Program Budget and Funding

The Skillman Youth Development Strategy
If youth engage in high-quality youth development opportunities outside of the school day, they are more likely to graduate from high school prepared for college, work, and life. Skillman’s youth development strategy is designed to (1) build the infrastructure for a coordinated youth development system, (2) embed mechanisms to ensure accountability and capacity for quality and scale, and (3) build public will for youth development.

What is the Youth Development Opportunities (YDO) Survey?
The YDO Survey assesses the landscape of the programs available to youth in the Skillman Good Neighborhoods. The YDO is the third wave of a survey conducted every two years.

Program Budget Size

Why is program budget size important?
The size of youth development program budgets gives a sense of the level of resources that providers can access as they seek to create high-quality programs and to offer enough slots to meet the local need.

How big are agencies’ youth development program budgets?

How have agencies’ youth development program budgets changed since 2012?

Providers often find it challenging to fund their programs: 71% of agencies had flat or declining budgets compared with 2012. However, budgets grew for 39% of agencies.

There is no relationship between budget size and budget size change: those with small budgets are just as likely to have seen increases as those with large budgets.
Funding Diversity

Why is funding diversity important?
The level of funding diversity indicates the extent to which programs as a whole are sustainable (programs tend to be more sustainable when they can depend on multiple types of funding – public v. private, etc.). Narrowing the focus to the diversity of foundation funding allows a look at the degree to which youth development providers depend on the Skillman Foundation in particular.

What are the different funding types?

- Foundation grants: 73%
- Private donors: 69%
- Public funding: 43%
- Program fees: 28%
- Agency’s national office: 8%
- Other: 13%

How many different funding types do agencies receive?

- One: 33%
- Two: 25%
- Three: 27%
- Four: 11%
- Five: 1%
- Six: 3%

Which foundations are funding agencies?

While the Skillman Foundation is not the only foundation funding youth development agencies in the Skillman Good Neighborhoods, it dominates the landscape: it funds twice as many agencies as the next most common funder.

How many foundations are funding agencies?

- 1: 35%
- 2-4: 19%
- 5-9: 13%
- 10+:

Agencies often depend exclusively on Skillman for philanthropic funding: of the 19 agencies (35%) receiving funding from only one foundation, 11 are receiving Skillman funding.