

# New Orleans Youth Master Plan: 2020 - 2030

## Plan Summary

*This is an abridged report. Go to [nolayoutmasterplan.org](https://nolayoutmasterplan.org) for detailed reports from each phase of planning.*



**Updated December 2022**

# An Introduction to the Plan

## What is the Youth Master Plan?

The Youth Master Plan (YMP) is a 10-year plan for improving the lives of children and youth of New Orleans. This plan was built with the voices of experts: community and youth who are experts in their lived experience, and sector leaders who are experts in how to get work done in their respective fields.

The plan establishes ambitious 2- and 10-year targets for improved outcomes across all aspects of young people's lives, supported by a set of 30 interconnected solutions rooted in youth and community wisdom and best practices in Positive Youth Development. It is a roadmap for breaking cycles of disinvestment and disrupting the false narratives that reinforce them. The Youth Master Plan seeks to ensure the children and youth of New Orleans have lives filled with positive experiences and healthy relationships.



## Why do we need a Youth Master Plan?

Across the city, there are hundreds of organizations working to improve the lives of young people. But often their efforts are stymied by lack of resources and lack of coordination. With this plan, we are leveraging coordination processes to catalyze resources and investment in youth. As a community, we are calling on our city's institutions to work together in this collaboration to uplift the plan's vision, advance the solutions, and drive real action for all of our city's youth.

The children and youth of New Orleans deserve lives filled with positive experiences and healthy relationships simply because they are our children and youth, worthy of our collective best.

That is the only way we can ensure the full self-expression, leadership, creativity, and culture of all children and youth comes together to create a true community where everyone succeeds.



## What is in the plan?

The Youth Master Plan lays out 30 solutions within 6 Youth Master Plan (YMP) areas and centers on 5 developmental stages from birth to 24.

15 of the 30 solutions were identified as the necessary foundation for change - prioritized for launch in the first 2 years of the plan.

For each of these 15 solutions, the plan includes clear accountability approaches: action steps, timelines, and accountability with owners to drive the work forward.



6 Youth Master Plan Areas

**30** total solutions over 10 year plan

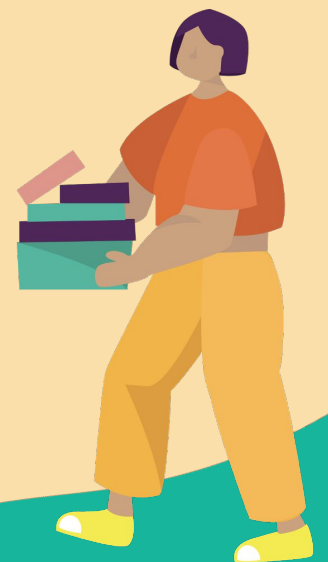
**15** solutions prioritized for 2022 launch of implementation

# Youth Master Plan Goals & Solutions

## 2020 - 2030

Pages 4-6 include all 30 solutions within the 10 year plan.

\*\*The 15 solutions prioritized to launch in the first 2 years of the plan are indicated with two asterisks.



## OUR GOALS

- Decreased % of young people experiencing exposure to violence, symptoms of depression, substance abuse, PTSD and anxiety, and suicidal ideation

## OUR SOLUTIONS

- **HWB1 | Ensuring Sufficient Services for New Parents\*\*** | Ensure the provision of long-term services for new and/or young parents (i.e. home-visiting programs, parent support groups) by promoting existing programs and investing in additional supports.
- **HWB2 | Caregiver Mental Health** | Create and distribute information that supports caregiver's access to emotional/ mental health and wellness resources/services. This includes increasing awareness of what good emotional/mental health and wellness looks like; how to access and sustain care for themselves and their families.
- **HWB3 | Trainings on Youth Safety & Agency** | Provide trainings tailored to young people and adults on how to support youth safety and well-being by enhancing a child's agency to speak their truth — particularly when their safety is threatened — across home, school, and community settings.
- **HWB4 | Trainings on Healing-Centered Practices** | Provide training for all adults engaged in youth-serving programs on how to best support young people who may experience emotional/ behavioral/ mental health challenges.
- **HWB5 | Cultural Competence in Healthcare\*\*** | Create criteria to gauge the cultural competence of behavioral and physical healthcare systems, as well as how systems incorporate youth and families' agency and voice.



## OUR GOALS

- Increased % of households aware of and able to access community services within 1 mile of their home
- Increased % of households that can access youth-centered spaces with programming and high capacity transit lines in 15 minutes or less via bike or foot

## OUR SOLUTIONS

- **SP1 | Safe and Active Neighborhood Mobility Options\*\*** | Improve and maintain safe and active mobility options in all neighborhoods, as determined by the residents, to ensure connectivity to essential services (food, healthcare) and social infrastructure (parks, playgrounds, libraries).
- **SP2 | Youth Voice in the Built Environment** | Ensure all neighborhoods are shaped by youth voice in the creation of beautiful spaces & places where young people can live, play, learn, explore, and create community.
- **SP3 | Affordable, Youth-Friendly Transportation\*\*** | Ensure the public transit system encompasses the entire New Orleans metro area, and is safe, and lower-cost or free to youth.
- **SP4 | Social Infrastructure Investments** | Invest in social infrastructure—libraries, community centers and other gathering spaces—that are easily accessed from every neighborhood, equipped with programs and on-site youth services that are staffed by trained people who are paid a living wage.
- **SP5 | Community-Based Mentorship** | Activate community spaces with relationship-based mentorship models, where volunteers are supported with the training and tools needed to succeed.

## OUR GOALS

- Increased levels of positive student engagement
- Increased % of young people who are connected to learning and career pathways

## OUR SOLUTIONS

- **L1 | Early Childhood Awareness** | Recognize and broaden community wisdom around the importance of brain development in the first three years of life through public awareness campaigns and policy efforts.
- **L2 | Youth Development Training** | Train educators, caregivers, parents, and the youth development workforce on how to identify, understand, and respond to challenging age-appropriate behavior in ways that redirect with care, build resilience, and are learner-centered.
- **L3 | Non-punitive, Supportive School Cultures\*\*** | Address the punitive school culture by removing law enforcement officers and increasing the capacity for schools to support mental and behavioral health needs of students. Schools should be resourced to build a culture that leads and guides students with positive behavior interventions and support.
- **L4 | Student Voice in School Experience\*\*** | Engage young people in instructional design to increase youth agency in shaping learning and power-sharing with adults, such as through anonymous student-led teacher evaluation processes and greater access to administration.
- **L5 | Curriculum Enhancement** | Expand New Orleans Public Schools curriculum to include:
  - Social emotional learning (e.g. problem solving skills, building community with teams, practicing mindfulness)
  - Practical skill-building (e.g. financial management, resume building)
- **L6 | Learning & Enrichment Funding\*\*** | Increase funding for learning and enrichment that falls outside of K-12 system, including early childhood education, out-of-school-time programming, and college / credential / career preparation programming.



## OUR GOALS

- Decreased % of families who live at or below the ALICE threshold, through an increase in wages
- Increased % of young people who are connected to learning and career pathways

## OUR SOLUTIONS

- **ES1 | Advocacy for Increased Minimum Wage\*\*** | Advocate for increased minimum wage with equitable benefits as part of a coordinated effort in partnership with the City and other policy-makers at the State level.
- **ES2 | Early Exposure to Career Options & Training\*\*** | Expose young people to career and technical education opportunities that increase their awareness of post-high school career pathways, and provide them the training and relationships needed to make an informed choice between viable post-graduation options.
- **ES3 | Workforce Training** | Improve existing and develop new workforce development training programs focusing on New Orleans' new and growing economic sectors, and in collaboration with the State. Economic sectors may include technology, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, film & TV, etc.
- **ES4 | Community-Based Job Training Sites** | Leverage highly visible and accessible community spaces (e.g. libraries, recreation centers) as job training sites for young people and their families, with the goal of fostering skill building and job readiness.

## OUR GOALS

- Decreased # of young people who enter, and return to, the criminal justice system, with a focus on addressing equity and racial disparities
- Decreased # of young people who have experienced abuse or neglect
- Decreased % of young people experiencing exposure to violence, symptoms of depression, substance abuse, PTSD and anxiety, and suicidal ideation

## OUR SOLUTIONS

- **SJ1 | Culturally Appropriate Prevention Approaches** | Invest in preventive interventions that are culturally appropriate, evidence-based, and designed to promote healing, prosocial behavior, and the development of healthy coping skills in young people.
- **SJ2 | Restorative Justice Approaches** | Expand utilization of restorative approaches across all systems (schools, community programs, detention, etc) to include everyone impacted by conflict, crime, and violence, and reduce youth involvement with detention centers and the adult criminal justice system.
- **SJ3 | Juvenile Justice Agenda** | Define and advance a clear juvenile justice advocacy agenda, including but not limited to restorative justice (including trauma-informed care), safe housing, decarceration / reentry, supportive family involvement, and drug courts geared to the young adult population.
- **SJ4 | Positive Behavior Interventions** | Adopt developmentally appropriate positive behavior interventions that are healing- centered, focusing on compassion and resilience, throughout community programs, schools, the juvenile justice system, and other settings.
- **SJ5 | Caregiver Support Network** | Coordinate a network of support for families that provides physically and emotionally safe spaces for caregivers to talk about challenges and victories of raising a family and use the principles of adult-learning, family support, and resource-sharing.



## OUR GOALS

- Increase the opportunities for youth participation and leadership in boards, committees, commissions, and planning efforts across the city
- Increase the collective awareness of and value for supporting our young people's development of agency and identity

## OUR SOLUTIONS

- **YV1 | Youth Development Public Awareness Campaign\*\*** | Recognize and broaden community wisdom around all youth developmental stages and milestones, with a focus on agency and identity, through a public awareness campaign.
- **YV2 | Youth Civics Education\*\*** | Provide young people with the civics education and support necessary to successfully engage in decision-making and advocacy spaces and places. Emphasize opportunities for leadership, sharing power with adults, and peer-to-peer organizing.
- **YV3 | Expanding Youth Decision Making Opportunities\*\*** | Expand meaningful opportunities for youth to be involved in existing decision-making and advocacy bodies across all public systems and within the nonprofit sector.
- **YV4 | Inclusive Youth Leadership Outreach** | Ensure that opportunities for youth leadership and voice are available to all. Utilize intentional outreach to broaden the diversity, equity, and inclusion of youth participation.

# Our Approach & How to Get Involved



# Our Approach

## AMPLIFIER OF YOUTH POWER

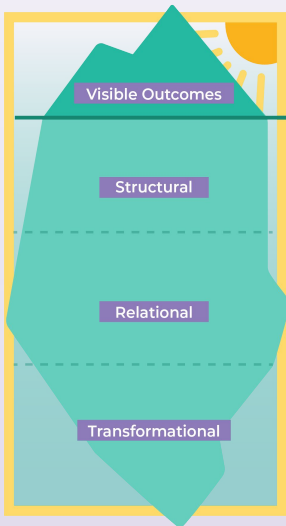
This plan is about galvanizing the community around young people's needs, and activating our collective power as a community to elevate the voices of young people and achieve their vision.

**Youth Vision** – New Orleans is a city where the full self-expression, leadership, creativity, and culture of all children and youth comes together to create a true community where everyone succeeds.

## NETWORK FOR COORDINATION

The work outlined in the plan are far from the only work underway in the city supporting and improving the lives of children and youth. We uplift and we celebrate this important work, work with what exists, and lift up other work that is happening across the city. In addition, we invite organizations to see where their effort intersects and join in.

Though it is organized into six areas, the planning process and implementation is designed to avoid siloed implementation, and seeks to demonstrate and elevate the interconnectedness of the challenges our youth face and the corresponding solutions.



## STRATEGIC, LONG-TERM MINDSET

The plan explicitly aims to shift the structural dynamics and embedded beliefs that stand in the way of youth success. At the same time, the plan is flexible enough to focus on the emerging needs of the current environment, whether that be public safety or youth educational achievement.

Movement towards the plan's goals will require widespread investments and interventions, likely beyond the solutions outlined in this plan. The solutions offer multi-pronged approaches to affect movement towards the plan's goals; however, they don't move singularly. If we are able to coordinate and invest in the solutions outlined here, we expect to see the results reflected in our indicators. Through this collective effort, we seek to build our coordination muscles so that we can continue to advance and deliver in support of our vision and plan.

## HUB FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

The Youth Master Plan serves as a coordinated point of accountability where policymakers, youth-serving organizations, and residents of New Orleans can look at our collective progress on key indicators that impact young people, and see whether the way we are investing across areas of public interest are successful. Through our online tool for monitoring plan progress you can see how the goals in each of the six YMP areas have been mapped to indicators with 2-year and 10-year targets. You can find the Youth Master Plan Clear Impact dashboard at [nolayouthmasterplan.org/scorecard](https://nolayouthmasterplan.org/scorecard).





# Get Involved!

The **NEW ORLEANS YOUTH MASTER PLAN** is a collaborative effort across 10 years, and it belongs to the entire community. Its development, implementation, and administration is supported in partnership by the New Orleans Children & Youth Planning Board (CYPB), the Mayor's Office of Youth and Families (OYF), and the New Orleans Youth Alliance (NOYA).



## THE SUCCESS OF THE PLAN DEPENDS ON YOU!

We're counting on people from all over the city and across sectors to make this plan a success...

**Lift up the positive narrative of New Orleans youth** – their words and vision can be realized with our help; start by speaking in, challenge the negative, false narrative wherever you can!



**Invest in existing youth programming, services, resources, & opportunities** – leverage current investments and participate in developing new, innovative resource development strategies



**Become an ambassador of the Youth Master Plan** – read the plan, identify where your interests align across sector and / or organization and say so both publicly, privately, and through demonstrated actions



**Spread the word!** We know that we can make an impact on young people in our community, but we need all hands on deck to get this done. Share this plan and multiply your impact by telling your friends and councilmember, too!

