



**Youth Connect  
Annual Report**

# **THE STATE OF THE SUMMER REPORT**

**An Overview of Investments,  
Results, and Future Trends of  
Youth Programs Provided by the  
City of Albuquerque**

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**Contact Info:**  
[yc.cabq.gov](http://yc.cabq.gov)  
311

# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



**TIMOTHY M. KELLER**  
MAYOR, CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

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**This year has been anything but business as usual.** In cities all across America and all across New Mexico, the pandemic led to decisions to cancel summer programs entirely and to freeze hiring for thousands of young people who depend on these programs for summer jobs. In our city, we saw a chance to step up for local families, especially our essential workers who have not had the luxury of being able to stay at home while they work. We knew affordable, accessible child development programs were even more critical in this year than ever before.

So this summer we made a commitment to offer full-day youth programs for kindergarten through eighth grades at 22 community centers across Albuquerque. We brought together staff from Cultural Services, Parks and Recreation, Senior Affairs, and the Family and Community Services Departments, coordinated by our Youth Connect initiative, to offer dozens of programs adapted to include COVID-safe practices. For the parents staying home with their kids in the new work-from-home reality, we created and curated thousands of hours of virtual content to keep kids not just occupied but engaged in development, learning, and fun.

I'm grateful to the hard work our team put into making these programs a reality, even when the deck was stacked against them. After reading this report, I know you'll feel the same way.

In the spirit of Albuquerque,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Keller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TIMOTHY M. KELLER, MAYOR,  
The City of Albuquerque

# ABOUT YOUTH CONNECT



## The Mission

*The mission of One Albuquerque Youth Connect is to enrich the lives of the people of Albuquerque and create a community of safety and inclusion by connecting Albuquerque's youth to opportunities in our city.*

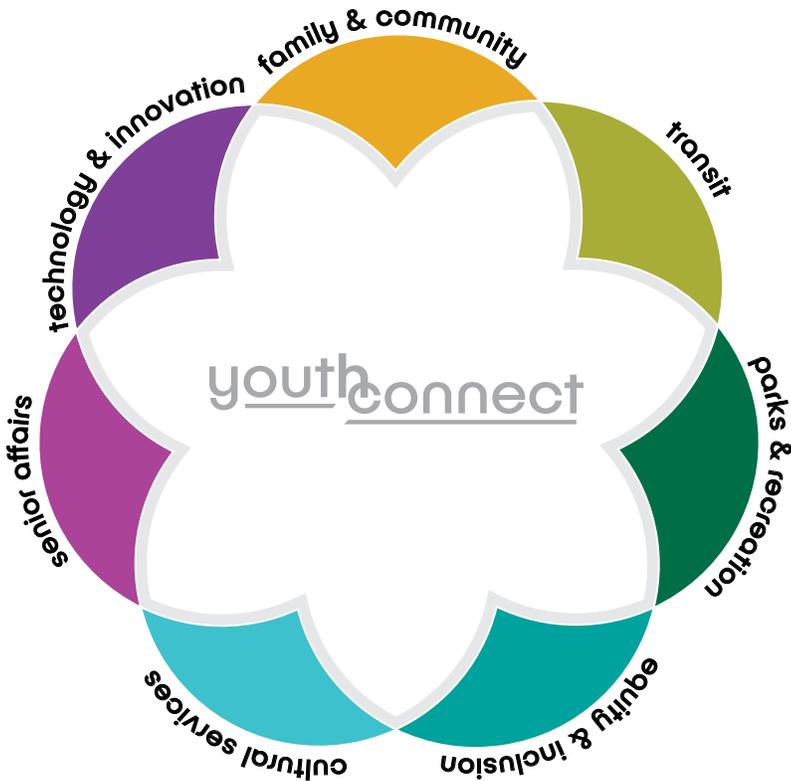
Welcome to the 2020 State of the Summer report from the One Albuquerque Youth Connect team! This report includes highlights from the 2020 summer season and shows how seven city departments collaborated to offer virtual and in-person programming during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic altered the ways the City serves Albuquerque youth and families, and thus, the State of the Summer report has also changed this year.

From virtual kids coding programs to online music and math to private swimming lessons and outdoor explorer camps, the City of Albuquerque created new ways to provide an enriching experience for Albuquerque families.

The 2020 State of the Summer report demonstrates the adaptations made to city youth programming, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and how we, as One Albuquerque, stepped up to provide a safety net for the City's youth and families.

The City is focused on ensuring all children have access to an array of learning opportunities from outdoor adventures to arts and culture and community engagement.

# HOW TO CONTACT US



The below list includes the website information for all of the participating departments with the City of Albuquerque. Be sure to check out these websites for more individualized information on our programming.

**Newsletter**

Find information about Youth Connect events and programming through our digital [newsletter](#).

**Youth Connect website**

Have you taken advantage of the Youth Connect Mobile site? It's your one-stop-shop for programs and events. Find city and non-city programs, online resources, activities, and more at [yc.cabq.gov](http://yc.cabq.gov).

Youth Connect	<a href="http://CABQ.GOV/YOUTH-CONNECT">CABQ.GOV/YOUTH-CONNECT</a>
Youth Connect Mobile	<a href="http://YC.CABQ.GOV">YC.CABQ.GOV</a>
Mayor's Office	<a href="http://CABQ.GOV/MAYOR">CABQ.GOV/MAYOR</a>
Cultural Services Department	<a href="http://CABQ.GOV/CULTURALSERVICES">CABQ.GOV/CULTURALSERVICES</a>
Office of Equity and Inclusion	<a href="http://CABQ.GOV/OFFICE-OF-EQUITY-INCLUSION">CABQ.GOV/OFFICE-OF-EQUITY-INCLUSION</a>
Family and Community Services	<a href="http://CABQ.GOV/FAMILY">CABQ.GOV/FAMILY</a>
Parks and Recreation Department	<a href="http://CABQ.GOV/PARKSANDRECREATION">CABQ.GOV/PARKSANDRECREATION</a>
Department of Senior Affairs	<a href="http://CABQ.GOV/MULTIGENYOUTH">CABQ.GOV/MULTIGENYOUTH</a>
Department of Technology and Innovation	<a href="http://CABQ.GOV/TECHNOLOGY-INNOVATION">CABQ.GOV/TECHNOLOGY-INNOVATION</a>
Transit	<a href="http://CABQ.GOV/TRANSIT">CABQ.GOV/TRANSIT</a>

# OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE



The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic brought on both unprecedented challenges and opportunities for the City of Albuquerque youth programs. Beginning in March, as school districts shut down, City departments implemented emergency youth programs for children of essential workers and began to modify plans for summer.

Due to COVID restrictions and heightened safety, nearly all trainings for staff were developed and conducted virtually to include topics such as code of conduct, safety, disability/inclusivity, and diversity/equity awareness.

All youth programs offered through the City of Albuquerque integrated new COVID-safe practices into their daily routines including: daily wellness screenings, mandatory masks, hand-washing, implementation of sick policies, a stringent cleaning and disinfecting schedule, and physical distancing to safeguard the health and safety of staff and participants.

### OUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAYS

**14,083**

In-Person Youth Registered

**59,460**

In-Person Youth Attendance

**42**

In-Person Programs

**202**

Youth Programming Sites

**266,209**

Meals Served

**28**

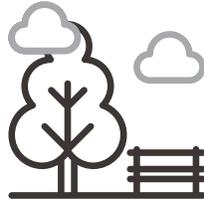
Virtual Programs

**18,119**

Virtual Program Participants

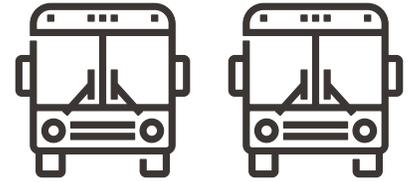
# 2020 DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

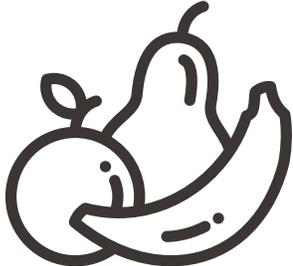


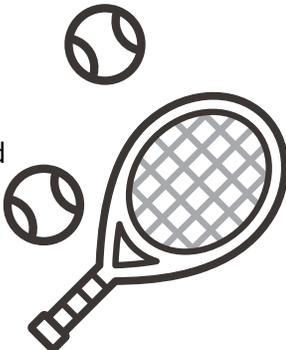
 OPEN SPACE EXPLORER CAMPS & ADDED SATURDAY CAMPS

Virtual and in-person events and programs at **YC.CABQ.GOV**

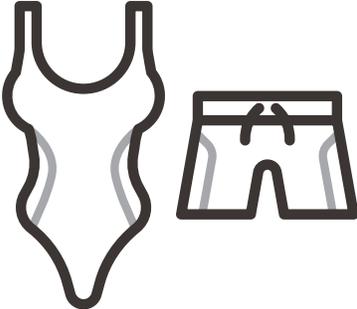
**FREE** bus rides to youth ages 0-21



  
**33% INCREASE** IN MEALS SERVED PER SITE ON AVERAGE

**590** YOUTH participated in free Tennis/Pickleball lessons 

**1600+** YOUTH SERVED IN AQUATICS



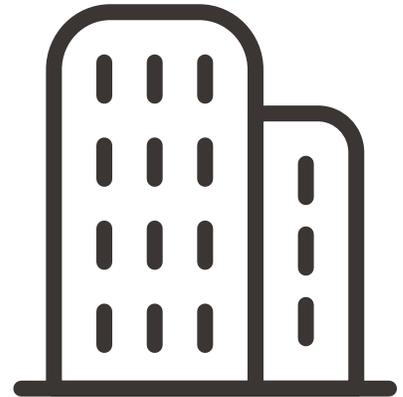
**70** outdoor WiFi hotspot locations 

**8** WEEKS OF COVID-SAFE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS *(at community centers and multi-generational centers)*



## 22 community centers opened to serve essential workers

*(Dennis Chavez Community Center and new facilities for Singing Arrow and Westgate Community Center)*



# 2 WEEK

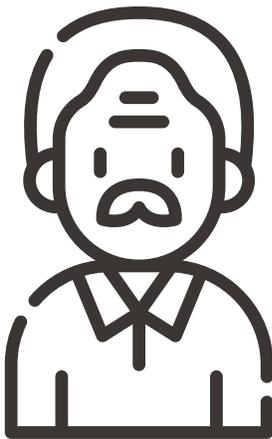
**EMERGENCY YOUTH PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES IN NEED**  
*(at our multi-generational centers)*



**28 NEW VIRTUAL PROGRAMS CREATED**

# 1000 STAFF MEMBERS

trained virtually



**50 YOUTH 4000 SENIORS PARTICIPANTS IN CABQ PEN PAL PROGRAM**

“Community Centers transitioned from before and after school programs to full-day distance learning for children of essential workers immediately when schools closed.”

—Cristin Chavez-Smith  
*Community Services Division Manager*



# OUR PARTICIPANTS



“

*I was scared the center would close, so I was happy it stayed open. Me and my friends wore masks so we could stay healthy. I liked that my staff made fun art and water activities for us everyday to have fun and be safe.”*

–Natalie Vazquez  
Herman Sanchez  
Community Center; Age 11

“

*My favorite part is winning tennis matches against the other kids.”*

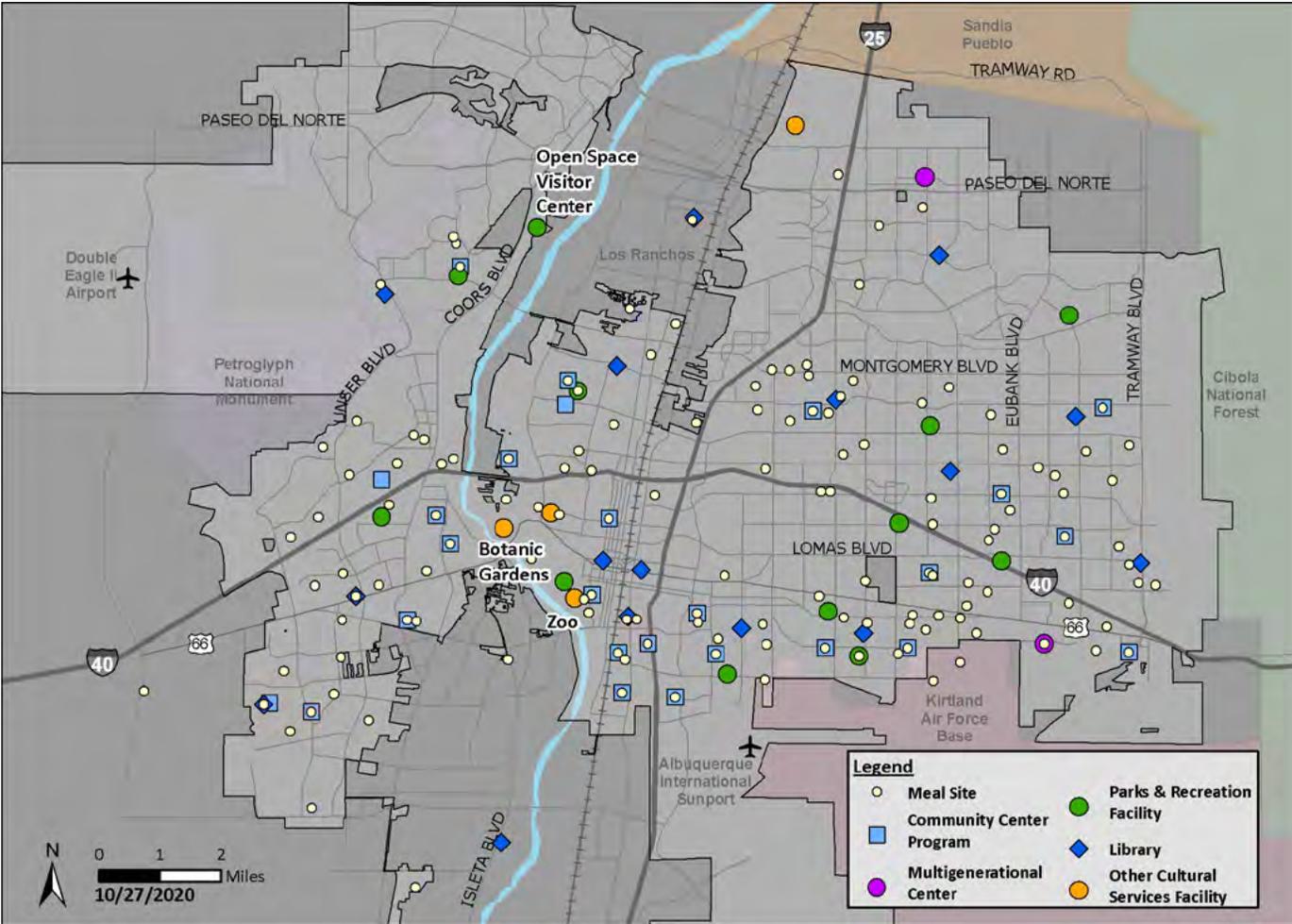
–Salome Freed  
Jerry Cline Tennis Center; Age 13

“

*This summer was great!”*

–Isaac and Isaiah Villesacas  
Cesar Chavez Community  
Center; Age 6

# OUR YOUTH PROGRAM SITES



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many City of Albuquerque summer sites were unfortunately forced to take a hiatus during the 2020 season.

However, the City was able to utilize many of those sites as a safety net for families to receive essential services.

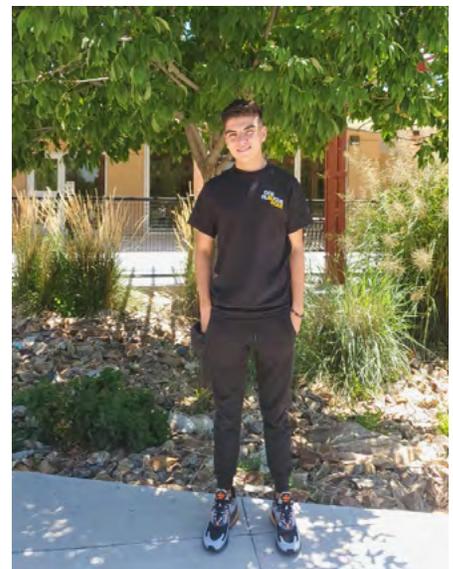
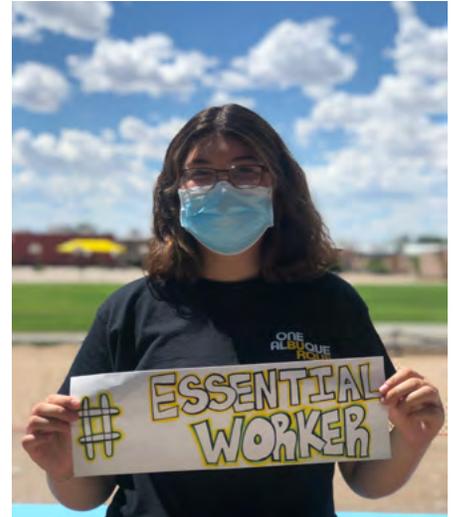
“My favorite thing about this summer is that we were still able to have a talent show at our center; my group won so I was really happy!”

—Santana Benavidez  
Taylor Ranch Community Center; Age 10

# OUR STAFF AND INTERNS



Several City departments offered internships and employment opportunities this summer. Employees served in a variety of capacities including: Recreation Leaders, Lifeguards, Cashiers, Tennis Instructors, Clerical Workers, and Maintenance Workers.



“

*It feels good to be an essential worker during this time. I am glad to be able help my community by taking care of these kids who need somewhere to be during the day.”*

—Titus Gallegos, Recreation Leader  
*Los Duranes Community Center; Age 20*

Some unique internship opportunities included interns working as Echo film editors with the Albuquerque Police Department, interns working with Keep Albuquerque Beautiful in



“

*It is a little bit scary to be an essential worker because a lot of us are uncertain about the pandemic. But I also think it feels good knowing that I am here, and I am able to help parents that are unable to take care of their kids during this time.”*

–Julia Sanchez, Recreation Leader,  
Heights Community Center; Age 20

the Solid Waste Department, and young people working with the Creative Youth Corps in the Cultural Services Department.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought out the competency and tenacity of both permanent and part-time youth program employees. As these positions became essential, staff took on the challenges with positivity and professionalism. Staff were trained virtually and were able to both learn and implement COVID-safe practices and policies, in addition to “normal” training in order to create and maintain safe and fun environments for participants and staff alike.

STAFF DEMOGRAPHICS AND HIGHLIGHTS

**\$2.3M**

Invested on Youth Wages

**70%**

Staff of Color

**61%**

Women Staff Members

**895**

Total Staff

**19**

Average Staff Age

**130**

Number of Internships

# OUR SURVEY RESULTS



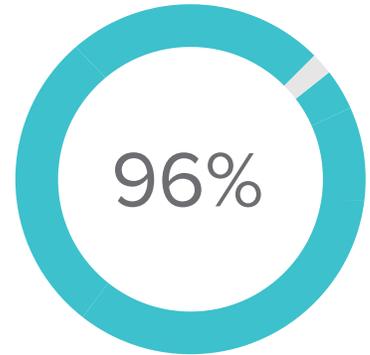
With our day-to-day routine being drastically different this year, and especially this summer, we still wanted to ask the community for feedback on our offerings.

We are continually committed to improving our programs, especially in response to our COVID-Safe Practices (CSP). Here are our findings from our short survey on what families thought about our programs.

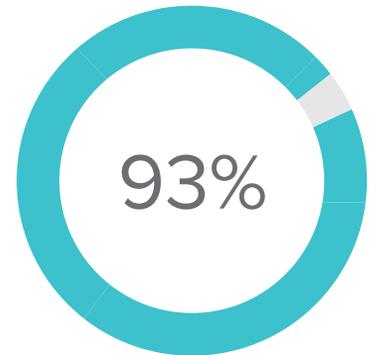


*I enjoy getting to watch the improvements my student makes. From where they start to where they finish skills wise. I also enjoy getting to meet new people. I just like everything about lessons!"*

—Jeremiah Sanchez, Lifeguard,  
West Mesa Aquatic Center; Age 16



Parents surveyed agreed Youth Connect Programs had a positive effect on their child



Parents surveyed agreed with the statement, "I trusted programs to offer a safe, clean place for my child(ren)."

PARENTS RATED OUR PROGRAMS

4.6







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*Mayor, City Of Albuquerque*