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# OSEI & OCA: A Unified Approach to Youth Safety & Opportunity

Health & Safety Committee Presentation  
May 20, 2026

## OSEI Mission

To cultivate an equitable and inclusive city by dismantling systemic barriers and creating targeted solutions for historically marginalized communities.

**Thriving  
Youth**

**=**

**Safe, Vibrant  
Communities**

## OCA Mission

As the central hub for Denver's children, we ensure every young person, from birth to age 24, has the support and opportunities they need to thrive.

# How We Collaborate

*OSEI and OCA work together to dismantle systemic barriers, prioritize those with the greatest needs, and align citywide efforts so every young person has the support and opportunities to thrive—because thriving youth create safe, vibrant communities.*

## If We

- Partner intentionally with communities to understand lived experience, priorities, and barriers
- Work across agencies to align policies, programs, and resources
- Center equity in design and implementation
- Create transparent feedback loops that shape decisions and improve outcomes



## Then We

- Co-design solutions that address root causes and strengthen protective factors
- Coordinate implementation so efforts reinforce rather than duplicate one another
- Build shared accountability across partners and systems
- Increase access and opportunity for residents through aligned action



## So That

- Communities experience stability, belonging, and healing
- Residents most impacted by inequity see meaningful change
- Citywide efforts move in the same direction
- We advance a Denver where identity no longer predicts outcomes

# Our Cradle to Career Supports

## Primary Focus:

- Early childhood education
- Family stability and caregiver support

## Programming Supports:

- Safe, supportive early learning experiences that promote school readiness
- Parent education and caregiver skill-building

**Ages 0-5**

## Primary Focus:

- Positive youth development
- Prevention and early intervention services

## Programming Supports:

- Engaging and safe out-of-school-time programming
- Mentorship, restorative practices and trauma-informed supports

**Ages 6-13**

## Primary Focus:

- College and career readiness
- Intensive Intervention services

## Programming Supports:

- Workforce services and leadership training
- Mentorship and therapy
- Gang and violence intervention
- Diversion programs and substance use treatment

**Ages 14-24**

# Our Impact

## Daily Impact

Direct service delivery that meets young people where they are — from universal youth development to individualized support for those navigating juvenile systems.

## Upstream System Change

Partnering with agencies and community to shift city policies and programs to equitably center our most impacted and most vulnerable and incorporate a child-friendly approach.

## Impact in Action:

Initiatives that demonstrate how daily supports and system-level shifts translate into real community outcomes.

- MYC Equity Map
- Community Safety Grant
- YVP Middle School Pilot

# Mayor's Youth Commission

## Opportunity

- Reform MYC policies and practice to ensure youth voice is truly representative & impactful

## Approach

- Conduct a multi-agency equity audit and build collaborative solutions

## Measures of Success

- Greater geographic, demographic, & experiential diversity in youth participation
- Policy solutions that support youth thriving

**Long Term Impact:** City programs & policies are authentically shaped by the youth they serve

# Youth Violence Prevention Middle School Pilot

## Opportunity

- Provide intensive services for middle school students who need higher levels of support (*gap identified by experiences in and with community*)

## Approach

- Develop strong partnerships with middle schools and embed trusted adults who are easily accessible to participating youth

## Measures of Success

- Improved on-time school attendance
- Reduced behavioral concerns
- Growth in areas of focus

**Long Term Impact:** Reduced high-intensity intervention services required in the community

# Community Safety Grant

## Opportunity

- Provide community providers with funding to support those young people at the highest risk of being impacted by gang and gun violence

## Approach

- Partner together (*with city council and community-based organizations*) to administer \$3 million in grant funding, effectively and equitably

## Measures of Success

- Increased number of trusted adults
- Increased number of system-impacted young people served
- Increased access to trauma-informed care
- Improved capacity and sustainability of community-based providers

**Long Term Impact:** Young people receive early and consistent support reducing their potential involvement in gun violence and other criminogenic behaviors.

Questions?