



DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Our Mayor



Dear City of Little Rock Residents:

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as the 73rd Mayor of Little Rock, Arkansas. As the state capital, our city is a vibrant hub of finance, culture, education, and commerce, driving progress and opportunity throughout the region. Every day, we consciously work toward making Little Rock an even better place for our residents, visitors, and future generations.

We are united in our effort to build a thriving, connected, and inclusive Little Rock. Our vision underscores our commitment to growing opportunities for all, uniting our diverse neighborhoods, and transforming Little Rock into a city where everyone can reach their fullest potential.

Our Department of Community Programs plays a vital role in our City. For nearly three decades, it has been a cornerstone of our work to deliver meaningful programs and services to children, youth, and families. The Department's dedication to exceptional service and innovative solutions enhances quality of life, and it is integral to our city's holistic crime reduction strategy.

By fostering strong partnerships, particularly with law enforcement, nonprofits, and local organizations, the Department's programs focus on prevention, intervention, and building lasting change in our communities. In addition, by funding local organizations through their annual \$5 million budget allocation, we are able to further amplify our efforts and maximize impact. Through these investments, we continue to create safe and vibrant neighborhoods where every resident feels valued.

The tireless dedication of the Department of Community Programs makes a profound difference to all of us, and I appreciate their work. I am also grateful to the volunteers on the Children, Youth, and Families Commission, whose leadership and commitment to our community remain invaluable. Together, we will continue to make Little Rock a place we are all proud to call home.

Sincerely,
Frank Scott, Jr. , Mayor
City of Little Rock, Arkansas



Our Director

Dear City of Little Rock Residents:

As we close another year of service and progress, I am honored to share our 2024 Annual Report with you. As you reflect on our activities, please allow me to express my deepest gratitude to the dedicated staff of the Community Programs Department. Their unwavering commitment to our mission of improving the quality of life for all residents has been the driving force behind our success. Through their hard work, innovation, and passion, we have continued to provide vital services, resources, and opportunities that strengthen our neighborhoods and empower our community.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to our partners, stakeholders, and community leaders. Your collaboration and support have been instrumental in helping us reach more residents and make a lasting impact. It is through these valuable partnerships that we are able to build a more inclusive, connected, and thriving Little Rock.

Additionally, we proudly support and appreciate Mayor Frank Scott, Jr.'s initiative to "Unite - Grow - Transform Little Rock." His vision for a more united and prosperous city aligns with our mission, and we remain committed to working alongside him to enhance the residential experience for all.

As we look ahead to 2025, we do so with a spirit of optimism and determination. The challenges we face are opportunities to grow stronger together. Let us continue working hand in hand—residents, organizations, and leaders—to create a Little Rock where every individual has the resources and support they need to succeed. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Here's to another year of progress, collaboration, and transformation!

Sincerely,
Dana Dossett, Director
Department of Community Programs
City of Little Rock, Arkansas

About Us

The City of Little Rock's Department of Community Programs (DCP) was the culmination of efforts that started in 1988 with a \$10 million grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. That was followed in 1991 with a Fighting Back grant of \$5 million from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Then in 1993, Little Rock voters passed a 1/2 cent sales tax to permanently designate City funds to sustain and administer Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (PIT) funding (in addition to other 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.

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.

STAFF

- Adrian Chilliast, Street Outreach
- Al Williams, School-based Intervention
- Amber Garrett, DCP Monitor
- Barbara Osborne, DCP Office Support
- Cortez Bell, Street Outreach
- Charity Tyler, School-based Intervention
- Dwight Pridgeon, ReEntry Coordinator
- Eleanor Louis, Executive Assistant
- Faren Hughes, DCP Senior Procurement Manager
- Gerry Stewart, DCP Program Coach
- Juvaris Grant, School-based Intervention
- Keith Saine, School-based Intervention
- Larry McClendon, Street Outreach
- Monica Montgomery, DCP Workforce Development
- Michael Ross, School-based Intervention
- Nigel Caffey, Street Outreach
- Shaneka Fisher Jones, ReEntry Assistant
- Tim Campbell, Intervention Coordinator
- Tonisha Porter, DCP Data Coordinator
- Wallace Muhammad, Street Outreach
- Wayne Burt, Street Outreach Supervisor
- William Farmer, Street Outreach
- William Graves, Street Outreach



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 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.



2024 Annual Budget

The City of Little Rock's Department of Community Programs operates on an annual budget of \$5 million dollars and in 2024 supported more than 50 programs and served more than 24,000 Little Rock children, youth, and families.



Our Leadership Team



DEPARTMENT OF
**COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS**



Dana Dossett
Director



Michael Sanders
Assistant
Director



Dr. Mark Perry
Community
Programs
Development
Manager



Marcus Montgomery
Community
Violence
Intervention
Manager



Dr. Jacque Eaves
Community
Resources
Manager



**Gwendolyn
Trigleth-Jackson**
Community
Programs
Operations
Manager

The Children, Youth, & 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.

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.

2024 Commissioners

Dr. Chenia Eubanks, Chair
Dr. Frederick Fields, Vice-Chair
Vice-Mayor Kathy Webb
Dr. Phillis Anderson
Jennifer Cobb
Jennifer Ferguson
Anthony Hampton
Vicki Hatter
Chrissy Jennings
Stacey McAdoo
Marcovous L. Williams
Jasmine Zandi
Lacy Selig



Commissioners visited Our House Family Support Center. Pictured from left to right: Montez Peterson, Our House Youth Program Coordinator; Michael Sanders, DCP Assistant Director; Amber Garrett, DCP Program Monitor; Rachael Borne, Our House Director of Programs; Vice-Mayor Kathy Webb; Ben Goodwin, Our House Executive Director; Dr. Chenia Eubanks, CYF Commission Chair; Dr. Jacque Eaves, DCP Resources Manager; Anthony Hampton, CYF Commissioner



DCP Operations

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 2024 the Operations Team improved response and resolution timeframes by 15% for all requests made by personnel, programs, and the residents of the City of Little Rock.



The Office of Neighborhood Safety

The Office of Neighborhood Safety was established within the Department of Community Programs as part of Mayor Frank Scott, Jr.'s holistic approach to reduce violence and increase public safety in Little Rock.

This initiative offers services, programs, and resources targeted to assist residents between the ages of 13-30 in Wards 1, 2, 6 and 7 with various opportunities such as mentorship, job training and placement assistance, and reentry services, all funded by city resources and finances.



Youth Workforce Development Institute

During the 2024 Summer, the Department of Community Programs' School-Based Intervention Team launched the Youth Workforce Development Institute pilot program. A total of 24 students aged 13-15 participated in the six-week initiative, which aimed to enhance awareness of diverse career options in the workforce while offering training and development in essential professional life skills.

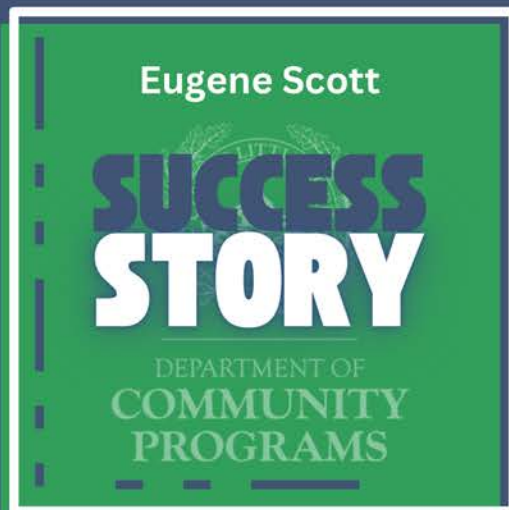


ReEntry Services



The ReEntry Services Team manages a comprehensive support center situated at 3012 MLK Drive in Little Rock. This center offers assistance to ex-offenders who are reintegrating into the community after leaving correctional facilities or are currently under post-release supervision.

The main objective of this initiative is to facilitate a successful integration back into society. Among other services and support, the staff offers skills training and helps with finding employment opportunities. Working closely with local service providers, the first ReEntry Resource Fair was held in November 2024 and hosted more than 300 attendees.



Eugene Scott visited our ReEntry office seeking employment opportunities after spending several years in prison. He demonstrated a commitment to transforming his life and we successfully placed him with the City of Little Rock, which firmly believes in providing second chances to city residents. Today, Eugene is a full-time employee thriving in his role, and has become a valuable asset to his department's team. Although we have numerous success stories, we take the time to celebrate Eugene's achievements, as his journey exemplifies resilience, perseverance, and dedication.



Sunny Spicer was referred to the DCP ReEntry Team by a colleague and a representative from The City of Faith Federal Halfway House. From our initial meeting, it was evident that Sunny possesses a remarkable personality and a positive attitude that, combined with her skills, made her an outstanding candidate for various opportunities. Through our extensive network of employment partners, we found that her qualifications aligned perfectly with the needs of EcoPump—a local HVAC company. Since then, Sunny has excelled as EcoPump's office manager, providing exceptional customer service to their clients. She credits the City of Little Rock's Department of Community Programs ReEntry Program with helping her rebuild her self-confidence after her release from prison. The program played a crucial role in her overcoming barriers to employment and securing a position that offers a livable wage.



The DCP ReEntry Team collaborated with the Pulaski County Courts to support the “Get Right with the Courts” initiative aimed at addressing barriers and other issues related to fines, fees, child support, and court costs, and providing a pathway to driver’s license reinstatement for eligible individuals.

The initial session supported 1737 residents. Due to the overwhelming response, an additional date was added to support 503 residents.

School-Based Intervention

The DCP 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 the Little Rock School District and LRPD School Resource Officers at Central High School, Southwest High School, Dunbar Middle School, and Hamilton Alternative School.

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



Keith Saine

SUCCESS STORY

DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS

Keith Saine serves as a School-based Interventionist with the Department of Community Programs at Central High School. His efforts have made a significant difference in the lives of young individuals, particularly Jaylen and Jayden Perkins. The Perkins twins, who have faced considerable challenges, including the tragic loss of their older brother to homicide and their own experiences with gun violence, have found hope and direction through Keith's intervention work. Under his guidance, both students have become actively involved in community service, volunteering at various locations such as the Watershed, Arkansas Baptist College, and assisting elderly residents in Little Rock with landscaping.



Through our DCP staff liaison with the Juvenile Court system, DCP launched “No Judgement Zone” with Judge Tjuana Byrd-Manning. This educational field trip provides exposure to legal careers and encourages youth to make the positive choices that help avoid being involved in the legal system. Students enjoyed direct access to the Judge as well as the court system to learn more about smart choices to have better opportunities.



Through Keith's referral, both Jaylen and Jayden participated in the DCP 6-week summer Youth Workforce Development Institute, where they engaged in a curriculum designed to foster critical skills such as decision-making, workforce skills, and leadership. Since working with them, their academic performance has notably improved, with both achieving mostly A's and B's and receiving positive feedback from their teachers. Additionally, their attendance, once inconsistent, is now a priority. Keith also played a crucial role in helping the twins secure their first jobs at Chuck E. Cheese. Jaylen, currently a junior at Central High, is now on track to graduate early, while Jayden aspires to enlist in the Air Force after high school.



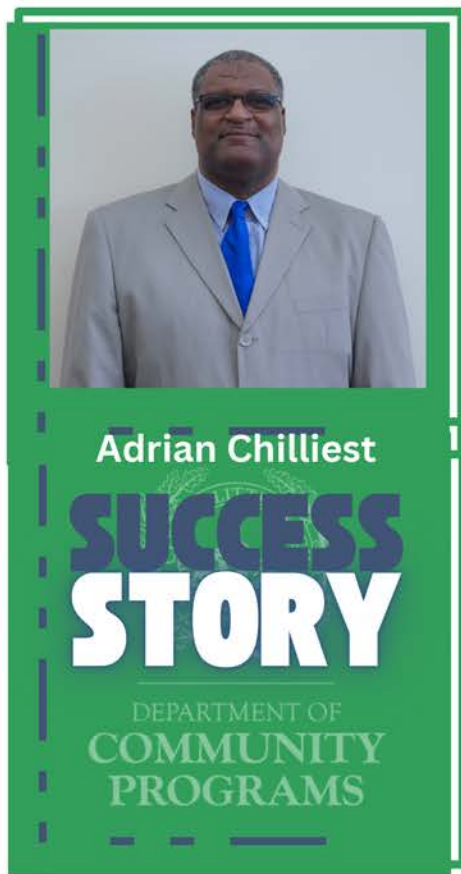
Street Outreach



The DCP Street Outreach Team “meets people where they are” in the community, especially in Wards 1, 2, 6, and 7. The Interventionists engage with the individuals they might come in contact with - at a gas station, the mall, in the park, or on their porch - in an effort to find out their needs, then assist them to gain whatever services, resources, opportunities, and information will help them improve their quality of life.

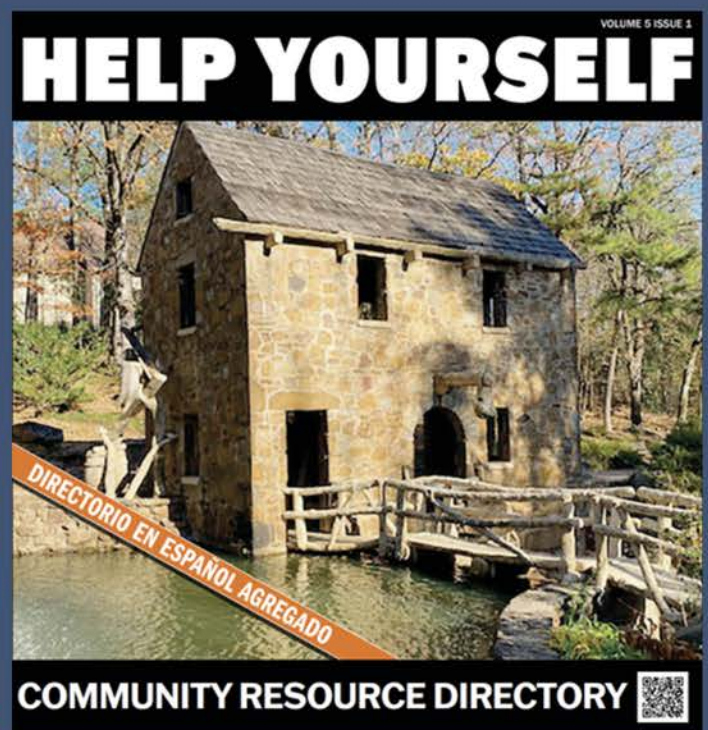
While they work with anyone who needs help, the Team’s primary focus is on young adults aged 13-30. The Team also has a Juvenile Justice Liaison who assists with bridging the gap between the juvenile courts, schools, community resources, and various Department of Community Programs opportunities.

In addition to street outreach, in 2024, the Team hosted several enrichment sessions engaging more than 135 participants.



Street Outreach Team member, Adrian Chilliest, works to connect young men with resources and opportunities in our community. A recent example is Chris Thomas, a 24-year-old from southwest Little Rock. Although living with a disability in a single-parent household, Chris demonstrated a strong desire for employment. Adrian's support, including resume preparation and completing job applications, led Chris to secure a position at Movie Tavern Little Rock where he has excelled and is now in line for a lead custodian position.

Adrian's ongoing commitment to Chris' development has been invaluable, helping Chris manage his disability while encouraging accountability in his daily life.



Program Development

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

PIT*-funded agencies provide activities that are grounded in a positive youth development framework that emphasizes children and youth as assets to the community. This deliberate outreach to families is part of our effort to increase public safety and decrease violence in Little Rock. All opportunities are offered free-of-charge to Little Rock residents.

**PIT = Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment*



Positive Prevention Programs

Positive Prevention Programs (PPPs) 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 youth-related incidents of violence by providing solutions and coping skills to help equip youth to handle conflict situations and improve mental health.



2024 Cumulative PPP Contract Reporting



PPP Active Participants

940

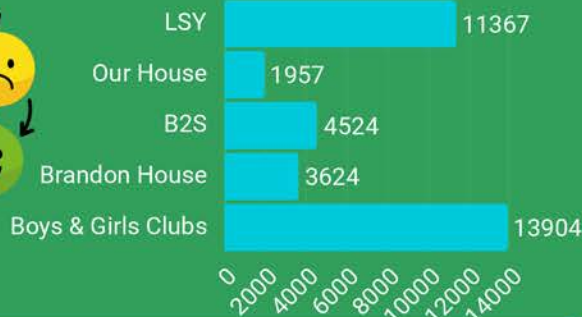


PPP Participants Served

974

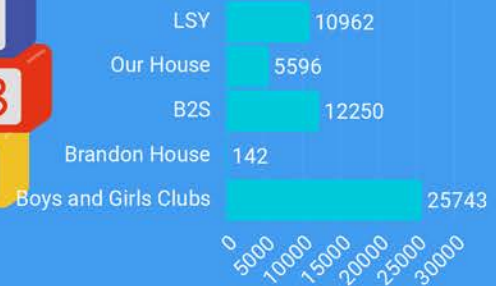
Social Emotional Learning

● # Activities

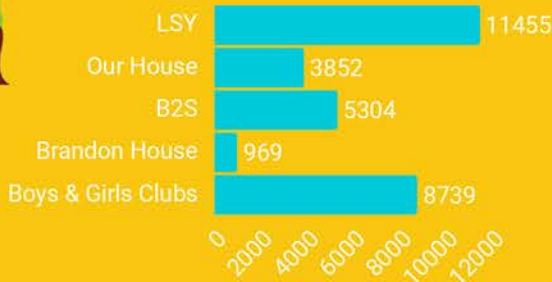


Academic Skills

● # Activities

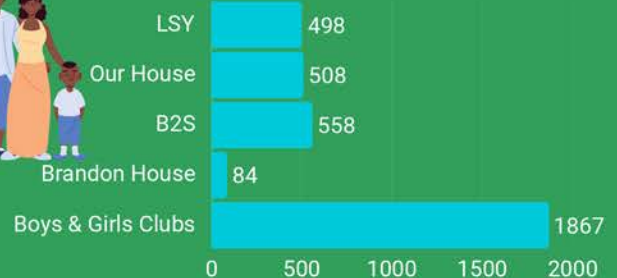


Health, Wellness & Safety



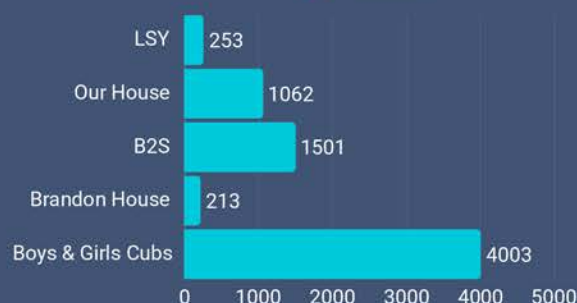
Parental, Family & Community

● # Activities



Job Readiness

● # Activities



Positive Prevention Programs

Bridge 2 Success (3 Programs) - \$262,500

This 6-12 PPP program served the needs of 215 participants. The program encouraged learning skills, team building, health and nutrition as well as how to communicate with their parents, teachers, and other children.

Ninety-eight 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

The “Our Club” program serves homeless and near-homeless youth. There were 67 in the 6–12-year-old program and 30 in the 13-18-year-old program. 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. Staff purposely integrates Youth Voice into programming and youth have opportunities to assist in the design and implementation of programs and activities in which they participate.

**STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math*



Congratulations to Our Club named “Best After-school Care” in the Best Choice for Kids & Families Winners • 2024 Kid’s Directory

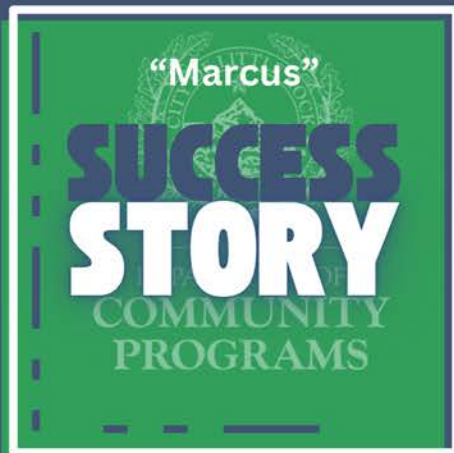
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Arkansas (7 Programs) - \$ 712,500

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) 78 participants
(Ages 13-18) 41 participants
- **Boys & Girls Club – Mitchell**
(Ages 6-12) 62 participants
(Ages 13-18) 60 participants
- **Boys & Girls Club – Whetstone**
(Ages 6-12) 55 participants
(Ages 13-18) 52 participants
- **Boys & Girls Club – Thrasher**
(Ages 6-12) 102 participants



After repeated instances of disruptive behavior in his after-school reading sessions, Marcus was referred to the Boys & Girls Club in addition to E-STEM which specializes in supporting students with learning difficulties.

After just three months of targeted intervention, Marcus demonstrated:

- *Improved participation in reading activities.*
- *Reduced outbursts and increased willingness to try.*
- *Enhanced self-confidence when reading aloud in small groups.*

“

Thank you for not giving up on him. I'm so grateful for the Club and everyone here.

- Marcus' Mother

”

His mother expressed heartfelt gratitude during a follow-up meeting: "I thought Marcus wasn't trying, but now I see he just needed help. Thank you for not giving up on him. I'm so grateful for the Club and everyone here."

The early identification of Marcus' dyslexia and the implementation of targeted interventions not only improved his academic performance, the collaboration between staff, parents, and tutors continues to pave the way for Marcus to thrive academically and emotionally.

Positive Prevention Programs

Life Skills for Youth (3 Programs) - \$270,000

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 127 students aged 6-12 (2 programs) and 13-18, 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.



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

The DreamStarters program served 62 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 61 participants aged 13-18. The program exposed participants to arts-infused 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.



**Giving Others Ambition Together [G.O.A.T.]
(1 Program) - \$82,500**

The G.O.A.T. after-school program curriculum is designed for youth ages 6-12 to be inspired and taught diverse learning through various engaging activities on the topics of: business and finance, health and fitness, S.T.E.A.M., and technical life skills.

**Lightidentity Foundation (1 Program) -
\$82,500**

This after-school program served 13-18 year olds by providing opportunities for youth and young adults to learn financial literacy, leadership, and teamwork through the game of basketball and youth camps.



When Ryan joined Lightidentity, he was struggling both on the basketball court and in the classroom. Through personalized training sessions and consistent academic support, Ryan transformed his skills and mindset. His grades improved significantly, and he gained the confidence to excel athletically. Today, Ryan is not only performing better in school but is also a more disciplined and motivated athlete, embodying the growth our program strives to inspire.



Community Violence Reduction Services



Lessons Learned - \$169,670

Prevention of Criminal Activity through Violence Intervention

In addition to a daily presence in Little Rock public schools, Lessons Learned hosted “Two Suits - No Choice,” a half-day youth summit attended by approximately 290 youth. This gang and community violence prevention program is a testament to the power of community collaboration, featuring founder Kevin Hunt, law enforcement, clergy, nonprofit partners, and parents. The Youth were also educated on the topic, “Having Opps Is Dangerous,” as a deterrent to involvement in gang activity.

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

Prevention of Criminal Activity through Violence Intervention

The ACDRC Resolution and Anger Management Program (RAMP) exceeded its goal to significantly reduce community violence and promote community safety in Little Rock by implementing recognized research and evidence-based violence reduction curriculums with separate components for 1) youth, 2) parents, 3) schools, and 4) communities resulting in 80% (or more) of at-risk youth and adult participants showing documented improvement in:

- increased participant knowledge of peaceful conflict resolution and anger management,
- inclusive engagement in skills and solutions development, and
- active participation in leadership and mentoring opportunities in the targeted Little Rock Wards 1, 2, 6, 7, in qualified census tracts, and other designated city “Hot Spots” for violent criminal activity.



An ACDRC RAMP Program Resolutions University attendee was awarded a Certificate of Completion by ACDRC Executive Director Angelia Tolbert and Guest Speaker Al Williams, a CLR-DCP School-Based Interventionist and Transition Coordinator

Brandon House Cultural & Performing Arts Center - \$44,432

Life Skills / Workforce Readiness

Brandon House's BOXed In program worked to reduce youth violence among youth ages 13 and up through arts, including physical activity sessions, conflict resolution, and animation creation. The program emphasized resilience, self-control and creative expressions.



Restore Hope/100 Families - \$197,596

Life Skills / Workforce Readiness

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

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) - \$199,966

Hospital-Based Intervention

This innovative project focuses on gun violence and high-risk participants in Little Rock. It is designed to address the violent assault during the initial hospital visit in an effort to curb further violence by offering intervention services, resources, and opportunities.

Our House - \$200,000

Mental Health & Wellness

This program provides on-site individual and group therapy sessions for both adults and children on the Our House campus.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas - \$88,642

Prevention of Criminal Activity through Violence Intervention

Participants learned about how to develop support systems and create protective factors for young people, as well as how trauma affects our brain function and physical health, emotions, and behaviors.



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 residents to help reduce community violence. Organizations provided relevant services, resources, and opportunities to Disproportionately Impacted Communities in an effort to increase participant knowledge, skills, and abilities.

McMahan Counseling - \$26,075

Parental, Family & Community Engagement

L.E.A.P.* 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. Participants were excited to make an impact in their children(s) lives.

**L.E.A.P. = Love, Expectation of Excellence, Affirming Accountability, Perseverance*

“
The L.E.A.P. program has helped my child develop her voice and how she feels about things. And it helped me learn how to firmly love my child.
- L.E.A.P. Parent
”

Bridge 2 Success - \$26,250

Recreation, Health & Wellness

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



Boys and Girls Club (Thrasher) - \$23,142

Social & Emotional Learning

This program provided various activities focused on developing health and well-being, a positive self-identity and core values. It also promoted learning social competency as well as increasing family engagement and community involvement.



Terrance Richardson (T.Rich) Dream – Believe – Work Foundation, Inc. - \$26,250

Social & Emotional Learning

The T.Rich Kids Reading Revolution and The Writer In Me are literacy initiatives aimed at instilling a passion for reading in an enjoyable and interactive manner. These programs have enabled more than 50 students to publish their own books, working alongside Melissa Johnson, a dedicated teacher from LRSDs Joe T. Robinson Elementary School. Her class has seen remarkable improvements in reading scores as a result. Moreover, the program collaborated with summer initiatives and DCP to host movie premieres that raised awareness about crucial issues like trafficking, bullying, suicide, hunger, and homelessness. In 2024, this outreach positively reached more than 1,500 individuals.



Urban League of the State of Arkansas (ULSA) - \$26,174

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

ULSA worked alongside communities and local organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club of Central Arkansas and Our House to offer a Youth Drone Tech Initiative throughout Little Rock. This initiative consisted of 12 sessions over a 4-week time period for each location. There were four classes for each content area covering drone technology, computer coding, and leadership development. The targeted outcomes were to: increase youth exposure and interest in coding and drone technology; youth application of learned and innate leadership skills and project management abilities; and increase youth awareness of community service opportunities. At the close of 2024, our partnerships included the Mitchell and Whetstone Boys and Girls Clubs, Mabelvale Middle School, and Our House.



Day Labor Services

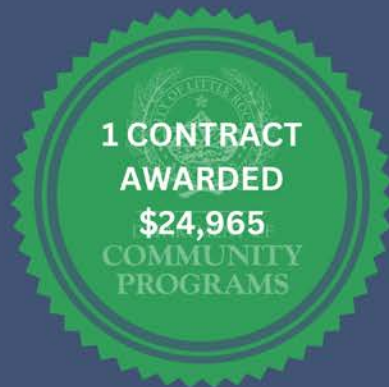
FAB44 - \$200,000

The Day Labor program offers job opportunities to those who need the flexibility to work on days that suit their individual needs, and they are paid a daily wage for their work. The work done by the day laborers supports the City's ongoing efforts to meet increasing service requests that are entered into the 311 system by residents and staff.

A diverse array of placements were accomplished, including roles in city maintenance, construction, and custodial work, highlighting the success of customized training and outreach efforts. In the target period of six months, 40% of the day laborers who participated in the training found stable employment beyond day-labor positions. Some day laborers were engaged in training and peer-to-peer support, allowing them to remain with the program for a longer duration.



Community Innovation Project



Arkansas Learning Network - \$24,965

ALN offers an opportunity for adults to take academic and job training classes to earn credits to achieve an actual high school diploma instead of a G.E.D.

In 2024, ten more students graduated during the second year contract with the City of Little Rock, which brings the overall total to 30 students.

Little Rock Career Climb

The mission of Little Rock Career Climb is to connect residents with meaningful career and apprenticeship pathways by prioritizing people-centered approaches, promoting innovative solutions, upholding professionalism, and delivering exceptional service that drives personal growth and community prosperity. This new approach is based on a community-supported model that invites our local business community to play a direct role in developing future talent. This shift not only provides a broader and more diverse range of career opportunities, but also aligns educational growth with real-world business needs.



SYE 2024 PROGRAM SUMMARY

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

OVERVIEW

The Summer Youth Employment Opportunity (SYEO) offers paid employment to qualified youth who live within in the city limits of Little Rock aged 16 to 21 (Youth Interns) for a duration of up to six weeks during the summer months. Additionally, SYEO provides valuable training in job readiness, career exploration, financial literacy, and opportunities for ongoing educational and social development.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



PROGRAM GOAL

To cultivate meaningful work experiences in a positive, productive learning environment to help develop good work habits.



INTERN TRAINING

All interns receive a week of financial literacy, job skills, life skills and employability skills training while earning a paycheck.



WORKSITE SUPERVISOR TRAINING

Each worksite participated in worksite training to prepare supervisors for a successful program.



SYEO KEY DATA

 **1000**
INTERN
APPLICATIONS

 **911**
Applications
Accepted

 **213**
16-Year-Old
First-Time Interns

 **284**
Interns

 **370**
Interns

 **809**
Participants
Onboarded

 **658**
Participants
Placed

 **4**
Interns


175 WORKSITES


13
MENTORS

FINANCIAL LITERACY



527 Low to Moderate Income
131 Non-Low to Moderate Income

 **Level All** **523** Registered
for Financial
Literacy through
Level All

15 Established
Bank Accounts



OVERVIEW

Hours per
Week

32

Weeks

6

COMPLETED
THE
PROGRAM

Interns
558

 **402** Received Pay via Direct Deposit

 **256** Received Pay via Pay Card

SYEO
SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Keep In Touch With Us

501-399-3420 

www.LRDPCares.org 

City Hall • Community Programs 
500 W. Markham, Room 220 W
Little Rock, AR 72201

Professional Development



January – *Understanding Youth Culture & Drill Music: The Real Impact on Our Youth*

February – *DCP Program Orientation*

March – *Conflict Resolution: Tools We Can Use to Support Children, Youth, & Families*

April – *Supporting Thriving Adult-Child Relationships (STAR)*

May – *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy & Mental Health Matters*

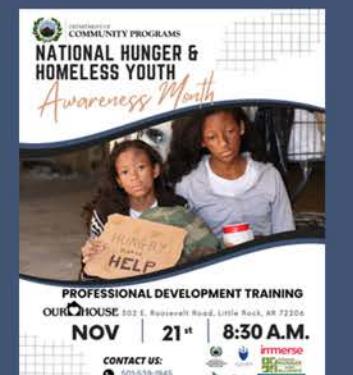
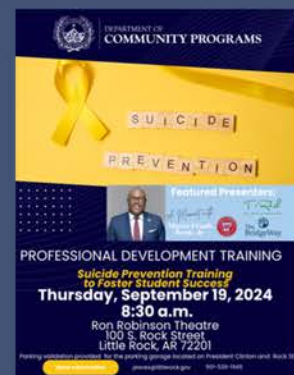
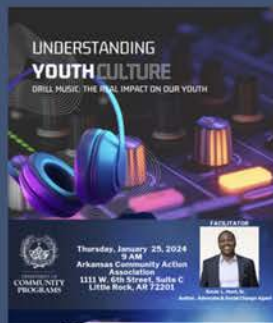
June – *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy & Mental Health Matters*

June – August Summer Break

September – *Suicide Prevention Training to Foster Student Success*

October – *Substance Abuse Prevention*

November – *Youth Hunger & Homelessness Awareness*



Community Engagement



DCP collaborated with a range of community organizations, stakeholders, and other City departments in Little Rock to enhance awareness of available resources, services, and programs to improve the quality of life for all residents.



Small Contracts



The Commission for Children, Youth, & Families (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.

- Arkansas Community Action Association Agency (ACAAA)
- Jason Irby Foundation / Corvettes and Veterans
- Dunbar Historic Neighborhood Association
- FCC Ministry and Community Development Corporation
- Little Rock School District - Southwest Band Academy
- Professional Development Academy
- Project Renew
- Trades 4 Life
- Strilite Foundation
- Serenity Urban Wellness

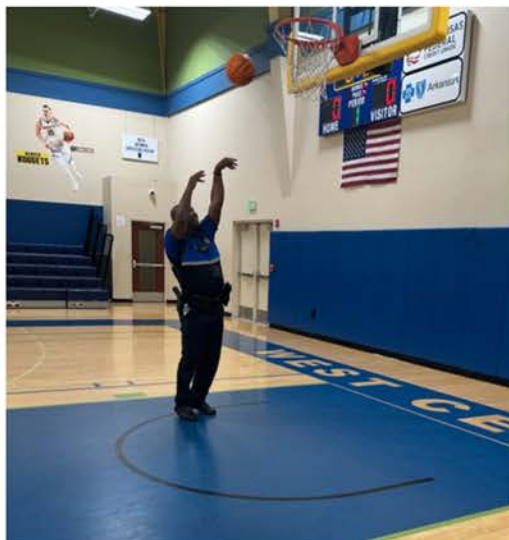


Midnight Basketball



The Department of Community Programs partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Little Rock Police Department to offer “Midnight Basketball” at three City community centers during 2024 summer months. Together with the support and collaboration of the DCP School-Based intervention Team and Summer Youth Employment mentors, they created a positive environment as well as supervision of a safe and welcoming space for program participants.

In addition to fostering community engagement and promoting healthy, active lifestyles, the efforts of the joint departments helped create a space where young people could come together, enjoy playing basketball, and build meaningful connections, all while prioritizing safety and well-being.



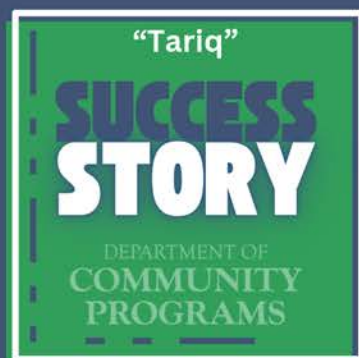
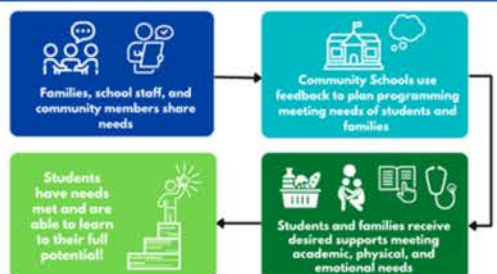
Community Partners & Stakeholders

Community Schools - \$500,000

In 2024, eight Little Rock School District schools were served: Chicot, McDermott, Mabelvale, Stephens, Washington, and Watson elementary schools, and Dunbar Magnet and Mabelvale Middle Schools. 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.



Community School Overview



At 15, Tariq was reserved with poor communication skills but excelled athletically, finding solace in the gym. He eagerly participated in programming activities like “Math Hoops,” but it wasn’t until much later that he finally opened up about his struggles, particularly the loss of his father, his closest friend. This loss caused him to withdraw socially and academically, leading to poor school attendance and declining grades.

With support from counselors and program coordinators, Tariq worked on his academic performance and social skills. Through mentorship and his love for basketball, he regained confidence and became more productive. After graduating from Premier High School, he earned a basketball scholarship to Arkansas Baptist College. Now, he has chosen to follow in his father’s footsteps by joining the Armed Forces.

LRPD Girls Empowered by Mentoring Sisterhood (G.E.M.S.) - \$35,000

This program promotes self-respect, empowerment, social responsibility, academic achievement, and life skills for girls ages 12 to 18 who attend Little Rock schools.



LRPD Saving Our Sons (S.O.S.) - \$35,000

This program aims to empower young men in the Little Rock School District by fostering positive relationships with law enforcement, enhancing community engagement, developing essential life skills, and promoting academic success. The goal is to build a safer more unified community where every young man has the opportunity to realize his full potential.



Both programs utilize strong mentorship, educational support, and community partnership to achieve their goals.



In a remarkable year for SOS and GEMS, both programs demonstrated the growing demand for initiatives and opportunities that inspire and empower young people. 2024 participants actively engaged in four impactful community service projects, fostering a spirit of giving back and civic responsibility. Both programs average between 30-40 young men and women a session. This year's achievements reflect the transformative power of mentorship and community, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of youth served.



Community Partners & Stakeholders

Summer Playground Program - \$270,705

7,848 youth ages 6–15 participated in the Summer Playground Program a safe, engaging space for children during the summer months. PIT funding allowed the program to provide transportation, staffing, supplies, and access to enriching activities like swimming, skating, museum visits, and educational art programs. Free breakfast and lunch ensured that children from surrounding neighborhoods were well-fed while enjoying structured recreational opportunities. This long-standing program continues to be a vital resource for working families.



The Mayor's Youth Council - \$10,000

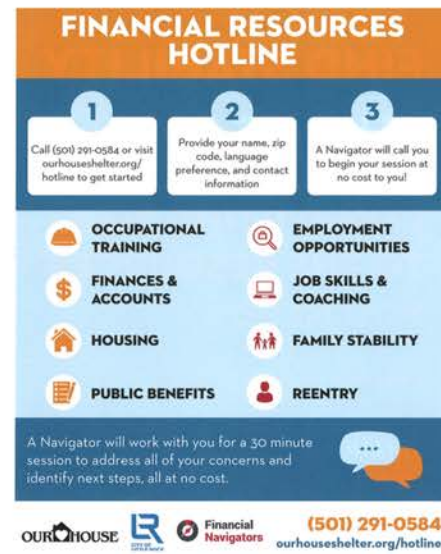
In summer 2024, six Mayor's Youth Council members were selected to represent Little Rock in a Sister Cities Youth Exchange with Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. To prepare, they attended four leadership sessions on local government, economic development, education, and culture.

During the trip, the students built friendships with Newcastle youth and served at The Bostey, a youth empowerment club. Through these connections, the Sister Cities Commission and Mayor's Youth Council advance Sister Cities International's mission: promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation—one individual and one community at a time.

Financial Resources Hotline - \$36,300

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

The hotline is free of cost and staffed by trained Navigators who will help callers understand and access the local, state, and federal resources available to them.



CALS Be Mighty Food Insecurity - \$100,000

Be Mighty Little Rock is a city-wide anti-hunger campaign aimed at connecting kids, teens, and families to free meals, cooking and nutrition education, food security resources, and opportunities to eat, play, and learn.



J.A. Fair K-8 Preparatory Academy After-School & Out-of-School Time Program - \$143,000

This program maintained an enrollment list of approximately ninety (90) students. Students receive homework assistance, reading assessment and assignment, math and science enrichment, health and nutrition activities, and positive reinforcement from staff.



City Year - \$125,000

City Year AmeriCorps members serve as student success coaches, tutors, and role models in LRSD schools that need additional capacity the most. Through their partnership with classroom teachers, student success coaches are providing 1:1 academic support and mentoring that create a sense of belonging, contributing to better academic performance and keeping our young people in school.





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