

# Invest in Youth Development. Now and for the future.

High quality youth programs have the power to transform lives and strengthen communities. **But only for those with access.**

In Washington state, there is little public funding for youth development programs. The impact is stark with significant racial and geographic disparities in who has access.

## Access for all

While youth development programs provide support and enrichment beyond the school day, many families cannot afford programming. Rural and high-poverty communities and communities of color do not have enough programs to meet the needs of their youth.

**For every 1 student in an  
afterschool program, there  
are 5 waiting to get into one.**

YOUTH PROGRAM ACCESS IN WASHINGTON STATE



## Healthy, thriving young people

Post-pandemic, Washington families, teachers, and youth workers continue to see overwhelming needs as youth struggle academically and with mental health.

Through mentorship, tutoring, and specially designed programming, youth development meets young people where they're at—physically, academically, and socially-emotionally.

## Strong communities

Youth development programs fill gaps and provide services and support outside of the traditional school day. Yet, nearly 50% of parents in Washington report there is no available afterschool program in their neighborhood.

Community-centered youth programs offer the extra time and structure needed to support children and families with safe, accessible, and culturally-responsive programming.

**"Being a teenager these days can be difficult. Not many people are asking how we are really doing and what they can do to help."**

2021 HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY PARTICIPANT

**"The Club being open meant I could continue working in essential work—helping aid food and housing insecurity. I was even able to get a promotion this June..."**

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB PARENT

# Youth Development 101

Youth programs reinforce the academic, social-emotional, and prevention goals of many state and local agencies. They are part of an upstream, holistic approach to building and maintaining support systems that invest early in the strengths of children and young people. However, there is no state infrastructure currently supporting the youth development field and its workforce. And both public/private funding streams are limited. Like any critical system, youth development requires resources, reliable data, and dedicated funding to continue delivering high-quality, equitable programming for Washington's youth.

## WHAT/WHERE

Youth development programs often take place outside the regular school day and include mentoring, expanded learning, and wrap-around support. You'll find these programs all over Washington, operating in community spaces, schools, parks, small businesses, faith institutions, on tribal lands, online, and more.

## WHO

From kindergarten through early adulthood, youth development focuses on children and young people, ages 5 to 24.

## HOW

Led by dedicated professionals, youth development is an intentional, strength-based approach that inclusively and equitably engages young people within their communities. It is culturally responsive, fosters positive relationships, and supports the development of skills and competencies that help young people reach the future they envision.



# Youth Development Programming Sectors



## Expanded learning

Expanded learning, which includes afterschool and summer enrichment and other out-of-school time programs, provides opportunities for youth to immerse themselves in a range of subjects and skill-building experiences they might not otherwise have access to.

- The Arts
- Leadership & Social Justice
- Physical Activity & Sports
- College Readiness
- Cultural Education
- STEM/Career Connected Learning & More!

## Mentoring

Mentoring provides one-on-one and group programs that help youth develop life skills. In addition to accelerating learning outside the classroom, these connections boost self-esteem and build confidence in young people.

- Time Management
- Self Advocacy
- Goal Setting
- Self Esteem
- Academic Success
- Health & Wellbeing
- Peer & Community Connection
- Life Skills & Financial Literacy & More!

## School-based wrap-around

School-based wrap-around focuses on assessing and meeting the social, emotional, and non-academic barriers of individual students—often in partnership with school leadership, staff, and other essential community-based service providers.

- Housing Support
- Health Services
- Mental Health Counseling
- Accessibility & Language Services
- Food Access
- Safety & Prevention & More!

## Invest in Youth Development.

Learn more at: [schoolsoutwashington.org/policyadvocacy](https://schoolsoutwashington.org/policyadvocacy)