



San Diego
Workforce
Partnership

Youth Organizations in San Diego

MATRIX OF SERVICES



NOVEMBER 2025



YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS IN SAN DIEGO

More than 160 organizations operate youth programs at 500+ sites across San Diego County. Together, they form a robust network of youth-focused education, employment, and wraparound services—complemented by the estimated 365 education and training providers, 78 colleges, and 40 trade groups operating apprenticeship and technical programs throughout the county.

Where are San Diego's youth programs located?

Youth programs are concentrated in the Metro region, which includes the four areas with the highest number of service sites: Central/Clairemont and Kearny Mesa, Central/Mid-City, Central/Centre City & Balboa, and Southeast/ Encanto & Skyline. (Refer to Figure 1.)

Service sites are more sparse in South County and East San Diego, particularly in the Sweetwater/ East Chula Vista, El Cajon & Santee, and Fallbrook/Alpine/Valley Center areas. In interviews, both youth and service providers highlighted the underserved communities in these regions, including rural communities and areas along the U.S.-Mexico border. Some also noted pockets of North County that remain disconnected from broader service networks.

Figure 1: Number of Youth Program Service Sites in San Diego*

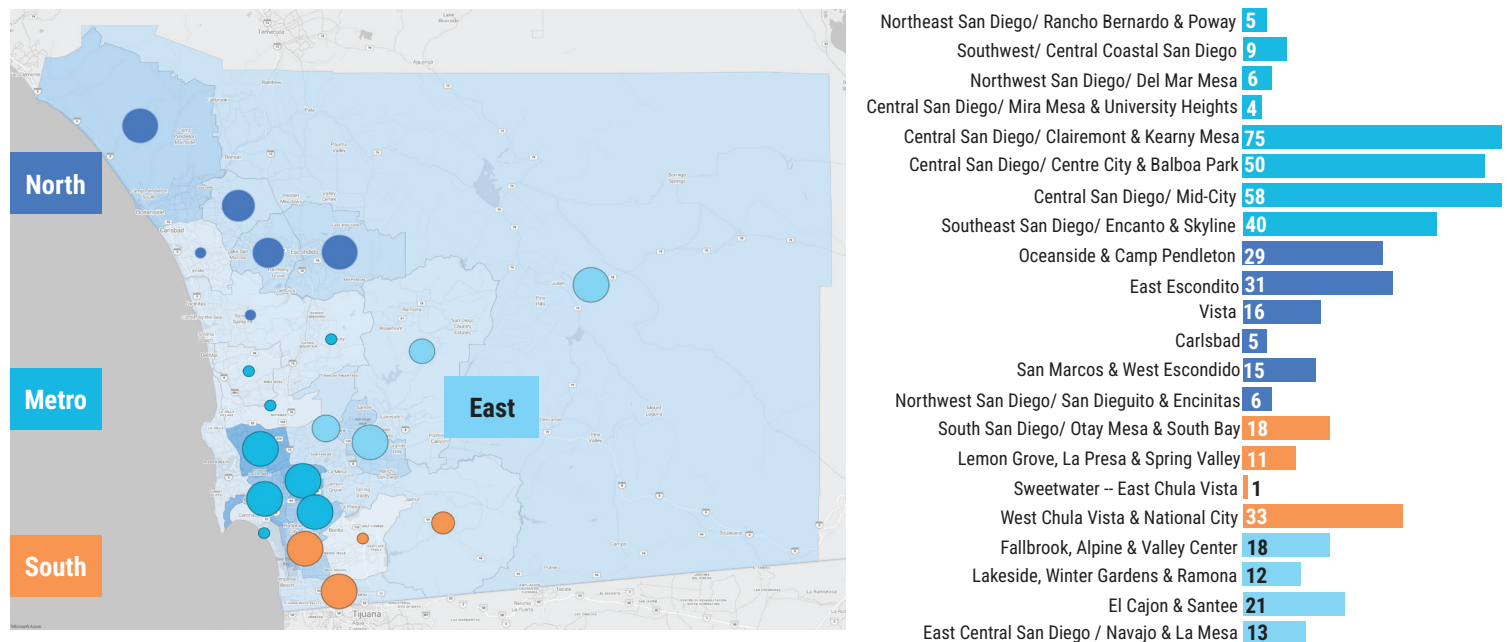
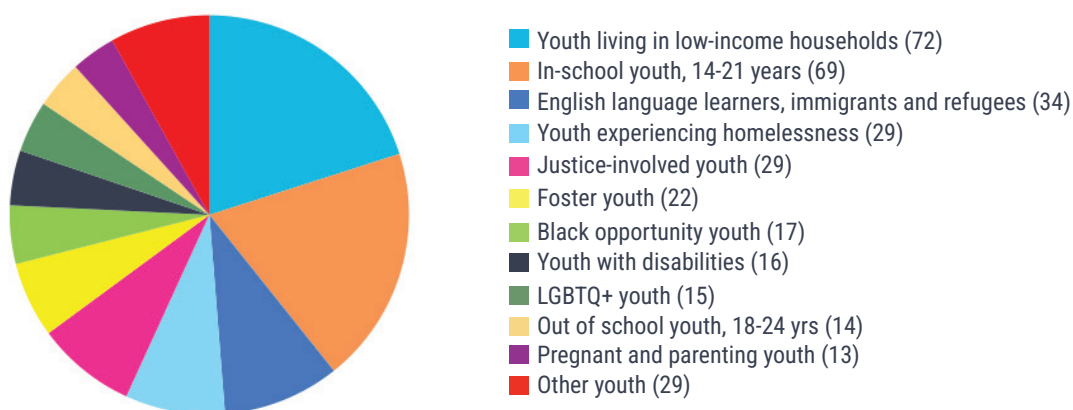


Figure 2: Most and Least Served Youth Segments in San Diego County*



WHICH YOUTH SERVICES ARE BEING OFFERED?

The most common offerings are general workforce preparation—available at 245 sites (53% in the Metro region)—and leadership development, provided at 221 sites (52% in the Metro region). By contrast, alternative secondary school services & dropout recovery programs appear in only 22 sites, and reasonable accommodations for youth with disabilities in just 16 (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Number of Sites Offering each Service Type, Countywide and per Region*

	Region:	(Unspecified location)	Metro	North	South	East	San Diego County (Total)
Service Category:	Service:	Number of Sites	Number of Sites	Number of Sites	Number of Sites	Number of Sites	Number of Sites
Education- Related Services	Total - Education-Related Services	8	175	72	39	42	336
	Tutoring and Dropout Prevention Services	1	87	40	14	22	164
	Alternative Secondary School Services & Dropout Recovery	2	7	8	3	2	22
	Post-Secondary Preparation	2	63	17	17	13	112
	Educational Testing Assistance	0	17	5	4	3	29
	Assistance with School Supplies and Fees	3	76	36	19	21	155
	Leadership Development	3	115	48	27	28	221
Employment- Related Services	Total - Employment-Related Services	5	154	71	35	29	294
	Work Experiences	3	76	15	19	8	121
	Occupational Skills Training	4	46	6	11	11	78
	General Workforce Preparation	4	129	59	27	26	245
	Integrated Education, Workforce Prep, & Occupational Skills	0	15	0	4	4	23
	Entrepreneurship Skills	0	34	10	7	6	57
	Financial Literacy	3	51	24	13	11	102
	Employment Follow Up (12+ mo.)	0	14	0	5	0	19
	Assistance with Work Attire or Tools	0	27	6	4	2	39
	Payments for Employment- and Training-Related Fees	1	17	2	4	2	26
	Reasonable Accommodations	0	10	2	3	1	16
Other Wraparound Services	Total - Wraparound Services	10	230	99	59	61	459
	Housing Assistance	5	67	40	12	11	135
	Drug/Alcohol and/or Mental Health Counseling	6	90	49	16	23	184
	Health Care for Youth	4	56	29	19	12	120
	Referrals to Community Services	6	59	14	11	9	99
	Transportation	0	42	15	5	8	70
	Child Care or Dependent Care	0	23	8	4	9	44
	Benefits Assistance	0	23	4	4	3	34
	Legal Aid	0	17	9	6	3	35
	Other Services	8	166	72	43	44	333

Among “other” services, mentorship, life skills, and case management were most frequently reported. Many organizations also deliver positive youth development activities such as the arts, sports and recreation, civic engagement, and cultural enrichment. Only one organization reported a dedicated pregnancy and parenting program for youth, and two organizations serving persons with disabilities offered youth-specific programming.

Across interviews, youth expressed a strong need for information on education and career pathways, as well as youth-friendly, holistic mental health support. Key informants also identified gaps in transportation, childcare, and financial literacy services. Overall, youth emphasize the importance of a more coordinated, easy-to-navigate referral system that connects them quickly to real, tangible assistance.

INTERACTIVE DATA DASHBOARD

Interactive Data Dashboard: All data presented in this report is fully viewable and explorable in an interactive data dashboard, built in PowerBI. The dashboard allows users to navigate youth population data and outcomes—education and employment— as well as services across county, regional, and PUMA levels. A gap analysis section shows side-by-side comparisons of service sites against unemployment data, high school dropout rate, and concentration of low income households. Viewers can filter services by youth segments served and explore the locations and types of services available at each site.

Scan the QR code or [visit the dashboard online](#) to explore the data firsthand and generate your own insights



What are young people saying about their priorities for service delivery?

During the research, youth and service providers voiced the following top priorities for service delivery:

1. Address foundational needs first—especially **mental health**, as well as housing, financial support, transportation, and childcare.
2. Expand **information and navigation support** for youth as they explore their career pathways—and start career orientation as early as the middle school years.
3. Invest in **youth-designed and peer-led programs**.
4. Create direct pathways for **sustainable employment**.
5. Expand **financial literacy and life skills** education.
6. Try to **engage local communities** and organizations to address geographic inequities.
7. Strengthen **identify-affirming services**, including the use of staff and adult- and peer-mentors with a shared lived experience.

“It’s important to take into consideration every bit and piece of who young people are, in order to be able to serve them.” — Youth participant

“Talk to the youth and really let them know that their opinions and their needs really matter and that their voices matter.” — Service Provider

“Mental health is a central, intersecting crisis that complicates and exacerbates every other barrier that transitional-age youth face.” — Youth participant

* **Sources.** Working Current (2025). San Diego Youth-Serving Organizations Dataset (October 2025). Data compiled from organizational websites, annual reports, and U.S. Internal Revenue Service Form 990 filings obtained directly from the IRS and through the Candid nonprofit database, 2024-2025, and supplemented by survey responses from 22 San Diego-based youth-serving organizations. Commissioned by the San Diego Workforce Partnership.

VIEW THE FULL REPORT AND INTERACTIVE DATA DASHBOARD

The San Diego Workforce Partnership commissioned this brief as part of a larger research report, Addressing the Priorities of Youth Across San Diego County – A Labor Market Analysis of Youth Populations & Services (November 2025). The full report examines the workforce needs of youth ages 14-24 and assesses how well current services align with those needs. The dashboard includes a navigable catalogue of the 162 youth-serving organizations in San Diego County. To access the catalogue, select “Service Coverage > Catalogue of Service Providers”. Users can right click an organization name and choose “Drill Through > Youth Service Organization Details” to view site addresses, annual revenue, and program specifics.

