

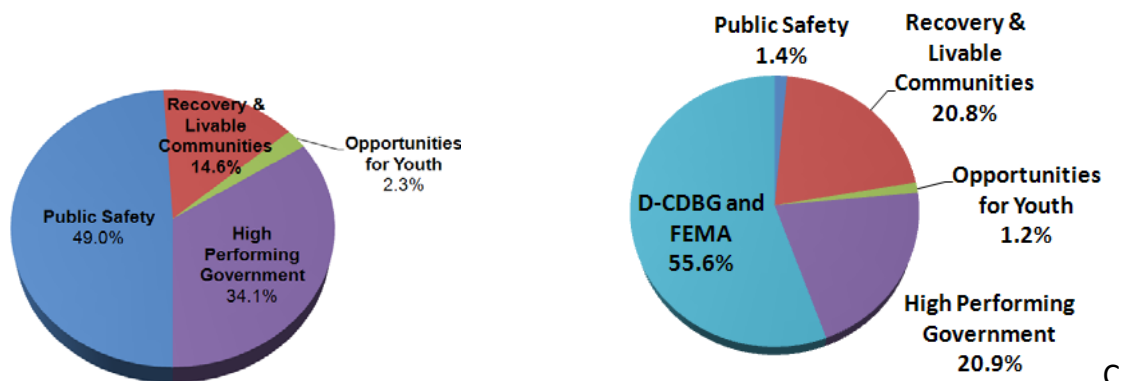
Understanding Youth Funding in the 2010 New Orleans City Budget

Prepared April 2010 by GNO Afterschool Partnership, www.gnoafterschool.org

The New Orleans 2010 City Budget process began in March 2009, when the Mayor determined the key priorities for the 2010 budget. The Mayor submitted the budget for review to the City Council in October, and the City Council held departmental hearings in November. As mandated by the City Charter, City Council must approve an adopted budget on or before December 1st.

In 2010, the total City Budget is **\$1,116,344,058**. General Revenue expenditures are expected to be **\$462,076,191** and non-general revenue is **\$654,267,867**. However, the majority (55.6%) of non-general revenue are FEMA and Disaster Community Development Block Grant funds administered through the City's Office of Recovery Development & Administration.

Opportunities for Youth



Currently, the City of New Orleans allocates only 3.5%, but only 2.3% of general revenue funds, for "Opportunities for Youth."¹ The departments/agencies funded by the City to provide Opportunities under the 2010 budget include: New Orleans Recreation Department (NORD), the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Human Services Department (Youth Study Center), and Job1 (Workforce Development).

Funding for Public Libraries is not included in the Budget as an "Opportunities for Youth." In 2010, the libraries will be 100% funded at \$8,068,405 through a special ad valorem tax on all property within the city, rather than general revenues. The Health Department also coordinates health-related services and school-based medical clinics for children and youth.

¹ All graphs and percentages are based on the 2010 New Orleans proposed budget. Exact departmental expenditures are based on the 2010 Modified Budget, available at <http://www.cityofno.com/pg-1-324.aspx>.

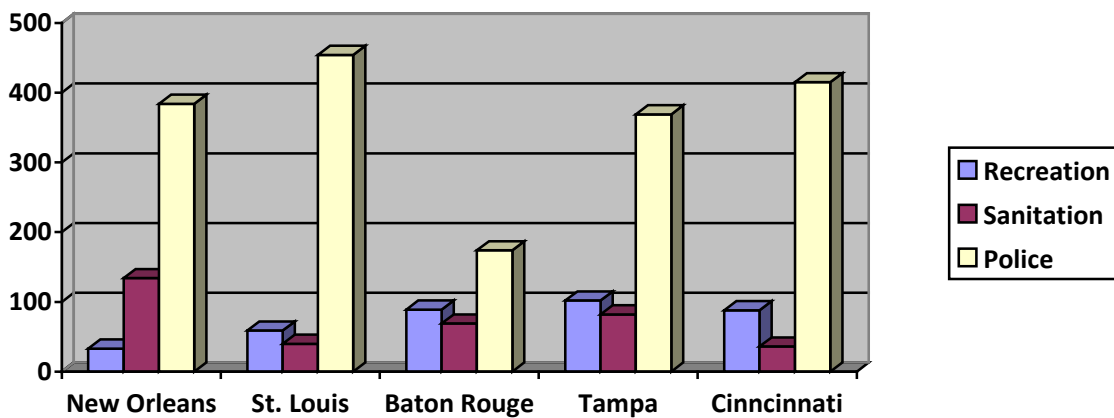
Opportunities for Youth (3.5% of the total budget)

Recreation	\$4,975,779	100% general revenue
Job1	\$13,542,785	100% federal Workforce Investment Act
Human Services (Youth Study Center)	\$3,373,088	75% general revenue; 25% federal
Juvenile Court	\$3,114,851	100% general revenue

Recreation

The New Orleans Recreation Department is funded 100% from the general revenue fund. In 2010, NORD’s budget will decrease from \$5.3 million in 2009 to \$4.9 million. However, funding for NORD has never been adequate to provide adequate recreational programs for young people. Other cities provide significantly more resources to parks and recreation, knowing the positive effect high-quality, safe programs can have for young people.

What is adequate to fund NORD? Out of a nine-city comparison conducted by the New Orleans Office of Inspector General, the average per person amount for parks and recreation services is \$65. Baton Rouge allocates \$89 per resident for recreational services, compared to New Orleans at \$33 per resident. Other cities such as Atlanta and St. Louis spend approximately \$60 per resident. Recreation programming is a quality of life issue, not only for youth but for all residents. New Orleans must significantly increase funding for NORD, so the annual spending is approximately \$22 million.



New Orleans’ spending on recreation, sanitation and police services compared to four other cities: St. Louis, Baton Rouge, Tampa and Cincinnati. (Source: 2009 New Orleans OIG Review of the Budget Process)

Youth Career Preparation

In New Orleans, city services for youth workforce development are funded 100% from the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program. In 2010, the City of New Orleans will receive an additional \$3.4 million (\$3,382,249) in federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds for youth workforce development programs for a total WIA Youth budget of \$5,823,828.

The WIA Youth Program funds year-round and summer youth programs for eligible youth ages 14-24 who face barriers to employment.² The WIA Youth Program requires program services provide 10 program elements for all eligible youth: academic enhancement, alternative secondary school services, summer employment opportunities, work experience, occupational skills training, leadership development, supportive services, adult mentoring, guidance and counseling and follow-up services.

Juvenile Justice

The Department of Human Services operates the Youth Study Center, New Orleans' 32-bed detention facility for youth ages 8 to 16. In 2009, 900 youth were admitted into secure detention. Human Services also coordinates services for youth and their families, and estimated serving 10,000 families in 2009. Human Services also administers \$837,818 in federal FEMA Emergency Services.

Other Juvenile Justice Services in New Orleans:

- The Mayor's Office currently staffs 2 full-time positions to coordinate federal funding opportunities through the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The District Attorney's office receives \$39,900 in Juvenile Accountability for a Juvenile Prosecutor position.
- The Chief Administrative Office also seeks and receives federal funding that is distributed at the federal level to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, including OJJDP funding. In 2010, the CAO will manage \$26,000 in LCLE grants.
- The New Orleans Police Department administers a Drug Free Zone Grant in the amount of \$175,000 to provide overtime to officers to enforce truancy and increase police presence in targeted school areas.
- The Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office was awarded \$39,900 in Juvenile Accountability Block Grant from the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement to operate a Curfew Center.

²*Finding Resources to Support Workforce Development Services for Youth* from The Finance Project (April 2006), available at http://www.financeproject.org/Publications/workforce_youth.pdf.

Community Development Block Grant

In 2010, the Mayor's Office of Community Development will receive \$17.5 million in an Entitlement Grant from the HUD Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), funding that comes directly to the city from the federal government. This allocation is separate from any Disaster Recovery CDBG money the city received. The CDBG provides flexible funding to communities for community development and revitalization. Each fall, the Office of Community Development submits a "Super Notice of Funding Available (NOFA)" to request applications for public service applications.³

Up to 15%, or \$2.6 million, of the city's CDBG grant can be used to provide grants for community-based youth programs and other "public service activities." Remaining funds can be used to support youth through the improvement of public facilities such as recreation or teen centers. A third option allows funding for youth through microenterprise assistance or special economic development activities.⁴

Greater Coordination of Existing Strengths to Serve Children and Youth

In a time of limited resources, it is often not practical to create additional bureaucratic layers – departments and agencies – with municipal governments to administer programs. At the same time, more Mayors are focusing administrative priorities to expand services to support greater numbers of children and families through comprehensive early childhood, afterschool/youth development, college/career-readiness and family quality of life initiatives. These leaders realize that investing in children and families now is a key component to economic development and the long-term vitality of a community.

As a result, cities often rely more extensively on public/private partnerships with existing entities to assist in the development and coordination of programs to better serve children and families. Mayors and city agency leaders work in concert with local stakeholders – through coordinating councils, advisory groups, and planning boards – to identify, incubate and equilibrate services where needs are greatest.

³ The 2010 Super NOFA is available at the City of New Orleans website, at <http://www.cityofno.com/Portals/PublicAdvocacy/Resources/2010%20CDBG%20Application.pdf>.

⁴ Using CDBG to Support Community-Based Youth Programs, The Finance Project (Jan. 2008), available at <http://www.financeproject.org/publications/CDBGyouthprograms.pdf>.