

Youth and Child Services

Safety Housing, Education, and Homelessness Committee

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Deputy Executive Director



OUR MISSION AND VISION

OUR MISSION: TO SUPPORT DENVER AGENCIES, THE COMMUNITY AND ITS SERVICE PROVIDERS IN ENSURING ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH HAVE THEIR BASIC NEEDS MET, ARE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN AND CAN SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.

OUR VISION: TO DELIVER A CITY WHERE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE & THEIR FAMILIES CAN SUCCEED.

OCA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

CONNECTS

OCA CONNECTS COMMUNITIES, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO SUPPORT THE SAFETY, WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE & THEIR FAMILIES

ADVOCATES

OCA ADVOCATES ON BEHALF OF YOUNG PEOPLE, THEIR FAMILIES & SERVICE PROVIDERS TO REMOVE BARRIERS AND INCREASE THEIR OPPORTUNITIES

INVESTS

OCA INVESTS IN PROGRAMS THAT ARE INNOVATIVE, EQUITABLE AND IMPACTFUL

Leads

OCA Leads across the child- and youth-serving field by meaningfully engaging youth & community voice, assessing community needs and innovating the way in which we work

SUPPORTING PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES THAT GROW WITH DENVER'S CHILDREN



Prenatal – Age 5

Denver Great Kids Head Start

Child Care; **Family, Friend and Neighbor Care (FFN)**

Maternal/Child Health Services

Mental Health (children/providers)

Age 5 – 18

Out-of-School Time Initiatives

Mental Health (children/providers)

MY Denver Card

Tasty Food

Age 12 – 24

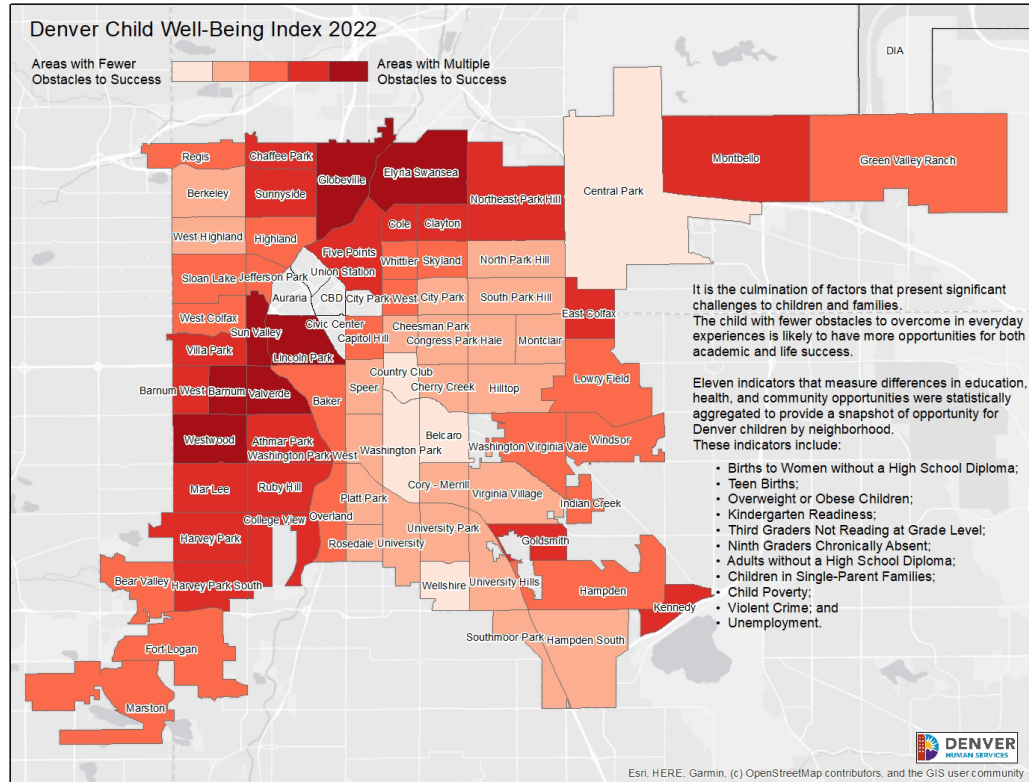
Mayor's Youth Commission

Mental Health (children/providers)

Youth Empowerment Center

Youth Violence Prevention

OCA Child Well Being Index





Youth Violence Prevention

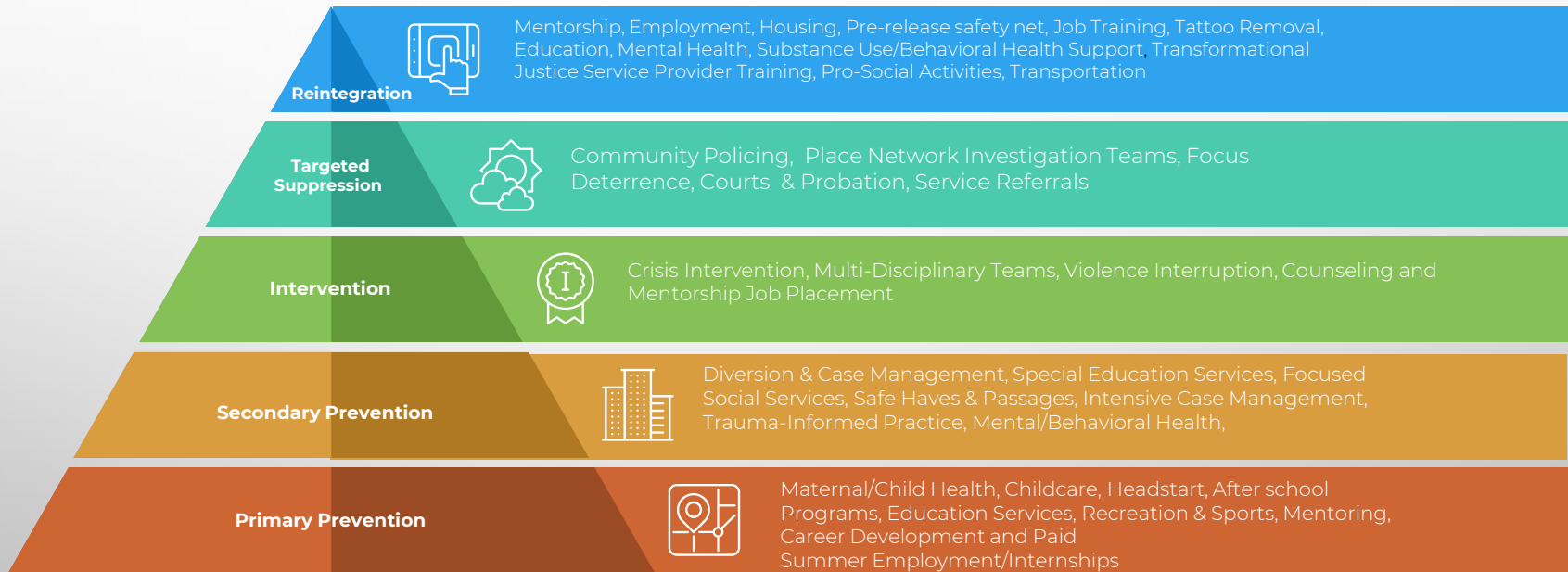
Target Population-What We Do/Who We Work With

- Re-Entry/Reintegration
- Targeted Suppression
- Intervention
- Secondary Prevention
- Primary Prevention



Youth Violence Prevention

Program/Interventions-Our Approach



Agency Highlights

Supporting upstream interventions and wrap-around services that support children, youth and families thrive

Target Demographic: prenatal-24

Youth Violence Prevention (YVP)

\$1,093,200 base budget and \$1.7M awarded to 34 organizations in 2023/24. Approximately 3,864 served annually from base budget YVP funding- 15,056 since 2020

Success: Opening the first Youth Empowerment Center

Childcare/Family, Friend, Neighbor (FFN)

Invested \$1,958,400 since 2020 to support FFN providers and a bilingual early childhood center childcare in Globeville, Elyria Swansea (GES) *designated a childcare desert.*

Success: February 2024- opened the first ever FFN community hub in Colorado. Located in west Denver

Maternal/Child Health

Doula Pilot: Allocated \$400,000 in 2023/24 to provide trainings for doulas of color to support families in the Black, indigenous, and Spanish speaking immigrant communities in Denver, all of which have disproportionately high numbers of maternal-child mortality



Youth Engagement

MY Denver Card: current memberships 116,963 "Active Memberships"

Five by Five: 1,500 children are enrolled for Five by Five who are Denver Great Kids Head Start. 2021 OCA expanded to community organizations providing alternatives to Pre-K services

Denver Mayors Youth Commission: 20 youth and 8 adults are currently appointed to 3-year terms

Youth Transportation: Over 1000 DPS students annually are provided with RTD transportation access to aid in school transportation during both the school year and for summer school

Student Success Coordination

Investing deeply in building a stronger, collaborative relationship with DPS.

Working with DPS to support Newcomer programming



SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS (SRF)

- DENVER PRESCHOOL PROGRAM:
\$34,756,979.00
- PROSPERITY DENVER FUND: \$17,714,708.00
- BRONCO FUNDS (YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND):
\$10.1 MILLION
 - \$1MM- MY SPARK PILOT
 - \$200K CHANCE SPORTS
 - \$1.2MM 2023 GRANTS TO COMMUNITY

Early Childhood Initiatives

- Childcare/alternatives to Pre-K
- Family, Friend & Neighbor provider support
- Maternal child health
- Doula training & certification
- Home visitation





- Served 32,986 children over the last 26 years
- Annual Budget 2023-2024: \$13,029,096
- Seven delegate agencies

Vision:

Prepare Head Start children to enter kindergarten confidently with the social, physical, emotional and cognitive skills and competencies necessary for continuing school success.

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME (OST)

- Serves approximately 10,000 youth and families annually
- Served over 103,060 children over the past 10 years
- Grants approximately 2 million annually to dozens youth service organizations



HEALTH INITIATIVES

1,668,505
meals served
since 2014



Nutrition Access

Provide youth ages 3-18 healthy meals year round through the Tasty Food Program.

Youth Mental Health

Collaborate with mental health organizations to support hard-to-reach youth and their families with innovative, multilingual services.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (YEP)

Looking back on fiscal year 2022-23

115 Community Partnerships

25 Youth Events, 300+ youth

75 Enrolled Youth

Community Partnerships

- YEP is one of 14 ReCAST grant funded programs administered by Denver Public Health and Environment (DPHE)
- A community-wide approach to identify high-risk individuals or groups
- Regular visits at ten DPS schools

Youth Events

- Use community connections to fund events
- Provide alternative options new and fun experiences
- Create safe environment for youth

Resource Navigation and Support

- Enrolling ages 11-24 youth who do not qualify for other youth programs.
- Group coaching, goal setting, personal development and wellness
- Connect families with critical resources

THE NUMBERS

- The YEP team spends most of their time working with youth and 20% of their time building community relationships. 115 community partnerships, and 10 DPS schools.
- They have 2 FTE employees. A full case load is 13 youth. 23 new youth enrolled in 2024. The team is at full capacity.
- Referrals are received from DPS, DPD and DHS, served over 150 youth in 22-23.
- They utilize other DHS programs. 20 parents have received intense support and resource navigation (Complex Care Team) since Oct. 2022.

Fiscal year 2022-2023

10 students re-enrolled in an education program

12 youth received 6+ months of therapy

Want to learn more or participate? Reach out to Kevin Lwango at Kevin.Lwango@denvergov.org