

Mayor Timothy M. Keller

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Office of the Mayor

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

February 6, 2026

TO: Klarissa J. Peña, President, City Council

FROM: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor



SUBJECT: Department of Youth and Family Services Progress Report on
Implementation of Resolution R-25-186

The Department of Youth and Family Services (YFS) submits this report to provide an update on the implementation of Resolution R-25-186. The report emphasizes creating a welcoming and inclusive space for teens, maintaining consistent operating hours when feasible, pursuing partnerships with schools and community organizations, supporting resource navigation, and convening an implementation and evaluation team to guide this work.

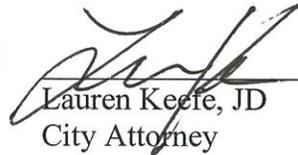
YFS has made progress toward implementation within existing resources. Heights Community Center currently operates as an inclusive, youth-focused environment, and all applicable programming is open to teens ages 14–19. While expanded weekday evening and weekend hours are not currently possible due to staffing and budget constraints, YFS has begun engaging community partners, including initial discussions with local nonprofit organizations, to strengthen programming and services. Efforts are also underway to enhance resource navigation through partnerships and the Teen Connect platform.

Legislation Title: Department of Youth and Family Services Progress Report on Implementation of Resolution R-25-186

Approved:

Approved as to Legal Form:

 2/9/24
Samantha Sengel, EdD Date
Chief Administrative Officer

 2/6/24
Lauren Keefe, JD Date
City Attorney

Recommended:

 2/6/2024
Jess R. Martínez Date
Director, Department of Youth & Family Services

Cover Analysis

1. What is it?

A progress report from the Department of Youth and Family Services (YFS) responding to Resolution R-25-186.

2. What will this piece of legislation do?

Provide updates on the progress of the implementation of R-25-286.

3. Why is this project needed?

Requirement of R-25-186.

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

There are no costs associated with this report and there have been no additional funds allocated for the implementation of this resolution.

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

No. There is no associated revenue source and no income is projected.

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

N/A

7. Is this service already provided by another entity?

Yes, several non-profit organizations (funded by the City of ABQ) provide teen activities and “hubs” for teens such as X Studio (Explora) and Warehouse 505.

Department of Youth and Family Services

Progress Report on Implementation of Resolution R-25-186

The Department of Youth and Family Services (YFS) submits this report to provide an update on the implementation of Resolution R-25-186 and youth development through teen-focused programming at the Heights Community Center. YFS has worked to advance the intent of the resolution while maintaining existing public services and operating within current staffing and budget capacity.

Heights Community Center currently operates as a welcoming, culturally inclusive space that prioritizes safety, belonging, and positive engagement for youth. These practices are consistent across all City community centers and are supported through established policies, staff training, and program standards. Programming at the center is open to youth ages 14–19, fully aligning with the age range identified in the resolution.

At this time, because of staffing and budget constraints, changes to operating hours, including expanded weekday evening or weekend hours remains a challenge. The department is committed to plan accordingly and will continue to assess opportunities for future expansion should additional resources become available. Despite these limitations, the Department continues to focus on strengthening the quality and accessibility of teen-focused programming during existing hours.

YFS has begun engaging community partners to enhance programming and support services. Initial meetings have taken place with North Star, a local nonprofit organization (leading Councilor Roger’s mentorship program), and discussions are ongoing to determine how partners can be meaningfully incorporated into the implementation of the Teen Center model. In addition, YFS is working through partnerships to strengthen its role as a resource navigation hub for teens by improving referral materials and increasing access to information through the City’s website and the Teen Connect platform.

All programming at Heights Community Center is open to youth ages 14–19, and at this time, there is no identified need for separate or specialized programming specifically for residents of the Young Adult Housing Navigation Center. Upon opening of the Young Adult Housing and Treatment Center, age-appropriate referral pathways and referral processes for youth ages 18–19 will be formally established and shared with all partner agencies and system stakeholders to ensure appropriate access to housing navigation, treatment, and supportive services aligned with young adult needs. Coordination with the Albuquerque Community Safety Department is ongoing, and ACS has also confirmed that the center is not needed as a drop-in site for Violence Prevention programs, as those services are currently operating out of ACS facilities. A referral

process will be implemented to ensure strong coordination and connection between the two departments for VIP services.

An implementation and evaluation team has been convened and has been meeting on a regular basis to support ongoing coordination and oversight of this effort. YFS continues to work toward engaging a Community School Coordinator from District 6 to participate in the team, as envisioned in the resolution.

YFS remains committed to advancing the goals of Resolution R-25-186 and will continue to build partnerships, evaluate progress, and identify opportunities to strengthen teen-focused programming at Heights Community Center within available resources.