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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

**JOINT HEARING
PUBLIC SAFETY &
EDUCATION, YOUTH AND OLDER ADULTS
COMMITTEES**

**The Honorable John Bullock
The Honorable Mark Conway
Chairs**

PUBLIC HEARING

**THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025
4:30PM**

EDMONSON WEST HIGH SCHOOL
501 N Athol Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229

Legislative Oversight LO25-0019

Legislative Oversight -- Summer Youth Program

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LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Committee: JOINT HEARING

Public Safety Committee & Education, Youth, & Older Adult Committee

LO25-0019

Legislative Oversight – Summer Youth Program

Purpose:

For the purpose of the joint committee holding hearings with relevant City Agencies including, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement, The Baltimore Police Department, The Baltimore City Public School System, The Mayor’s Office of African American Male Engagement, & The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, The Mayor’s Office of Children & Family Success, The Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, The Baltimore City Youth Fund, and others to present information relevant to the City’s plans and opportunities for young people during the summer and how the City plans to ensure the accountability and safety of its young people over the course of the summer.

REPORTING AGENCIES

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement | • Mayor’s Office of Children & Family Success |
| • Baltimore Police Department | • Mayor’s Office of Employment Development |
| • Mayor’s Office of African American Male Engagement | • Baltimore’s Promise |
| • Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks | • Baltimore City Children & Youth Fund |
| | • Baltimore City Public School System |
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BACKGROUND

Summer in Baltimore City

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 20.9% of Baltimore’s population was under the age of 18 as of July 1, 2024.¹ During the summer months, when school is out of session, the City and numerous philanthropic partner organizations will offer programming to engage these young people.

At a recent presentation to the City Council, Baltimore’s Promise—a local nonprofit focused on youth opportunities and a major funder and leader of the Summer Funding Collaborative—warned of a decrease in capacity for summer 2025, which could be as steep as a decrease of 12,000 seats for young people in summer programming.²

¹ U.S. Census Bureau.

² Baltimore’s Promise Presentation (Slides in File)

According to the 2024 Baltimore City Summer Coordination Group Dashboard, there were 40,000 seats for youth summer programming that year. In their Council presentation, Baltimore's Promise noted that most funding for summer programming is directed to young people aged 14-18. The organization identified a significant need for programming that serves young people in their early twenties as they transition from high school to secondary education and into the workforce.

Outside in 2025 Mayor Scott's Summer Youth Engagement Strategy

On April 23, 2025, Baltimore City Mayor Brandon M. Scott announced details of his *BMore this Summer* youth engagement strategy for the upcoming summer called "Outside in 2025." As part of the plan, the Mayor announced that nine recreation centers operated by Baltimore's Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) will have extended hours on Friday and Saturday nights during the summer, and the BCRP's programming for children and youths will include:

- BMore Night Hoops (ages 18+);
- Midnight Basketball (ages 14 -17);
- Teen pool parties at the Druid Hill Park Aquatic Center;
- 42 BCRP summer camp sites;
- BCRP's Rec on the Run mobile recreation facility; and
- Rock the Block family block parties.³

Mayor Scott also announced that, "This summer, Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) will have 12,000 slots across 10 different district run programs and 29 literacy focused programs with opportunities for grades Pre-K through 12 available."⁴ Additional information regarding BCPS' summer programming—including on early learning, elementary, and middle school camps—is available on the system's Summer Learning Programs website:

<https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/o/bcps/page/summer>.

Department of Recreation & Parks (BCRP) ⁵

=The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks had a goal of enrolling 2,200 individuals in Summer Recreation Camps (service 648 Community Recreation Centers). The budget continues funding support from Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for the Dawson Center and BCRP's STEM program. Special funding from Table Games revenues of \$1.46 million will also continue to support summer camps for youth.⁶

³ Baltimore City Mayor Brandon M. Scott, *Mayor Scott Outlines Details of "Outside in '25" Summer Youth Engagement Strategy* (Apr. 23, 2025) (online at <https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/news/press-releases/2025-04-23-mayor-scott-outlines-details-outside-25-summer-youth-engagement>).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ BCRP Website <https://bcrp.baltimorecity.gov/camp-baltimore>

⁶ FY 25 Agency Detail Book

Performance Measures

Type	Measure	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2023	Fiscal 2024	Fiscal 2025
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
Output	# of individuals aged 5-12 enrolled in at least one activity at the Recreation Centers	2,483	639	2,073	2,500	3,769	3,500
Output	# of individuals enrolled in Summer Recreation Camps	910	1,845	2,918	3,200	1,796	2,200
Output	# of individuals aged 13-17 enrolled in at least one activity at the Recreation Centers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,500

Mayor's Office of Employment Development (Youth Works)

YouthWorks works to “provide a 5-week job opportunity to thousands of Baltimore City young people between the ages of 14 to 21.”⁷ In 2025, job programs will begin on July 7 and end on August 8.

Mayor Scott's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 proposed that a total of \$6.9 million from the Children & Youth Fund (BCYF) be allocated to YouthWorks, Workforce Services for Out of School Youth, and part of the administrative support for these services.

- On April 29, 2025, BCYF announced it was making an “emergency investment” of \$4.9 million in YouthWorks—a reduction below the previously announced funding contribution.

Fund Name	Fiscal 2023 Budget	Fiscal 2024 Budget	Fiscal 2025 Budget
	Dollars	Dollars	Positions
General	2,834,461	3,039,496	8
Federal	1,999,258	2,000,000	0
State	3,463,083	3,620,572	1
Special	1,112,862	1,115,894	0
Total	9,409,664	9,775,962	9

Performance Measures

Type	Measure	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2023	Fiscal 2024	Fiscal 2025
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
Input	# of Baltimore City youth ages 14-21 offered paid, summer work experience through YouthWorks	8,651	5,017	6,382	8,000	6,761	7,000
Outcome	% of employers who said they would recommend YouthWorks to other orgs seeking entry-level employees	94 %	93 %	85 %	92 %	98 %	90 %
Outcome	% of youth who increase their work readiness	66 %	— %	70 %	75 %	97 %	90 %

Major Operating Budget Items

- The Recommended Budget increases funding for hourly positions by \$157,000 across all funds, to reflect the \$15 minimum wage for all YouthWorks participants.
- The budget accounts for the 240 year-round participant spots that geared toward Baltimore City school juniors and seniors to work throughout the school year to provide career training.
- The budget includes \$123,000 for program analytics software.

YouthWorks is recommended in the FY 26 budget for over 5 million additional dollars to be invested through the 2026 proposed budget.⁸

⁷ YouthWorks, *About Us* (accessed on Apr. 22, 2025) (online at <https://youthworks.oedworks.com/customPage.cfm?PageId=7>).

⁸ FY 2026 Preliminary Budget

Service Changes

Service	Budget	
	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026
791: BCPS Alternative Options Academy for Youth	1,634,541	5,814,989
792: Workforce Public Assistance	4,692,848	3,917,764
793: Employment Enhancement Services for Baltimore City Residents	3,229,806	2,644,495
794: Administration - MOED	2,242,476	2,442,912
795: Workforce Services for Baltimore Residents	10,919,054	10,273,608
796: Workforce Services for Ex-Offenders	1,174,990	1,558,175
797: Workforce Services for Out of School Youth - Youth Opportunity	6,906,130	3,892,200
798: Youth Works Summer Job Program	9,242,892	14,759,529
800: Workforce Services for WIOA Funded Youth	3,398,352	4,066,348
Total	43,441,089	49,370,020

Baltimore's Promise

Baltimore's Promise is a city-wide collaborative of public, business, higher education, nonprofit, community, and philanthropic leaders.⁹ Baltimore's Promise is contributing \$2.5 million to the Summer Funding Collaborative (SFC) to support summer programming.¹⁰ The Summer Funding Collaborative lead by Baltimore's Promise pools contributions from SFC members, including philanthropic organizations, local foundations, and Baltimore City Public Schools, to support community organizations providing summer programming for young people.

Notably, at a recent presentation to the City Council, Baltimore's Promise identified a gap in capacity for summer 2025 that could result in approximately 12,000 fewer seats for young people than in the previous summer. The service gap is driven in large part by a loss of pandemic era funding and shifts in public and private philanthropic funding that had previously helped supported programming through SFC and the City's Public School System.

Baltimore City Children & Youth Fund

The Baltimore City Children & Youth Fund (BCYF) is a charter-funded organization that receives 0.03 for every 100 dollars of assessed property value in the City. The fund was created via ballot measure in 2016 and supports organizations around the City via grant money for a variety of programs and initiatives.¹¹

According to their end-of-the-year report for fiscal year 2024, BCYF invested \$1.5 million into the Summer Funding Collaborative out of a total of approximately \$9 million.¹² On April 29, BCYF announced that it would provide \$2.9 million for community-based programs in summer 2025. It will also provide \$112,500 to "sustain [...] the collaborative infrastructure of the Summer Funding Collaborative."¹³

⁹ Baltimore Promise Site

¹⁰ 4-23 press conference

¹¹ BCYF site

¹² BCFY FY 24 Report

¹³ BCYF summer investment plan

Baltimore City Public Schools

The Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) offers a number of different programs and camps to school age children across the city most of which are at no cost to students attending a traditional public school (there may be some cost to students in charter schools). BCPSS lists 23 different summer learning programs on their website¹⁴. These camps include:

- B-360 Baltimore – Kindergarten -12th grade
- Fine Arts Camp – High School
- AP Summer Academy – Middle & High School
- Engineer Explorers – Elementary & Middle School
- Springboard – Kindergarten & 1st Grade

During a recent meeting with Council Staff, BCPSS noted that there is considerably less capacity this summer than last year because of the drawing down of ESSER funding (a federal Covid-era assistance program).

According to the Mayor’s preliminary fiscal year 2026 budget, the City’s share of funding for the school system is going up approximately 0.77% or approximately \$3 million.¹⁵ In their FY 25-26 school year budget request, BCPSS notes a \$7.9 million dollar investment in funding for “...academic acceleration and enrichment to keep students learning and thriving year-round.”¹⁶

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s):

- US Census Bureau
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/baltimorecitymaryland/PST045224>
- Baltimore City Dept of Recreation & Parks Site <https://bcrp.baltimorecity.gov/camp-baltimore>
- Youth Works Site <https://youthworks.oedworks.com/>
- FY 25 Agency Detail Budget Book
<https://bbmr.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/FY25%20Agency%20Detail%20Volume%20II-Updated%20.pdf>
- Mayor’s Press Release <https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/news/press-releases/2025-03-27-mayor-scott-baltimore-children-and-youth-fund-bcyf-announce-new>

¹⁴ BCPSS Website

¹⁵ FY26 Preliminary Budget

¹⁶ BCPSS 25-26 Proposed Budget

- FY 2026 Preliminary Budget <https://bbmr.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/upload/FY2026%20Preliminary%20Budget.pdf>
 - BCYF Site <https://bcyfund.org/>
 - BCYF FY 24 End of Year Report https://bcyfund.org/wp-content/uploads/BCYF_FY24_Annual_Report.pdf
 - BCPSS 25-26 Proposed Budget https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3843/BCPS/5546344/FY26ProposedBudget_Final_1.pdf
 - 4-23 press conference <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwr8SLvkgHQ&t=329s>
 - Baltimore's Promise site <https://www.baltimorespromise.org/>
 - Baltimore's Promise Letter (letter in bill file)
 - Baltimore City Public Schools Summer <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/page/summer>
 - BCYF Summer 25 Investment Plan <https://bcyfund.org/baltimore-children-youth-fund-board-of-directors-announces-9-55-million-summer-2025-investment-plan/>
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Analysis by: Tony Leva Direct Inquiries to: 410-396-1091
 Analysis Date: April 30, 2025

**PUBLIC SAFETY &
EDUCATION, YOUTH, AND
OLDER ADULTS COMMITTEES**

AGENCY REPORTS

SEE ATTACHED

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

SUMMER Q&A

1. How many youths participated in a summer internship/job facilitated by the City in each of 2022, 2023, and 2024 (disaggregated by Council District and/or secondary school)?

2022	12TH GRADE CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION	AA DEGR		GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8	GRADE 9	HS GRAD / DIPLOMA	NOT GRADED	SOME COLLEGE	Grand Total
		EE	GED											
District 9				1					2	1				4
District 8					1				1	2	2			6
District 6	2			101	51	13	1	65	130	112	22	1	8	506
District 5	5	3	4	269	181	30	14	208	383	324	51	8	43	1523
District 4			1	38	25	9	1	38	69	49	4	1	3	238
District 3	5	2	1	248	153	32	12	215	345	306	61	10	21	1411
District 2	3		1	276	171	41	12	212	367	345	62	7	40	1537
District 11				23	13	6	1	24	38	43	9		2	159
District 10				27	11	3	1	25	48	31	6	1	4	157
District 1				43	21	4	2	48	58	49	6	4	1	236
#N/A				16	5	2	1	5	6	6	4			45
Grand Total	15	5	7	1042	632	140	45	843	1447	1267	225	32	122	5822

1

District 11				32	16	2		2	19	40	35	7	1	2	156
District 2	7	2	3	315	193	38		9	205	450	429	64	8	40	1763
District 3	7	1	5	278	187	41		8	235	428	336	71	9	32	1638
District 4				42	28	12			37	65	56	11	1	6	258
District 5	4	1	4	344	205	48		11	244	450	387	78	12	44	1832
District 6	1	2		117	59	10	1	2	73	161	127	24	1	13	591
District 8									1	1		2			4
District 9									1		2				3
Grand Total	19	7	12	1214	734	163	1	37	876	1725	1472	281	36	142	6719

2024	12TH GRADE CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION															HS GRAD / DIPLOMA	NOT GRADED	SOME COLLEGE	Grand Total
	AA DEGREE	GED	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8	GRADE 9									
District 9				2						2	2				1	7			
District 8				1	1				1	4	3					10			
District 6	4	1	1	167	116	29		1	84	212	195	38	6	17		871			
District 5	7	3	6	504	367	84	1	11	257	624	630	129	9	67		2699			
District 4			1	84	53	10			43	96	89	18	2	5		401			
District 3	9	3	6	443	310	80	1	10	253	526	617	117	15	35		2425			
District 2	3	4	5	466	351	69		6	273	545	586	100	21	41		2470			
District 11			1	52	36	9		2	28	51	54	12		1		246			
District 10	1			52	45	4	1	2	38	63	68	8		2		284			
District 1	1			62	46	8	1		55	80	80	21	1	3		358			
#N/A				13	11			1	6	16	9	6		4		66			
Grand Total	25	11	20	1846	1336	293	4	33	1038	2219	2333	449	54	176		9837			

*N/A Denotes Baltimore County Zip code/District

(a) How many and what type of employment opportunities will be available to Baltimore City youth via YouthWorks this year, disaggregated by industry and (ideally) ranked in ascending order of the number of opportunities available?

Worksites are broken down into two categories, approved and pending. For the approved worksites there are 57 industry cluster groupings self identified by worksites for a total of 4,520 positions. For the pending worksites, there are 211 industry career cluster groupings for 7,882 positions.

(b) How will you ensure that YouthWorks participants are paid in a timely manner?

We will collaborate with the Central Payroll Office to conduct a pre-note process once all youth applications have been verified. This will ensure banking information is accurate and accounts can accept direct deposits. If a youth's account cannot receive direct deposits, their payment method will be switched to a U.S. Bank pay card. The U.S. Bank will mail pay cards directly to youth in June. In Person appointments will be available before the first pay day for youth who do not receive their card by mail. To ensure timely processing of timesheets, youth and worksites will receive email and text reminders to submit and review timesheets before the deadline.

YouthWorks supervisors and clerks will send worksite supervisors a breakdown of hours for all assigned youth to verify and confirm before submission to the Central Payroll Office. In 2025 Central Payroll provided us this update: “Due to outreach by MOED and in partnership with Payroll, the majority of Youthworks participants 8634 (99.95%) enrolled in and received payment via direct deposit.”

(c) What are the results of end-of-program surveys of YouthWorks participants?

[YouthWorks Survey Report 2024.docx](#)

(d) Are there any metrics tracking the types of skills (technical, soft, and/or industry-specific) gained by youth in different program areas?

Yes. After each summer, youth participants and worksite partners are asked to complete surveys that capture the types of skills gained throughout the program. These surveys assess growth in key areas such as technical abilities, soft skills (e.g., communication, teamwork, problem-solving), and industry-specific competencies relevant to the participant's placement. The feedback collected helps evaluate program impact, identify trends across different sectors, and inform improvements for future program cycles.

(e) How many YouthWorks participants from 2022 (or earlier) have subsequently been employed by the City of Baltimore?

We do not currently have data on the number of YouthWorks participants from 2022 or earlier who have subsequently been employed by the City of Baltimore.

2. In 2023, the Summer Youth Engagement Strategy cost approximately \$1,000,892. Does this include youth curfew enforcement and all activities included with it? In 2025, the transfer of monies from the Youth Fund includes \$1.5 million for the Summer Youth Engagement Strategy. What is the total cost of the Summer Youth Engagement Strategy? Please include a line-item budget. Does summer youth engagement strategy include curfew enforcement or include more than just enforcement?

The total FY26 budget for summer youth engagement is projected to be around \$1,230,000. This includes engagement and outreach activities from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 – meaning parts of two summers. This budget includes contracts for credible messengers to serve as outreach workers as well as social workers and school police. It also includes food, sound, talent, and private security for engagement events such as the Teen Pool Parties and Rock the Block activities.

Expense	Budget Amount
Salaries (Contractors)	\$1,013,406
Contracts for Events	\$287,200
Supplies	\$25,650
Communications	\$27,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$1,230,850</i>

(a) What is the impact of this transfer of the \$8 million on the overall availability of summer opportunities for youth in Baltimore?

BCYF's investment in YouthWorks is going to help the City maintain 8,500 jobs through YouthWorks, create even more programming, and fund programs through the Summer Funding Collaborative.

(b) What changes have been made to the 2025 summer youth engagement plan as a result of the \$48 million funding loss experienced by City Schools? Are alternative funding or resource-sharing models available and/or being explored to sustain summer programming?

The funding loss experienced by City Schools for summer was long expected and planned. City Schools focused on prioritizing the best attended programs and the programs with the best outcomes from previous summers. They are offering 12,000 summer seats from pre-k to 12 across 10 different district programs and 29 literacy focused programs. Given concerns about the demand for summer programming, BCYF has agreed to draw down an additional \$2.1M from their fund balance to assist with funding additional seats for summer through the funding collaborative.

3. How many youths (ages 17 and under) were arrested in each of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (year to date), disaggregated by year, week, and age? Please also identify for each year the top three alleged crimes for which youth were arrested.

See slides at hearing.

(a) In addition, what percentage of total arrests in the City in each of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (year to date) were of youth ages 17 and under?

See slides at hearing.

4. How many youths were cited (in whatever manner) for violating a City curfew in each of 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (year to date), disaggregated by year, week, age, and location of violation?

In 2023, 2024 and 2025 year-to-date, zero youth were cited for violating a City curfew.

5. How many parents were fined for their childrens' violation of curfew? Were any resources suggested to those parents? How many youth were taken to engagement centers, broken down by week and location?

No parents were fined for their child's violation of curfew. Separately, in 2023, we did not have the need to make any voluntary transports to a Youth Connection Center (YCC). In 2024, two youth were transported to the YCC at the Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center:

- **Transport 1: Sunday 5/26**
 - Student from Baltimore County was transported to the YCC to wait for their mother to pick them up.
- **Transport 2: Saturday 6/15**
 - A 16 y/o rising junior at Green Street Academy was detained by School Police for carrying a bottle of alcohol and refusing to throw it away when asked.
 - At the YCC, the staff performed an intake and the student requested connections to employment, expressing an interest in mortuary science and working at a funeral home.

6. What is the breakdown of the 8 million dollars? How was the money spent for the youth fund last year? Where are the gaps anticipated for this year?

The \$8M being referred to includes more than summer. It was about a general partnership between the Mayor's office and BCYF. The announcement said that BCYF will:

- Establish a new youth athletics fund with an initial investment of \$500,000, expanding access to high-quality vendor-provided athletic programming in Baltimore City Public Schools.
- Support YouthWorks, Baltimore's nationally recognized summer employment program with a \$6,000,000 investment, ensuring 8,500 young people gain meaningful employment this summer.
- Invest \$1,500,000 in Mayor Scott's summer youth engagement strategy, which has contributed to reducing youth victimization and involvement in violence.

Since that announcement, the City was able to identify an additional \$2.1M for YouthWorks. This has enabled BCYF to repurpose that \$2.1M for additional grants through the summer funding collaborative.

Therefore, the updated investment from BCYF is:

- Establish a new youth athletics fund with an initial investment of \$500,000, expanding access to high-quality vendor-provided athletic programming in Baltimore City Public Schools.
- Support YouthWorks, Baltimore's nationally recognized summer employment program with a \$3,900,000 investment, ensuring 8,500 young people gain meaningful employment this summer.
- Invest \$1,500,000 in Mayor Scott's summer youth engagement strategy, which has contributed to reducing youth victimization and involvement in violence.
Fund an additional \$2,100,000 through the Summer Funding Collaborative (up from the \$840,000 already committed).

All of these moves by BCYF were approved by their board.

Board of Directors

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President
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The Honorable Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City of Baltimore

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President
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* Current co-chairs of the
Baltimore's Promise Board of Directors.

Chief Executive Officer: Julia Baez

The Honorable Zeke Cohen

President, Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Members of the Baltimore City Council

Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Clarification on Administrative Costs and Participation in the Summer Funding Collaborative

Dear Council President Cohen and Members of the City Council,

I am writing on behalf of Baltimore's Promise to provide a correction for the public record regarding testimony provided by the President of the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund (BCYF) during the City Council hearing held on March 27, 2025.

The President of BCYF stated during her remarks that the Summer Funding Collaborative (SFC) requested a 50% administrative rate, which ultimately affected BCYF's ability to fully participate in this important citywide initiative. This statement is inaccurate, and misrepresents the longstanding operational model of the Summer Funding Collaborative.

For nearly a decade, we have coordinated the SFC in partnership with both public and private entities. Throughout this time, the shared administrative rate has consistently remained at or below 15%—and in some years, it has been as low as 6%—thanks to our ability to leverage external funding to support the infrastructure necessary for a high-functioning and equitable summer funding system. Simply put, Baltimore's Promise has never requested, nor would we ever request, a 50% administrative rate for any program we manage.

We sought to support BCYF in navigating their transition away from the traditional method of using an Operational Services Agreement with the Fund for Educational Excellence as their grantmaking fiscal sponsor, which would reduce *their* administrative burden. **Our proposed model was to allocate a percent of their investment to essential costs beyond direct program grants**—specifically, direct payments to youth and community members participating in grant decision-making, and to local organizations providing technical assistance to strengthen program quality. These funds were not for administrative overhead to operate the Summer Funding Collaborative but instead for equitable community engagement in line with SFC’s core values. Even in that proposal, the administrative rate of the Summer Funding Collaborative never changed.

Ultimately, when BCYF was unable to reach a resolution with the Fund for Educational Excellence regarding the costs associated with their grantmaking administration, **we returned their \$1.5 million allocation and declined to draw down the originally offered 25 percent** for administrative costs and instead requested only the standard 15 percent aligned with all other SFC funders. We also encouraged BCYF to use the difference to expand grantmaking to community partners, reflecting our shared commitment to increasing resources for Baltimore’s youth. For transparency, **I have attached a copy of our correspondences** from November and December 2024.

Finally, we want to express how deeply disappointing this situation has been. The continued misinformation and lack of coordination around BCYF’s participation in the Summer Funding Collaborative has been not only misleading but also disruptive to the broader summer ecosystem that so many organizations and families depend on. The ongoing shifts in their funding strategy have created unnecessary confusion and fragmentation, undermining years of collective work toward a more equitable and efficient system. As a result, **this summer alone, Baltimore will face a shortfall of more than 12,000 summer opportunities for children and youth—an unacceptable gap** that puts our city’s young people at risk and diminishes the potential impact of collaborative public investments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this clarification. We are committed to continuing to partner with the City Council and our fellow funders to ensure Baltimore’s children and youth have access to high-quality summer opportunities and a stronger ecosystem of support.

Sincerely,
Julia Baez
Baltimore’s Promise

Attachments:

1. [Email from Baltimore’s Promise to BCYF, November 2024](#)
2. [Email returning BCYF funds from SFC, December 2024](#)



Executive Summary

Baltimore Children & Youth Fund (BCYF) Summer 2025 Youth Investment Report

Overview

The Baltimore Children & Youth Fund (BCYF) proudly announces a **\$9.55 million investment** to create a joyful, equitable, and enriching summer for Baltimore's youth. Grounded in our public mandate and community-rooted values, this plan expands access to employment, arts, education, wellness, and leadership opportunities across the city.

Key Investments and Rationale

- **\$4.9M for YouthWorks**
 - To ensure 8,500 youth have access to paid summer employment.
 - Rationale: Sustains vital staffing for grassroots organizations and creates career readiness pathways for Baltimore's youth. Without this emergency investment, many summer programs would face staffing shortages, limiting youth engagement.
- **\$2.9M for Summer Programs**
 - To support 42 current BCYF grantee partners with culturally relevant, community-rooted summer programs across Baltimore.
 - Rationale: The BCYF grantee organizations are trusted leaders who know their communities best. Expanding their capacity ensures transformative arts, STEM, wellness, mentoring, and leadership experiences reach youth citywide.
- **\$1.5M for Mayor's Office Initiatives**
 - To strengthen collaboration between BCYF grantees and city agencies.
 - Rationale: Cross-sector partnerships increase youth access to public spaces, city services, and streamlined support. This investment enhances the entire summer ecosystem, expanding opportunities while removing bureaucratic barriers.
- **\$137.5K for Summer Arts Programming**
 - To expand access to facilities, supplies, and artistic experiences.
 - Rationale: Creativity nurtures healing, confidence, and leadership. Investments in arts ensure youth have joyful outlets for expression, storytelling, and connection across every neighborhood.



MEMORANDUM

To: Baltimore City Council

From: Alysia Lee, Baltimore Children & Youth Fund

Date: April 30, 2025

Subject: Summer Space Requests Analysis Report

Overview

Between April 24 and 28, 2025, Baltimore Children & Youth Fund (BCYF) collected responses from 14 organizations requesting summer space for programming. The data gathered spans basic contact information, program timing needs, participant expectations, and facility/amenity requirements. This report synthesizes key findings to inform space allocation planning for summer 2025.

Respondent Summary

- **Total Responses:** 14
- **Organizations Represented:**
 - Challenge 2 Change Inc.
 - SEEK, Inc. (Social & Economic Empowerment through Knowledge)
 - Peaceful Warriors
 - Requity Foundation
 - JOY Baltimore Corp
 - Greenmount East Leadership Project
 - Elev8 Baltimore, Inc.
 - Coach G Academy
 - One More One Less Mentoring
 - Leader Breeders
 - Black Girls Cook
 - R.I.S.E. Arts Center of Baltimore
 - Crayons & Culture
 - Active Achievers



MEMORANDUM

To: Baltimore City Council

From: Alysia Lee, Baltimore Children & Youth Fund

Date: April 30, 2025

Subject: Overview of BCYF's Investments in the Summer Funding Collaborative (2022–2025)

Background

The **Summer Funding Collaborative (SFC)** is a partnership of public, private, and nonprofit organizations that pool resources to support high-quality summer programs for Baltimore's youth.

BCYF has been a proud funder and active leader within the SFC, prioritizing investments that align with our mission to advance equity, community wisdom, and joyful youth development across the city.

BCYF's participation strengthens grassroots organizations' ability to deliver transformative summer experiences — including programs in arts, STEM, leadership development, health and wellness, civic engagement, and academic enrichment.

BCYF's Summer Funding Collaborative Investments (2022–2025)

Summer Year	Investment Amount	Number of Programs Funded	Key Notes
2022	\$2.0M	36	Initial major investment supporting grassroots expansion
2023	\$2.1M	39	Strategic stabilization and modest growth
2024	\$1.8M; <i>Originally \$2M</i>	39	Maintained program access despite broader economic pressures
2025	\$2.9M	42	Major investment (+\$900K increase) announced April 24, 2025

Strategic Highlights

- **Expanded Reach:** From 36 to 42 funded programs between 2022 and 2025.
- **Increased Equity:** Prioritized historically underinvested neighborhoods.
- **Strengthened Infrastructure:** Investments complemented by technical assistance, capacity-building sessions, and new initiatives like the Summer Space Match Registry.
- **Aligned with Community Wisdom:** Funding priorities informed by youth and family feedback, Youth Master Plan development, and grassroots partner input.

Looking Ahead

BCYF will continue to advocate for improvements to the summer funding ecosystem, including:

- Earlier grant award timelines to allow programs time to hire and prepare.
- A centralized youth opportunity portal for easier navigation of available programs.
- Stronger year-round support structures that sustain youth engagement beyond summer.

Space Need Assessment

- **All 14 respondents** indicated they **need summer space** (100% affirmative).
- **Typical Space Usage Periods:**
 - Requested start dates vary from **June 16 to July 14**.
 - End dates mostly range to **August 8**, indicating a roughly **6–8 week programming window**.
 - Some organizations specified **Fridays only** or special usage for **staff training**.
- **Days/Times of Use:**
 - Predominantly **Monday–Thursday schedules** (e.g., 8:00 am–3:00 pm, 10:00 am–2:00 pm).
 - Some evening use: **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30–6:30 pm**.
 - Occasional **Saturday programming** noted.

Participant Volume

- **Projected Daily Attendance:**
 - **26–50 participants:** 50% of responses (7 organizations).
 - **11–25 participants:** 36% (5 organizations).
 - **51–100 participants:** 14% (2 organizations).
- **Implication:** Space planning must accommodate **mid-sized groups** predominantly (26–50 attendees), but with flexibility for smaller and larger cohorts.

Facility and Amenity Needs

Facility Types Requested:

- **Classrooms/Meeting Spaces:** 12 requests (18%)
- **Large Multipurpose Rooms:** 11 requests (17%)
- **Gymnasiums/Indoor Recreation Areas:** 8 requests (12%)
- **Outdoor Spaces** (fields, playgrounds, gardens): 7 requests (11%)
- **Cafeterias/Food-Serving Areas:** 6 requests (9%)

- **Other (32%):** Includes specialized needs like acting/dancing rehearsal spaces.

Amenities and Infrastructure:

- **Top Amenities:**
 - Air Conditioning (A/C) – 12 requests
 - Bathrooms (General Access) – 12 requests
 - Access to Electrical Outlets – 11 requests
 - Wi-Fi/Internet – 10 requests
 - Parking (staff/family use) – 9 requests
- **Additional Needs** (from open responses):
 - Art class materials (paint, etc.)
 - Projectors/monitors for displays
 - Large spaces specific to arts performances
 - Preference for locations near Bromo Arts District or Station North
 - Space for **basketball, mentorship meetups, and workshops.**

Key Themes and Recommendations

Key Themes

- **High Demand for Traditional Educational Spaces:** Classrooms and multipurpose rooms are the most needed.
- **Flexible Scheduling Required:** Varied hours suggest the need for spaces available both during the day and into the evening.
- **Amenities Are Critical:** Organizations are prioritizing A/C, accessible bathrooms, and tech-enabled spaces (Wi-Fi, projectors).
- **Geographic Preferences Exist:** Some organizations prefer Central West and Midtown areas.

Recommendations

1. **Prioritize Mid-Sized Venues:** Focus on spaces that comfortably serve 25–50 participants.

2. **Offer Variety in Space Types:** Mix of classrooms, multipurpose rooms, and access to outdoor spaces will meet most needs.
3. **Ensure Infrastructure Readiness:** Confirm A/C, Wi-Fi, electrical access, and sufficient bathroom facilities before confirming spaces.
4. **Create Flexible Leasing Plans:** Short-term and part-week rentals may be needed for organizations with limited or partial-week schedules.
5. **Consider Geographic Clustering:** Align organizations preferring Midtown or Station North with appropriate venues to reduce travel barriers and enhance community anchoring.

Conclusion

The BCYF Summer Space Request Form data highlights strong community programming activity and significant infrastructure needs.

- **\$112.5K for Administrative Support (Baltimore's Promise)**
 - To maintain the infrastructure of the Summer Funding Collaborative.
 - Rationale: Shared infrastructure streamlines funding access, making grantmaking more equitable and efficient, especially for small and emerging organizations.

*These Summer 2025 investments do **not** reduce BCYF's FY26 grantmaking budgets.*

Expanded Recommendations for Strengthening Impact

- **Align Investments with Youth and Community Priorities:**
 - Use the developing Baltimore Youth Master Plan and continuous youth engagement to drive strategies.
- **Enhance Communication and Navigation:**
 - Create a centralized, youth and family-friendly summer opportunity portal.
 - Empower youth ambassadors and trusted partners to promote programs through peer networks and targeted outreach.
- **Streamline Access to Space and Transportation:**
 - Maintain a public Summer Space Match Registry.
 - Coordinate youth-centered transportation supports to overcome access barriers, especially for transit-challenged neighborhoods.
- **Simplify and Strengthen Grantmaking Processes for Summer Funding:**
 - Shorten and simplify applications tailored for grassroots organizations.
 - Establish transparent feedback loops so all applicants understand funding decisions and pathways for growth.
 - Announce grant decisions no later than December 15 annually to support stronger program planning.
- **Support Year-Round Youth Engagement:**
 - Design summer funding strategies that extend relationships, learning, and youth leadership development beyond the summer months.
 - Prioritize intentional outreach to disconnected youth through interest-driven, culturally responsive programming.

Our Commitment

BCYF remains steadfast in our commitment to **equity, community leadership, and transformative impact**. Every dollar reflects BCYF's commitment to youth leadership, community wisdom, and building a more just, creative, and abundant Baltimore.

Give Now
(/Support/)



APRIL 29, 2025

Baltimore Children & Youth Fund Board of Directors Announces \$9.55 Million Summer 2025 Investment Plan



The Board of Directors of the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund (BCYF) is proud to announce a **\$9.55 million investment in summer opportunities** that will uplift, inspire, and empower Baltimore's young people. This bold and joyful commitment reflects our deep belief that summer should be a season of growth, discovery, and belonging for every child and youth in our city.

Created through a public referendum, BCYF exists to invest in the potential, power, and leadership of Baltimore's youth. **Our Summer 2025 Investment Plan stays true to that mission—supporting employment, arts, education, and wellness experiences across every neighborhood.** These investments are rooted in equity and designed in partnership with community wisdom to ensure that young people, no matter their background, can thrive.

In addition to direct summer investments, this summer BCYF is proud to convene youth, citywide leaders, and community members for brainstorming sessions as we launch **Baltimore's first-ever Youth Master Plan**—a strategic blueprint that will uplift youth voices and define a shared vision for youth success beyond Summer 2025.

Summer 2025 Investment Priorities

YouthWorks – \$4.9 Million

Expanding youth employment and career readiness

This year, we are making an emergency investment in *YouthWorks*, Baltimore's youth employment program. YouthWorks offers thousands of young people a chance to gain meaningful work experience, build confidence, and earn income, opening doors to new career pathways. This investment will ensure that YouthWorks meets its goal of providing 8,500 jobs to young people this summer.

Why this matters: Grassroots organizations across Baltimore rely on YouthWorks as a source of free or low-cost staffing, and without it, many of these organizations would not have adequate staffing to run the summer programs that keep our children engaged and enriched while school is out. Keeping YouthWorks fully funded allows Baltimore's summer programs to expand programming, mentor younger youth, and sustain community impact. Due to reserves, **this emergency investment does not reduce funding for BCYF's Grassroots Fund or Community Accountable Fund.**

Summer Programs Across the City – \$2.9 Million

Scaling support for trusted community-based programs

This year, BCYF has increased its investment in summer programming to reach 47 BCYF grantee partners offering programs citywide. These organizations offer transformative summer experiences through arts, STEM, mentorship, health, and academic enrichment.

Why this matters: These programs are led by trusted neighborhood leaders who know their communities best. This investment reflects our trust in grassroots organizations as the backbone of youth opportunity in Baltimore.

Mayor's Office Initiatives – \$1.5 Million

Strengthening cross-sector collaboration

BCYF is supporting strategic summer partnerships coordinated through the Mayor's Office, including \$500,000 designated to deepen alignment between BCYF grantees and city agencies.

Why this matters: Government and community partnerships amplify what's possible. This investment helps community-based providers access public spaces and city support—extending their reach and strengthening Baltimore's youth-serving ecosystem.

Baltimore's Promise Administrative Support – \$112,500

Building shared infrastructure for youth investment

This funding sustains the collaborative infrastructure of the Summer Funding Collaborative, managed by Baltimore's Promise, enabling multiple funders to streamline and expand support for youth programs.

Why this matters: Shared infrastructure makes grantmaking more accessible and equitable, especially for small and emerging organizations. It helps reduce administrative burdens so programs can focus on what matters: serving youth.

Summer Arts Programming – \$137,500

Expanding access to creative expression and cultural enrichment

BCYF is investing in arts facilities, supplies, and experiences to ensure youth across the city can access joyful, affirming artistic opportunities this summer.

Why this matters: Creativity is a catalyst for confidence, connection, and healing. From murals to music, youth need spaces to imagine, express, and grow.

A Summer of Possibility

Summer in Baltimore should not be defined by scarcity, but by joy, curiosity, and opportunity. With this \$9.55 million investment, the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund is helping create a summer where young people can explore new passions, develop

leadership, and dream big.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our gratitude to the families, community leaders, youth workers, city agencies, and young people who make this work possible.

+ RECENT POSTS
Together, we are shaping a more just, creative, and abundant Baltimore—one summer at a time.

Baltimore Children & Youth Fund Board of Directors Announces \$9.55 Million Summer 2025 Investment Plan (<https://bcyfund.org/baltimore-children-youth-fund-board-of-directors-announces-9-55-million-summer-2025-investment-plan/>)

April 29, 2025

Bringing Racial Equity Home: Takeaways from the Facing Race Conference (<https://bcyfund.org/bringing-racial-equity-home-takeaways-from-the-facing-race-conference/>)

March 21, 2025

gather! January 2025: Uniting Baltimore's Youth Advocates Through the Arts (<https://bcyfund.org/gather-january-2025-uniting-baltimores-youth-advocates-through-the-arts/>)

March 5, 2025

Reflecting on the CEO Community Conversation: A Participant's Perspective by Agzja Carey (<https://bcyfund.org/reflecting-on-the-ceo-community-conversation-a-participants-perspective/>)

February 19, 2025

BCYF in the Media: No Struggle No Success & WMAR Baltimore (<https://bcyfund.org/bcyf-in-the-media-no-struggle-no-success-wmar-baltimore/>)

February 19, 2025

Building Bridges for Baltimore's Youth: A Recap of the learning lab Kickoff Webinar (<https://bcyfund.org/building-bridges-for-baltimores-youth-a-recap-of-the-learning-lab-kickoff-webinar/>)

February 14, 2025