

May 13, 2025

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to receive and file a presentation regarding the City of Long Beach Youth and Emerging Adults Strategic Plan four-year update. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

In June 2018, the Invest in Youth Report was presented before the City Council by youth leaders, highlighting the challenges faced by youth and their vision for youth in the City to live their best lives. As a result, in 2019, the City Council authorized \$200,000 in one-time funding to develop a plan that would serve as the guiding vision and a framework for responding to the needs of the City's youth and their families over a three- to five-year period.

A core team comprised of representatives from the Health and Human Services Department (Health Department) and Parks, Recreation and Marine staff and consultants, discussed the framing for this effort. This team recognized the importance of including the voices and leadership of youth at the forefront of this work; and hence, the Youth Ambassador role was created. Youth Ambassadors were a diverse group of youth representatives between the ages 16-24 from throughout the City who were actively engaged in the development of a plan. The Youth Ambassadors participated in several strategic planning training courses, facilitated community forums, co-designed the online and key informant survey instruments, and outreached and engaged the community to ensure survey data was collected from throughout the City.

Following these efforts, the Long Beach Youth and Emerging Adults Strategic Plan (Plan) was presented and accepted by the City Council on February 9, 2021. The vision of the Plan is that all youth and adults between the ages of 8 to 24 are healthy and empowered with the necessary resources to develop into their true and authentic selves. The Plan highlights six visionary goals designed to ensure that all Long Beach youth can live safe and healthy lives:

1. Youth Development
2. Physical Health, Mental Health, and Emotional Wellness
3. Planning for the Future
4. Community Care
5. Housing

6. Transportation

Within these broader themes, there are 19 objectives and 71 proposed activities to guide our focus and prioritize investments in youth that address inequities and support youth as they develop into adults.

As a first action of the Plan, the City directed structural funding in the Health Department to launch the Office of Youth Development (OYD) in 2021 to implement the Plan through public and private partnerships. The OYD serves as an organized hub for the implementation of the Plan and other youth-driven efforts and is key in coordinating funding and continuing to refresh action plans as youth needs evolve.

The OYD created a Youth Advisory Council that consists of 11 youth between the ages of 16 to 26 who help influence the implementation of the Plan and the Youth Fund, ensuring that youth voices are uplifted throughout the City. In March 2023, the first-ever Youth Advisory Council gave a presentation to City Council on a two-year update of the Youth Strategic Plan. In June 2024, the second annual Youth Advisory Council presented a three-year update of the Youth Strategic Plan.

In addition, a comprehensive progress report was collected from youth-serving City departments on the 71 proposed activities to identify the status, timeline, and progress. Since then, the Youth Advisory Council's third year cohort has been working on continuing the priorities of the Plan, overseeing the disbursement of the Measure US Youth Fund through participatory budgeting, and organizing the elements of the City's Youth Week.

The findings of this presentation will serve as the four-year update to the Youth and Emerging Adult Strategic Plan and a guide towards successfully finishing out the final year of the Plan.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Nicholas Masero on April 28, 2024, and by Budget Analysis Officer Greg Sorensen on April 26, 2024.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on May 13, 2025, to continue to provide these services without interruption.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost to develop the Youth and Emerging Adults Strategic Plan (YSP) was \$200,000. This was funded with one-time resources allocated as part of the FY 19 Budget. There is no fiscal or local job impact associated with this recommendation. Detailed estimates for continued actions will be determined as additional resources are identified in the future. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities.

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SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Alison King
Director
Health and Human Services

ATTACHMENT

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER