



# Y-PLAN Project: Serving all young people in Richmond, CA

Y-PLAN Policy Brief 2020

**School:** Kennedy High School, IT Academy (ITA)

**Ages:** 12th Grade Students, (ages 17-18)



## ISSUE

The City of Richmond's newly created Department of Children and Youth was established, through the work of youth and community organizers, to create a fund that will directly support Richmond community organizations and services that cater to young people in the city. Since the Department is new, they asked ITA students at Kennedy HS to think about their communities and the services available to them. Are these services enough? What else do youth need? And how can services reach more young people?

## PROJECT QUESTION

**How can the newly created Department of Children and Youth best serve all young people in Richmond? Components to consider:**

- **What's already there?** (landscape analysis of current services + programs)
- **What are the biggest needs?** (community needs assessment)
- **How do we best reach all young people (0-24 yrs)?** (using tech + online tools, surveys, working with middle school, videos, etc)

## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

- **Instructors:** Dr. LaRue Moore, **Students:** 12th Grade ITA students
- **Y-PLAN Project Coordinators:** Selena Perez Tejada + Myrna Ortiz, **Mentor:** Garrett Seno
- **Client:** City of Richmond Department of Children and Youth
- **Educational Partners:** Center for Cities + Schools

## PARTICIPANT GENERATED DATA AND INSIGHTS

**Students created two community surveys**, one in English and one in Spanish, and shared them online to their peers. They received 572 and 85 responses respectively by January 24th, 2020. An interesting data point found from the survey responses was that most students who took the English survey said it was unlikely, to very unlikely, that they would continue to live in Richmond after high school, while more Spanish speaking respondents claimed they were more likely to live in Richmond after high school. The students who took the Spanish survey were mostly newcomer students in Kennedy HS, so most of them have only lived in the City of Richmond for less than a couple of years.

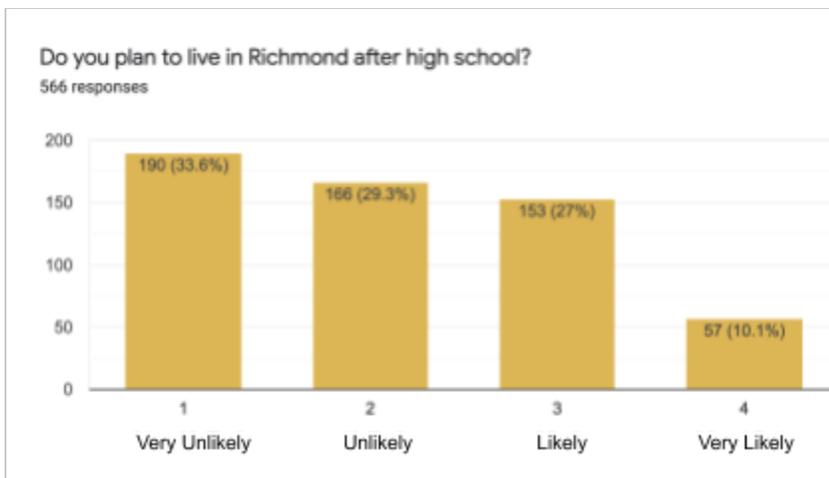
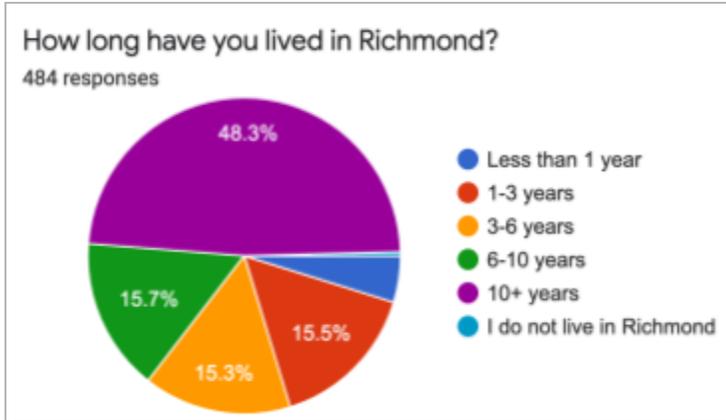
The surveys provided insight into young people's experiences and needs in Richmond. More importantly the survey data and community feedback can be utilized by the Department of Children and Youth to inform their decisions on who they fund in the future.

**Link to English Online Survey:** <https://forms.gle/TvRdEj2DjRPgP7qX8>

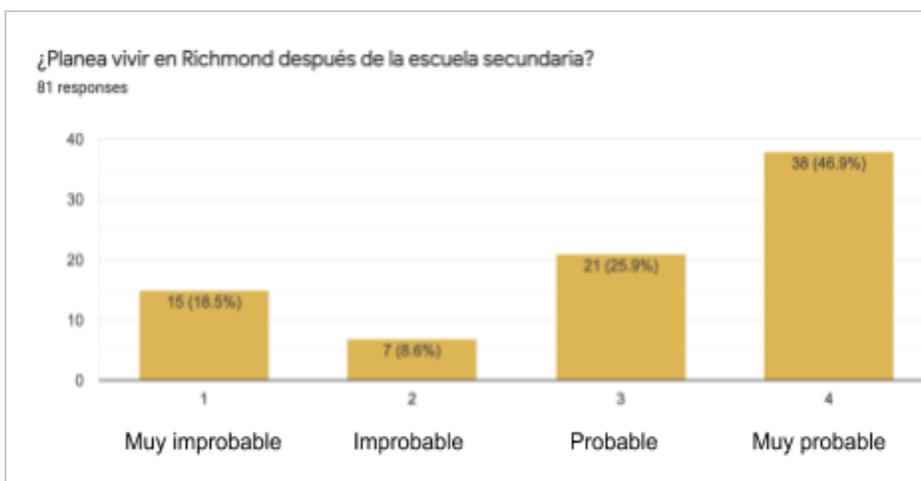
**Link to Spanish Online Survey:** <https://forms.gle/D5StgmEz8E75eapy>

## Y-PLAN SURVEY DATA

Almost half of the English respondents said they have lived in Richmond for more than 10 years, while 47% of Spanish respondents have lived in Richmond for less than a year, and 42.2% said they have lived in Richmond for 3 years or less.

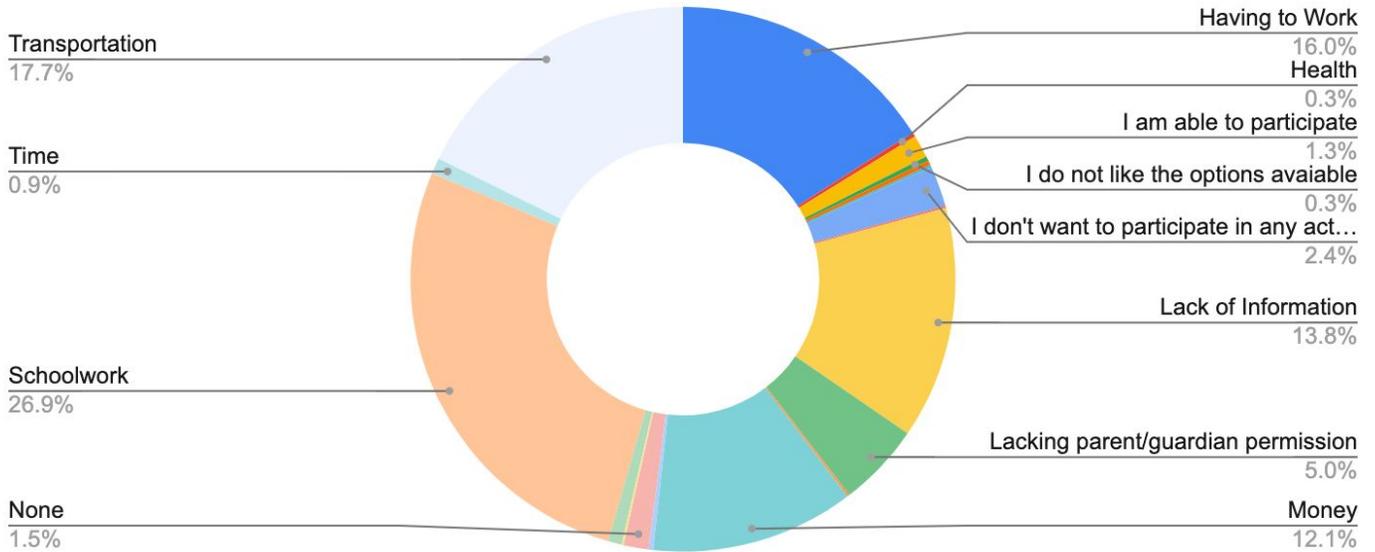


When asked if students plan to live in Richmond after graduation, 62.9% of English speaking students said it was **Unlikely** or **Very Unlikely** they would live in Richmond after high school.



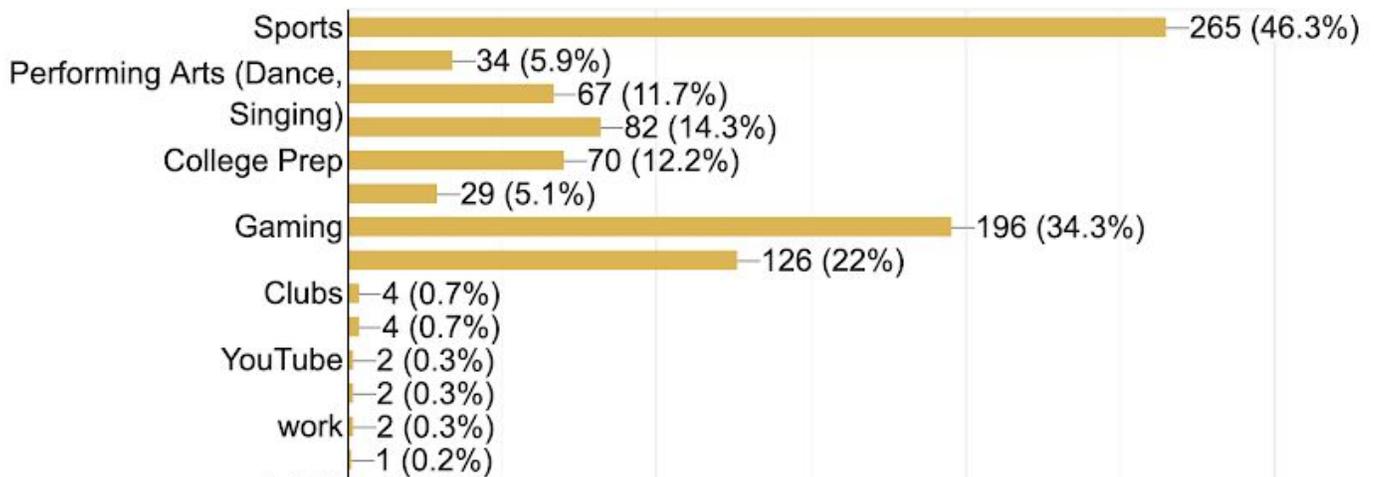
While 72.8% of the Spanish speaking respondents said it was **Likely** to **Very Likely** that they will live in Richmond after high school.

## What are some of the reasons you are UNABLE to participate in extracurricular activities?



## What extracurricular activities do you do? Check all that apply.

572 responses



## Recommendations from Y-PLAN Students

Based on our survey results, research, and personal experiences, we think that **youth need more opportunities in Richmond**. We need more access to jobs, transportation to after school activities, and more resources for multilingual and immigrant folks.

### Short Term Recommendations

1. **Improve existing programs in community centers** to include services such as career and college advice, tutoring and other educational activities.
2. **Provide more resources and services for immigrants.** The survey data from the newcomer students indicated that they would be more likely to live in Richmond after high school. Richmond needs more resources that cater to this specific population.
3. **Use social media, specifically Instagram, to advertise community programs and services to young people,** since this is the social media platform youth use the most. Community organizations should also invest in internet and social media ads since students said that is what catches their attention the most.
4. **Create Professional Development Training Classes in schools** so students do not have to travel to another location to learn professional skills, to attend workshops on resume and cover letter writing, or not gain assistance filling out job applications. Finally, these classes should provide financial literacy education, such as budgeting, how to open a bank account, and filing taxes.

### Long Term Recommendation

While our short term recommendations above would support youth today, these longer term recommendations are looking to the future, where youth have more job opportunities and the services they need within Richmond. These types of services can take various shapes, from programs that support youth in gaining employment, workshops on financial literacy, as well as equal employment resources for undocumented youth. One long term vision would be to create more youth centers and support existing community centers to continue serving the Richmond community.

- Provide Richmond youth with a **monthly Youth Clipper Card with passes/funding for AC Transit and BART**, to travel to school and for personal use, in order for youth to have more ability to attend after school activities without worrying about the cost of transportation.
- Make Richmond more **bike-friendly by adding more protected bike paths** that are visible and safe from ongoing traffic.
  - Create bike lending programs within schools, similar to Rich City Rides.
- Make Richmond **safer by reducing gun violence**. Continue funding organizations, like the Glen Price Group, that is already doing work to reduce violence in Richmond.
- Create a **safe space for people to use or seek help for substance abuse**. Providing a place for people to do drugs safely will keep them from using public spaces like parks for their substance abuse. It will allow children to play in parks safely.
- Create a **gaming center** in Richmond. Many students reported that they play video games after school. **Gaming has become a very popular career pathway in the technology field in recent years.** Having a gaming center would give students a place to go after school and build community around video games. It will also attract gaming companies to invest in Richmond and its youth. The center could also provide educational opportunities like coding and game development.
- Create **culturally relevant centers**, such as a Latino Cultural Center with these types of services:

- Tutoring resources, especially for Spanish speaking youth who are learning English, as well as provide English classes for the community
- Access to technology programs (video games, computer/coding, and tech design classes)
- Legal services for immigrant families
- Independent living soft-skill classes (i.e. cooking)
- Include a competent health center, with an emphasis on supporting newcomer youth with adjusting mentally, emotionally, and physically to living in a new place.
- Funding for local sports leagues (soccer, basketball, baseball)
- This center would cater to the Latino community while being open to anyone in the City!

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

Richmond youth need to feel safe in their communities. Youth believe that the recommendations above will help them feel safer and provide them with engaging activities to do after school. Having more resources will also encourage students to stay in Richmond after high school as they see more opportunities to develop their careers in this community. .