

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





ABOUT US

The City of Little Rock's Department of Community Programs (DCP) was established in 1996 to address crime prevention issues and to provide a greater array of social and human services needed and desired by citizens. In 1993, Little Rock voters passed a 1/2 cent City sales tax to permanently designate City funds to sustain and administer Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (PIT) funding (in addition to other major city initiatives). In 2011, voters overwhelmingly approved an additional 5/8 cent sales tax for operations in order to meet the increased needs of the city. As a result of this support, to our knowledge, the City of Little Rock's Department of Community Programs is the only city youth development department in America set up this way. The Department operates on an annual PIT budget of \$5 million dollars and in 2023 supported more than 50 programs and served more than 24,000 Little Rock children, youth, and families.



















OUR MISSION

The mission of the Department of Community Programs is to effectively administer and maximize Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (PIT) funds authorized annually in order to provide Little Rock with quality programming and services with the goal of increasing positive outcomes and the overall quality of life for the children, youth, and families of Little Rock.

OUR HOW



01.

Evidence-based and promising practices.

02.

Standardized processes.

03.

Resident input to foster an inclusive environment that respects the dignity of all people, welcomes all voices, and values racial and cultural diversity.



OUR MAYOR



It is an honor and privilege to serve as the 73rd Mayor of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas's state capital and the center of finance, medicine, culture, and commerce for the entire region. As a catalyst for the new South, Little Rock is innovative and people centered. We work every day to improve the lives of residents and visitors to our City. Our Department of Community Programs is instrumental in implementing our core values like exceptional service and innovation. Since it was established almost three decades ago, the Department has offered meaningful and impactful programs and services to children, youth, and their families across Little Rock.

An integral part of my administration's holistic crime reduction strategy, the programs and partnerships sustained by the Department of Community Programs coincide with the efforts of law enforcement to help keep our streets, schools, and neighborhoods safe. By leveraging dollars and resources, the Department makes a true difference in the community and emphasizes lasting, positive change. We make wise use of Little Rock residents' investments, as well as additional federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to collaborate with nonprofits and other organizations on prevention and intervention programs. Over the years, the Department has influenced for the better the lives of tens of thousands of Little Rock's residents.

I appreciate Department Director Dana Dossett, Assistant Director Michael A. Sanders, and everyone on the Department of Community Programs team who work tirelessly every day to improve the quality of life in Little Rock. I'm also grateful for the volunteers who serve on the Children, Youth, and Families Commission. Their insight, service, and leadership are invaluable.

Sincerely,

Mayor Frank Scott, Jr.

OUR DIRECTOR



Dear Residents,

I am pleased to provide the City of Little Rock's Department of Community Programs 2023 Annual Report. As you read more about our performance, I hope you will also be able to see that our commitment to enhancing public safety, reducing violent crime, and elevating the overall quality of life for every resident remains steadfast.

Throughout the year, our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to implement effective programs, forge community partnerships, and foster an environment of collaboration. Together, we strive to create a more vibrant and cohesive city that all of our children, youth, and families can enjoy.

As we reflect on our accomplishments, we are grateful for the support and engagement of our community members. Your involvement is pivotal in realizing our shared vision of a Little Rock that thrives. We look forward to continued collaboration and progress in the coming year.

Thank you for your trust and commitment to making our city a better place for everyone.

Sincerely,

Dana Dossett, Director Department of Community Programs



OUR GOALS

In accordance with the Youth Master Plan

USE DATA

to identify unmet needs, prioritize services, and infuse resources where they are needed most.

INCREASE PROGRAM QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

All stakeholders adopt and are evaluated on outcomes, benchmarks, standards, and indicators to achieve system-wide accountability.

ENHANCE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

to generate awareness and enhance support for investment in services to children, youth, and their families.

DEVELOP EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

so that youth are prepared to work and Little Rock has a strong future workforce.

PLACE A PRIORITY ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

to integrate an authentic youth voice in decision-making.

















OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Dana DossettDirector



Michael SandersAssistant Director



Dr. Mark PerryCommunity Programs
Development Manager



Marcus Montgomery Community Violence Intervention Manager



Dr. Jacque EavesCommunity
Resources Manager



Gwendolyn Trigleth-JacksonCommunity Programs
Operations Manager



THE CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES COMMISSION

The Children, Youth, & Families (CYF) Commission serves in an advisory role to the City of Little Rock Board of Directors. The Commission provides policy leadership and advocacy to improve the health, safety, education, and quality of life for children, youth, and families in Little Rock.

To that end, the CYF Commission and the Department of Community Programs work together to create a full partnership of City and government agencies, local educational agencies, public and private businesses, and dedicated organizations working directly in Little Rock neighborhoods so all families can enjoy safe, nurturing, self-determining, drug-free, and violence-free environments.

2023 MEMBERS

Dr. Chenia Eubanks, Chair

Dr. Frederick Fields, Vice-Chair

Vice-Mayor Kathy Webb

Dr. Philis Anderson

Jennifer Cobb

Jennifer Ferguson

Anthony Hampton

Vicki Hatter

Chrissy Jennings

Stacey McAdoo

Marcovous L. Williams



THE OPERATIONS TEAM

The Operations Team coordinates and manages the day-to-day operations for the Department of Community Programs to increase efficiency and effectiveness and ensure compliance with the Youth Master Plan (YMP) as well as all applicable laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures.

In 2023 the Apricot Data System was implemented to streamline reporting and case management processes. This resulted in decreased paperwork and provided real time updates and access to information.



Eleanor Louis, Gwendolyn Trigleth-Jackson, Tonisha Porter, Faren Hughes





Barbara Osborne



THE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

The Office of Neighborhood Safety was created as a part of Mayor Frank Scott, Jr.'s comprehensive violence reduction strategy for the City of Little Rock in collaboration with the Little Rock Police Department and the Department of Community Programs.

These programs and services, including youth outreach, re-entry and job placement services, and midnight basketball, are supported by city resources and dollars.











RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

The Re-Entry Coordinator operates a one-stop-shop located at 3012 MLK Drive in Little Rock that provides assistance, coordination, and staff support to ex-offenders returning to the community from correctional institutions or currently under post-release supervision.

The primary aim of this initiative is to ensure that they can successfully reintegrate into society and secure employment opportunities. The coordinator collaborates with local service providers to achieve this goal.



Dwight Pridgeon, Re-Entry Coordinator & Shaneka Fisher-Jones, Office Support/ Re-Entry Assistant



220

Participants served with:

- Assistance with Employment through the City of Little Rock, Private Employment & Partnered Agencies
- Employment Retention
- Finding Housing
- Referrals for Expungement
- Mental Health Referrals



SCHOOL-BASED INTERVENTION

The School-Based Intervention
Team works to identify students
who are at risk of failing in or
dropping out of school. The
program is a partnership with LRSD
and LRPD School Resource Officers
at Central High School, Dunbar
Middle School, Hamilton Alternative
School, and Southwest High School.

The Interventionists assess individual student needs and abilities, consulting with school administration and staff members throughout the year.









The goal is to keep the student in school and improve behavior issues. They also participate in developing and implementing positive intervention and transition plans and strategies to meet individual student needs to include linkages to community programs such as Summer Youth Employment Opportunity and Midnight Basketball.



*Data collection began in October 2023, and the complete dataset will be available in 2024.

STREET OUTREACH

The Street-Based Intervention Team works towards reducing violent crimes and homicides in Little Rock neighborhoods through street-level prevention and intervention.

The Interventionists engage with individuals in and around hotspots within the community and refer them to available opportunities that can help them improve their quality of life.

They focus on young adults aged 13-30 and aim to achieve their objectives through Recruitment/Engagement, Enrichment, and Empowerment.

The Juvenile Justice Liaison assists with bridging the gap between the juvenile courts, schools, and the Department of Community Programs.





8,942

CONTACTS WITH RESIDENTS, INTERACTING, AND SHARING RESOURCES



Front Row: Larry McClendon, Michael Sanders, William Graves

Back Row: Marcus Montgomery, Adrian Chilliest, Wayne Burt

Not Pictured: Cortez Bell







THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Department of Community
Programs contracts with
community-based and faith-based
organizations to administer various
programs to improve the quality of
life for Little Rock residents.





Gerry Stewart Prevention/Program Quality Specialist



Dr. Mark Perry



Amber Garrett Program Monitor

Ages 6-12 & 13-18

Positive Prevention Programs cultivate positive environments to engage youth to become responsible residents by increasing academic skills and educational solutions that reflect 21st century skills, mindset, and habits.

The ultimate goal is to reduce youthrelated incidents of violence by providing solutions and coping skills to help equip youth to handle conflict situations and improve mental health.



16
SITES

643
PARTICIPANTS

\$90,000
AWARDED PER PROGRAM

Bridge 2 Success (2 Programs) - \$180,000

This program served the needs of 89 participants ages 6-12. The program encouraged learning skills, team building, health, and nutrition as well as how to communicate with their parents, teachers, and other children. The youth answered 63,895 questions in IXL in 2023. Currently, 17% of our students are not meeting the passing grade in math and reading and we are working closely with them to improve their scores.

Fourteen 13-18 year olds participated in group sessions on credit, checking, and savings, to instill sound financial decision-making practices. The students attended field trips to local colleges and universities, swam, attended college basketball and minor league baseball games, visited museums, and engaged in several community service projects as well as various other fun and educational activities.



Our House (2 Programs) - \$180,000

This out-of-school time program served 106 homeless and near-homeless youth in 6–12th grade. Our Club youth participated in daily homework help and educational activities that increased their knowledge and skills in five key programming areas: STEM, Arts, Cultural Enrichment, Health and Physical Fitness, and Life Skills. Our staff integrates Youth Voice into programming and our youth have opportunities to assist in the design and implementation of programs and activities in which they participate.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arkansas (7 Programs) - \$630,000

These programs are a vital opportunity and resource for helping youth ages 6-12 and 13-18 to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible residents.

There is increasing recognition that such programs are important not just for elementary school students, whose parents need supervision for their children when they are not in school, but also for middle and high school youth. Their participation in programs can help keep them connected to positive role models and remain engaged in their education at a time when many are beginning to disengage from school.



- Boys & Girls Club Penick (Ages 6-12) 31 participants
- Boys & Girls Club Penick (Ages 13-18) 27 participants
- Boys & Girls Club Mitchell (Ages 6-12) 50 participants
- Boys & Girls Club Mitchell (Ages 13-18) 42 participants
- Boys & Girls Club Whetstone (Ages 6-12) 44 participants
- Boys & Girls Club Whetstone (Ages 13-18) 26 participants
- Boys & Girls Club Thrasher (Ages 6-12) 29 participants



Life Skills for Youth (3 Programs) - \$240,000

LSY After-School Academy is designed to provide youth with a safe environment that supports healthy growth and development in areas that influence student success and lifelong learning. During the After-School and Summer Academies, which served a total of 94 students, LSY offered individual tutoring, homework help, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) focused curriculum to increase academic performance. In addition to academics, LSY is dedicated to preparing students for the real world. Each program incorporates workshops on leadership, life skills development, healthy lifestyle, physical fitness, ATM (anger, time, and money management), and much more.



Brandon House Cultural Arts (2 Programs) - \$180,000

The DreamStarters program served 71 students children ages 6-12 with the goal to increase their knowledge and skills through academic enrichment activities and performance arts.

The Fall In Deep Program served 47 participants aged 13-18. The program exposed participants to artsinfused learning experiences to offer them opportunities to address their social and emotional health through peer mentorship, creative and cultural arts activities, youth empowerment strategies, and media/digital interactions.



COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION SERVICES

The Little Rock Board of Directors set aside \$1.5 million from the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to fund community violence intervention.

Unity Martial Arts - \$28,500 Conflict Resolution & Anger Management

A free martial arts program provided to 30 students of Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School, grades 1-4. Students learned self-defense, conflict avoidance and resolution skills, physical fitness, self-regulation, communication, and leadership skills.

Arkansas Community Dispute
Resolution Centers, Inc. (ACDRC) - \$199,900
Conflict Resolution & Anger Management

The Resolution and Anger Management Program (RAMP) provided evidence-based community mediation, peaceful conflict resolution strategies, and cooperative anger management methods to 1,366 participants.

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) - \$199,967 Hospital-Based Intervention

Project Heal is a Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP) designed to address the violent assault during the initial hospital visit. The project focuses on gun violence and served 146 high-risk participants in Little Rock.



COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION SERVICES

Brandon House Cultural & Performing Arts Center - \$44,432 Life Skills / Workforce Readiness

iHUSTLE (I Have Unique Skills to Learn & Earn) Program is a center-based workforce and career readiness program for 25 participants 13 to 27 years of age engaged in audio, digital, and music-making interventions coupled with career readiness skills training.

Restore Hope - \$197,596 Life Skills / Workforce Readiness

Provided services to men and women recently released from Re-Entry programs at the Pulaski County jail and other at-risk individuals using a collective impact model called Crisis to Career for 976 participants.

Boys & Girls Club of Central Arkansas - \$83,788 Mental Health & Wellness

This program developed and implemented a monthly schedule of therapeutic sessions geared toward self-esteem and coping skills for 200 participants with the goal of reducing the stigma around mental health.

Our House - \$200,000 Mental Health & Wellness

The Our House Mental Health Program provided on-site individual and group therapy sessions to 240 participants. Therapy sessions were conducted for both adults and children on campus.



COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION SERVICES

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas - \$88,642 Prevention of Criminal Activity through Violence Intervention

The Shared Framework for Reducing Youth Violence and Promoting Well-being focused on strengthening collective action to reduce youth violence and ensure the academic, social, and emotional well-being of 164 children, youth, and families.

Lessons Learned - \$169,670 Prevention of Criminal Activity through Violence Intervention

The program sessions engaged 2,331 participants in conversations and mental exercises about Healthy and Unhealthy relationships, Career Direction, and Personal Development.

Songbird Sunflower Gardens - \$75,000Prevention of Criminal Activity through Violence Intervention

The mission of the initiative addressed community violence by extending outreach services to City of Little Rock residents ages 13-30 who are susceptible to criminal activity. They provided 206 participants with criminal record expungement services, job placement, career counseling, and life management skills.



NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY PROGRAMS

To respond to the impact of COVID-19 and the resulting increase in criminal activity, the City of Little Rock contracted with organizations to provide services to the residents to help reduce community violence.

Organizations provided relevant services and opportunities to Disproportionately Impacted Communities with participant knowledge, skills, and abilities.

McMahan Counseling - \$44,700 Parental, Family & Community Engagement

LEAP to Caregiver Success Program was implemented to empower caregivers and their children to improve skills in social and emotional learning, life skills, and improved relationships for 228 participants.

Bridge 2 Success - \$48,598 Recreation, Health & Wellness

This healthy eating program is for youth aged 5-18 with a focus on training participants how to prepare healthy meals for themselves and families. Basketball and dance were implemented to encourage fun learning in recreation along with yoga and group play for participants.

PARTICIPANTS I've received some good information that has helped me tremendously. It helped my child develop her voice and how she feels about things. It helped me learn how to firmly love my child. - LEAP Parent

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY PROGRAMS

Boys and Girls Club (Thrasher) - \$39,670 Social & Emotional Learning

The program provided positive selfidentity, health and well-being, positive values, commitment to learning social competency, family engagement, and community involvement through a variety of activities for 16 participants.

Terrance Richardson Dream - Believe - Work Foundation, Inc. - \$45,000 Social & Emotional Learning

This intergenerational program incorporated film workshops to provide hands-on opportunities in the filmmaking industry, raising awareness about ongoing issues such as trafficking, bullying, suicide, hunger, and homelessness for 174 participants. The students assisted with all aspects of producing the short film, *The Hidden Core*, which was released at the end of the project.

Urban League of Arkansas - \$44,990 Tutoring, STEM Activities, Academic Enrichment

The Youth Intervention Initiative targeted 42, 10th-grade youth and other high school students providing guidance, skills, techniques, and other supportive avenues. The Drone Tech Program components offered education through instruction in drone operation, robotics, coding, and other technology.







DAY LABOR SERVICES

FAB44 - \$200,000

The day labor program offers job opportunities to increase public safety and curb criminal activity. The program provides pay for the work done by the day laborers and supplements the City's ongoing efforts to meet service requests that are entered into the 311 system by residents and staff.

Day laborers have the flexibility to work on days and at hours that suit them, and they are paid a daily wage for their work. The program supports 10 team members who are available to assist participants. This program aims to support participants in living a well-rounded life within the City of Little Rock.



164 **PARTICIPANTS** HOURS WORKED **72** 311 PROJECTS COMPLETED \$86,328 **EARNED WAGES**

COMMUNITY INNOVATION PROJECTS

The City of Little Rock contracted with two organizations to provide activities, resources, and opportunities that engaged, encouraged, and equipped City residents to improve their quality of life by becoming more active in their community.

Arkansas Learning Network - \$25,000

ALN offers an online platform for adults to take academic and job training classes to earn credits for a High School Diploma. ALN was established in response to a need to educate and train Arkansas' young adults – an estimated 300,000 of whom do not have a High School Diploma.

Lightdentity Foundation - \$25,000

Provided opportunities for youth and young adults to learn financial literacy, leadership, and teamwork through the game of basketball and youth camps.





SMALL CONTRACTS

The CYF Commission accepts proposals for programs, projects, and events conducted by established Little Rock businesses or 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations that provide enhanced educational, recreational, and/or family development opportunities.

Proposals are considered for funding up to \$4500 per project based on how it fits with the Commission's annual funding priorities which include: recreation, family development, academic enrichment (with emphasis on academic support for promoting literacy, STEM, and extended school day programming), youth development, employability programs, substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services, and other projects that assist children, youth, and families improve their quality of life and that enhance public safety for the community.

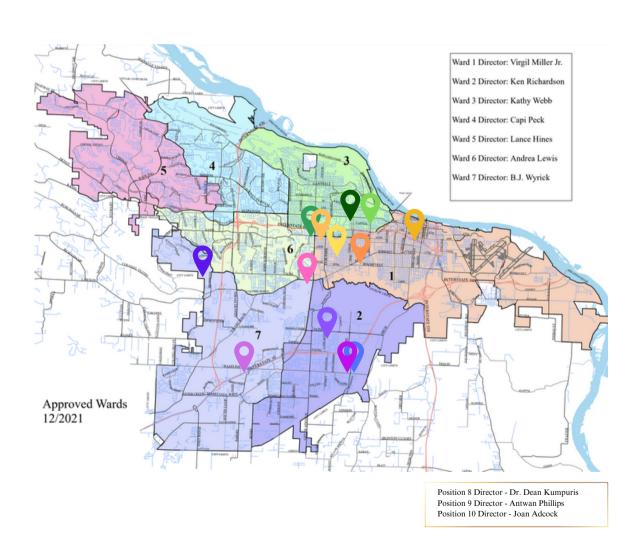
10
ORGANIZATIONS

\$45,000

AWARDED

- College of Paralegal Law
- The Learning Express
- The Village Place
- Pettus / Helping Hand Foundation
- The Home Teen Center
- Partnering For a Purpose
- Serenity Urban Wellness
- Arkansas Community Action Agency
- Project Renew
- The Professional Development Academy

CITY OF LITTLE ROCK WARD MAP



POSITIVE PREVENTION PROGRAMS BY WARD

	1	Ι		I		
Ward	Ages	Organization Name	Program Address	Phone Number	Web Address	
2	Ages 6-12	Bridge2Success	3409 Baseline Road, 72209	(501) 565-0100	bridge2successteam.org	
1	Ages 6-12	Our House, Inc.	302 E Roosevelt Rd, 72206	(501) 374-7383	ourhouseshelter.org	
1	Ages 13-18	Our House, Inc.	302 E Roosevelt Rd, 72206	(501) 374-7383	ourhouseshelter.org	
6	Ages 6-12	Boys & Girls Club- Penick	1201 Leisure Place, 72204	(501) 666-8816	arclubs.org	
6	Ages 13-18	Boys & Girls Club- Penick	1201 Leisure Place, 72204	(501) 666-8816	arclubs.org	
3	Ages 13-18	Boys & Girls Club- Mitchell	3107 W. Capitol, 72205	(501) 666-8816	arclubs.org	
3	Ages 6-12	Boys & Girls Club- Mitchell	3107 W. Capitol, 72205	(501) 666-8816	arclubs.org	
2	Ages 6-12	Boys & Girls Club Whetstone	46 Harrow Drive, 72209	(501) 666-8816	arclubs.org	
2	Ages 13-18	Boys & Girls Club Whetstone	46 Harrow Drive, 72209	(501) 666-8816	arclubs.org	
7	Ages 6-12	Life Skills For Youth	10710 Interstate 30, 72209	(501) 517-2755	lifeskillsforyouth.org	
7	Ages 6-12	Life Skills For Youth	10710 Interstate 30, 72209	(501) 517-2755	lifeskillsforyouth.org	
7	Ages 13-18	Life Skills For Youth	10710 Interstate 30, 72209	(501) 517-2755	lifeskillsforyouth.org	
7	Ages 6-12	Brandon House Cultural Arts	12120 Colonel Glenn Road, Suite 1000, 72210	(501) 725-5757	brandonhouseperformingarts. org	
7	Ages 13-18	Brandon House Cultural Arts	12120 Colonel Glenn Road, Suite 1000, 72210	(501) 725-5757	brandonhouseperformingarts. org	

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAMS BY WARD

Ward	Organization Name	Program Address	Phone	Email	Web Address
1	Arkansas Community Dispute Resolution Centers, Inc. (ACDRC)	3805 West 12th Street, Suite 201, 72204	(501)379-1501	admin@acdrc.net	acdrc.net
1	Unity Martial Arts	905 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, 72202	(501)664-0604	tannercritz@gmail.com	UnityMartialArts.com
3	University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)	4301 W. Markham	(501)526-6731	nnlovelady@uams.edu	uams.edu
7	Brandon House Cultural Arts	12120 Colonel Glenn Road, Suite 1000, 72210	(501)725-5757	thebrandonhouse@gmail.com	brandonhouseperformingarts.org
7	Restore Hope	6221 Colonel Glenn Rd, 72204	(501)404-9865	pchapman@restorehopear.org	restorehopearkansas.org
2	Boys & Girls Clubs of Central AR	Whetstone Club: 46 Harrow Drive, 72209	(501)666-8816	cdoramus@arclubs.org	arclubs.org
1	Our House, Inc.	302 E Roosevelt Rd, 72206	(501)374-7383	ben@ourhouseshelter.org	ourhouseshelter.org
	Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central AR	1125 Broadway, 72202	(501)374-6661	cchatham@bbbsca.org	bbbsca.org
	Sunflower Gardens Community Outreach	3425 Baseline Road, 72209	(501)612-0864	kidsmartdirector@yahoo.com	
м	Lessons Learned	Multiple Locations: Summer Programs, Churches, Schools	(501)993-6354	klhuntsr@gmail.com	klhuntsr.com

COMMUNITY RESOURCES TEAM

The Community Resources
Team is responsible for
identifying and managing
valuable community
resources and partnerships.
The ultimate goal is to
promote positive outcomes,
enhance public safety, and
improve the overall quality
of life for all residents of
Little Rock.



Monica Montgomery, Dr. Jacque Eaves & Charity Tyler









PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The goal of the Professional Development opportunities is to enhance program quality and accountability through evidence-based personal and professional development practices.









360
PARTICIPANTS

TRAINING SESSIONS

1,440
TRAINING HOURS RECEIVED

- DCP Program & Contract Requirements
- From Afterschool Out of School Time to Summer Learning
- Adverse Childhood
 Experiences; Resiliency for All /
 Youth Suicide Prevention; QPR
 Training Questions, Persuade,
 Refer
- Program Planning & Outcomes
- Recruitment and Retention, (2 Sessions)
- Apricot Information System Training
- Looking Back to Look Ahead (SWOT Analysis/SEL Overview)

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City of Little Rock's Summer Youth Employment Opportunity (SYEO) offers individuals aged 16-21 the chance to explore various careers and earn a wage for six weeks during the summer.

Community businesses provided summer positions and collaborated with the City of Little Rock and community stakeholders to assist youth in acquiring essential skills such as critical thinking, teamwork, and problemsolving, essential for success in the workforce.

The job opportunities spanned various industries including child-care, legal, hospitality, local government, and non-profit organizations.

SYE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

459
YOUTH INTERNS

127
WORKSITES

10
MENTORS

\$2,500
AVERAGE INCOME EARNED















Worksite Application surveymonkey.com/r/syeositeapp

Application closes April 28





COMMUNITY **ENGAGEMENT**

The Department of Community Programs partnered with Little Rock community organizations, stakeholders, and other City departments to increase awareness of services and programs.





























COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

- Pre-Bid Seminar
- Computer Career Pathway Classes
- Lunch & Learn
- Family Matter Re-Entry Retreat
- Summer Youth Job Fair
- Youth Voices Teen Summit
- Stakeholders Meetings
- Back to School Bash
- Rights After Wrongs Re-Entry Summit
- Red Ribbon Rally
- 75th Anniversary of War Memorial
- The Great American Smoke Out Day
- Ward 6 Block Party
- AnyONE CAN Food Drive























Community Schools - \$500,000

Community Schools, developed in partnership between the City of Little Rock and the Little Rock School District, show Little Rock's commitment to ensuring equity in neighborhoods that have historically been underserved. The Community Schools build a network in which community members, school leaders, and families work together to develop supports and services that meet the needs of students and their families as determined by detailed need assessments. In addition to PIT funds from the Department of Community Programs. district and federal funds, private donations, local nonprofits, and national organizations contribute funding for this programming.

In 2023, six schools were served: Chicot, Mabelvale, Stephens, Washington, and Watson elementary schools, and Mabelvale Middle School. The current schools were identified to have needs including food insecurity, lack of access to healthcare, large numbers of families whose first language is not English, and high rates of absenteeism among students. In coming years, we anticipate expanding the Community Schools program to include additional elementary and middle schools.





LRPD O.K. Program - \$35,000

The Little Rock Police Department (LRPD) "Our Kids" (O.K.) Program is a national mentoring model program offering positive guidance and support to African-American males' ages 12 to 18 years old. The program brings together African-American police officers and pastors to recruit, train, and organize African-American men to mentor African-American boys.

Current School Locations:

- Central High School
- Hall High School
- Dunbar Middle School
- Forest Heights STEM Academy



LRPD G.E.M.S. Program - \$35,000

The Little Rock Police Department (LRPD) G.E.M.S. (Girls Empowered by Mentoring Sisterhood) Program teaches self-respect, empowerment, social responsibility, academic achievement, and life skills for girls ages 12 to 18.

Current School Locations:

- Cloverdale Middle School
- Various schools and districts



Mayor's Youth Council - \$10,000

The mission of the Little Rock Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) is to promote youth civic engagement by providing the chance to (1) advocate for issues affecting their communities, (2) learn and inform city staff about policy matters that impact the lives of young people, (3) develop a passion for local governance, and (4) invest in their communities through volunteer work. Being a member of MYC means becoming a better informed, better prepared, and better devoted citizen!



The MYC is comprised of high school students in grades 9th – 12th who meet monthly with the Mayor.

Summer Playground Program - \$200.000

Little Rock Parks and Recreation welcomes children and parents within the Little Rock area to participate in the annual Summer Playground Program. The program ran from June 12, 2023 -July 27, 2023.

The program provided ages 6-15 with on-site activities such as: checkers, dominoes, chess, cards, board games, jump rope, basketball, kickball, movies, time outside on the playground, arts & crafts, a "Teen Camp" for 11-15, and much more. Field trips included fishing, swimming, roller skating, movies, visits to the MacArthur Museum of Military History, the Museum of Discovery, the Stephens Nature Center, the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, the Clinton Presidential Library, and an end of the summer visit to Main Event.



Financial Resources Hotline - \$80,000

Our House partnered with DCP to provide a virtual phone-based service to assist low-income, homeless, and near-homeless individuals and families who have been hard-hit by the economic fallout of the pandemic.

Be Mighty Food Security - \$100,000

Be Mighty is an after-school and summer meal program. Local government agencies, school districts, churches, and private nonprofit organizations can sponsor meal sites, which may be located at schools, community centers, churches, etc.

City Year - \$125,000

City Year is a youth-powered organization working with partners to create conditions that enable young people to learn, develop, and reach their full potential. City Year AmeriCorps members serve in schools all day, every day, preparing students with the social, emotional and academic skills and mindsets to succeed in school and in life. 75% of tutored students who began the year with an F or a D in English improved by at least one letter grade, and 57% of tutored students who began the year with an F or a D in math improved by at least one letter grade.

12,000+
calls
3,500+
unique participants







DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

CITY HALL
500 WEST MARKHAM STREET
SUITE 220 WEST
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201

(501) 399-3420

WWW.LRDCPCARES.ORG DCPINFO@LITTLEROCK.GOV