The Youth Policy Institute (YPI) is a non-profit organization developed from the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Fund in 1983 to lift low-income families out of poverty by funding programs and services that increase family income and academic achievement.

Each year, YPI programs serve more than 50,000 youth and adults in the City of Los Angeles through 125 program sites that offer place-based education and training services via afterschool programs, charter and pilot schools, job training, summer jobs for youth, physical education, adult education, computer literacy, case management, parenting, tutoring, and college preparation.

YPI PROGRAMS

Afterschool Services
The largest provider of afterschool services for charter schools in the U.S., in Los Angeles, YPI partners with LAUSD and charter schools to operate programs at 56 K-12 school sites. Each school day between the hours of 3-6 PM, more than 6,300 students receive academic tutoring, participate in sports and join enrichment classes that directly engage their interests.

AmeriCorps
Each year the YPI AmeriCorps Program trains and places members in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and charter schools to provide in-school and afterschool tutoring. This program is made possible through President Obama’s Recovery Act, which provides funding to engage full-time AmeriCorps members in job training and workforce readiness activities in low-income underserved communities.

Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE)
The FIPSE Los Angeles CollegeReady Program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, partners with fifteen high schools to support students and families with college preparation. FIPSE serves students, and trains staff and counselors as “College Ambassadors.”

Hollywood FamilySource Center
The YPI Hollywood FamilySource (FSC) center is a one-stop shop for families. At FSC they can receive support in their search for employment, open bank accounts, learn about financial literacy, and more. The center and its local partners help the community raise academic achievement, decrease dropout rates, and support families toward self-sufficiency.

Los Angeles Promise Neighborhoods
YPI was the recipient of one of only 21 Promise Neighborhoods planning grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Education in 2010. YPI’s Los Angeles Promise Neighborhood targets the high-needs communities of Pacoima and Hollywood with the goal of improving educational outcomes for youth, increasing safety in the neighborhood, and ensuring families are healthy and successful. In 2012 YPI will apply for implementation funding for programs that will achieve those goals.

Technology
Since its inception, YPI has provided home computers and Internet to more than 1,600 families. Thanks to a Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, YPI will open a total of 80 public computer centers with more than 1,500 computers in Los Angeles. YPI is also the lead for the LA County Regional Broadband Consortium funded by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Workforce Development
Through funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, YPI’s Workforce Development trains and places clients in health and education careers, and helps them receive industry-recognized certification. YPI also operates Day Laborer centers, a youth employment program, and offers Adult Education classes.

YPI Schools
In partnership with parents, teachers and community organizations, YPI schools in the Northeast San Fernando Valley and Pico Union/ Westlake communities offer a technology-based and culturally enriched curriculum. These community hubs are open extended hours each day to provide wrap-around services aimed at increasing student achievement and parental involvement.

- Full-Service Community Schools – The recipient of two Full-Service Community Schools grants from the U.S. Dept. of Education, YPI provides holistic academic, family and community services to schools in the San Fernando Valley and Pico Union.

- Charter Schools – YPI’s Bert Corona Charter School in Pacoima serves 370 students in grades 6-8, while Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter Middle School in the Pico Union community serves 325 students.

- LAUSD Public School Choice – YPI operates the San Fernando Institute for Applied Media Pilot School (SFiAM) serving 430 students at San Fernando Middle School. In 2012 YPI will open the Sylmar Promise Academy, a network partner school of Sylmar High School focused on STEM education for 500 students.