



FROM	NAME & TITLE	Jason Perkins-Cohen, Director	 CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Mayor's Office of Employment Development 417 E. Fayette Street, Suite 468		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 15-0226R		

TO The Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Room 400, City Hall

DATE: June 23, 2015

In light of the recent civil unrest in Baltimore City, it is important to ensure residents are aware of the resources available to them from the Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED).

MOED coordinates and directs workforce development initiatives responsive to the needs of Baltimore City employers and job seekers in order to enhance and promote the local economy. We provide on-the-ground services to distressed Baltimore City neighborhoods where we help to connect residents to jobs and other employment related services. Facilities operated by MOED directly and through our partner organizations are located in the city neighborhoods of Greater Mondawmin, Madison/East End, Greater Charles Village/Barclay, Washington Village, Franklin Square, Govans, Harlem Park, and Broadway East. Below is an overview of MOED's current efforts and suggestions for improvement.

1. Economic development & Workforce Development tools available to distressed neighborhoods in Baltimore City

For Adults

MOED delivers workforce development services to adult job seekers and businesses through it's Career Center Network (CCN) with locations across the city (see locations below). The primary goal of the CCN is to prepare city residents to meet the changing needs of local employers. This ensures that city residents have easy access to a variety of employment, training, education and workforce development resources available within the region. MOED uses a "customer driven" approach to provide services and activities, which enhance the career development process for job seekers and bridge the gap between the needs and demands of businesses.

As part of the CCN, MOED operates two One-Stop Career Centers –one on the east and one on the west side of the city. Each Career Center is staffed with professionals from MOED and partner agencies to provide a comprehensive, seamless delivery of services conveniently located in one facility. We provide direct services onsite for persons who are unemployed, underemployed or employed and for targeted populations such as veterans, disabled persons, senior citizens and youth.

The Re-Entry Center (ReC) at the Northwest Career Center at Mondawmin Mall focuses on providing job seeker services to ex-offenders. This population faces critical barriers to finding gainful employment and MOED staff and our non-profit and governmental partners provide a host of services, such as criminal record expungement and targeted employability skills training, tailored to the needs of these individuals.

For Youth

Fostering youth employment opportunities is another crucial goal of MOED. YouthWorks is MOED's summer jobs program, which annually places young people between the ages of 14 and 21 with employment opportunities that give them a genuine and meaningful work experience. MOED– in partnership with local employers and workforce partners, and through the generous financial support of the City of Baltimore, State of



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Maryland, philanthropic community, and individuals – has operated the city’s summer jobs program for more than 30 years. Participants age 16 and over may participate in YouthWorks’ private-sector component, Hire One Youth. This provides opportunities to learn about potential careers in Baltimore City’s high-growth industries as identified by the Baltimore Workforce Investment Board: hospitality/tourism, construction, healthcare, business management/finance, bioscience, technology and environmental/green jobs.

Youth Opportunity (YO) Baltimore offers one local solution to a growing national problem – a population of young people who are neither enrolled in school nor participating in the labor market, and whose disconnection represents a significant loss of economic opportunity for the country. Since its’ founding in 2000, YO Baltimore has proven to be successful at reaching out of school, out-of-work youth and linking them to community-based educational, workforce preparation and personal development services.

Operating out of two youth friendly centers, one in West Baltimore and one in East Baltimore, YO serves teens and young adults between the ages of 16 and 24 using a youth development model that builds on the existing strengths of each participant, connects them with caring adults, and offers a full range of beneficial services. YO Baltimore is operated by MOED in partnership with the Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition (HEBCAC).

2. How MOED is currently using our resources to develop and reinvest in city neighborhoods

To help more Baltimore jobseekers reach their career goals, MOED partners with several organizations to create Community Job Hubs. Anchored in neighborhood facilities, the Hubs provide local residents direct access to employment readiness tools, computer skills training and information about the labor market and job opportunities. The hubs are perfect examples of leveraging municipal and non-profit resources to create investment in struggling neighborhoods.

MOED also operates the Employment Connections Center in South Baltimore. This facility, which is supported through funds dedicated to community investment from the Horseshoe Casino, is a “mini-One-Stop” with a host of services targeted to job seekers, as well as local employers. It exists as an example of how investment at the casino site can spur positive workforce development outcomes throughout nearby neighborhoods with high incidents of unemployment.

YouthWorks has had a particularly strong impact on developing some of our most at-risk neighborhoods. In 2014 a total of 5,600 Baltimore City youth were placed in summer jobs through the program. More than 500 of these youth were hired directly by employers through the Hire One Youth initiative.

The program will serve this year upwards of 8,000 youth. This represents an increase in total numbers served of some 70 percent. It is hard to qualify the exact impact of these jobs on distressed neighborhoods across the city. But it is clear from feedback received from many hundreds of young people who have taken advantage of Youthworks that many families depend on the income generated from these summer jobs.

3. How City agencies can further collaborate with private, state, and federal partners to foster positive community change and create strong, vibrant, economically successful neighborhoods.

Currently, MOED works with city agencies, private, state, and federal partners to foster positive community change and help residents access employment. However, we are always looking for new ways to leverage our existing resources and build new partnerships.

Youth job programs such as Hire One Youth and YouthWorks are always seeking new employers to join the existing ranks. Although it has become abundantly clear that young men and women in Baltimore City want jobs, many large employers have yet to take advantage of our established youth hiring programs. A redoubled effort to engage the business community on the issue of youth employment would create better outcomes for thousands of at-risk youngsters in some of the city's most distressed communities.

MOED also suggests that city, state and non-profit partners work together to better educate large and small employers on the need to hire Baltimoreans living with the stigma of a criminal record. Large percentages of residents in the city's most distressed neighborhoods have had negative interactions with the criminal justice system at some point in their lives. The criminal record they carry often keeps them from securing meaningful jobs that would allow them the opportunity to maintain a home and support a family. Any effort to break down the employment barriers currently facing this population should be prioritized.

4. List of MOED Facilities

Career Center Locations:

Northwest One-Stop Career Center

2401 Liberty Heights Avenue

Mondawmin Mall – Suite 302

Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Phone (410) 523-1061 or (410) 523-1062

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm; Tuesday 8:30 am - 7:00 pm

Eastside One-Stop Career Center

3001 East Madison Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21205

Phone (410) 396-9030

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Workforce Reception Center

[Specifically for Baltimore City residents who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits]

100 W. 23rd Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Phone (410) 396-6580

Monday through Friday: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Employment Connections Center
1410 Bush Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
Phone (410) 396-1052
Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM to 4:30PM

Community Job Hub Locations:

Bon Secours Community Works
26 N. Fulton Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21223
410-362-3629
Monday - Thursday, 9am - 3pm

Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO)
5502 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
410-532-7117
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 9am - 3pm

My Brother's Keeper
4207 Frederick Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21229
410-644-3194
Tuesday - Friday 9am - 3pm

Youth Facilities:

Youth Opportunity Community Center – West
1510 West Lafayette Avenue
(Gilmor Street entrance)
Baltimore, MD 21217
(410) 545-6953

Youth Opportunity Community Center – East
HEBCAC - YO! Center
1212 N. Wolfe Street
(410) 732-2661

Youth Services – General
101 West 24th Street
Baltimore, MD 21218
(410) 396-6722