

THE VISION

Through grantmaking and technical assistance support, this project will catalyze the growth of an L.A. County-wide youth development system made up of culturally-responsive, community-based services meant to connect young people to opportunities for civic engagement, wellness, and academic and professional enrichment.

THE CHALLENGE

Conventional systemic responses to youth behavior has not proven effective to increase wellbeing nor the safety of youth and communities. The disproportionate arrest and incarceration of Black and Brown youth across Los Angeles County has often exacerbated their existing traumas and hardships, depriving young people of opportunities for success, while also not improving overall community safety. To realize a new ecosystem of supports, community-based programs must be prepared to increase their capacity to meet the needs of more young people being served outside of system placements.

THE GOAL

A robust youth development system that integrates across public agencies, non-profits, and school systems to meet the core developmental needs of young people—especially for youth whose circumstances related to systemic factors such as poverty, oppression, prejudice, neighborhood violence and even abuse have made them more susceptible to system involvement.

STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES

Grantmaking for Youth Development



Conduct grantmaking to distribute funds to community-based organizations that serve system impacted youth or others who face severe hardship



Focus grantmaking on areas with few services relative to other areas in L.A. County



Prioritize organizations that take a comprehensive youth development approach by integrating services that address needs associated with mental, physical, academic/cognitive, social-emotional, and identity-related areas

Evaluating and Communicating



Share project activities, impact, and lessons learned through reports, briefs, and digital materials detailing the work of grant recipients and foundation partners to support the growth of a comprehensive youth development system



Communicate progress at key gatherings, including public board meetings, foundation staff events, and public convenings



Amplify youth and community voices

Stakeholder and Community Engagement



Engage new audiences (e.g., funders, donors, educators, etc.) to enhance understanding and opportunities related to supporting positive youth development



Capture and share promising practices to inform and influence key stakeholders and policymakers for efforts and impacts at scale

Capacity Building



Individualized Capacity Building Plans with the coaching and consulting support needed to achieve specified goals



Cohort-based, peer learning provides the training and the development of core organizational competencies



Organizations receive customized skills building training on a variety of topics/ areas

THE OUTCOMES

Youth Level

- Improved educational, economic/professional, personal wellness, or civic outcomes
- Reduction in system involvement
- Expanded access to positive environments

Program Level

- Deepened capacity for program effectiveness, continuous improvement, and sustainability
- Strengthened ability to pursue and secure public funds
- Enhanced collaboration of youth serving organizations to create a youth development focused network funds

Community Level

- Increased community-based services that connect youth to opportunity
- Heightened capacity to address challenges related to trauma and crime/violence within communities
- Systems change to redirect funds to the community, quickly and efficiently