

OCYS CONNECTIONS



OCT
2024

Happenings

We Choose Care

OCYS joined the Children First Collective and other partners, families, early care and education providers, local officials, advocates, and community members at the We Choose Care event on Oct. 16th. It was a joyous and inspiring evening to discuss what we are doing in San Diego to strengthen child care in our communities and find out how we can choose care for our future!

A beautiful and meaningful art installation honoring caregivers was unveiled -- a community collaboration, born from a partnership of CFC and ArtReach.

US Congresswoman Sara Jacobs offered hopeful remarks, and a lively panel discussion was moderated by 13 year-old superstar, Catalina Nevaeh Garcia, and included San Diego Council President Elo-Rivera, Councilmember Campillo, and Supervisor Lawson-Remer.



Speak Up San Diego Special Youth Councils

The Speak Up San Diego special youth councils are hosted by OCYS youth interns. They are regular forums where youth and young adults explore the Child and Youth Plan focus areas. The council sessions are designed to amplify youth voices, foster meaningful conversations, and inspire actionable solutions. [Read more here!](#)

Upcoming

Speak Up San Diego Youth Councils

- Youth Empowerment - Nov. 5, 4pm
- Economic & Workforce Development - Nov. 19, 4pm

Youth Changemakers Summit

The first annual Youth Changemakers Summit took place on Sept. 28-29 at City College. The summit was presented by Our Time to Act, CYAN, and the SD API Coalition. OCYS sponsored the event, presented about our work, and shared resources and engagement opportunities with the youth and youth allies in attendance. We are proud to support a powerful and meaningful event created by, for, and with youth leaders!



NLC Early Learning Nation

OCYS joined San Diego partners (YMCA CRS, Educational Enrichment Systems, Local Planning Council, and NHA) at the National League of Cities Early Learning Nation CA Cohort Summit in Sacramento in September. We learned along with and from California cities and their early learning and care communities about efforts, strategies, and challenges in establishing successful local efforts for equitable early learning and care systems.

Update: Child and Youth Plan

The City of San Diego's Child and Youth Plan (CYP) is the first of its kind that provides visibility into areas of opportunity for children, youth, and families in San Diego. The CYP is the roadmap moving forward to create innovative and sustainable solutions to ensure accountability, equity, and a shared framework with community stake holders, public and private partners, local education agencies -- all who share a vision for improving outcomes for children, youth, and families.

The CYP was developed with input from these stakeholders, including youth. The Plan was unanimously adopted by City Council in July 2024. OCYS now looks ahead to implementing the various strategies and action steps laid out in the plan toward the goals and objectives of its five focus areas:

- Education and Career Pathways
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Youth Empowerment
- Engaging Activities
- Child Care

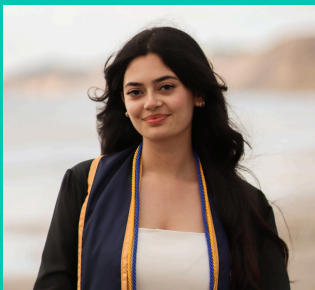


Municipal child Care Benefit Pilot Program



OCYS launched year 2 of the Municipal Child Care Benefit Pilot Program, which provides support to City employees for the cost of child care. This program is funded by a \$2M Federal grant, secured by Congresswoman Sara Jacobs. In year 1, OCYS received very positive feedback from employees who received the benefit. In year 2, an estimated 270 City employees will participate in the Pilot Program, receiving the child care benefit from October 2024 through July 2025.

OCYS Team Spotlight Alisha Supanekar



Alisha has been a management intern with OCYS since January 2024, and in Councilmember Campillo's office before that.

Alisha graduated this past spring from UC San Diego with a B.A. in International Studies - Political Science. She will continue her work with the City of San Diego, aiming to contribute to a more equitable future for all residents. Her favorite part of working with the Office of Child and Youth Success was being part of a supportive team dedicated to creating a better environment for families and young people. She is passionate about building community, exploring the intersection between data and policy, and ensuring access to quality education.



October Youth Newsletter

OCYS interns create a monthly youth newsletter, full of current topics, resources, events, and more! The October issue includes information on voting, volunteering, the Tijuana River Valley crisis, World Mental Health Day, and more!

Please share the links with your communities!

[October issue](#)

[Past issues](#)

