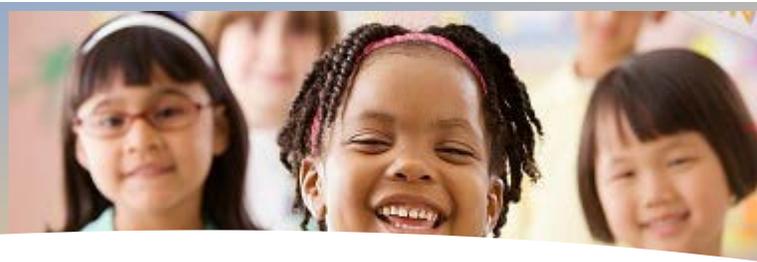


San Diego Youth Development Office

Bringing people together to create an environment where every child and young adult in San Diego can succeed from cradle to career.



What is the San Diego Youth

Development Office (YDO)? The YDO is devoted to making San Diego's youth a priority by targeting and leveraging resources - in government, philanthropic, business and community based organizations - to support what youth and communities need to thrive. The YDO was created out of a community based response to an increase in youth homicide and the realization that some communities have few positive opportunities for youth. The YDO is working with targeted communities to identify what is needed for youth to thrive. They are accomplishing this through:

- **Collaboration** with targeted communities to identify priorities and needs;
- **Promotion** of the alignment of services with community-identified needs;
- **Coordination** of systems to improve youth-focused policy and practice;
- **Convening** stakeholders to ensure service accountability and data-driven solutions that address community identified needs; and
- **Capacity Building** of community based organizations in order to increase/leverage their resources to provide sustained services in the community.

The YDO believes that this approach will lead to greater efficiencies and reduce redundancies in services and public resources. Most importantly, it will *ensure that youth and communities receive the support they need to guarantee a thriving future for San Diego.*

Why now? Although youth are the future of any community, San Diego does not have an overarching and comprehensive strategy to promote their wellbeing. In the absence of a strategy - services are not coordinated - and youth who are succeeding but surrounded by pressures, are more likely to succumb to gangs, drugs, and other negative influences. Consider the following:

- There are areas in San Diego where **1 in 28 kids are unattached** to school or work
- **Youth homicide** is on the rise in San Diego
- **Services are not connected and coordinated**, leaving some areas without positive youth venues for out-of-school activities.

What we know is: youth have a **biological imperative for growth and development and are resilient by nature.** Given the right environment and supports, they will thrive.

How is it organized? Through seed funding from The California Endowment, the YDO is building on models in other cities, including Oakland's Safe Passages and The Advancement Project in Los Angeles. Housed at the San Diego Workforce Partnership, the YDO is comprised of a Director who implements the strategic vision and plans; a cross-sector Steering Committee that provides oversight; and an operations Committee that guides the work. Through the work of the YDO - San Diego can say that **youth are central to America's Finest City.**

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