



Office of Community Services
One Government Center, Suite 1900
Toledo, Ohio 43604
Phone: 419-245-1198
Email: community.services@toledo.oh.gov

LEGISLATION BACKGROUND SUMMARY

- After reviewing more than 100 applications, **69 programs** were identified as aligning with the City's priorities for youth engagement. These represent a cross-section of **large anchor programs, mid-sized specialized providers, and smaller initiatives.**
- All applicants were notified that funding is pending Toledo City Council approval. Our Council Committee Chairs, Councilmembers McPherson and Gadus were briefed on the list of awardees.
- Funding priorities focused on programs that deliver sustained, high-quality engagement at scale and in alignment with their proposed budget.
- Given **reduced funding compared to prior years, a more targeted and strategic approach was taken.** Investments were guided by four core principles:
 1. Strengthening summer infrastructure, (e.g., swimming, full-day programming for families, and meals)
 2. Maximizing direct service delivery
 3. Achieving measurable outcomes
 4. Creating pathways to academic success, health and well-being, and future career opportunities
 - We also updated Direct Service Payment Guidelines: Staff compensation (including administrative, program, and instructional roles) capped at 25% per individual and 40% total of the program budget, with limited exceptions for specialized populations (e.g., justice-involved youth, youth with disabilities, or youth-staffed programs).
- To strengthen accountability and transparency of General Fund investments, the evaluation process was enhanced. All applicants were required to identify measurable outcomes in the following areas:
 1. Educational Engagement & Readiness
 2. Workforce Preparation & Career Exposure
 3. Health, Wellness, & Social-Emotional Development
 4. Safe, Supportive & Opportunity-Rich Environments

Additionally, programs will be evaluated through:

5. A post-initial reimbursement review
 6. A final in-person evaluation, including reporting on progress toward stated outcomes
- Youth Program Partner Orientation took place on Thursday, April 23, 2026
 - A portion of funding will also be used to support City-led strategic plan initiatives:
 7. **Objective 3:** Strengthen city-resident connections through trust, collaboration, and access to opportunities
 - Development of a **Youth, Family, and Workforce Success Strategy** to advance education, employment, housing stability, health, and economic mobility

