

# POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

*A review of progress and a spotlight on the PYD Fund*

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*Education and Human Services Standing Committee*

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# Agenda and Objective

1. Definitions
2. Positive Youth Development in Action
3. How We Got Here
4. Data Trends
5. Opportunities
6. Spotlight: NextUp and the Positive Youth Development Fund
7. Questions?

# Positive Youth Development (PYD) Definitions

"PYD is just positive experiences in positive places with positive people."

- Torey Edmonds

# PYD Definitions: PYD as a Framework

"An intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their families, peer groups, schools, organizations and communities in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances youth's strengths and assets; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths"

- Interagency Working Group for Youth Programs

# PYD Definitions

## Positive youth development as a framework informs these strategies:

- **Prevention:** Efforts that promote CDC-identified protective factors like positive relationships with peers and adults, long-term planning, school attendance, and other life skills (OCF + partners)
  - **Out-of-school time (OST):** Formal and informal programming that occurs outside of the school day, including afterschool, weekend, and summer
    - Mental and physical health, supportive services, benefits navigation, etc.
- **Diversion:** Activities that hold youth accountable in less restrictive ways, like community programs (Court Service Unit and Department of Justice Services)
- **Intervention:** Formal involvement with juvenile courts (CSU and DJS)

# Examples of PYD in Action

- No and low-cost afterschool programs at every elementary and zone middle school in RPS administered by PRCF, YMCA, and the Middle School Alliance (BGCMR, YMCA, and NextUp, plus providers)
- Low-cost, full-service PRCF summer camp and RPS summer school
- We Matter RVA at community centers with in-school support in service of identified students at MLK, Boushall, and River City Middle Schools
- SCAN, ChildSavers, and Challenge Discovery Projects supporting children's mental health
- Communities in Schools connecting identified families with services and benefits
- Office of Children and Families providing support and air traffic control to promote alignment, communication, and collaboration

# PYD in Action: Spotlight on PYD Fund

## School Year 2025-2026 and Summer 2026 Program Providers

Anna Julia Cooper School	Girls For A Change	Maymont Foundation	Shizzy Cutz, LLC
ART 180	Girls in Gear	New Life Community Center Nonprofit	Street Smartz Over Safety, LLC
BareSoul Wellness	Greater Richmond Fit4Kids	Nu Collar Solutions	Supreme Talent
Blue Sky Fund	Groundwork RVA	Podium RVA	The Academy
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond	Heart of Virginia BSA	Precision RVA, Inc.	Unbreakable Minds Coaching
Broken Men Foundation	Higher Achievement Program, Inc.	R.E.A.L Girlz	Virginia Outside
Challenge Discovery Projects	Hines Foundation Inc.	Resilient Nation	Virginia University Preparatory
Cory Alexander Basketball School, LLC	International Rescue Committee, Inc.	Richmond Hill, Inc.	VOWS Foundation
Culturecated Educational Services	Just C, Inc	Rise Richmond	World Fitness Dance Academy, LLC
East End Renaissance Council	Kidz R Cookin, LLC	S.E.E.D. Sports Performance, LLC	Youth Braid and Business Academy
Foundation for Art & Health, Inc.	KR Scholars	Save Me, LLC	
	L.O.C.A.L. Adventures RVA	Sew What Kidz	

# How We Got Here

2010–2012

Richmond's focus on OST; launch of NextUp RVA as Middle School Renaissance 2020

2013–2016

Maggie Walker Commission and the establishment of OCWB

2017–present

Dedicated focus on and investments in RPS and OST

2018–present

Engagement with VCU's Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development

2021

GVP Workgroup Recommendations, launch of OCF, and pilot of We Matter

2022

Pilot of Positive Youth Development Fund with ARPA funding



# Data Trends

## More students are attending and completing school

Richmond outpaced peer divisions in reducing chronic absenteeism post-pandemic

- 25.3% (2022-23) → 20.5% in (2024-25)

2024 Graduation rate of 80.1% is highest in eight years

- 84% among Economically Disadvantaged students (18 year high)
- 88% among Black students (18 year high)

# Data Trends

## 2017 – 2024: Fewer youth participating in violent activity

45%

reduction in number  
of youth shot

38%

fewer youth involved  
in violent incidents

# Opportunities

- Implementation of comprehensive program evaluation and quality improvement
- Targeted, multigenerational support to children transitioning from Richmond Success Academy or incarceration and their families
- Evaluation of Medicaid as potential revenue source to cover QMHP costs

# NextUp and the Positive Youth Development Fund

- CEO: Traymanesha Lamy, Ph.D.
- Additional engagements with the City of Richmond
  - Middle School Alliance ("Core Model")
  - Safer Communities
  - Human Services Summit



# **Positive Youth Development Fund**

Managed by NextUp

# **NextUp's Role as the OST Intermediary**



**Rigorous provider vetting and approval**



**Contracting, budget review, and compliance setup**



**Data tracking, collection, analysis, and reporting**



**On-site monitoring and quality assurance**



**Fiscal accountability and invoice verification**



**Professional development and technical assistance**

# **Rigorous Provider Vetting Process**



**Community volunteer  
review committee**



**Assessment of fiscal  
responsibility and  
organizational readiness**



**Alignment with youth  
development priorities**



**Approval by Advisory  
Committee and Board**

# As an OST Intermediary, NextUp provides:

## Contracting and Compliance

- Contract drafting and negotiation
- Budget review to align with allowable costs
- Verification of insurance, policies, background checks, and safety plans
- Invoice review and payment related to deliverables

## Data Tracking & Accountability

- NEXIS/Cityspan enrollment and attendance tracking
- Provider performance dashboards
- SAYO-Y pre/post surveys
- Mid-cycle and end-of-year outcome reporting

## Monitoring and Compliance

- Site visits during programming
- Verification of safety, staffing, and program quality
- Review of invoices against deliverables
- Funding is released only when requirements are met

## Professional Development & Technical Assistance

- Training on data, evaluation, and grant readiness
- SEL and youth development best practices
- Hands-on technical assistance for grassroots providers
- Continuous coaching throughout the grantcycle



# Outcome Data (Since 2022)

- **1,000+ youth served** across summer and school-year cycles each year
- **40+ organizations funded** representing diverse neighborhoods and program types each year
- Approximately 70% of youth live in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT)
- SAYO-Y Highlights:
  - Youth report feeling safe and welcomed
  - Youth show improvement in communication and confidence
  - Youth report stronger connection to peers and adults



# Lessons Learned

## Successes

### Strengthened Provider Network

- Mix of grassroots and mid-sized organizations supported.
- Quality and accountability strengthened through NextUp's vetting, monitoring, and data systems.

### Robust Accountability & Support

- Enrollment, attendance, and outcome tracking via NEXIS/Cityspan.
- On-site monitoring ensures safety and program fidelity.
- Free professional development, training, and technical assistance for providers.

### Strong Youth Outcomes

- High enjoyment, belonging, and SEL gains (SAYO-Y).

## Challenges

### Funding Limitations

- Funding levels have remained flat while provider costs have increased.
- Strong programs often receive reduced awards due to limited funds.

### Provider Capacity Strains

- Administrative, data, and compliance requirements stretch small nonprofits.
- Staffing shortages and rising operational costs (insurance, transportation) create barriers.



# Questions?



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