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# Youth Empowerment Center

Office of Children's Affairs

Presenter: Melissa Janiszewski, Executive Director

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# RR22-0705:

Approves a non-financial contract with Life-Line for five (5) years to occupy and operate the Youth Empowerment Center, located at 1240 West Bayaud Avenue in Council District 7, and to provide and secure programing and services focusing on youth violence prevention for youth who are experiencing high rates of violence in the community (MOEAI-202261805)

# Location

1240 W. Bayaud Ave, Denver, CO 80223

Council District 7

Valverde



# Denver Youth Empowerment Center



Reducing Youth Violence:  
A Comprehensive Community Approach

# BACKGROUND

## Youth Empowerment Center (YEC)

A need reported by young people and community-based organizations alike is for a building or center, based in the community, which offers a variety of supports to youth and families. A center that connects young people and their families to a network of services ranging from trauma-informed practice and vocational support, entrepreneurial training, recreation activities and wrap-around services for both young people and their caregivers

# BACKGROUND

In late 2020, the acquisition of 1240 W. Bayaud Avenue was completed using federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and the purchase provides a unique opportunity to co-locate city and community resources to offer a safe space for youth and families to gather.

\*CDBG funds are allocated annually to Denver by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) for activities that improve availability, accessibility and/or affordability to programs and services. DEDO is the administrator of these funds for the City

# BACKGROUND

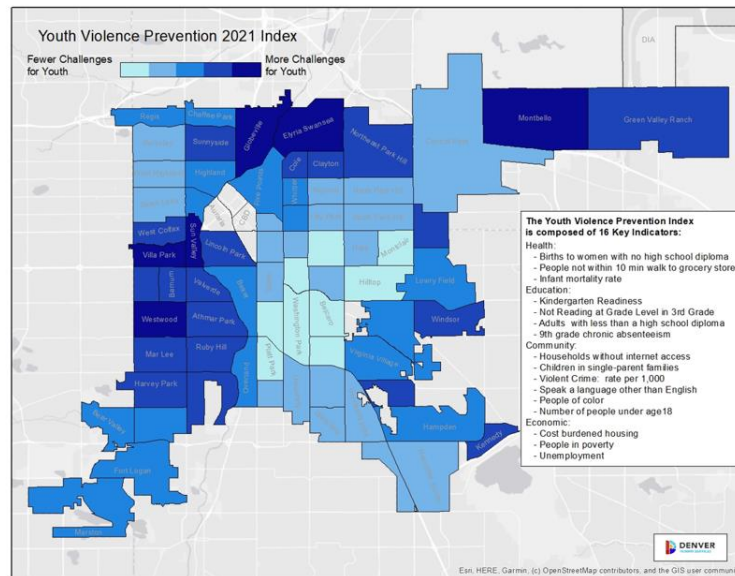
A Youth Empowerment Center will include services for families and/or caregivers with the bulk of available services intended to serve youth between the ages of 12 – 24.

Youth Empowerment Centers are considered a best practice and have been implemented by other cities as a youth violence prevention strategy addressing multiple risk factors at nearly every level of the social ecological framework

# YOUTH VIOLENCE STATS

## Valverde Neighborhood Plan –May 1991 – Council Bill 305, Ordinance No. 326

- CF-10: Explore ways to raise public and private funding to build and operate a multi-purpose community center that would provide needed services to Valverde and surrounding neighborhoods
- CF-14: Explore ways to raise public and private funding to rehabilitate the facility owned by the Denver Alternative Youth Services Program (DAYS) in order to provide better social services to the people of Valverde and surrounding neighborhoods in the areas of job training and placement, drug education, and family support
- The DAYS facility is the Youth Empowerment Center





# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

- Trauma-informed practices
  - Preventing adverse childhood experiences
  - Align with Youth Violence Prevention Action Plan
  - Valverde Neighborhood Plan
  - Strong community partnerships
  - Solid plan to engage youth voice
  - Commitment to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
  - Data-driven, evidence-based practices
  - Community-informed approach
  - Financial sustainability
- 3 proposals received
  - Selection Panel reviewed all 3 proposals
  - Interviews conducted with the organizations after proposals reviewed
  - Life-Line proposal met the criteria outlined in the RFP

# YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CENTER

## WHO?

- Office of Children's Affairs (OCA)
- Life-Line
- Economic Development & Opportunity (DED0)
- Youth Advisory Council
- Oversight Committee

## WHAT?

- Provide workforce readiness programs
- Provide educational support
- Provide culturally-relevant art, music, dance, cooking programs
- Provide computer programs
- Engage youth leadership groups, and work with other community-based organizations, to bring authentic youth voice into the process

## WHEN?

- 5-year term
- Accessible beyond traditional workday, offering evenings and weekends
- Upon execution of the contract

# YEC MODEL

- Authentically engage youth from the community in design and implementation of services via youth advisory council
- Demonstrate meaningful partnerships with city agencies, community organizations, and any other entities to bring quality programs to the youth and community
- Align programming with CCD's youth violence prevention strategies
- Design and deliver trauma-informed programs and work to provide, or assist with access to, mental health services



# SUCCESS METRICS

Oversight committee will be responsible for the following:

- \* compliance
  - establish metrics
  - monitoring
- \* program relevance
  - needs of community
  - youth voice
- \* youth & community informed – Youth Advisory Council

# LEASE AGREEMENT

Community Focused

Collaboration with District 3

Reducing cost burden

GO Bond & additional support

- **PERMITTED USE:** Contractor shall use the Facility only for the sole purpose of performing the services and produce all the deliverables set forth on **Exhibit A**, the Scope of Work;
- **POSSESSORY INTEREST:** Contractor shall not be required to pay property taxes on the facility until and unless the facility is turned over to the Contractor after the five (5) year term;
- **CITY IMPROVEMENTS:** The Parties acknowledge that certain future capital improvements (including permitting, design, and construction costs) are to be performed by the City to the Facility;
- **UTILITIES, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE:** The City shall pay for all water, sewer, gas and electricity, or other utilities or services or fees charged on utilities or other consumables allocable to the Facility
- **LIFE-LINE:** Upon review by the Office of Children's Affairs, Economic Development and Opportunity, and the Oversight Committee, the facility may be gifted to Life-Line after the 5-year term

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# QUESTIONS