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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**
444 FLOWER STREET, 14TH FL
LOS ANGELES, CA 90071

April 22, 2025

Honorable Members of the
Budget and Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**SUBJECT: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT COMMENTS RELATIVE TO THE FISCAL YEAR
2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET OF MAYOR KAREN BASS**

Dear Honorable Members:

On behalf of the Youth Development Department (YDD), I truly appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The proposal reduces the YDD's budgeted positions by 47% and its overall budget by 31%, compared to the current fiscal year, as part of a larger effort to create long-term budget stability. The YDD remains grateful that the Mayor's budget proposal continues to fund several top-line core services, as described below:

- Continuation of Services, Blue Book Item No. 7, Evaluation, Data, and Project Management Services: Funding and regular authority for one (1) Senior Management Analyst I, 9171-1, and one (1) Data Analyst I, 1779-1, to coordinate the implementation of the Citywide Youth Development Strategic Plan, collect data and evaluate outcomes of City youth services, provide technical assistance and training to departments on strategic planning, data collection, and program evaluation, coordinate with other youth-serving regional government agencies, project manage special initiatives and pilot programs, and conduct research and interdepartmental studies.
- Continuation of Services, Blue Book Item No. 8, Community Engagement and Program Support Services: Funding and resolution authority for one (1) Community Services Representative, 9053, to respond to inquiries from the public and support the Olivia E. Mitchell L.A. City Youth Council. This position supplements continued base funding and regular authority for one (1) Community Affairs Advocate, 2496, and one (1) Human Relations Advocate, 9207, who provide critical Community Engagement and Program Support services in the department, including planning, coordinating, and implementing large-scale citywide events and activities that highlight City youth programs, and collaborating with City departments, local education agencies, regional, state and national partners, and youth civic leaders and coalitions.
- Continuation of Services, Blue Book Item No. 9, Youth Protection Services: Funding and resolution authority for one (1) Management Analyst, 9184, to develop and coordinate youth protection guidelines across departments to keep young people participating in City programs safe and secure, which also serves as a strategy to minimize exposure to liabilities.
- Base Services, Management and Administration Services: Base funding and regular authority for one (1) Senior Management Analyst I, 9171-1, one (1) Management Analyst, 9184, and one (1) Administrative Clerk, 1358, to provide administrative and managerial support to all staff of the Department.

The YDD has no offsets to offer. The proposed budget of \$1,579,688 for the Department has been significantly reduced, and only the following items remain: \$1,453,688 for direct salary costs, \$36,000 for office supplies and other minor expense account items, and \$90,000 for Youth Council stipends.

After carefully reviewing our most pressing needs to maintain the YDD's core services in the next fiscal year, I respectfully request that the Budget and Finance Committee consider the changes to the Budget Proposal outlined below. **Every existing YDD position, including the seven (7) currently filled positions proposed for elimination, provides services that are essential to the department's core work.** Yet, we understand that few departments are spared, and cuts are deemed necessary to address the City's critical financial situation. Therefore, the changes below are relatively modest modifications to the budget proposal that will have a significant positive impact on YDD, helping to restore critical capacity to the Department and enabling the full provision of core services.

1. **Restoration of one (1) Management Analyst, 9184**, in Evaluation, Data, and Project Management Services: To assist with the coordination of the Citywide Youth Development Strategic Plan. Implementing the Strategic plan is the number one priority in the Department's Ordinance No. 188308. The implementation involves providing coordination and technical assistance to more than 26 youth-serving City departments to complete over 100 projects and initiatives of the Strategic Plan. This work requires a dedicated Management Analyst who will serve as the day-to-day coordinator, given the extensive workload associated with implementing the plan. The direct salary cost of the Management Analyst is \$104,366.
2. **Restoration of one (1) Management Analyst, 9184**, in Program Support Services: To conduct youth engagement and referrals to City programs and services, organize youth-focused events in neighborhoods and schools in partnership with the City Council and other elected offices, and develop and facilitate training for City departments, youth, and youth-serving community organizations, including training on youth mental health, immigrant youth aid, and basic needs support for disconnected youth and system-involved young people. The direct salary cost of the Management Analyst is \$104,366.
3. **Restoration of one (1) Principal Public Relations Representative, 1786**: To manage public relations with the press, create youth-friendly and engaging social media content, administer public awareness campaigns to promote participation in underenrolled City youth programs, coordinate engagement with communication staff of elected officials and other City departments, and identify, track, and promote youth-specific grant opportunities within the YDD and across other youth-serving departments. The direct salary cost of the Principal Public Relations Representative is \$115,475.
4. **Add/delete to convert one (1) Senior Management Analyst, 9171-1, to one (1) Service Coordinator, 0883, in Blue Book Item No. 7**: The Service Coordinator is a more appropriate, comprehensive, and effective classification for overseeing the Department's Evaluation, Data, and Project Management Services, especially the oversight of the Citywide Youth Development Strategic Plan implementation. In Fiscal Years 2023-34 and 2024-25, the Senior Management Analyst position in the Department's Evaluation, Data, and Project Management Services section has been filled by a Service Coordinator through a substitute authority, and it has been an effective classification. The direct salary cost differential between a Senior Management Analyst and a Service Coordinator is \$173.

The combined direct salary cost of the priority budget changes 1 through 4 above totals \$324,380. Should the City's budget situation substantially improve during the budget process, the YDD also requests that the City consider the restoration of the remaining filled positions proposed for elimination: one (1) Management Analyst, 9184, and one (1) Communications Information Representative II, 1461-2, in Community Engagement and Program Support Services; one (1) Senior Management Analyst, 9171-1, and one (1) Administrative Clerk, 1358, in Youth Protection Services; and one (1) Management Analyst, 9184, in Management and Administration Services. The combined direct salary cost of restoring the remaining currently filled positions proposed for elimination is an additional \$467,940.

Furthermore, Exhibit H of the Proposed Budget also proposes consolidating human services from the YDD, Department of Aging, and Economic and Workforce Development within the Community Investment for Families Department. The YDD will continue to work tirelessly, remain focused, and provide high-quality core services, regardless of whether it operates as a standalone department or as part of a more extensive, consolidated department.

The Mayor's Proposed Budget, together with the changes proposed above for consideration, will maintain YDD's capacity to provide its core services and fulfill its ambitious departmental duties, as outlined in Ordinance No. 188308: These duties are to serve as the central information center for the public to access youth services in the City of Los Angeles; review and report on all youth-serving activities within all City departments, including the collection of programmatic information that is necessary to obtain baseline data about the quality of the City's youth development efforts; develop a road map for long-term youth program planning; coordinate with other City departments, regional agencies, and other providers of youth services to implement a Citywide Youth Development Strategic Plan; advise the Mayor and the City Council on the City youth program to ensure efficient use of City resources and the greatest return on investment; and provide necessary staffing for the Olivia E. Mitchell L.A. City Youth Council.

Thank you for considering this correspondence. I look forward to the YDD's budget hearing and to making myself available to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,



Lisa T. Salazar
Executive Director &
General Manager

LTS:rc

Attachment: FY 2025-26 Organizational Chart - Mayor's Proposed Budget

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



FY 2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF YDD
P076612
9226 0
Regular BN

LEGEND

RED = Eliminated
WHITE & GRAY = Continued
BLUE = Vacant

= Supervisor
 = Staff

