

Mayor Timothy M. Keller

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Office of the Mayor

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

October 9, 2025

TO: Brook Bassan, President, City Council

FROM: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



SUBJECT: Child Friendly Community Action Plan

In May of 2025, the Albuquerque City Council passed Resolution R-24-80, introduced by Councilor Klarissa Pena, directing the Administration to create a Child-Friendly Community Action Plan. This *Child Friendly Community Action Plan October 2025* is an update on the creation of the Child Well-Being Impact Officer position and the work the Officer has been doing and plans to do to support youth programs across the city, which includes continuing the work of citywide cross-departmental youth programming as well as coordinating the City's youth programs with those of Bernalillo County, Albuquerque Public Schools, the New Mexico Public Education Department, and local non-profit organizations.

The *Child Friendly Community Action Plan October 2025* is an updated comprehensive youth-centered framework designed to guide policy and investment that incorporates UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative and expands the work that supports our youth.

Child Friendly Community Action Plan

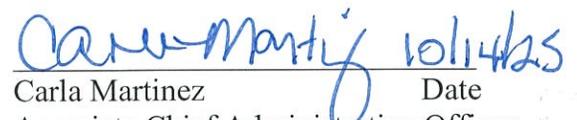
Approved:


Samantha Sengel, EdD Date
Chief Administrative Officer

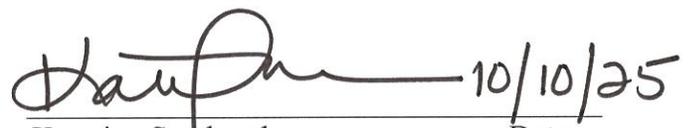
Approved as to Legal Form:


Lauren Keefe Date
City Attorney

Recommended:


Carla Martinez Date
Associate Chief Administrative Officer

Recommended:


Katarina Sardoval Date
Child Well-Being Impact Officer

Cover Analysis

1. What is it?

The *October 2025 Child Friendly Community Action Plan* is an update on the work and plans to grow, coordinate and support youth programs across the city. This includes continuing the work of citywide cross-departmental youth programming as well as coordinating the City's youth programs with those of Bernalillo County, Albuquerque Public Schools, the New Mexico Public Education Department, and local non-profit organizations. This Work is led by the newly created Child Well-Being Impact Officer to ensure the prioritization and alignment of this work across City Departments and partners.

2. What will this piece of legislation do?

It directs the City to implement a comprehensive, cross-departmental approach to youth services, ensuring ongoing collaboration and increased youth participation.

3. Why is this project needed?

This plan is required by R-24-80.

4. How much will it cost and what is the funding source?

Implementation of this plan will occur within existing departmental appropriations.

5. Is there a revenue source associated with this contract? If so, what level of income is projected?

There is no revenue associated with this plan.

6. What will happen if the project is not approved?

The implementation of R-24-80 will continue even if this report is not approved.

7. Is this service already provided by another entity?

No other entity provides this level of coordinated, citywide youth programming and policy integration; while many partners contribute, this plan centralizes efforts.

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The Child-Friendly Action Plan

This report provides an update on the Child Friendly Action Plan. This initiative is a priority for the City and has led to the creation of the Child Well-Being Impact Officer role, established to collaborate across City departments, other government agencies and non-profit organizations.

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OCTOBER 2025

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Introduction

In Oct. of 2024, the Albuquerque City Council passed Resolution R-24-80, introduced by Councilor Klarissa Peña, directing the Administration to create a Child-Friendly Community Action Plan.

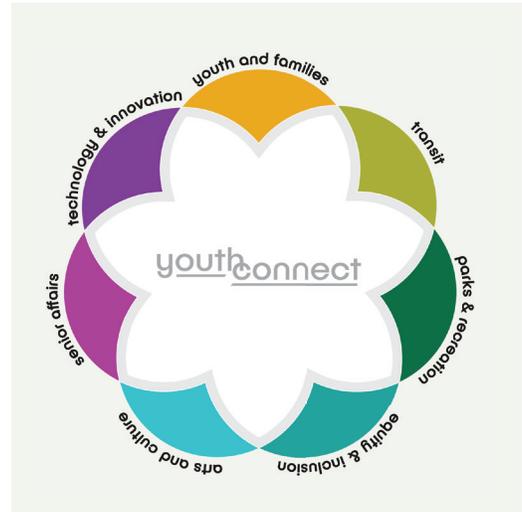
This legislation was born out of a shared recognition that Albuquerque’s future success depends on ensuring every child has access to opportunity, support, and a safe environment. The resolution underscores a citywide commitment to developing policies that prioritize the best interests of young people.

Specifically, the legislation calls for a collaborative and sustained effort to prioritize key pillars of youth well-being: safety, inclusion, equitable services, child participation, and play and leisure. By adopting this approach, the City of Albuquerque acknowledges that investing in youth is essential to long-term civic prosperity, social cohesion, and economic resilience.

To fulfill this vision, the City Administration has created the Child Well-Being Impact Officer position to ensure that this Resolution is implemented.

Above: Basketball is a part of YFSD summer and school year programming.

This report provides an update on the work the Officer has been doing and plans to do, which includes continuing the work of citywide, cross-departmental youth programming as well as coordinating the City’s youth programs with those of Bernalillo County, Albuquerque Public Schools, the New Mexico Public Education Department, and local non-profit organizations.



Youth Connect

Led by the Youth and Family Services Department, Youth Connect brings City departments together to coordinate efforts and make youth programs more accessible, inclusive, and connected—from summer camps and job training to outdoor adventures and therapeutic recreation.

The Child Well-Being Impact Officer is working with Youth Connect to continue to engage youth voice in the development of youth programs.

For example, we plan to administer a feedback survey to all of our youth employees asking about their summer work experience and requesting their ideas to improve.

Left: Children at one of the City’s many parks. **Top:** The City’s Youth Connect emblem of influence. **Bottom:** Youth dancers at the 2024 State of the City.

In July of 2026, we will administer this feedback survey to hundreds of our summer youth employees, with department-specific questions that Directors will help us develop.

Youth Connect also creates and distributes quarterly newsletters as well as the annual State of the Summer Report, a consolidated report on all City summer youth programs.



Kids' Cabinet

The City of Albuquerque maintains strong partnerships with a variety of organizations and individuals, including Albuquerque Public Schools, ABC Community Schools, the State of New Mexico Public Education Department, Bernalillo County, and a variety of non-profit organizations.

For example, every two weeks the Child Well-Being Impact Officer along with various administrators and managers of the City of Albuquerque meet with the Deputy Superintendent and other leaders of Albuquerque Public Schools to discuss youth programs, problem solve any logistical issues, and develop innovative initiatives to best meet the needs of our youth and families.

An example here includes the collaborative work our Office of Equity and Inclusion is doing with APS Police to develop an emergency action plan in the event ICE agents arrive on a school campus. The City of Albuquerque works to support Albuquerque Public Schools so that all

Left: CABQ Staff helping youth develop computer skills. **Top:** Teen Employee participating in the Westgate Block Party and Car Show. **Bottom:** Youth meal distribution.

youth have consistent access to public education. Another example of this collaborative work involves the City of Albuquerque, Albuquerque Public Schools, and the New Mexico Public Education Department.

We are beginning the process of developing an elective work-study high school credit for our year-round employees.



Left: Staff distribute youth meals at a local community center.

Above: Emblem of Teen Connect.

Teen Connect

The City of Albuquerque’s Teen Connect is a cross-departmental initiative designed to strengthen youth safety, expand opportunity, and build clear pathways from classrooms to careers. Teen Connect brings together City programs, schools, community partners, and families to reduce violence, expand access to safe spaces, and invest in young people’s futures.

School-Based Violence Intervention Program

Our Albuquerque Community Safety Department launched this program in partnership with Young Adult Court and youth-based community organizations. Part of the work of the Child Well-Being Impact Officer is to support this program so that it expands to more high schools across the city.

At the beginning of this 2025-26 school year, over 81 students and their families are participating, supporting our youth at highest risk of engaging in cycles of violence and substance use. Results are already being delivered, with 5 of 6 seniors graduating from last year’s class, an 83% reduction in major offenses, and half a grade-point average increase to GPAs. This is up from one graduating senior the prior year.

The Albuquerque Community Safety Department, drawing upon the School-Based Violence Intervention Program, is also launching the

Seasons of Non-Violence which hosts a variety of community events to connect youth and families to supportive services.

Program events include the annual Trunk or Treat event, where over 2,000 pounds of candy were distributed last year, the Holiday Party where more than 300 toys were given away, and 200 people attended the 3 on 3 Basketball Event hosted by Kenny Thomas at Holiday Park Community Center.

School-Based Violence Intervention Program most recently included youth-led civic plaza movies nights where youth ambassadors lead outreach and social media engagement.

Jack Candelaria Community & Boxing Training Center

This newly renovated facility has a state-of-the-art boxing and training area, fitness room, and an upgraded mini gymnasium that is free and open to youth. It also provides healthy activities for our



youth like pool tables, foosball, and basketball. Part of the work of the Child Well-Being Impact Officer is to work with the Youth and Family Services Department as well as Albuquerque Public Schools to serve neighboring schools with after-school programs in the spring of 2026.

Gen-P Ambassadors

The Summer of Nonviolence Initiative is a strategic response by Albuquerque Community Safety, Bernalillo County, and the City of Albuquerque to the historically observed increase in violence during the summer months, aiming to foster a culture of peace and community cohesion.

Drawing upon evidence-based strategies proven effective in other urban settings, this initiative integrates city-wide cease-fire efforts, youth employment programs, educational opportunities, community engagement, and mental health support into a cohesive program designed to address the multifaceted nature of violence.

The public was also introduced to five Summer of Nonviolence youth ambassadors known as “Gen P” or Generation Peace. These individuals are current high schoolers and recent high school graduates from Albuquerque High School, West Mesa High School, Eldorado High School, V. Sue Cleveland High School, and La Cueva High School.

They served as the face of the initiative on social media and at events.

Bank on Burque

The City of Albuquerque’s Office of Financial Empowerment, through its Bank on Burque program, has partnered with 15 local banks and credit unions to provide safe and affordable banking services to youth aged 14 and older.

Launched in 2023, the program began by integrating financial education for youth employed by the City.



Left: Teens at the first Summer of Non-Violence event. **Above:** Kids at the Jack Candelaria Community & Boxing Training Center.

Since then, Bank on Burque has expanded its reach to include the School-Based Violence Intervention Program and continues to collaborate with Albuquerque Public Schools through the Job Mentorship Program to bring financial education and banking access to more high schools.

As APS rolls out the Career Academies Model, where high school students have a personalized pathway for career connected learning, we plan to support participating students by ensuring they have access to banking services and ongoing financial literacy.

Additionally, through the Bank on program, we hired five youth employees during the summer to deliver peer-to-peer financial education presentations to other young people across the city.



Left: Two Teen Employees from Youth & Family Services summer programming. **Above:** Basketball is a part of YFSD summer and school year programming. **Facing Page:** CABQ Splash Pads.

Job & Mentorship Programs

The City of Albuquerque hires hundreds of youth employees beginning at age 14 for summer programs as well as year-round employment.

Employees go through extensive job training in the areas of customer service, safety, employee conduct and more. In particular, our Youth & Families Services Department hires hundreds of youth employees in the summer to implement our inclusive and adaptive recreation programs offered at our community centers.

The Youth & Families Services Department started implementing “Saturday Seminars” to provide additional job training to our youth employees on topics such as leadership, community engagement, and youth empowerment.

The City of Albuquerque also offers the Job Mentor Program at all traditional high schools through a partnership with Albuquerque Public Schools. During the 2024-25 school year, the Job Mentor Program had 613 students enrolled in this program, which is an elective class offered at high school. The program focuses on career readiness, community service, job

shadowing, and workforce skills. We anticipate similar enrollment for the 2025-26 school year, and will have official numbers in mid-October, when APS does their enrollment report.

Out of School Time Programs

The City of Albuquerque implements a variety of programs and services to youth before and after school that provide consistent, safe and enriching environments.

For example, our community centers offer music classes, cooking classes, and homework support. The Multigenerational Centers at Manzano Mesa, North Domingo Baca and Santa Barbara Martineztown offer before and after school care for youth. The Supper Meal Program gives free, hot meals to all youth under the age of 18, even during breaks.



Conclusion

As Albuquerque moves forward, the Child Well-Being Impact Officer will work with all city departments to ensure that young people are meaningfully involved in shaping the services and systems that affect them. This meaningful work will serve as a baseline for future efforts, allowing the City to measure progress, set ambitious goals, and strengthen long-term outcomes.

Contact Information

KEEP IN TOUCH

Contact our Child Well Being Officer:

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CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Child-Friendly Action Plan

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