

# ZUNI YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROJECT

2025 Annual Report



## OUR VISION

ZYEP envisions a Zuni community where every child is able to reach their full potential, to grow up healthy and prepared to lead our future generations.

## OUR APPROACH

### Building Competencies

- Offering opportunities to learn
- Providing space to practice new skills
- Viewing mistakes as a part of learning



### Growing Social Connections

- Fostering peer support and cooperation
- Practicing care for one another
- Nurturing a sense of belonging



### Developing Positive Identity

- Responding to youths' individual interests & feelings
- Providing diverse opportunities
- Strengthening youths' sense of purpose



### Strengthening Cultural Foundations

- Developing community-informed programming
- Integrating culture & language throughout organizational practice
- Encouraging Zuni language



\*Based on Self-Determination Theory, with adaptation to include cultural support.

# ZYEP 2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## SUMMER CAMP

- 5 weeks of camp
- 127 Campers
- 20 Youth Camp Counselors
- 5,000 Nutritious Meals
- Wellness Week activities: biking, hiking, basketball, soccer, football, baseball, art, and Shiwi Chefs (cooking)



*Enhancing the health and learning of Zuni youth through physical activity, nutrition, gardening, art, culture and fun!*

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- 500 kids in ZYEP's basketball, soccer, flag football and t-ball leagues
- Inaugural year of "Mini Basketball" for kids ages 4-5
- 93 community coaches
- 86 participants in Running Medicine



*Providing opportunities for youth to build confidence, connect with positive role models, and learn to care for their bodies through nutrition and exercise.*

## FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

- 563 kids in gardening and nutrition programming
- Expansion of Ho'n A:wam Community Garden, and garden kits distributed to 100 Zuni families
- 112 participants in Family Cook Nights
- Improved nutrition policy through community collaboration



*Increasing our community's ability to grow, share and be nourished by our Native foods, contributing to the health of our people and the continuation of our traditions.*

## ART

- 34 Art Apprentices, ages 12-21
- Apprenticeships in embroidery, Pueblo Pottery, watercolor painting, graphic arts, Pueblo cooking, and cross-stitch
- 7 opportunities for youth artists to showcase and sell their own artwork in: Zuni, the Pueblo of Pojoaque, Phoenix and Santa Fe



*Developing Zuni's next generation of artists, carrying on this important tradition of our community and contributing to the healthy development of Zuni youth.*

## IN-SCHOOL & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- 523 kids engaged
- Elementary School Programs in holistic wellness, nutrition and dance
- Middle School Class in building resilience
- After School Program for the critical ages before & in middle school



*Building holistic wellness and resilience through physical activity, art, nutrition, dance, mental wellness skills, and intergenerational relationships.*

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- 16 Youth Internships
- 25 youth leaders trained in QPR, a proactive approach to preventing suicide
- Youth Advisory Council, providing a voice for their peers and advising ZYEP on programming and organizational direction



*Preparing Zuni youth with the skills they need to be competent and compassionate leaders for our future.*

## ORAL HISTORY THEATER PROJECT

- Youth and mentors developed the play, *Rabbit Praying for Snow*, based on Zuni oral tradition
- 22 participants
- 2 live stage performances
- 650 viewers of the stage performances and concurrent livestream



*Building connections between youth, community elders and Zuni culture through the ancient tradition of Delapna:we (storytelling).*

## CONNECT TO LAND

- 160 Youth participants
- Trips to Zuni ancestral sites at Grand Canyon National Park, Mt. Taylor, and Walnut Canyon, Wuptaki and El Morro National Monuments
- Maintenance and improvement of the 60-mile Zuni community trail system for walking, jogging and biking



*Connecting Zuni youth with ancestral lands through experiences and education in the outdoors.*



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS & STRENGTHS

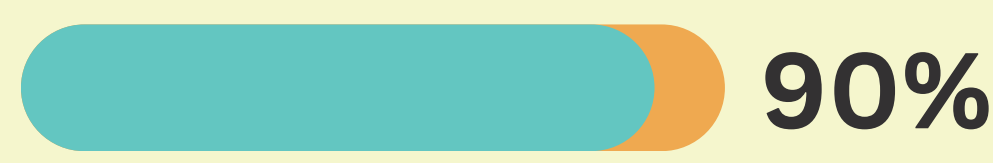


# OUR IMPACT

*“At ZYEP they know your name, and their priority is to make you feel safe and comfortable. They encourage you, share opportunities, offer cultural knowledge... It really opened my eyes, that I don’t have to just make do. They’re building hope for the future. It’s like a family, and it really opened up my life.”*

- Mia, ZYEP participant

<p><b>1200+</b> Zuni youth served in 2025</p>	<p><b>80%</b> of ZYEP youth participate in more than one ZYEP program per year</p>
<p><b>100%</b> of Family Cook Night participants are confident they can cook a healthy meal (an increase of 25% from the pre-survey)</p>	<p><b>100%</b> of parents report their kids gained positive role models in ZYEP Flag Football</p>



of Zuni youth report that learning about Zuni culture and traditions was their favorite Summer Camp activity



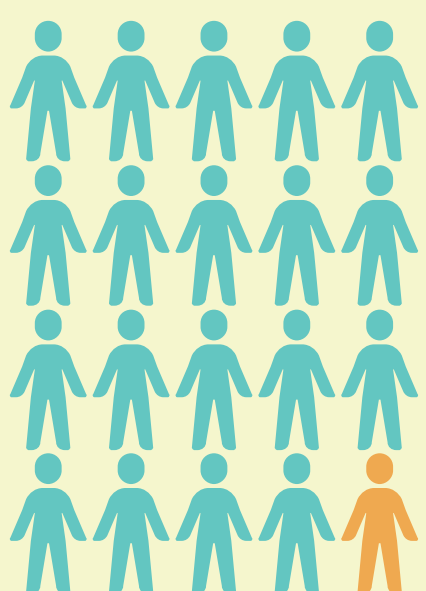
of parents report that ZYEP Summer Camp helped their child be more physically active

## Middle School participants report increases in:

Daily physical activity

Their connection with Zuni culture (a protective factor for youth suicidal ideation)

The number of people who care about them



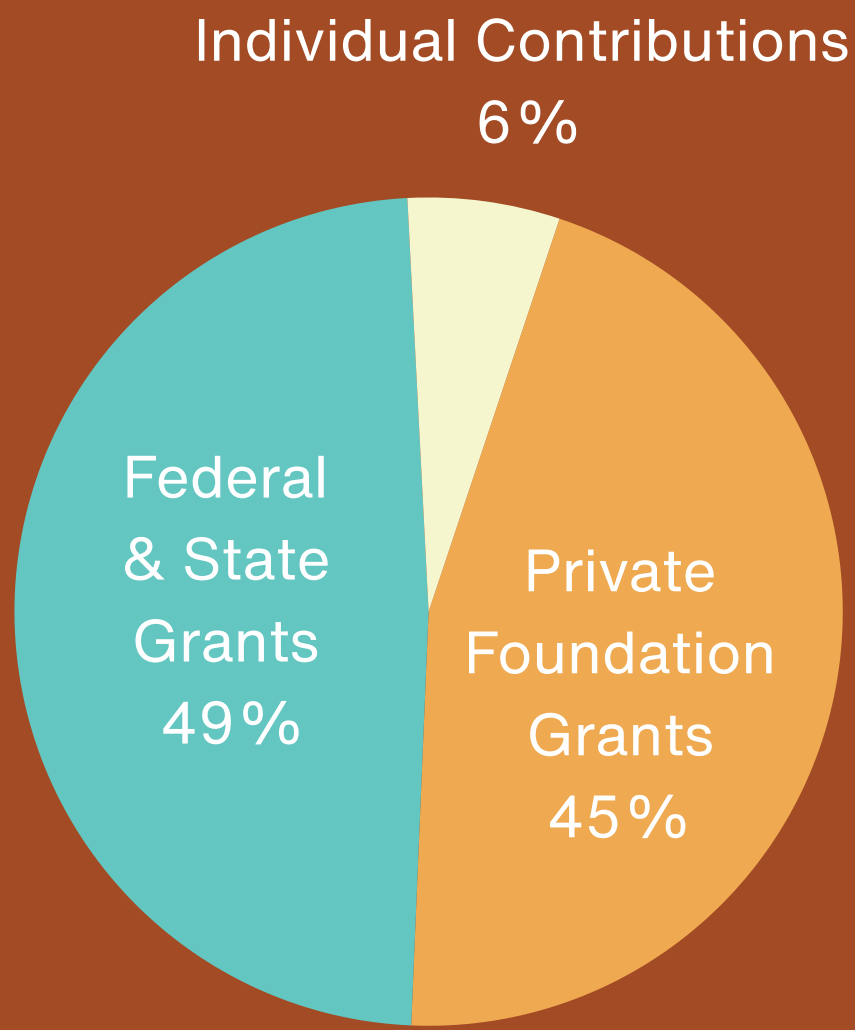
**95%** of ZYEP Summer Camp Counselors say their experience helped them:

- gain work experience,
- become better communicators,
- develop leadership skills, and
- give back to their community

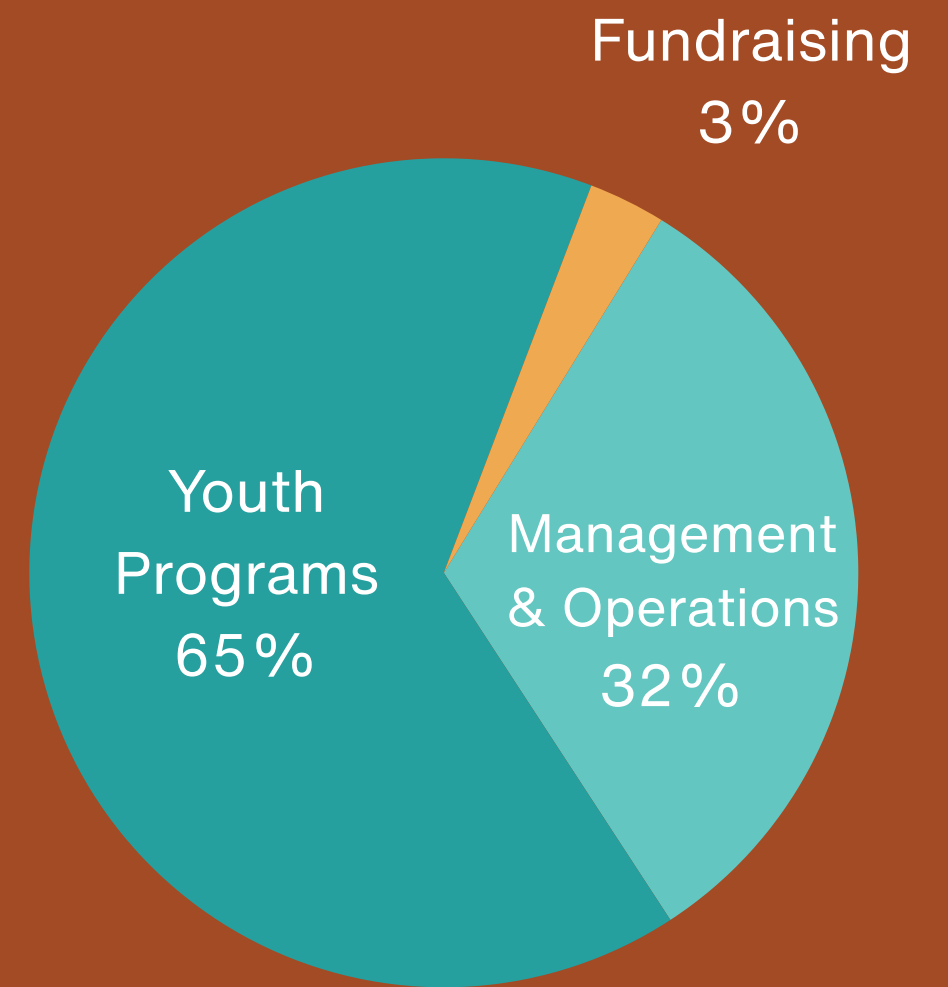
\*Statistics based on ZYEP 2025 survey data

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**2025 Operating Revenue**  
**\$1.9 M\***



**2025 Operating Expenses**  
**\$1.4 M\***



## Financial Stewardship Note:

In 2025, ZYEP intentionally strengthened its financial position in response to instability in federal funding. We reduced expenses and secured multi-year grants to ensure continuity of youth programs. Surplus funds have been allocated to 2026–27 programming commitments and to the newly established ZYEP Endowment, supporting long-term sustainability and community-led investment.



## Elahkwa (Thank You)!

*“[Our children] are becoming more and more motivated to try new things, to reach higher, to embrace that each one of them is worthy of so much more in this life. Thank you, ZYEP, for putting our youth first.”*

Paula, ZYEP Parent



## CONTACT US



THE ZUNI YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROJECT

P.O. Box 447  
Zuni, NM 87327

Email: [contact@zyep.org](mailto:contact@zyep.org)

Phone: (505) 782-8000

[www.zyep.org](http://www.zyep.org)



**TAHLIA NATACHU-ERIACHO**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

