



Toward a New Generation of Hope: The Long Beach Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults

Four Year Update May 13, 2025

Office of Youth Development (OYD)

VISION

All youth and emerging adults between the ages of 8-24 are healthy and empowered with the necessary resources to develop into their true authentic selves.

Staffing (4.0 Full-Time Staff; 5 Project Assistants/Interns)

- David McGill-Soriano, Youth Development Manager
- Yonique Edwards, Opportunity Youth Coordinator
- Perla Alvarado, Youth Development Coordinator
- Morgan Hamilton, Youth Services Coordinator
- Andrea Cornejo, Youth Program Assistant
- Taelor Barren, Youth Program Assistant
- Tajmah Abdulrahmaan, Youth Program Assistant
- Gabriela Areolla, Youth Intern
- Savannah Hernandez, Youth Intern



Office of Youth Development (OYD)

Programs

- Youth Strategic Plan
- Measure US Youth Fund (Youth Participatory Budgeting)
- Youth Advisory Council
- Futures First (Opportunity Youth)
- Youth Week – Annual Youth Summit
- Youth Development Data Dashboard
- City Employees Youth Mentoring Program
- Youth Engagement

Networks

- Youth Services Network (LBWIN)
- Youth & Families Commission (PRM)
- My Brother's Keeper (Office of Equity, Violence Prevention)
- Regional Youth Development Departments (LA)
- Statewide Youth Departments/Offices (Funding the Next Gen)
- S.T.R.O.N.G. Beach (Office of Civic Innovation)
- LA28 Olympics – Community Engagement (CM)
- Opportunity Youth Coalition (Opportunity Youth Collaborative)
- Long Beach Traffic Equity Alliance (Health)



Budget and Funding

Budget Overview (FY25)

- Total funding is nearly \$2.9M
- 62% of funding goes to programming and direct community investments
- 65% of the budget is comprised of grant funding, including the Long Beach Recovery Act

Funding Sources:

- General Fund (Racial Reconciliation)
- Measure US
- Conrad Hilton Foundation (Futures First)
- Long Beach Recovery Act (LBRA)



Measure US Youth Fund 2024



Fiscal Year 2024

- 9 Youth Power Participatory Budgeting Projects – Total of \$400,000
 - 401 youth participated in a Measure US funded Summer program, engaging a diverse youth population across age, race/ethnicity, and gender

Measure US Youth Fund Snapshot

2022, 2023, 2024

- Youth Fund Disbursed: \$1.25 Million
- 71 Youth-Serving Nonprofits Funded
- Traditional Grantmaking 2022-2023
- Participatory Budgeting (PB) Launched 2023
 - 1,425 Total Youth Votes
 - \$700k Disbursed through PB

2025

- \$550,000 PB Fund (includes Racial Reconciliation dollars)
- Expected 1000+ youth to vote
- Expected 12-15 Projects Funded for 2025



Youth Advisory Council

- 11-member advisory body of youth ages 16 to 26
- Focus is to ensure authentic youth-led engagement in City Government
- Ensure implementation of the Youth Strategic Plan, Administration of the Youth Fund, and engaging the City's Youth Voice
- Work alongside City departments, the Commission on Youth and Families, other youth leadership groups, and elected offices



Youth Advisory Council



Edrick Salgado
District 1



Lukas Minkevich
District 3



Juan Fragosa
At-Large

"I want to find ways to make a positive impact in our neighborhoods, especially for the youth affected by the violence we face everyday."

- Edrick Salgado

Youth Advisory Council



Sammantha Martinez
District 5



Olivia Som
District 6



**Destiny
Rodriguez**
District 8

"I want to be that voice of encouragement and leadership for others, to help shape a city where every young person feels empowered to reach their full potential, no matter where they start."

- Destiny Rodriguez

Measure US Youth Fund 2025



Fiscal Year 2025

- Youth Power PB Long Beach – a Citywide youth participatory budget process
- \$550,000 for youth-serving projects focused on housing, transportation, youth health, community care, and workforce
- Youth served on a youth steering committee and as youth project delegates to guide all phases for a youth-led process
- All youth ages 12-26 who live, work, and play in Long Beach voted to decide which projects are funded this summer
- Idea Collection to Project Development to Voting to Implementation



Youth Advisory Council



Louis Serrano
District 9



David Word
District 4



Abigale Matlock
At-Large

"One of the biggest challenges youth and young adults faces today I believe is mental health."

- David Word

Youth Week

- **Youth Week 2025** is a three-day summit anchored by the City of Long Beach's Office of Youth Development as part of the City's Youth and Emerging Adults Strategic Plan.
- Designed for young people ages 13 to 26, the event seeks to increase access to open spaces, recreational programming, and physical activity, while fostering community connections and providing safe spaces for youth and families.
- Funded by youth development dollars from Measure US, the summit will feature a variety of workshops, interactive activities, and resources to support youth in their personal growth, wellness, and advocacy for their futures.

Find out more at longbeach.gov/youth



Opportunity Youth (OY) Snapshot

Ages 16–24 who are not currently plugged in to school or work

- **74%** are aged **20–24**
- **62%** have a high school diploma or GED

Our Response: Plugging Youth Back In

- Individualized Support: Life coaching, referrals, case management
- Pro-Social Support: Retreats, weekly group coaching, wellness sessions
- Career & Education Pathways: Space Beach, entrepreneurship, college, careers
- Career Exploration: Work experience & workforce readiness



City of Long Beach Employees Youth Mentoring

Key initiative that began with the Long Beach Recovery Act, intended to build meaningful connections between City employees and middle school students at Stephens, Franklin, Hamilton, and Lindbergh Middle School.

Program Impact

- Matched 40 Long Beach students with 40 City Employees
- Conducted 15+ structured mentoring sessions per mentee
- Participants were primarily from North, Central, and Downtown/West Long Beach.

Youth Outcomes & Success

- Youth from historically underserved neighborhoods participated
- Increased student belonging scores
- 100% of surveyed youth expressed confidence in graduating high school



Youth Strategic Plan Progress Report

YSP Snapshot

1. Status Update on Proposed Activities: Not Started, Planning, Implementing, and Completed
2. Information about progress highlights



The Youth Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults (YSP) represents a bold vision of city collaboration to uplift the voices of youth ages 8-24 as decision makers and leaders. Working alongside youth, community partners and multiple city departments, this Plan represents a cross-city departmental and community partnership for positive youth development in Long Beach.

The Youth Strategic Plan Progress Report was created to identify the status of the proposed activities listed in the Plan. The report provides progress achieved in the

Data Dashboard

Dashboard Objectives

1. Monitor allocation and utilization of funds provided by Youth Fund
2. Report progress on proposed activities outlined in the Youth Strategic Plan
3. Long Beach Youth Statistics



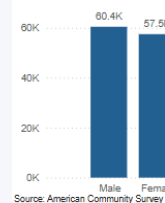
Youth in Long Beach

[Data Sources](#)

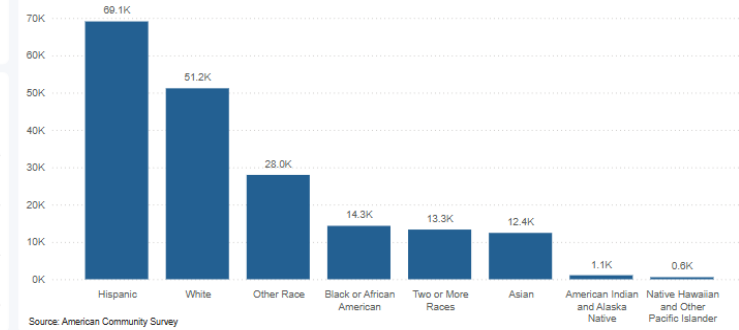
Total Youth Age 5-24
120,293

Source: American Community Survey

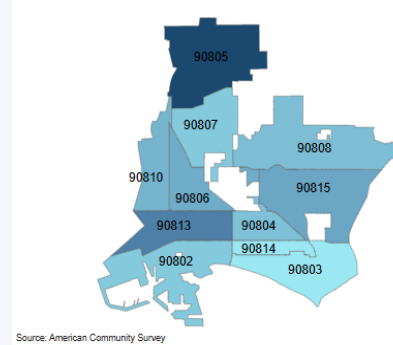
Youth Age 5-24 by Gender



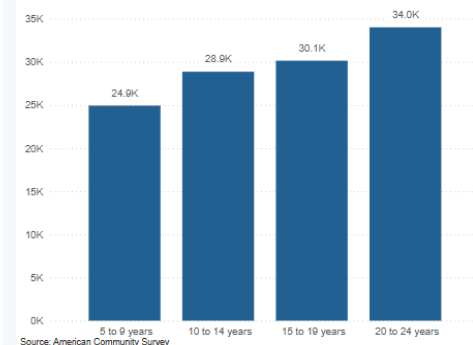
Youth Age 5-24 by Race/Ethnicity



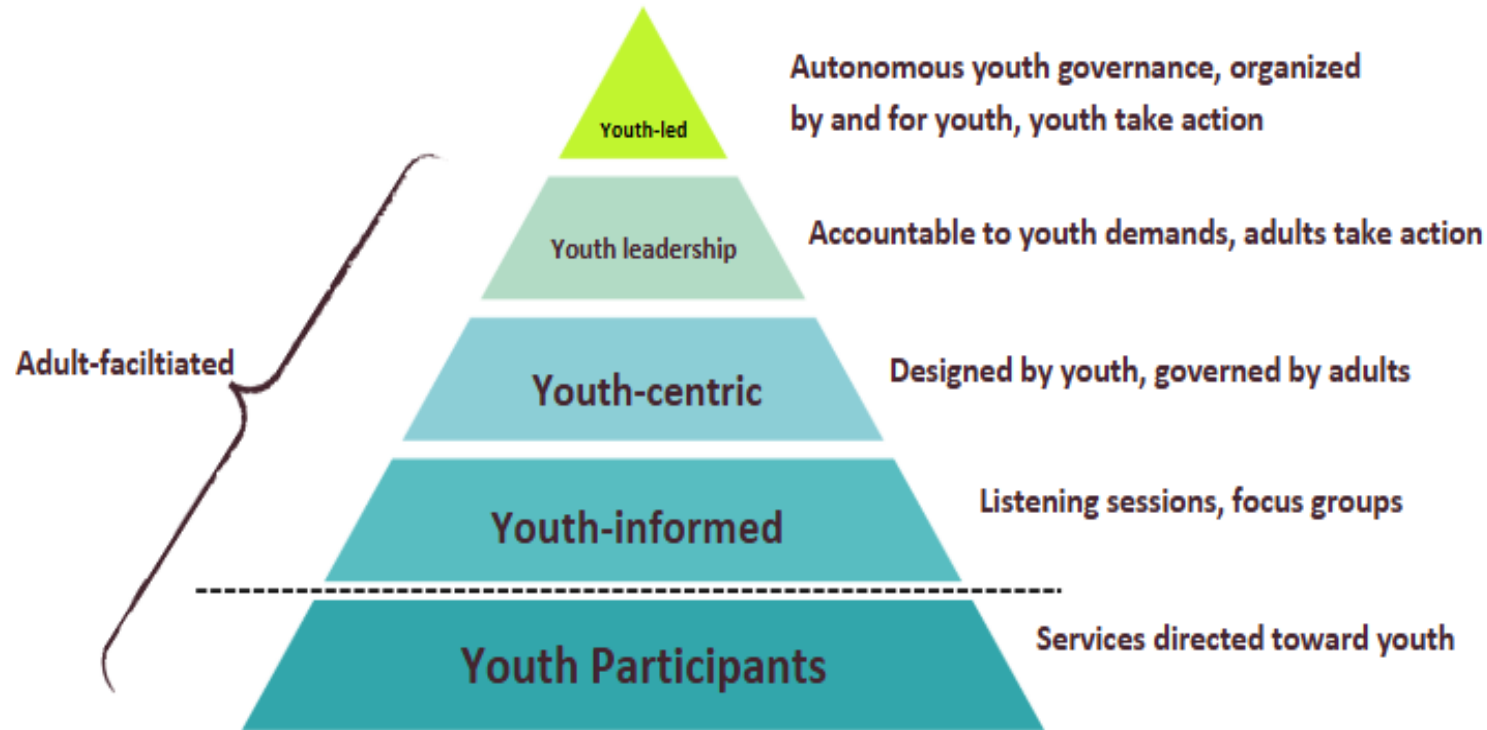
Youth Age 5-24 by ZIP Code



Youth Age 5-24 by Age Group



YOUTH POWER PYRAMID*



*Framework in progress by David McGill-Soriano, j. nyla mcneill, DIY PhD

Future Focus

- Youth Programs One-Stop Shop
- Final Year of Youth Strategic Plan
- Building Convening Spaces for Youth Leaders
- Aligning Initiatives Focused on Youth Violence Prevention
- Strengthening Youth Services Network
- Cohosting Youth Engagement with City Departments
- Modeling Long Beach as one of the safest and healthiest places for a young person to grow up



Alison King, Director of Health and Human Services

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www.longbeach.gov/health

Thank you!

Yonique Edwards, Opportunity Youth Coordinator

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www.longbeach.gov/youth