

PREPARING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

All youth in Seattle successfully transition to adulthood.



Mayor Bruce Harrell joined SYEP interns for the End of Internship Celebration on August 22, 2024.

HSD's Youth and Family Empowerment (YFE) division served more than **2,600 youth and young adults across 48 contracts** in Seattle in 2024. More than half (1,479) of these young people were 14 to 17 years old, demonstrating the need for early engagement and support as they prepare for the next stages in life.

In the 2023-24 program year (October 2023-August 2024), **293 youth** completed skills development in paid opportunities through the Seattle Youth Employment Program (SYEP), including the Learn & Earn and summer internship programs.

During the summer internship, **268 young people** earned a paycheck and valuable on-the-job training through placements with **77 employers** including City departments, King County and dozens of businesses and nonprofit organizations. In mid-August, SYEP interns, supervisors, program staff,

SEATTLE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

and family members celebrated the end of the six-week summer program, highlighting individual achievements by interns.

2024 AT A GLANCE

- **2,671** people were served by Family Support Programs helping to connect to each other and community, and to celebrate unique aspects of their culture.
- **293** youth completed paid skills development opportunities through the Seattle Youth Employment Program.
- Successful SYEP placements **have increased each year** since 2021-22.

Participants in the Learn & Earn: Foundations and Pathways programs identify professional interests, gain marketable skills, and are exposed to various career fields. They also learn interview skills, resume preparation, and cover letter writing. Students can receive stipends based on their participation during the school year.

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Youth mental health was prioritized by the City in 2024. In partnership with the Department of Education and Early Learning, Human Services increased funding to **Joon Care**, an online youth therapy platform shown to reduce anxiety and depression and give young people the practical tools they need to manage stress. (Joon Care therapists, staffers and student advisors are pictured at top right.) Throughout the year, **178 youth** were served by this platform.



In July, SYEP interns gathered for a cohort session that focused on mental health, conflict resolution and active listening and included a panel discussion with representatives from three mental health/behavioral health service providers. Later in the summer, SYEP social media intern Kellz Seamster hosted other interns in a conversation about mental health recorded in the Seattle Channel studio. ([See the video here.](#)) In the discussion, fellow SYEP interns and HSD staff shared their stories and destigmatized the idea of asking for support for mental health.

Through HSD’s **Behavioral Health** portfolio, eight partners, including Neighborcare Health and Atlantic Street Center, provided clinical and nonclinical supports to **565 youth ages 8-24** in low-income households. Services aim to lessen social, emotional, and behavioral issues by increasing coping strategies. Participants can receive individual and group counseling, school-year and summer supports, and virtual sessions. Half of the participants (286) reported increased confidence in accessing additional services when dealing with life challenges.

HSD’s **Family Support** portfolio centers meaningful family connection and culturally specific services. HSD’s theory of change states that for children, strong ties to culture build resilience and improve educational and life outcomes; parents with positive racial identity are more likely to practice culturally affirming parenting. In Voices of Tomorrow’s Community-Centered Healing Program, families reported having access to better tools to address school stress and requested longer sessions. In 2024, **22 contracts supported more than 2,800 people.**

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: IN THEIR WORDS



The Atlantic Street Center supports diverse in-need families and youth. Its programs encompass behavioral health, early learning opportunities, after-school assistance, family support groups, and more.

“Through our partnership with HSD, we can meet young people literally where they are and provide them opportunities to learn useful social-emotional skills that center around their interests.”