

## Understanding the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund's Planning & Design Process **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q – What is the Baltimore Children & Youth Fund**

The Baltimore Youth Fund (BCYF) is a \$12 Million annual set aside from property tax revenue to specifically aid Baltimore's Youth.

### **Q - What will the BCYF Planning Process consist of?**

The planning process for the BCYF will consist of the following sub-components:

1. Community Planning Sessions/Assessment of Community Needs & Priorities
2. Local & National Modeling & Benchmarking Research
3. Capacity Building for Interested/Prospective Applicants
4. Design of the BCYF's Grantmaking Strategy, Capacity Building & Technical Assistance Strategy, and Operational & Programmatic Build-out
5. Ongoing Engagement & Communication with Community Members
6. Buildout & Support of 1<sup>st</sup> Public Assembly Deliberation & Grantmaking Process

### **Q - When will the BCYF Planning Process begin?**

The official start date for the planning process heavily depends on the timing of approvals from the City Council and the Board of Estimates. However, the current plan assumes a start date of January 1, 2018.

The first phase of planning would then conclude around or shortly after the first round of grant selection by the public assembly in July/August 2018.

### **Q - What key dates should I be aware of?**

The timeline for the BCYF Planning Process heavily depends on the timing of approvals from the City Council and the Board of Estimates; however, the following are a few projected timeline elements/milestones to be aware of:

- January 2018 – Planning Process officially begins
- February 2018 – Community Engagement Sessions begin
- March 2018 – Capacity Building for Interested/Prospective Community Applicants begins
- June 2018 – First RFP (or set of RFPs) released to public
- July 2018 – 1<sup>st</sup> deliberation of the BCYF Public Assembly
- August 2018 – 1<sup>st</sup> cohort of BCYF grantees announced to the public

These dates are subject to further refinement and adjustment based upon the timing of the contracting process and community and stakeholder feedback.

### **Q - Who will be on the Planning Team?**

The Planning Team will consist of a diverse mix of staff and consultative partners, selected to lend an array of local and national expertise into the planning and design process. The following are the Planning Team's primary roles:

- **Local Advisors** - responsible for advising to bring a range of technical, programmatic, contextual and operational expertise to the planning process.
- **Youth Advisors** - responsible for advising to anchor the planning process in the voices of diverse populations of young people across the city.
- **Communications Staff** – responsible for shaping and managing project communications strategy/implementation efforts.
- **ABC Staff** - responsible for ensuring that the work of the Planning Team is executed in alignment with the charge to which ABC will be accountable, and achieves the overarching goals and objectives of the design process. Serves as the official voice and public representative of the planning effort.
- **Frontline Staff Consultants** - responsible for anchoring and providing facilitative support to members of the Planning Team, and for supporting work plan execution through coordination, research and logistical support. Will provide advisory support as needed.
- **Baltimore Residents & Youth/Community Stakeholders** – responsible for shaping the priorities and design of the BCYF by actively participating in community design/planning sessions, and by sharing feedback along the way.

### Q – Who is the Associated Black Charities?

- Associated Black Charities is a public foundation that advocates and facilitates the creation of measurably healthier and more prosperous communities through responsible leadership and philanthropic investment throughout the State of Maryland.
- Through its More in the Middle Initiative and its health disparities work, ABC acts as a convener, advocate and grantmaker to address issues impacting Maryland communities.
- Website: <http://www.abc-md.org/>.

### Q - Who is Frontline Solutions?

- Frontline Solutions is a black owned, national consulting firm that delivers a full range of strategic and business planning, program design and implementation, research and evaluation, technical assistance, and community engagement services.
- A full-time staff of 14 spanning four cities (Philadelphia, PA, Baltimore, MD, Washington, DC and Durham, NC), the Frontline Solutions team is comprised of organizers, scholars, strategists, artists and coaches who are adept at utilizing consulting as a tool for social change.
- Frontline’s capacity is further augmented by a robust team of part-time subject matter and technical experts, engaged on an as-needed, project-by-project basis.
- Frontline’s guiding values are: 1. Community-Driven Innovation; 2. Intersectional Equity, 3. Activating a Network for Change.
- Website: <http://www.frontlinesol.com/>.

### How do I stay informed about BCYF developments and/or get more involved?

- There will be many opportunities to get involved! Stay tuned for more information about Community Design & Planning Sessions, and opportunities to volunteer.
- After the planning process is formally launched, information about the process will be available online and communicated through email distribution and other forms of outreach.
- In the interim, you can contact the Baltimore City Council via Lester Davis for more information:

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