

ONE
ALBUQUERQUE



Youth Connect



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
YOUTH CONNECT

State of the Summer Report

Highlighting key achievements and insights from
Albuquerque's youth summer programs.

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A Message from Mayor Keller

Dear One Albuquerque Families,

We believe in the promise of Albuquerque’s youth and their families. Youth Connect signifies more than just programs; it represents our commitment to building a brighter future for all our families.

Youth Connect experiences are thoughtfully crafted to empower, inspire, and enrich the lives of young individuals. Whether it’s through youth employment and educational opportunities, exciting summer adventures, or active community involvement, we continue to offer a diverse range of programming that fosters personal growth, learning, and pure enjoyment.

Albuquerque is a place that appreciates diversity, creativity, and resilience. Through Youth Connect, we are nurturing the talents, dreams, and aspirations of our young people because we genuinely recognize that their success is key to the city’s future.

We understand that achieving our goals takes a collective effort. Our dedicated staff, along with our invaluable network of partners, are instrumental in propelling

Above: Children at the Early Childhood Development Center.
Top: Mayor Timothy M. Keller at a Community Conversations events.
Left: Kids having fun at a local park.

us toward new milestones year after year. Together, we work hard to ensure these opportunities have a lasting, positive impact on our community.

The limitless potential of the youth in our city is one of the many reasons that we have a future worth fighting for.

In the spirit of Albuquerque,

TIMOTHY M. KELLER, MAYOR,
The City of Albuquerque

COURTESY OF CABQ



Above: Kids from Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center on a hike.

Left: The Youth Connect flower of influence. **Facing Page:** Local children learning the ins and outs of birding basics.

YOUTH CONNECT WEBSITE
 Have you taken advantage of the Youth Connect mobile site? It's your one-stop-shop for programs and events. Find City and non-city programs, online resources, activities, and more at yc.cabq.gov.

About Youth Connect

Albuquerque's Youth Connect is a city-wide initiative dedicated to empowering the city's young residents by offering them a wide range of resources and opportunities. This initiative unites dozens of city departments in a shared mission of supporting our youth through mentorship programs, educational support, job training, and access to vital services and programs.

Youth Connect is committed to nurturing personal development and fostering civic engagement among young people, equipping them with the skills necessary for success and thereby contributing to a brighter future for our city.

How to Stay Updated

Page 5 provides a comprehensive list of website information for all participating City of Albuquerque departments. We highly recommend exploring these websites for comprehensive information about our specialized programming. To stay up-to-date on Youth Connect events and programs, we invite you to subscribe to our quarterly digital newsletter, accessible on the Youth Connect website.

OUR MISSION

The mission of One Albuquerque "Youth Connect" is to enrich the lives of the people of Albuquerque and create a community of safety and inclusion by connecting Albuquerque's youth to opportunities in our city.

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CONTACT US

Youth Connect

CABQ.GOV/YOUTH-CONNECT

Youth Connect Mobile

YC.CABQ.GOV

Mayor's Office

CABQ.GOV/MAYOR

Department of Arts and Culture

CABQ.GOV/CULTURALSERVICES

Office of Equity and Inclusion

CABQ.GOV/OFFICE-OF-EQUITY-INCLUSION

Youth and Family

CABQ.GOV/FAMILY

Parks and Recreation Department

CABQ.GOV/PARKSANDRECREATION

Department of Senior Affairs

CABQ.GOV/MULTIGENYOUTH

Department of Technology and Innovation

CABQ.GOV/TECHNOLOGY-INNOVATION

Transit

CABQ.GOV/TRANSIT



About This Year's Report

Our Motivation

The Youth Connect Team serves as a shining representation of Albuquerque's unwavering dedication to becoming the best city for families. We embrace the responsibility of meeting the diverse needs of Albuquerque's families by offering a comprehensive range of programs and services, particularly during the summer months.

Our summer meal programs not only ensure that children and families have access to nutritious meals but also create a sense of community and togetherness. These programs go beyond simply nourishing bodies; they nourish the bonds that make Albuquerque a great place to call home.

Not just during the summer months, but all year long we understand the importance of safe and inclusive spaces. We take pride in working collaboratively with all city departments to ensure that every program we offer is not only enjoyable but also welcoming to all members of our diverse community. Inclusivity is not just a buzzword; it's a fundamental value that guides our efforts year after year.

Every year, we are filled with excitement and determination to reach new heights in serving Albuquerque's families. We believe that by creating a network of supportive programs and initiatives, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community where every family thrives. The emphasis of Youth Connect is to be a source of opportunity and support, and a testament to the enduring promise of our beloved city.

2024 Program Highlights

In 2024, Albuquerque made significant strides in areas that are crucial to the success and well-being of our community. From expanding access to essential services to enhancing public spaces, improving youth professional development opportunities, and supporting families in ensuring a strong start to the school year, our collective efforts have created a positive impact across the city.

Our summer programming and out-of-school initiatives have helped keep young people engaged, learning, and active, while also providing valuable resources for families.

These highlights by the numbers showcase the measurable progress we've made, reflecting our continued commitment to building a brighter, more connected future for all residents.

BY THE NUMBERS

318,025

Total Youth Attendance

1,090

Total Youth Employees

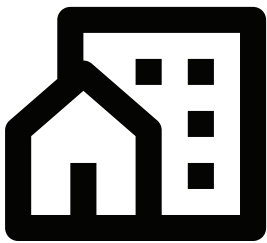
306

Total Sites

219,277

Total Meals Served to Youth

A NEW MULTIGENERATIONAL CENTER



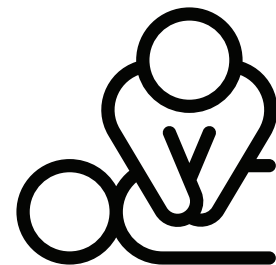
in the Santa Barbara-Martineztown neighborhood



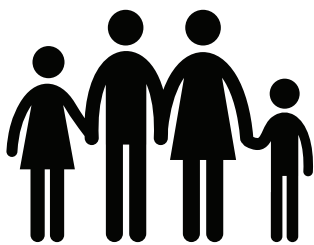
TRANSIT'S

Zero Fares Program remains a priority benefit for families.

HIRING HEROES

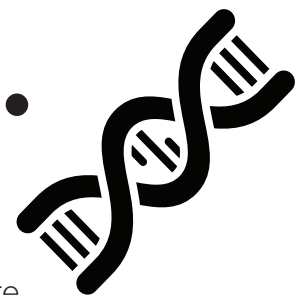


The staff at Sunport Pool saved a life by performing CPR on a patron in cardiac arrest.



Over 90 internal and external partnerships to enhance youth summer programs

S.T.E.A.M. Clubs



Engineering, Chemistry, Robotics) were added to summer programming at the Balloon Museum and Multigenerational Centers.



Left: First Lady and the Director of Youth & Family Katarina Sandoval read to children.

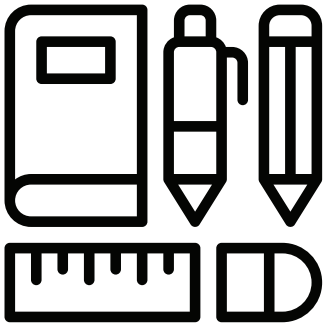
“

We know how crucial literacy is to the early development of our young children. It’s important for us to continue to invest in child development and create opportunities for us all to step up and support our youth.”

–First Lady Elizabeth Kistin Keller

725+

Over 700 youth signed the pledge of nonviolence this summer through the Albuquerque Community Safety Department’s school-based violence intervention program to help reduce youth violence.



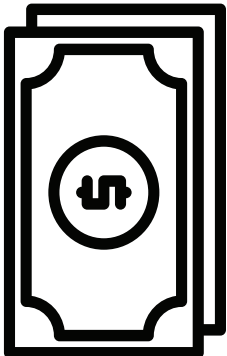
Cruzin’ Into the School Year provided 2,000 backpacks, 10,800 school supplies, and 800 haircut vouchers, expanding to two locations.



Over 165 Elementary and high school kids participated in APD’s Camp Fearless and Junior Academy.

129

The Junior Mentor Program (JMP) hired 129 interns who worked at 52 locations this summer, with total intern wages amounting to \$243,147.24.





Left: Albuquerque youth learn to rock climb.

Beyond the Playground

Our Programs

Youth Connect Programs break free from the confines of traditional playgrounds, extending to all interests and enthusiasms.

Regardless of one's age or preferences, our wide-ranging selection of over a hundred programs offered ensures that there's a perfect fit for everyone, catering to families, teenagers, and those who are young at heart. Here are some examples of our diverse programs that cater to a myriad of passions.

Kids Cook: Kids Cook was offered in 14 summer programs and taught kids the value of nutritional meals and empowered them to prepare and cook meals safely.

Nature in Your Neighborhood: Visited 11 community centers and showed kids what kind of nature and wildlife is in their own communities.

Farm in your Neighborhood: Collaborated with 8 community centers and taught kids ages 10-14 what kinds of produce grows in their communities.

Throwback Roller Skating: Throughout the summer, this program traveled to different summer programs to provide 1,494 youth the unique experience of roller skating with their friends at their summer programs.

Teen Nights: 273 Teenagers looking for a night out with friends enjoyed safe spaces with entertainment, and opportunities to socialize and be themselves.

Bike Rodeos: Young cycling enthusiasts honed their riding skills, learn about bike safety, and embraced the thrill of two-wheeled adventures through our Bike Rodeos.

Lowrider Bike Program: Twenty-six students designed and fabricated their own lowrider bicycles to keep while building relationships with local law enforcement and the lowrider community.

APD Camp Fearless: Camp fearless showed kids what it means to be a police officer and all the roles they play in our community. This camp created bonds with our officers that last a lifetime, teaching kids that behind the badge is just a regular person that wants the best for our community.

APD Junior Police Academy: Teens that joined to learned more about the careers that we offer. These students were interested in law enforcement and they used this opportunity to immerse themselves and ask questions about the day to day of officers and staff.

Music Classes: Youth were provided ukulele and piano classes at 14 community centers throughout the summer.

Teaching students' new songs while playing fun and interactive musical games.

Summer of Non-Violence: The Summer of Nonviolence was created as a strategic response from Albuquerque Community Safety and Bernalillo

County to combat the rise in violence during the summer months, aiming to foster a culture of peace and community cohesion.

Bank on Burque: Provided 2,000 backpacks to youth for the 8th Annual Cruzin' into the School Year event.

Lifeguards: Youth lifeguards provided CPR to a patron in cardiac arrest at the Sunport Pool.

New Splashpad: Westgate Community Center

Multi-Generational Programs through Senior Affairs: Hosted a series of programs and clubs based on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM) fitness, nutrition, fine arts and cultural anthropology through intergenerational day programming and events.

Balloon Museum: Created and added "Lighter Than Air Thursday's" - hands-on activities that demonstrate the principles of ballooning.

Mayor's Creative Youth Corps: Worked with 19 youth from 14 different high schools and over 40 adult mentors. The team wrote and directed original song and music video to promote youth City Jobs, and was able to film in the Mayor's Office.

Movies in the Park: Provided family fun at four different events this summer where families enjoyed movies and socialized with their communities.

World Largest Swimming Lesson: Over 105 participants with 32 instructors and volunteers.

Arts & Culture: Summer programming by the community events team entertained more than 150,000 people at low-cost/no-cost concerts and events. Overall, we hired 182 performers/groups for the summer from Old Town to Albuquerque Summerfest's to BioPark Music. With a variety of opportunities for families to enjoy, there was something for everyone.

Operation Cool Down: Helped families beat the heat this summer by activating sprinklers at 12 different parks on 3 different days when the temperatures reached highest levels.

Youth Perspectives

Staff, interns, and youth participants speak out

Each summer, City of Albuquerque ask staff and youth participants about their experience in city facilities. Here's what they have to say:

- "I enjoyed bringing nature to kids who may not have experienced a hike or walked through a sunflower field. Helping to be a part of their nature discovery is truly priceless."

—Open Space Visitor Center Intern

- "I feel like it helped kids learn many different life lessons they can carry on with them in the future. I liked meeting new people, getting to meet cool kids and just having fun."

—Westgate Community Center Intern

- "I had a great time this summer; I enjoyed every single day of it even though it was very hot. But I did enjoy meeting all the kids this summer and as well as the new staff. It was a great experience for me and helped me learn to become patient, kind, and understanding of how the kids acted. I also developed a bond with each them, learned who they are and what they liked to do get them comfortable with the environment."

—Tiana Wells, Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center Youth Staff

- "This summer was a fun way to get out and learn the different activities that can happen during the summer program. We did a lot of field trips, clubs, indoor activities and outdoor activities that made it more interesting and more exciting."

—Kaleb Whittington, Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center Youth Staff

- "I have been working at Manzano Mesa for the past 3 years and I have loved every single year. Working the summer program is the best. You get to have some of the best experiences with the kids and grow with them. Not only have I learned from the kids but they've learned from me."

—Joshua Zuniga, Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center Student Supervisor

- "These kids made my first year working in this program the best I could have asked for. I had so many new experiences and made so many great memories. I loved getting to help them learn and grow. I can't wait for next year!"

—Sophia Moskola, North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center Staff

- "I can't wait till I grow up and become a rec leader and then work my way to supervisor!"

—Jude G., Summer Program Participant

- This summer was so fun and I had a great experience with kids and staff and also being able to try new activities. Everyone was so friendly and I got along with everyone. We got to do a lot of cool activities and got to go on field trips."

—Sebastian Salas, Summer Program Participant



Left: Albuquerque youth staff playing basketball. **Facing Page:** Group of Summer participants, workers and volunteers.

Community Success in Youth Connect

Community feedback, the partners, the staff

The Feedback

Youth Connect Programs are dedicated to providing every child in our city with access to enjoyable, enriching summer activities. Accessibility and inclusion are the cornerstones of our programs, open to all youth, regardless of ability, ethnicity, language, economic status, or orientation. In the summer of 2024, our programs reached 123 locations across the city, including community and multigenerational centers, libraries, pools, museums, parks, open spaces, and even the BigPark. We experienced growth in program participation, serving a total of 42,294 young participants.

Connecting youth with every opportunity for success is paramount in Albuquerque. This summer the City partnered with Bernalillo County and brought the Summer of Non-Violence. As we create more spaces for youth to feel safe and be themselves, we want to teach them to create spaces of safety wherever they go.

We continue to pledge to deliver innovative and high-quality programming for all; we

actively seek input from parents to infuse fresh ideas into our offerings. Each year, surveys are distributed to parents and guardians upon the conclusion of the City's Summer Youth Programs. The consistent positive survey results, reflect satisfaction with our programs, staff, and safety measures, motivate Youth Connect to continuously enhance and expand opportunities for youth and families. These survey responses serve as valuable tools, offering insight and foresight for the years ahead.

Survey Results

- 73% were satisfied with their family's experience with the City's summer youth program

SURVEY RESULTS

78%

of Parents satisfied with their family's experience with summer youth program

80%

of Parents would recommend summer youth programs to other parents.

76%

of Parents said the program their child(ren) participated in had a positive impact



- 80% would recommend the City's summer youth program to other parents.
- 76% say that the program their child(ren) participated in had a positive impact on them
- 80% thought the cost they paid for the City summer youth program(s) was reasonable.

Through this summer's survey, 79% of families would like to see more youth program options from the City, which is why City staff work diligently every year to expand current programs, create new programs, and increase the awareness of the amazing City programs already in existence.

The Partners

Partnerships are essential for Youth Connect's citywide impact. This summer, we collaborated with over 150 partners to provide diverse activities such as arts, music, dance, swimming, and nature experiences. Providing youth with excellent services takes a massive team.

Youth Connect has created teams within departments as well as outside agencies. In these collaborations we provided hundreds of youth various Teen Nights throughout the summer as well as preparing them for the school year.

To conclude the summer, we were able to give out 2,000 backpacks, 10,880 school supplies and 800

haircut vouchers in two low-income areas of the city.

The Staff

Youth employment is a cornerstone of Youth Connect's mission to foster opportunities and instill life skills for future success. Our youth employees bring the City's summer youth programs to life; their dedication is integral to our success. During the past summer, our youth employees assumed diverse roles, serving as recreation leaders, lifeguards, cashiers, instructors for swim, tennis, and pickleball, clerical staff, maintenance personnel, and adventure leaders. Additionally, the Annual Youth Job Fair, which targets young workers aged 14-25, has been a resounding success, with over 900 enthusiastic attendees applying for positions across dozens of city departments, both seasonal and permanent, further demonstrating our commitment to empowering the next generation.

Beyond summer employment, the City hosted two highly successful internship programs: the Job Mentor Program (JMP) and the Mayor's Creative Youth Corps (MCYC). MCYC interns wrote and directed their own music video that they got to film in the Mayor's Office, really celebrating their creativity. These youth employment and internship opportunities offered by the City of Albuquerque not only empower our talented youth but also enrich and invigorate our city.

VOICES FROM THE MENTORS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR SPONSORS

Each summer, city staff step into mentorship roles, shaping the lives of young participants in our community's facilities. Here's what mentors from the Job Mentorship Program shared about their experiences guiding the next generation and building a brighter future for Albuquerque:

■ "I was very impressed with the young people that I worked with; they have a great ability to adapt to the job and learn so quickly. I would continue to support this program due to the outstanding work that the students did. I also would like to mention that both students have good communication skills with management which is a great plus in this fast-moving environment. Job Mentor Program is a wonderful start for young people and a great tool to recruit for future employees for the City."

-North Valley Senior Center

■ "We always have an excellent experience with the [Job Mentorship Program]. This year, we had 5, which concerned us a little AT FIRST, but I would GLADLY take that many again. We were able to settle in pretty quickly and provide a wide variety of tasks, from customer service to data entry to artistic projects. I hope the interns enjoyed the experience as much as we enjoyed having them."

-South Valley Library



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