

# OCYS CONNECTIONS



**JAN  
2025**

## Highlights

### SDUSD Partnership: Refugee Student Support

OCYS has partnered with the San Diego Unified School District to implement supports for refugee students and their families through a grant from the CA Department of Social Services. SDUSD has opened five newcomer welcome centers at San Diego high schools that provide services such as intake and orientation supports, supplies and materials, interpretation services, referrals for additional needs and housing support, mental health support, school community connections, parent workshops, and more.



### New to OCYS!

OCYS recently added two new members to our team. Brilly Gonzalez is a community development specialist and will be supporting implementation of the Child and Youth Plan, focusing on community partnerships and resources. Denise Amavizca is a management analyst who supports OCYS operations, including fiscal and contracts. They are wonderful additions to our small but mighty team! Learn more about our team [here](#).

### OCYS Team Spotlight Amy Gianetto



Amy is a management intern with OCYS, and she has been an integral part of our team since May 2024.

*In her words:*



I am set to graduate from UCSD this June with a major in Political Science and minor in Sociology. My favorite part about working with OCYS is being able to think creatively about what resources youth need and rethinking how to support them. I am passionate about improving economic equality so that everyone can enjoy a good quality of life and pursue fulfilling opportunities. In the future, I hope to do social science research using data and input from people to make better, people-centered policies.

### January Youth Newsletter

OCYS interns create a monthly youth newsletter, full of current topics, resources, events, and more! The January issue includes info. about developing leadership skills, exploring career interests, budgeting, and more!

**Please share the links with your communities!**

[January issue](#) [Past issues](#)

## Upcoming

Civic Education Workshops & Youth Commission Recruitment Events

- Feb. 13, 4:30 - 6:30pm  
City Heights Recreation Center
- Feb. 27, 4:30 - 6:30pm  
Kearny Mesa Recreation Center



[Click here for the flyer, and please share with your communities!](#)



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