



Dear DYD Partners,

As 2025 closes, I am reflecting on a year defined by bold purpose and significant growth for the Department of Youth Development. Despite a relentless cycle of crises—from devastating fires to the impacts of immigration enforcement and systemic issues in juvenile justice facilities—DYD has remained a steady force for progress. Thanks to our partners and a team that has nearly doubled in size, we have brought most [Youth Justice Reimagined](#) recommendations to life and launched a [Strategic Plan](#) to guide our future.

We capped the year with our Rooted In Us Youth Summit, uniting hundreds of young people for a fantastic day of youth-led panels and workshops. That momentum continues today: we are currently seeking young leaders for our Youth Advisory Board to help shape public policy and design a new South LA youth center (read on below for details).



This month, female and gender-expansive youth finished relocating from Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall to Malibu’s Campus Kilpatrick. To ensure a smooth transition, Credible Messengers from DYD-contracted community-based organizations provided direct support and essential transportation for families to stay connected. Looking to 2026, we are eager to open our fourth Safe Healing Center, a home-like alternative to facilities designed for healing.

Yet, as we move forward, we remain mindful of the many young people spending another holiday away from their families. Please keep them in your thoughts as we continue our collective efforts to bring them home.

In the spirit of this ongoing work, I was gratified to join Corrie Renee on KDAY’s 'Sundays in LA' this month to discuss our progress in enacting care-first and youth justice reimaged priorities and the life-changing impact it is having across LA County. You can listen to the full conversation [here](#).

All of us at the Department of Youth Development thank you for your unwavering partnership and support this year. We value your input and look forward to the progress we will achieve together. Please visit DYD.LA for resources or contact us at info@dyd.lacounty.gov with any questions or input.



David
DAVID J. CARROLL
DIRECTOR



DYD 2025 Youth Summit



South LA's The Beehive buzzed with energy as DYD hosted its annual Youth Summit in November! This vibrant day of empowerment turned the spotlight on young leaders through a mix of music, artmaking, and workshops co-led by the youth themselves. It was more than just an event—it was a powerful celebration of community, creativity, and the next generation's voice. [Check out pictures and videos here!](#)

New Opportunity: Youth Advisory Board

**YOU'RE
INVITED TO
JOIN!**

HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR • 2ND DISTRICT

los angeles county
department of
**Youth
Development**

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD



**CALLING ALL YOUNG LEADERS (AGES 17-25)
IN WATTS & WILLOWBROOK!**

Are you passionate about advocacy and community change?
Share your voice, listen to others, and help us improve local
opportunities for youth!

Youth Advisory Board members will advise county
leadership on programs and services, engage in
collaborative workshops and listening sessions,
and play a key role in designing
a Youth Center in South Los Angeles.
This is a paid opportunity.

PAID OPPORTUNITY



**SCAN HERE TO
LEARN MORE!**

We're excited to announce this paid opportunity for young people to advise county leadership, collaborate on local programs and help design a brand-new youth center in South Los Angeles! Scan the QR code above for more info.

Youth Justice Supports and Services



DYD's Reentry, Housing and Employment branch is now formally known as Youth Justice Supports and Services (YJSS)! This new name marks a significant and positive step forward by better reflecting the comprehensive scope of the branch's mission. In November, the YJSS branch hosted a convening between in-facility Credible Messenger youth mentors and Reentry Action for Youth (RAY) support service providers. [Click here](#) to learn more about YJSS's holistic approach to justice and opportunity for all youth.

DYD in the Community



This holiday season, DYD was proud to participate in the Department of Public Social Services' Adopt-A-Family program to bring gifts and joy to families across LA County!

Our leadership visited Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall for Thanksgiving and Christmas, sharing a spirit of warmth and hope with the youth there. The visit served as a heartfelt reminder that every young person—regardless of their circumstances or the season—deserves to feel seen, celebrated and connected to their community.

DYD also joined the Department of Children and Family Services annual Transitional Age Youth (TAY) holiday event for an evening dedicated to uplifting a community that is often overlooked during the holidays.



DYD staff were also thrilled to welcome students to our downtown office in December for a "shadow day," offering them a firsthand look at our team's daily mission and impact.

Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined Gatherings



"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!"



January Gatherings for Heart of YJR Youth Leadership Work Groups



ANTELOPE VALLEY

January 8th
5pm - 7pm

38417 20th St East
Suite A Palmdale 93550

bit.ly/AVHYJR



SOUTH CENTRAL

January 22nd
5pm - 7pm

7625 S. Central Ave
Los Angeles 90001

bit.ly/sclahyjr2025



EAST LOS ANGELES

January 29th
5pm - 7pm

4876 Gleason St.
Los Angeles 90022

bit.ly/4r4em3kl



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

January 29th
6pm - 8pm

1101 San Fernando Rd.
San Fernando 91340

bit.ly/818youthjustice



LONG BEACH

Meeting details coming soon!

"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."

Nearly a year since launching across all five Youth Development Network regions, Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined (HYJR) monthly meetings have soared in popularity, drawing 50 to 60 young people per meeting!

These gatherings empower a diverse community of young leaders (ages 14–24)—including systems-impacted and gender-expansive youth—to directly shape [LA County's Youth Justice Reimagined](#) initiative while building deep community bonds.

Check out the flyer for upcoming meeting dates and locations near you!

DYD Receives Productivity Award



DYD was recently recognized at the 38th Annual LA County Quality and Productivity Awards! Chief Deputy Director Danielle Vappie proudly displays the Outstanding Teamwork Award we received for our incredible partnership with multiple County departments. A huge congratulations to our team for their hard work, collaboration, and dedication to excellence in serving LA County young people.

Our SPOT



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 about upcoming Our SPOT DJ Academy and basketball programs and locate Our SPOT parks near you by [clicking here](#).

DYD November & December GOATs

November GOATs!



December GOAT!



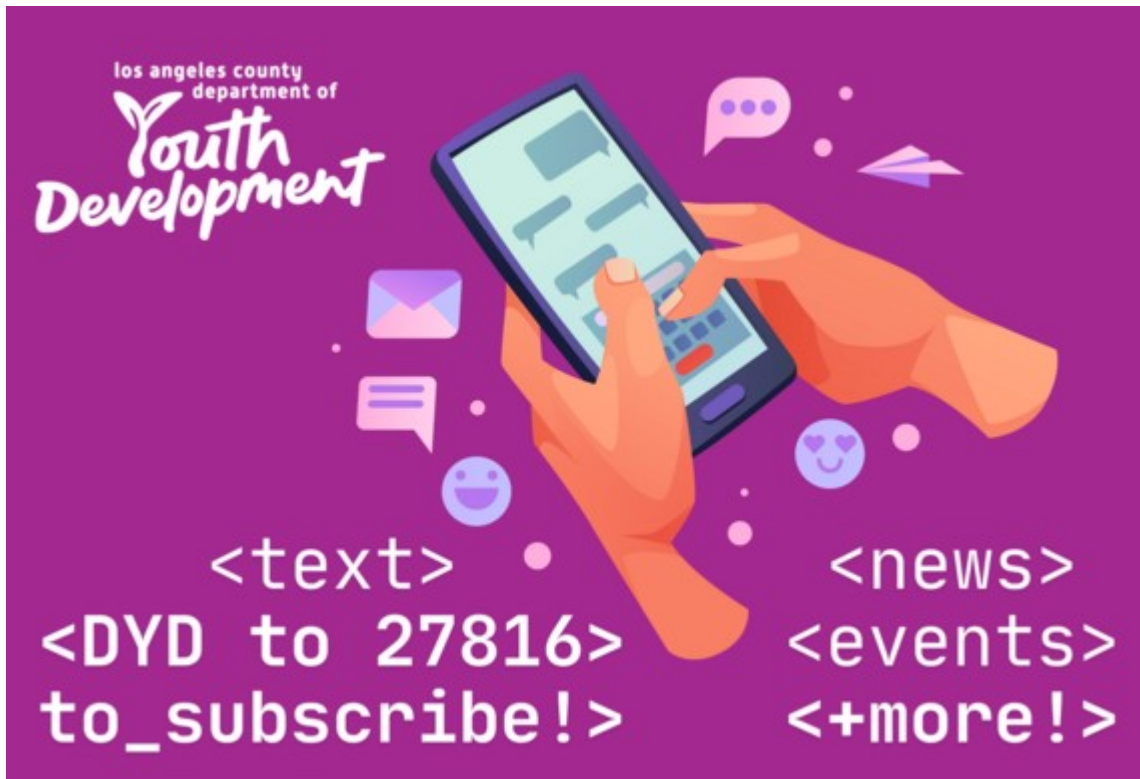
Each month, we honor DYD staff members who embody our commitment to LA County youth by presenting them with the prestigious GOAT (Greatest of All-Time) Award!

In November, we honored Youth Development Program Specialist Jerry Henry for his commitment to providing essential support and opportunities for youth, and Youth Development Specialist Jacob Albert for his work to empower justice-involved youth through transformative programs.

Our December honoree is Vincent Holmes, whose decades of public service and visionary leadership as Special Advisor to the Director have been instrumental in championing a 'care-first' model—one that prioritizes restorative justice and equitable opportunities for all young people.

Congratulations to our holiday honorees!

Text to Subscribe to DYD's Newsletter



Stay up to date- text DYD to 27816 to subscribe to our newsletter for news, events and announcements!

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](https://www.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.

