



Hearing: Bill 25-0100

December 18, 2025

OPENING & PURPOSE

Protecting the Promise of Baltimore's Children & Youth Fund

Alysia Lee, President & CEO

WHAT BCYF WAS CREATED TO DO

BCYF's Purpose

- Center community voice
- Advance equity
- Invest in youth-serving organizations
- Strengthen the youth-development ecosystem



ABOUT BCYF

**Advancing equity and opportunity
through community-rooted
grantmaking.**

Established by Baltimore voters.
Independent public fund.

Mission:
Support youth development organizations
and leaders.

Vision:
A just, abundant, and creative Baltimore.



OUR PROGRESS & SUCCESSES

\$40M+

invested in youth-serving
organizations

460+

hours of professional learning
and technical assistance

17,000+

youth seats supported citywide

100+

grantee partners across
Baltimore neighborhoods

94% grantees in compliance

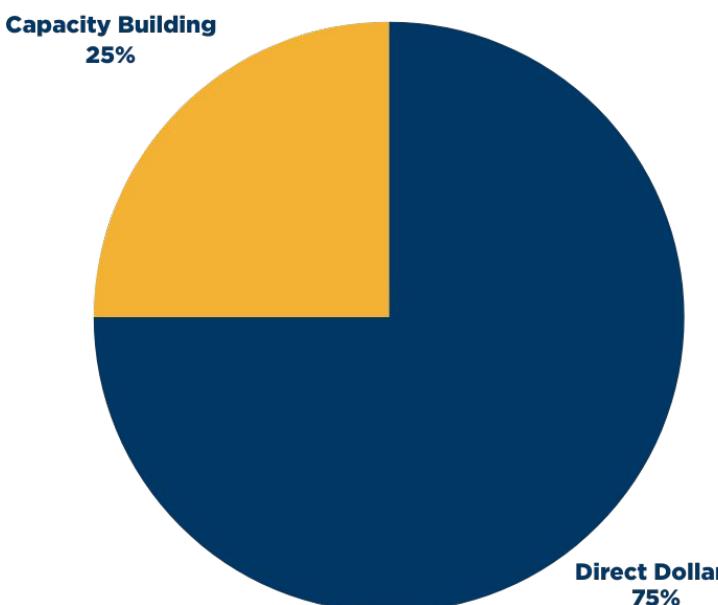
BCYF's DUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Programs + People

- Direct Grants
- Technical Assistance & Capacity

Building = the learning lab

Strengthen programs and the people who power them.



**HOW DOES BCYF
INVEST IN THE YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT ECOSYSTEM?**

BCYF OVERSIGHT & ACCOUNTABILITY

BCYF is already accountable through:

- City-BCYF MOU Annual independent audit
- IRS nonprofit reporting
- Risk-based financial monitoring for grantees
- Post-award site visits
- Annual budget public hearing
- City government financial and annual reports
- Annual City Council Hearing
- Provision for Performance Audit



MYTH VS. FACT

MYTH: BCYF is not audited

FACT: BCYF undergoes annual independent audits

MYTH: BCYF lacks transparency

FACT: BCYF publishes reports & holds public meetings

MYTH: BCYF funds unvetted organizations

FACT: BCYF uses multi-stage review & risk screening

WHY WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS BILL

Strong Intent, Concerning Impacts

Misalignment creates:

- Operational strain
- Legal conflict
- Reduced equity



STRUCTURAL MISALIGNMENT

The Bill Was Developed Too Far from Current Practice

Conflicts with:

- MOU with the City
- Nonprofit standards
- Grassroots Grantmaking
- Youth ecosystem realities



GRANTMAKING PROCESSES DO NOT BELONG IN STATUTE

**Statutory process requirements =
Rigidity & reduced equity**

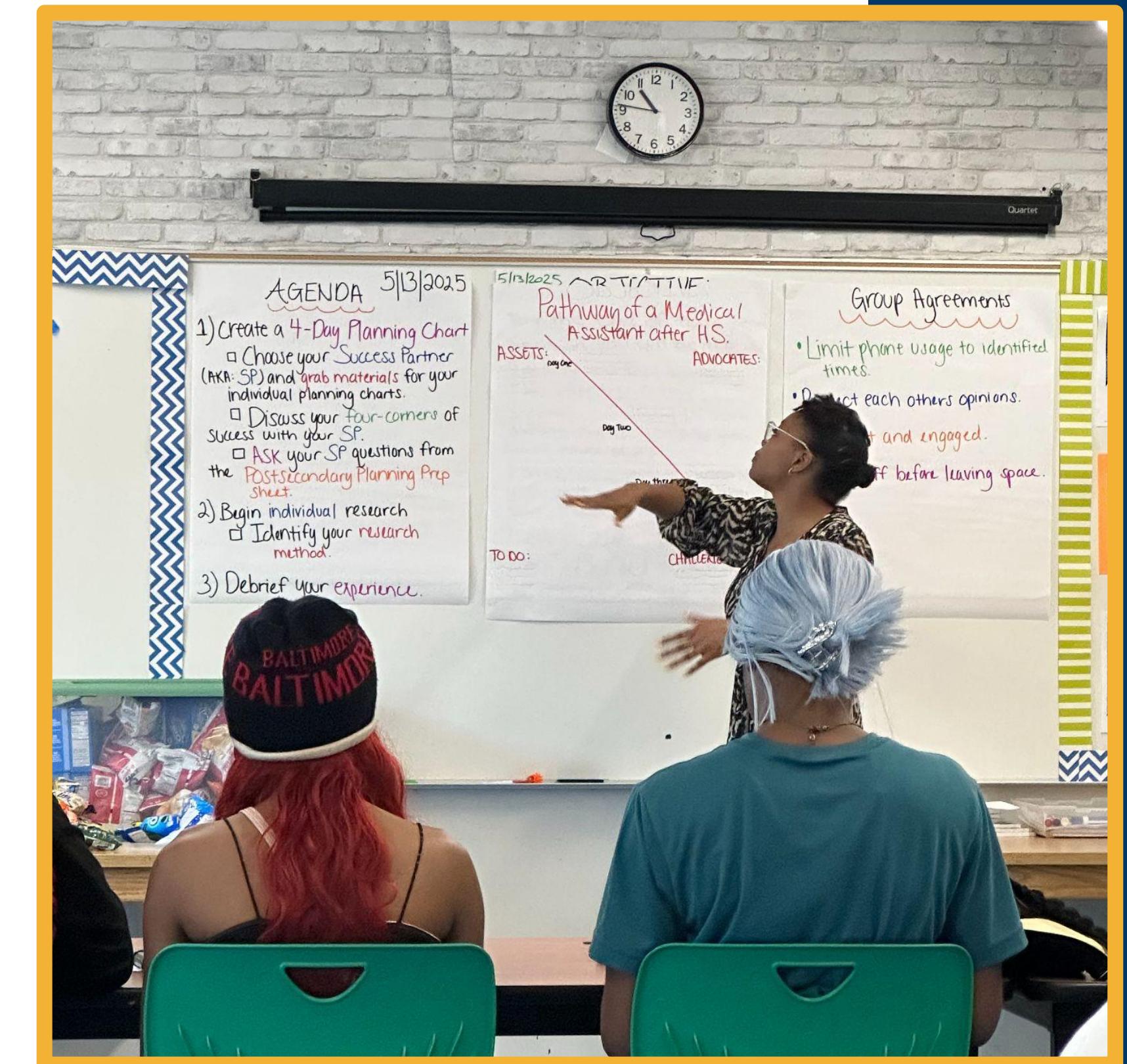
Equity requires flexibility and continuous improvement.



FISCAL SPONSORSHIP & EQUITY

Essential pathway for
grassroots organizations

Bill unintentionally restricts access
for emerging and
community-rooted groups.



REPORTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Support strong reporting
- Oppose rigid, one-size-fits-all mandates
- Align reporting requirements with the MOU



COMMUNITY VOICE

“BCYF didn’t just fund us — they taught us how to sustain our work.”

— Youth-serving organization leader



BALTIMORE
CHILDREN &
YOUTH FUND

REQUESTED AMENDMENTS

BCYF requests amendments to:

- Remove grantmaking processes from statute
- Remove prior-year expenditure caps
- Adjust COI restrictions
- Preserve fiscal sponsorship
- Avoid Board expansion without support
- Align reporting with MOU
- Remove vague demographic language



IF THE BILL PASSES AS WRITTEN

Predicted impacts:

- Delayed grant cycles
- Fewer eligible organizations
- Legal conflicts
- Loss of flexibility
- Erosion of trust
- Fewer youth served



WHAT WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR

**Not less oversight —
better alignment**

Strengthen accountability
while protecting
community-rooted equity.



OUR CALL TO ACTION

**Before advancing the
bill, BCYF requests:**

- Two community working sessions
- One Board working session
- Direct collaboration with bill's author



WHY THIS MATTERS

Legislation must strengthen — not constrain — Baltimore's youth ecosystem

Decisions determine:

- Which programs survive
- Which youth get opportunities
- Whether equity advances or retreats



CLOSING: ACCOUNTABILITY + EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT

A just, abundant, and creative Baltimore.

BCYF is delivering exceptional results for Baltimore's youth.

Let's strengthen this legislation — together.





THANK YOU



BALTIMORE CHILDREN & YOUTH FUND

What we are **NOT** asking for

Not less oversight

BETTER ALIGNMENT

