gender Equity Implementation Consultant to assess, implement, & recommend best practices for gender equity both in the workplace and in our programming. [Click here](#) to submit a response to this RFI by **Monday, September 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. PST**.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a request for information only. This request for information is not a solicitation, and your response does not infer a contract or in any way obligate the County to issue a solicitation, negotiate and/or enter into contract, hire employees, or in any way obtain services pursuant to this request.

Youth@Work: Your Career Starts Here!



Youth@Work provides opportunities for young people (ages 14-24) to gain valuable experience and develop in-demand skills through salaried positions in thriving industries. This program will connect you with local employers and America's Job Centers of California (AJCCs), where you can gain real-world experience and build your confidence. Take the next step toward a bright future by clicking [this link](#) or the banner above to learn more!

Care First

Care First uplifts the message that proven, prevention and healing-centered approaches give young people the resources and opportunities they need to succeed and lead meaningful lives.

Young people thrive when they have access to supportive adults, community resources, and real second chances—and communities become stronger, healthier, and safer.

Visit DYD.LA or click on the banner below to Learn more about DYD's Care First approach and how you can get involved to support and empower LA County youth.



