



# **BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION, YOUTH, & OLDER ADULT COMMITTEE**

## **Mission Statement**

*On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the **Education, Youth, and Older Adults (EYOA) Committee** is to study, review, and recommend policies that enhance educational opportunities, support the well-being and development of young people, and improve the quality of life for older adults. The committee is committed to fostering equitable access to high-quality education, advocating for youth empowerment, and ensuring that aging residents have the resources and services necessary to thrive.*

**The Honorable John Bullock**

**CHAIR**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**12/18/2025**

**12:30 PM**

**CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

***Bill: 25-0100***

***Title: Children and Youth Fund - Updates***

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**Meeting: Bill Hearing**

**Committee: Education, Youth, & Older Adults**

**Bill # 25-0100**

**Title: Children and Youth Fund - Updates**

**Purpose:** For the purpose of updating the process and procedures by which the Fund may disperse grants; altering the composition of the Board of Directors; requiring a certain report; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the administration of the Children and Youth Fund.

**REPORTING AGENCIES**

Agency	Report
Law Department	Approved for form and legal sufficiency with amendments
Department of Finance	Oppose
Baltimore City Public School System	Proposed Amendments
Youth Commission	Support as Amended
Children and Youth Fund	Not Received
Office of the Comptroller	Favorable as Amended

**BACKGROUND**

The Baltimore Children and Youth Fund (BCYF) was created through a voter-approved charter amendment in November 2016, with more than 80 % support, as a non-lapsing fund supported by a dedicated property tax set-aside to support programs and services for children and youth in Baltimore City. The Fund was developed in response to community calls for sustained investment in youth supports following the unrest in the city after Freddie Gray’s death in 2015, and a 2017 task force emphasized principles of racial equity, community leadership, and youth voice in its design. <https://bcyfund.org/about/history/>

Since becoming operational, BCYF has allocated significant resources to youth-serving organizations. For example, in 2025 the Fund [announced](#) major investments in youth athletics, summer jobs, and citywide engagement activities, including support for the

YouthWorks program and expanded athletic programming in public schools. It has also engaged in community-driven [grant review initiatives](#) and sizable summer funding for grassroots groups focused on learning, wellness, and enrichment.

At the same time, oversight and transparency have been subjects of public discussion. [A recent report](#) from the Baltimore City Inspector General noted gaps in financial reporting and oversight, including years without audited financial statements provided to the City's audit office, and highlighted the need for stronger documentation of how millions in taxpayer funds are spent.

### ***Bill Summary***

Council Bill 25-0100 establishes the framework for the administration, use, and oversight of the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund. The bill designates the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, Inc. as the fiscal agent responsible for managing the Fund, providing grants, and ensuring accountability and transparency in fund disbursement. It defines key roles and terms for clarity and governance:

- the Board refers to the Board of Directors of the fiscal agent, which governs the fiscal agent, approves disbursements, and may employ staff;
- the Fund is the Children and Youth Fund itself, created to support programs and services for Baltimore's youth;
- a grant is any Fund-controlled money allocated to a grantee for a specific purpose;
- and a grantee is a legal entity receiving a grant, subject to eligibility requirements and reporting obligations.

The Fund may be used for direct grants to youth programs and service providers, administrative costs, and capacity-building to strengthen the ability of organizations to deliver sustainable services.

The fiscal agent is required to identify programs and services for funding, establish standardized grant procedures, and receive regular fiscal and program reports from grantees. Organizations are ineligible for funding if they employ or have board members who are employees, officers, or family members of the Fund's staff or Board. Grant procedures include a uniform application, published evaluation criteria, community review, feedback to applicants, and regular reporting. A community-wide needs assessment must be conducted every three years to guide funding priorities, and performance audits are required on the same cycle.

The Board of Directors governs the fiscal agent. It must consist of 13 to 21 voting members reflecting the City's racial, geographic, and socioeconomic diversity, with at least one-quarter

being youth aged 14–25. Ex-officio members include representatives from the Mayor’s Office, City Council, Youth Commission, and Board of School Commissioners. The Board approves all fund disbursements, adopts bylaws, and may employ staff for daily operations.

The Board must adopt an annual financial plan prior to May 1, including a budget, disbursement amounts, fund balance, prior-year revenue, audit results, and a progress report on multi-year allocations. Allocations may include up to 2% for public engagement, up to 18% for administration, and up to 15% for technical assistance to grantees. Remaining funds are allocated to programs serving communities most impacted by poverty. Public hearings are required before adoption of the financial plan, and the plan must be filed with the Board of Estimates.

The bill requires annual reporting from both the Board and the Director of Finance. Reports must include descriptions of Fund activities, Board composition, grantee information, outcomes achieved, and audit results. The City Council holds public hearings annually to review fiscal agent activities and may petition the Board of Estimates to dissolve the Board in cases of mismanagement, malfeasance, or legal violations. Rules and regulations governing fund disbursement and transfers are issued by the Director of Finance under the Administrative Procedure Act.

### ***Amendments***

The sponsor of Council Bill 25-0100 has proposed several amendments, as recommended by the referred agencies to clarify processes, improve oversight, and ensure compliance with existing law.

The proposed amendments include:

- Establishing a detailed grant application and review framework. The fiscal agent would be required to publicly post grant opportunities, publish a grants manual, and use a uniform grant application. Required materials include organizational information, leadership background and demographics, financial documentation, and detailed program descriptions. Agencies note this framework is intended to guide the fiscal agent’s discretion while maintaining transparency and consistency.
- Creating a community review panel of Baltimore City residents with youth-program experience to evaluate applications using defined criteria and scoring standards. Panel recommendations would be provided to the fiscal agent and Fund Board. Agency reports indicate this process aims to ensure fair and informed review of grant applications.

- Formalizing grantee reporting requirements. Grantees would submit quarterly fiscal reports, with “full compliance” defined. Monthly reporting would be required for grantees with repeated compliance failures or unresolved financial audit issues. Agencies note this amendment is intended to improve fiscal accountability while scaling oversight based on risk.
- Revising Fund Board composition and governance. State-created officials would no longer be required to serve on the Board, and youth representation requirements would be clarified. If youth membership falls below required thresholds, the Board would notify the Board of Estimates and submit a corrective plan within a defined timeframe.
- Adjusting financial planning and reporting requirements for the Fund, including allowable administrative costs, limited funding for community review activities, submission of an independent third-party audit to the City Council, and clarification of annual reporting obligations for both the Fund Board and the Director of Finance.
- Making technical and conforming changes to correct drafting errors, clarify terminology, and resolve cross-reference issues.

The Law Department has indicated that, if adopted, these amendments address prior legal and structural concerns and could allow the bill to be approved for form and legal sufficiency.

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### ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***

#### **Fiscal Note:**

The BCYF fund is comprised of a mandatory annual appropriation of at least \$0.03 of every \$100 of assessed or assessable value of all property in the City of Baltimore and any grants or donations made to the fund. The adopted budget amounts for the fund were \$14,225,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 24, \$15,152,000 in FY25, and [\\$16,150,000 in FY26](#). The enactment of CB25-0100, will not impact the annual appropriation.

The Bill, however, will require BCYF as the fiscal agent to enhance their reporting and auditing requirements and update their financial plan, which will have an anticipated fiscal impact to BCYF. In addition, the Office of the Comptroller noted that there will be an estimated cost of \$321,255 to the Department of Audits for additional staffing to conduct recurring performance audits. The total fiscal impact is not yet determined and can be updated pending the final agency report from the City’s Finance Department.

**Information Source(s):** 25-0100 1<sup>st</sup> reader. Agency Reports

<https://bcyfund.org/about/history/>

<https://mayor.baltimorecity.gov/news/press-releases/2025-03-27-mayor-scott-baltimore-children-and-youth-fund-bcyf-announce-new>

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/baltimore-children--youth-fund-engages-baltimore-residents-in-funding-decisions-through-community-grant-making-initiative-302390734.html>

<https://baltimorebrew.com/2025/11/20/baltimore-children-and-youth-fund-spends-freely-with-little-oversight-from-city-hall-inspector-general-finds/>

<https://inspector-general.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/25-0018-1%20Public%20Synopsis%20C.pdf>

Analysis by: Juliane Jemmott  
Analysis Date: 11/6/2025

Direct Inquiries to: (410) 396 - 1268

Introduced by: Councilmembers Parker and Bullock  
Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Dorsey, Blanchard, and Conway and President Cohen  
Introduced and read first time: September 29, 2025  
Assigned to: Education, Youth, and Older Adults Committee  
REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, Baltimore City Public School System, Youth Commission, Office of the Comptroller



**Council Bill 25-0100**

**Baltimore City Code**

**Article 5. Finance, Property, and Procurement**

**Subtitle 9. Children and Youth Fund**

**§ 9-1. Definitions.**

(a) *In general.*

In this subtitle, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(b) *Board.*

“Board” means the Board of Directors of the fiscal agent.

(c) *Fiscal agent.*

“Fiscal agent” means the entity designated by § 9-4(a) of this subtitle to administer the Fund and this subtitle.

(d) *Fund.*

“Fund” means the Children and Youth Fund established by City Charter Article I, § 13 {“Children and Youth Fund”}.

(E) *GRANT.*

“GRANT” MEANS FUNDS, REGARDLESS OF SOURCE, THAT ARE CONTROLLED BY THE FUND AND ALLOCATED FROM THE FUND TO A GRANTEE FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE.

(F) *GRANTEE.*

“GRANTEE” MEANS A LEGAL ENTITY TO WHICH THE FUND MAKES A GRANT.

**§ 9-2. Uses of Fund.**

(a) *In general.*

The Fund may be used only for the purposes generally described in City Charter Article I, § 13(a).

(b) *Inclusions.*

Allowed uses for the Fund include:

(1) direct grants to program and service providers;

(2) administrative costs to operate the Fund; and

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(3) capacity-building efforts to strengthen [Fund administration or] the ability of providers to successfully and sustainably offer services to Baltimore's youth.

### § 9-3. Purpose.

The fiscal agent shall be a community-centered grant-making institution that fosters and promotes:

- (1) racial equity;
- (2) inter-generational leadership;
- (3) community ownership; and
- (4) collective decision-making.

### § 9-4. Fiscal agent.

#### (a) *Designation.*

The fiscal agent for the Fund is the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund, Inc.

#### (b) *General powers and duties.*

The fiscal agent [must:] SHALL:

- (1) identify specific programs and services to be funded by the Fund; [and]
- (2) allocate the available funds among the programs and services identified for [funding.] FUNDING ACCORDING TO THE GRANT PROCESS AND PROCEDURES ENUMERATED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION;
- (3) ESTABLISH A STANDARDIZED GRANT PROCESS AND PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY ALL GRANTEEES, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION; AND
- (4) RECEIVE REGULAR FISCAL AND PROGRAM REPORTS FROM ALL GRANTEEES.

#### (c) *GRANT ELIGIBILITY - LIMITATIONS.*

AN ORGANIZATION IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT FROM THE FUND IF:

- (1) THE ORGANIZATION EMPLOYS:
  - (I) A CURRENT EMPLOYEE OF THE FUND;
  - (II) A MEMBER OR OFFICER OF THE FUND'S BOARD; OR
  - (III) A FAMILY MEMBER OF A CURRENT EMPLOYEE, BOARD MEMBER, OR OFFICER OF THE FUND; OR

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(2) THE ORGANIZATION'S BOARD INCLUDES:

(I) A CURRENT EMPLOYEE OF THE FUND;

(II) A MEMBER OR OFFICER OF THE FUND'S BOARD; OR

(III) A FAMILY MEMBER OF A CURRENT EMPLOYEE, BOARD MEMBER, OR  
OFFICER OF THE FUND.

(D) [(c)] *Identifying programs and services for funding.*

(1) As it identifies specific programs and services to be funded by the Fund, the fiscal agent must select programs and services that:

(i) are active in Baltimore City;

(ii) are credible with and accountable to youth and the local communities they are proposing to serve;

(iii) have an element of youth-centered programming; and

(iv) can demonstrate how they are designed to improve outcomes for young people.

(2) The fiscal agent may also use any additional factors listed in City Charter Article I, § 13(a) to identify specific programs and services to be funded by the Fund so long as the additional factors are made publically available to applicants for funding at the time that applications are requested.

(3) Beginning in Fiscal Year [2022] 2027 and continuing every 3 years thereafter, the fiscal agent [shall] SHALL:

(I) conduct a community-wide needs assessment to assist the Board in determining grant-making [areas.] AREAS; AND

(II) WITHIN 30 DAYS OF COMPLETING THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT, SUBMIT THE ASSESSMENT TO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES AND THE CITY COUNCIL.

(E) *GRANT PROCEDURE AND PROCESSES.*

THE GRANT PROCEDURE AND PROCESSES ESTABLISHED BY THE FISCAL AGENT SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) CREATING A UNIFORM APPLICATION FOR ALL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES;

(2) PUBLISHING ON THE FUND'S WEBSITE THE METHODS BY WHICH THE FUND SHALL EVALUATE AN APPLICATION AND SELECT A GRANTEE;

(3) ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING A COMMUNITY REVIEW OF ALL GRANT APPLICATIONS DURING THE APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS;

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(4) MAKING AVAILABLE TO GRANT APPLICANTS FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY REVIEW AND APPLICATION EVALUATION PROCESSES; AND

(5) RECEIVING REGULAR FISCAL AND PROGRAM REPORTS FROM ALL GRANTEEES.

(F) *GRANTEE REPORTING - FREQUENCY.*

(1) *IN GENERAL.*

A GRANTEE SHALL SUBMIT THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (E)(5) ON A MONTHLY BASIS.

(2) *EXCEPTION.*

IF A GRANTEE HAS BEEN IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER GRANTEE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR NO FEWER THAN 12 MONTHS, THE FISCAL AGENT MAY ADJUST THE FREQUENCY OF THE REPORTING REQUIREMENT TO NO LESS THAN A QUARTERLY BASIS, ON THE CONDITION THAT THE GRANTEE REMAINS IN FULL COMPLIANCE.

(G) *PERFORMANCE AUDIT.*

BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND CONTINUING EVERY 3 YEARS THEREAFTER, THE FISCAL AGENT SHALL PARTICIPATE IN A PERFORMANCE AUDIT CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE BALTIMORE CITY COMPTROLLER.

**§ 9-5. Board of directors.**

(a) *In general.*

The fiscal agent shall be governed by and administered by a Board of Directors.

(b) *Number and appointment.*

(1) The number of voting members of the full Board may not be less than [9,] 13 excluding vacancies, and no more than [20.] 21.

(2) The Board may increase or decrease its membership, within the limits specified in this subsection, in its bylaws.

(3) The Board members shall be appointed and serve the terms prescribed by the Board's bylaws.

(c) *Composition.*

(1) *Ex-officio members.*

(i) Of the voting members of the Board:

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(A) 1 shall be the Director of the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success or the Director's designee; [and]

(B) 1 shall be the City Council President or a MEMBER OF THE City COUNCIL [Councilmember] designated by the City Council [President.] PRESIDENT;

(C) 1 SHALL BE A MEMBER OF THE BALTIMORE CITY YOUTH COMMISSION, AS DESIGNATED BY THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT; AND

(D) 1 SHALL BE THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF BALTIMORE OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE.

(ii) Of the non-voting members of the Board:

(A) 1 shall be the City Solicitor or the City Solicitor's designee; and

(B) 1 shall be the Director of Finance or the Director's designee.

(2) *Diversity.*

(i) *In general.*

(A) The Board shall reflect [a] THE diverse economic, social, GEOGRAPHIC, and racial [mix.] DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE CITY, AS REFLECTED IN THE MOST RECENTLY AVAILABLE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM STUDENT ENROLLMENT DATA.

(B) THE BOARD SHALL INCLUDE REPRESENTATION FROM AT LEAST HALF OF THE DISTRICTS OF THE BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL.

(ii) *Youth participation.*

(A) In this subparagraph, "youth" means an individual between the ages of 14 and 25, inclusive.

(B) [Except as provided in sub-subparagraph (C), at least one-third] AT LEAST ONE QUARTER of the Board shall consist of youth members.

[(C) The Board of Estimates may waive the requirement in sub-subparagraph (B) if the Board of Estimates finds that the Fund's Board has taken reasonable and diligent efforts to comply with that requirement and that those efforts have failed.]

(d) *Bylaws.*

(1) The Board must adopt bylaws for the administration of the fiscal agent. However, those bylaws may not be inconsistent with the terms of this subtitle or of City Charter Article I, § 13 {"Children and Youth Fund"}.

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(2) The initial bylaws required by this subsection must be approved by the Board of Estimates before taking effect.

(3) Subsequent amendments to the initial bylaws must be filed with the Board of Estimates before taking effect.

(e) *Board of Directors approval required.*

No funds may be disbursed from the Fund without the prior approval of the Board of Directors.

(f) *Staff.*

The Board may employ staff to carry out the fiscal agent's day-to-day operations.

### § 9-6. Annual financial plan.

(a) *In general.*

Subject to the requirements of this section, PRIOR TO MAY 1 OF EACH YEAR, the Board shall adopt an annual financial plan, based on the City's fiscal year, [consisting of at least a budget and an amount to be disbursed from the Fund during that year.] THAT INCLUDES:

(1) A BUDGET;

(2) AN AMOUNT TO BE DISBURSED FROM THE FUND TO GRANTEEES DURING THE COMING FISCAL YEAR;

(3) THE BALANCE OF THE FUND, INCLUDING MONEY HELD IN CITY AND FUND ACCOUNTS, AS OF THE MOST RECENT QUARTER;

(4) THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THE FUND RECEIVED FROM THE PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT IN THE LAST FISCAL YEAR;

(5) THE RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENT FINANCIAL AUDIT CONDUCTED BY AN INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY; AND

(6) AN UPDATED PLAN AND PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DISBURSEMENT OF THE MULTI-YEAR BALANCE OF THE FUND.

(b) *Fund allocations; Limitations.*

(1) *Limitations on use.*

(i) For the purposes of this paragraph, "public engagement" may include:

(A) staffing needs for community outreach;

(B) space, supplies, and personnel for community information sessions; OR

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(C) materials for education, marketing, and promotion of fund-related [efforts; or] EFFORTS.

[(D) facilitation and execution of community participatory processes for grant making.]

(ii) In its financial plan, the Board may allocate from the Fund's balance:

(A) up to [5%] 2% for public engagement; [and]

(B) up to [15%] 18% for staff and other costs to administer the [Fund.] FUND, INCLUDING FACILITATION AND EXECUTION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES FOR GRANT MAKING; AND

(C) UP TO 15% FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO GRANTEEES REGARDING ADMINISTERING GRANT FUNDS AND COMPLYING WITH GRANT REQUIREMENTS.

(2) *Remainder to be disbursed.*

(I) The Board [must] SHALL allocate the remainder of the Fund's balance among the programs and services identified under [§ 9-4(c)] § 9-4(D) of this subtitle, with an emphasis on programs or services operating in, or meant to assist young people from, the communities in Baltimore City most impacted by high poverty.

(II) THE REMAINDER OF THE FUND'S BALANCE SHALL BE ALLOCATED ACCORDING TO THE PROCESSES ESTABLISHED IN § 9-4 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(3) *GRANT AMOUNTS - LIMITATIONS.*

(I) GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES MADE AVAILABLE THE DISCRETION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FUND MAY NOT EXCEED AN AMOUNT THAT IS GREATER THAN 10% OF THE TOTAL GRANT FUNDS DISBURSED IN THE SAME FISCAL YEAR.

(II) THE SIZE OF A GRANT MADE TO A SINGLE GRANTEE IN A FISCAL YEAR MAY NOT EXCEED 100% OF THE EXPENDITURES OF THAT GRANTEE FROM THE HIGHER OF:

(A) THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR; OR

(B) THE AVERAGE OF THE PAST 3 FISCAL YEARS.

(III) THE SIZE OF A GRANT MAY NOT EXCEED 20% OF THE TOTAL FUNDS DISBURSED BY THE FUND IN ANY FISCAL YEAR.

(c) *Public hearing and comment on financial plan.*

Before adopting any financial plan required by this section, the Board shall arrange for a public hearing on the proposed plan. Notice of the hearing must be published on the fiscal agent's website for at least 3 consecutive weeks.

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(d) *Board of Estimates filing required.*

[After] WITHIN 10 DAYS OF adopting a financial plan, the Board shall file the plan with the Board of Estimates.

### **§ 9-7. {Reserved}**

### **§ 9-8. Annual review; Dissolution of board.**

(a) *Public hearings.*

No later than March 31 of each year, a relevant committee of the City Council shall hold 1 or more public hearings to evaluate the activities of the fiscal agent and its disbursements.

(b) *Petition for dissolution.*

(1) If after conducting a public hearing and hearing testimonial evidence, the City Council finds evidence of misappropriation of funds, malfeasance, or violation of law in connection with the administration of the Fund, the City Council may, by a three-fifths vote of its members, refer a petition to the Board of Estimates to dissolve the fiscal agent's Board.

(2) On receipt of a petition described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Board of Estimates shall consider and vote on that petition as soon as practicable.

### **§ 9-9. Rules and regulations.**

Subject to Title 4 {"Administrative Procedure Act – Regulations"} of the City General Provisions Article, the Director of Finance must adopt rules and regulations to carry out this subtitle including:

(i) a schedule for dispersing the Fund each year; and

(ii) procedures for transferring money from the Fund to either the [interim] fiscal agent or directly to service and program providers designated by the [interim] fiscal agent.

### **§ 9-10. Annual [report.] REPORTS.**

(A) *BOARD.*

No later than June 30 of each year, the Board shall prepare and submit a report to the Mayor and City Council [detailing the activities and the impact of the Fund.] THAT SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT OF THE FUND;

(2) THE COMPOSITION AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE BOARD, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF YOUTH MEMBERS ON THE BOARD AND THE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE MEMBERS;



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(3) INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND'S GRANTEES, INCLUDING:

(I) THE GRANTEE'S NAME AND ADDRESS;

(II) THE PROGRAMMATIC INTENT OF THE GRANTEE;

(III) THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED BY THE GRANTEE;

(IV) THE SIZE OF THE GRANT RECEIVED BY THE GRANTEE;

(V) THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF FUNDING RECEIVED BY THE GRANTEE;

(VI) THE GRANTEE'S RECORD OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE FUNDS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY GRANTS RECEIVED; AND

(VII) A SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOMES THAT THE GRANTEE ACHIEVED USING MONEY FROM THE FUND; AND

(4) THE RESULTS OF THE MOST RECENTLY COMPLETED AUDIT OF THE FUND.

(B) *DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.*

THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SHALL ANNUALLY PROVIDE A REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT INCLUDES:

(1) THE DATE AND AMOUNT OF THE SCHEDULED DISBURSEMENTS OF THE FUND IN THE PAST FISCAL YEAR;

(2) THE DATE OF THE PAST FISCAL YEAR'S TRANSFERS FROM THE FUND TO EITHER THE FISCAL AGENT OR DIRECTLY TO GRANTEES; AND

(3) THE FUND'S BALANCE PRIOR TO AND FOLLOWING THE DATES OF ANY DISBURSEMENT OR TRANSFER.

**SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date it is enacted.

**AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL BILL 25-0100  
(1<sup>st</sup> Reader Copy)**

By: Councilmember Parker  
{To be offered to the Education, Youth, and Older Adults Committee}

**Amendment No. 1**

On page 1, after line 20, insert:

“BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments,  
Article 8 - Ethics  
Section 7-8(3a)  
Baltimore City Code  
(Edition 2000)”;

and, on page 1, in line 13, strike “9-9, and 9-10” and substitute “and 9-8 to 9-10”; and, on that same page, in line 18, strike “9-3, and 9-8” and substitute “9-3”; and, on page 10, after line 21, insert:

**“Article 8 - Ethics**

**Subtitle 7. Financial Disclosure**

**Part II. Who Must File**

**§ 7-8. Persons required to file – Agency officials and staff.**

The following officials and employees must file the financial disclosure statements required by this subtitle:

(3a) *Baltimore Children and Youth [Fund.] FUND AND BALTIMORE CHILDREN AND YOUTH FUND, INC.*

(i) All members of Board of Directors.

(ii) All non-clerical employees.”;

and, strike beginning with line 22 on page 3 down through and including line 5 on page 4; and, on that same page, in line 6, strike “(D)”; and, on that same page, in that same line, in each instance, strike the bracket; and, on page 6, after line 28, insert:

“(D) *ETHICAL PROCEDURES.*

(1) *BOARD SHALL FILE.*

THE BOARD SHALL ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF SUBTITLE 7 {“FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES”} OF THE CITY ETHICS ARTICLE AND ALL OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS THEREIN.

(2) *REQUIRED RECUSAL.*

(I) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD SHALL HAS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND SHALL ABSTAIN FROM A DISCUSSION AND RECUSE THEMSELF FROM A VOTE ON ANY MATTER BEFORE THE BOARD IF:

(A) THE BOARD MEMBER IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANIZATION TO WHICH THE DISCUSSION OR VOTE PERTAINS;

(B) A FAMILY MEMBER OF THE BOARD MEMBER IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANIZATION TO WHICH THE DISCUSSION OR VOTE PERTAINS;

(C) THE BOARD MEMBER IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE ORGANIZATION TO WHICH THE DISCUSSION OR VOTE PERTAINS; OR

(D) A FAMILY MEMBER OF THE BOARD MEMBER IS CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE ORGANIZATION TO WHICH THE DISCUSSION OR VOTE PERTAINS.

(II) A BOARD MEMBER WHO ABSTAINS FROM A DISCUSSION OR RECUSES THEMSELF FROM A VOTE UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL IMMEDIATELY DISCLOSE THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

(III) THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND THE MEMBER’S SUBSEQUENT ABSTENTION OR RECUSAL SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN THE BOARD’S MEETING MINUTES.”;

and, on page 6, in line 29, strike “(d)” and substitute “(E)”; and, on page 7, in lines 5 and 8, strike “(e)” and “(f)”, respectively, and substitute “(F)” and “(G)”, respectively.

## **Amendment No. 2**

On page 2, in line 16, strike “FUNDS,” and substitute “MONEY,”; and, on that same page, in that same line, strike “ARE” and substitute “IS”.

## **Amendment No. 3**

On page 3, after line 2, insert:

“(C) EXCLUSION.

THE FUND MAY NOT BE USED TO PROVIDE DIRECT GRANTS OR CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS TO AN ENTITY, UNLESS THAT ENTITY IS A TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION.”.

## **Amendment No. 4**

On page 3, in line 15, strike “to be funded by the Fund;” and substitute “TO WHICH THE FUND MAY AWARD A GRANT;”; and, on that same page, in that same line, in each instance, strike the bracket; and, on that same page, strike in their entirety lines 16 through 18 and substitute:

“(2) MAKE GRANT AWARDS TO THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IDENTIFIED BY THE FUND;”;

and, on that same page, in line 19, strike “ESTABLISH A” and substitute “USE THE”; and, on that same page, in line 21, strike “RECEIVE” and substitute “REQUIRE”; and, on that same page, in that same line, strike “GRANTEES.” and substitute “GRANTEES, AS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.”.

## **Amendment No. 5**

Strike beginning with line 25 on page 4 down through and including line 3 on page 5 and substitute:

“(D) GRANT APPLICATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

THE FISCAL AGENT SHALL USE THE FOLLOWING PROCESS TO AWARD GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS:

- (1) THE FISCAL AGENT SHALL MAKE ALL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO ALL ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS;
- (2) THE FISCAL AGENT SHALL ASSEMBLE, EDIT, AND PUBLISH ON ITS WEBSITE A GRANTS MANUAL THAT PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO PROSPECTIVE GRANTEEES REGARDING THE POLICES AND PROCEDURE USED BY THE FUND TO AWARD A GRANT;
- (3) THE FISCAL AGENT SHALL CREATE, MAINTAIN, AND PUBLISH ON ITS WEBSITE AND IN THE GRANTS MANUAL A UNIFORM GRANT APPLICATION FOR AN ORGANIZATION TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT TO THE FISCAL AGENT THAT INCLUDES:
  - (I) PROOF OF THE ORGANIZATION’S TAX-EXEMPT STATUS;
  - (II) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS OF THE ORGANIZATION’S LEADERSHIP;
  - (III) A DESCRIPTION OF THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE ORGANIZATION’S LEADERSHIP, WITH PERSONALLY-IDENTIFYING INFORMATION REMOVED;
  - (IV) A DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING:
    - (A) HOW THE ORGANIZATION ALIGNS WITH THE FUND’S PURPOSE AS STATED IN § 9-3 OF THIS SUBTITLE;
    - (B) PROOF OF THE ORGANIZATION’S TAX-EXEMPT STATUS;
    - (C) A SUMMARY OF THE ORGANIZATION’S EXPERIENCE WITH SERVING YOUTH;
    - (D) AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION’S CREDIBILITY WITH AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO YOUTH, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE IN THE CITY;
  - (V) COPIES OF THE ORGANIZATION’S FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING:
    - (A) A COPY OF THE ORGANIZATION’S CURRENT BUDGET;
    - (B) THE ORGANIZATION’S MOST RECENT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT;

(C) THE ORGANIZATION’S UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FORM 990, FROM WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 2 YEARS, IF APPLICABLE;

(D) THE MOST RECENT INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE ORGANIZATION, IF AVAILABLE; AND

(E) THE ORGANIZATION’S STATE OF MARYLAND CERTIFICATE OF STATUS, DATED FROM THE PAST 3 MONTHS; AND

(VI) A DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIFIC PROGRAM WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION THAT WILL BE FUNDED BY THE GRANT, INCLUDING THE PROGRAM’S:

(A) PURPOSE;

(B) TIMELINE;

(C) PROPOSED MEASUREMENTS OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES; AND

(D) BUDGET;

(4) AFTER RECEIVING A COMPLETED GRANT APPLICATION, THE FISCAL AGENT SHALL CONVENE A PANEL TO COMPLETE A COMMUNITY REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION, WHICH SHALL BE COMPRISED OF INDIVIDUALS WHO:

(I) ARE BALTIMORE CITY RESIDENTS;

(II) ARE AGED 16 YEARS OR OLDER;

(III) HAVE PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE WORKING IN, DESIGNING, OR OPERATING A YOUTH PROGRAM; AND

(IV) ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES OF BALTIMORE CITY’S YOUTH;

(5) THE PANEL CONVENED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL COMPLETE A COMMUNITY REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) A GROUP REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION;

(II) SCORING THE APPLICATION BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

(A) CURRENT ACTIVITY IN BALTIMORE CITY;

(B) CREDIBILITY WITH AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO YOUTH AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES THE ORGANIZATION IS PLANNING TO SERVE;

(C) HAVING AN ELEMENT OF YOUTH-CENTERED PROGRAMMING;  
AND

(D) BEING DESIGNED TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH;

(6) BASED UPON THE COMMUNITY REVIEW PROCESS CONDUCTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE PANEL CONDUCTING THE COMMUNITY REVIEW SHALL REPORT THE NAME AND SCORE OF EACH APPLICANT, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FISCAL AGENT AND THE BOARD;

(7) BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL CONDUCTING THE COMMUNITY REVIEW, THE BOARD SHALL EITHER DENY OR APPROVE AN ORGANIZATION’S GRANT APPLICATION AND, IF APPROVED, THE FISCAL AGENT SHALL ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE ORGANIZATION AND FINALIZE THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITY POLICY;  
AND

(8) FOLLOWING THE DENIAL OR APPROVAL OF AN ORGANIZATION’S GRANT APPLICATION, THE FISCAL AGENT SHALL REPORT TO THE APPLICANT THE RESULTS OF THE COMMUNITY REVIEW AND APPLICATION EVALUATION PROCESS.”;

and, on page 5, in line 14, strike“(G)” and substitute “(F)”.

### **Amendment No. 6**

On page 5, strike lines 4 through 13 and substitute:

“(E) GRANTEE REPORTING.

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.

A GRANTEE SHALL SUBMIT TO THE FISCAL AGENT A QUARTERLY FISCAL REPORT.

(2) COMPLIANCE.

A GRANTEE HAS BEEN IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, AND ITS OBLIGATIONS AS A GRANTEE, IF THE GRANTEE:

(I) HAS SUBMITTED ALL FISCAL REPORTS AND DOCUMENTATION ON TIME AND IN A COMPLETE AND ACCURATE FASHION; AND

(II) HAS ABIDED BY ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED WITHIN ITS GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FUND.

(3) EXCEPTIONS TO QUARTERLY BASIS.

(I) IF A GRANTEE HAS FAILED TO BE IN FULL COMPLIANCE FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE QUARTERS OR 6 MONTHS OUT OF THE PAST 12 MONTHS, THEN THE GRANTEE SHALL SUBMIT FISCAL REPORTS ON A MONTHLY BASIS UNTIL IT HAS BEEN IN FULL COMPLIANCE FOR 12 MONTHS.

(II) IF A GRANTEE HAD A MATERIAL WEAKNESS IN THEIR LAST FINANCIAL AUDIT, THE GRANTEE SHALL SUBMIT FISCAL REPORTS ON A MONTHLY BASIS UNTIL THEIR NEXT FINANCIAL AUDIT SHOWS THAT THE WEAKNESS HAS BEEN RESOLVED.”.

#### **Amendment No. 7**

On page 6, in line 4, after “PRESIDENT;” insert “AND”; and, on that same page, strike line 6 in its entirety and substitute “DETERMINED BY AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF AT LEAST A MAJORITY OF A QUORUM OF THE BALTIMORE CITY YOUTH COMMISSION.”; and, on that same page, strike in their entirety lines 7 and 8.

#### **Amendment No. 8**

On page 6, in line 14, strike “(A)”; and, on that same page, in line 16, strike “RECENTLY AVAILABLE” and substitute “RECENT, PUBLICLY-AVAILABLE”; and, on that same page, strike in their entirety lines 18 and 19.



### **Amendment No. 9**

On page 6, in line 23, in each instance, strike the bracket; and, on that same page, in line 23, strike “sub-subparagraph (C),” and substitute “SUB-SUBPARAGRAPHS (C) AND (D),”; and, on that same page, strike beginning with “AT” in line 23 down through and including “QUARTER” in line 24; and, on that same page, strike in their entirety lines 25 through 28 and substitute:

“(C) [The] NO MORE THAN 1 TIME IN A FISCAL YEAR, THE Board of Estimates may waive the requirement in sub-subparagraph (B) if the Board of Estimates finds that the [Fund’s] Board has taken reasonable and diligent efforts to comply with that requirement and that those efforts have [failed.] FAILED AND THE BOARD CREATES AND SUBMITS TO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES A PLAN TO RESTORE THE YOUTH MEMBERSHIP TO AT LEAST ONE-THIRD OF THE TOTAL BOARD.

(D) IF THE BOARD’S YOUTH MEMBERSHIP IS LESS THAN 2 YOUTH MEMBERS, THE BOARD SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES AND SHALL PRESENT THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES WITH A PLAN FOR RESTORING YOUTH BOARD MEMBERSHIP TO A MINIMUM OF 2 YOUTH BOARD MEMBERS AND SHALL CARRY OUT THAT PLAN WITHIN 90 DAYS OF PRESENTING THE PLAN.”.

### **Amendment No. 10**

On page 7, in line 12, strike “MAY” and substitute “SEPTEMBER”.

### **Amendment No. 11**

On page 8, in line 6, strike “2%” and substitute “3%”; and, on that same page, in line 7, strike “18%” and substitute “15%”; and, on that same page, strike beginning with “FUND,” in line 7 down through and including “AND” in line 9 and substitute “FUND;”; and, on that same page, in line 10, strike “15%” and substitute “20%”; and, on that same page, in line 12, strike “REQUIREMENTS.” and substitute “REQUIREMENTS; AND

(D) UP TO 2% TO FACILIATATE AND EXECUTE COMMUNITY REVIEWS OF GRANT APPLICATIONS PURSUANT TO § 9-4(D) {“GRANT APPLICATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES”}.”.

### **Amendment No. 12**

On page 8, strike in their entirety lines 22 through 28; and, on that same page, in line 29 strike“(III)”, respectively, and substitute “(I)”; and, on that same page, in line 29, strike “FUNDS” and substitute “AMOUNT OF MONEY”; and, on that same page, in line 30, after “FUND” insert “AS GRANTS”; and, on that same page, after line 30, insert:

“(II) THE BOARD MAY NOT AWARD A GRANT TO ANY ORGANIZATION THAT HAS NOT FOLLOWED THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-4(D) OF THIS SUBTITLE.”.

### **Amendment No. 13**

On page 9, in line 7, before “No” insert “(1)”; and, on that same page, in line 8, strike “activities” and substitute “OPERATIONS”; and, on that same page, after line 9, insert:

“(2) BY THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED BY PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE FISCAL AGENT SHALL SUBMIT TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE COMPLETED INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE FUND FROM THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR.”.

### **Amendment No. 14**

On page 10, in line 16, strike “OF THE SCHEDULED DISBURSEMENTS OF THE FUND” and substitute “AND AMOUNT DISPERSED THROUGH GRANTS”; and, on that same page, in line 17, strike “YEAR;” and substitute “YEAR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS PROMULGATED PURSUANT TO § 9-9 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND”; and, on that same page, strike in their entirety lines 18 and 19; and, on that same page, in line 20, strike “(3)” and substitute “(2)”; and, on that same page, in line 21, strike “DISBURSEMENT OR TRANSFER.” and substitute “TRANSFER OF MONEY FROM THE FUND TO THE FISCAL AGENT.”.

# **Baltimore City Council**



## **Education, Youth, & Older Adults Committee**

**Bill: 25-0100**

**Title: Children and Youth Fund - Updates**

## **Agency Reports**

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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

EBONY THOMPSON  
CITY SOLICITOR  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

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December 17, 2025

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 25-0100 – Children and Youth Fund – Updates

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 25-0100 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would amend the City Code—Article 5, Subtitle 9—governing the Children and Youth Fund (“Fund”), including: the process by which grants are awarded by the Fund; eligibility for receiving grants; grantee reporting; Fund Board composition; the annual financial plan; and annual reporting by the Fund Board and the Director of Finance.

The Law Department has identified a number of concerns with the first reader version of the bill. The Law Department is also aware of and has reviewed draft amendments the sponsor intends to propose. Accordingly, Law’s concerns are outlined below, along with a brief explanation whether the sponsor’s proposed amendments address them.

Section 9-4(b)(4) would require the fiscal agent to “receive” regular reports from grantees. The fiscal agent cannot control whether or not it *receives* reports from third party grantees, but it can *require* such reports. The sponsor’s draft amendments would clarify this.

Section 9-4(e) would require the fiscal agent to establish grant procedures and processes, including “creating a uniform application”, “the methods by which the Fund shall evaluate” grant applications and grantees, and “organizing and conducting a community review” of grant applications. This likely amounts to an impermissible delegation of legislative responsibility to the fiscal agent. Under the enabling Charter provisions, the ordinance itself must provide the “methods and criteria for identifying specific programs and services eligible for funding.” City Charter, Art. 1, § 13. *See also, e.g., Pressman v. Barnes*, 209 Md. 544, 552 (1956) (“It is a fundamental principle that . . . the Legislature cannot delegate the power to make laws to any other authority.”).

The sponsor’s draft amendments would appropriately direct and guide the fiscal agent’s discretion in these areas. *See id.* (“a municipal corporation may delegate to subordinate officials

the power to carry ordinances into effect, even though such delegation requires the exercise of a certain amount of discretion . . . if such discretion is guided and restrained by standards”).).

Section 9-4(f)(1) references the grantee reports “required under Subsection (f)(5)”, but the reference should be to Subsection (e)(5). The sponsor’s draft amendments reorganize certain sections such that this concern is no longer relevant.

Section 9-4(f)(2) would permit the fiscal agent to reduce the frequency of a grantee’s reporting requirement if the grantee “has been in full compliance with reporting requirements,” but does not define “full compliance.” Accordingly, this provision is impermissibly vague. *See, e.g., Pizza di Joey, LLC v. Mayor of Baltimore*, 470 Md. 308, 360 (2020) (explaining that a statute must be sufficiently explicit both to inform those subject to it what conduct on their part will render them liable to its regulations, and to allow government officials to apply those regulations in a consistent manner). The sponsor’s draft amendments would define “full compliance”.

Section 9-5(c)(1)(i)(d) would require the Chair of the Board of School Commissioners, or their designee, to be a voting member of the Fund Board. Because the Board of School Commissioners is a creation of State law and is not a City agency, the City cannot require the Chair’s service on the Fund Board. *See* Md. Code, Educ. § 4-303 (establishing the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners). The sponsor’s draft amendments eliminate this requirement.

Section 9-5(c)(2) would require the Fund Board to reflect, among other things, the racial demographics of the City, “as reflected in the most recently available Baltimore City Public School System Student Enrollment Data.” Because of the privacy protections surrounding student records, the Fund Board would not be able to obtain anything other than the de-identified, aggregate level data that is already publicly available on the school system’s website. The sponsor’s draft amendments clarify that only publicly available enrollment data will be referenced.

Section 9-6(b)(3)(i) would provide that “grant funding opportunities made available [at] the discretion of the President of the Fund may not exceed an amount that is greater than 10% of the total grant funds disbursed in the same fiscal year.” This is unclear. Assuming the “President of the Fund” refers to the President of the Fund Board, there does not appear to be any statutory authority whereby the President of the Fund Board has special discretion to award funds outside of the process available to all potentially eligible grantees. The sponsor’s draft amendments eliminate this provision and clarify that the Fund Board may not award a grant to any organization that has not followed the grant application policies and procedures set forth in a new Section 9-4(d).

Section 9-10(b) would require the Director of Finance to provide annual reports that include “the date and amount of the scheduled disbursements of the Fund in the past fiscal year; the date of the past fiscal year’s transfers from the Fund to either the Fiscal Agent directly or to grantees; and the Fund’s balance prior to and following the dates of any disbursements or transfer[s].” This wording is unclear, especially the difference, if any, between “disbursements of the Fund” and “transfers from the Fund”. The sponsor’s draft amendments clarify this subsection.

Finally, there is an incorrect bracket placement in Section 9-10(a), but that is fixed in the sponsor's draft amendments.

Assuming amendments similar to the sponsor's draft amendments are adopted, the Law Department can approve the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Hochstetler  
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor  
Ty'lor Schnella, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor  
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor  
Desireé Luckey, Assistant Solicitor



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Laura Larsen, Budget Director
<b>DATE</b>	December 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Council Bill 25-0100, Children and Youth Fund – Updates

**Position: Opposed**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 25-0100, Children and Youth Fund – Updates, for the purpose of updating the process and procedures by which the Fund may disperse grants; altering the composition of the Board of Directors; requiring a certain report; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the administration of the Children and Youth Fund.

**Background**

The Baltimore Children and Youth Fund (Fund) was approved by the voters via Charter amendment and established in 2016. The fund was created to support programs for and services to children and youth in Baltimore. The Fund receives an annual budget appropriation that must be equal to at least \$0.03 for every \$100 of assessed property value. In practice, property tax revenues are diverted out of the General Fund and into a non-lapsing fund that must be used exclusively for the purposes established in the Charter. The chart below details the Fund’s revenues and expenses since its establishment.

<b>Children and Youth Fund Revenues, Expenses, and Fund Balance FY18-FY25</b>			
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Operating Revenues</b>	<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>Balance</b>
FY18	\$11,866,000	\$697,230	\$11,168,770
FY19	\$12,386,000	\$11,937,770	\$11,617,000
FY20	\$13,105,000	\$6,964,985	\$17,757,015
FY21	\$5,346,000	\$19,862,331	\$5,142,861
FY22	\$13,327,000	\$-	\$18,469,861
FY23	\$13,757,000	\$11,677,197	\$20,546,352
FY24	\$14,225,000	\$15,589,553	\$19,181,799
FY25	\$15,152,000	\$20,137,319	\$14,196,480
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$99,164,000</b>	<b>\$86,866,385</b>	
Data Source: City of Baltimore Financial System (Fiscal 2018-2022 data pulled from legacy system; Fiscal 2023-2025 data pulled from Workday).			

**Council Bill 25-0100**

Council Bill 25-0100 proposes a comprehensive update to how the Fund operates. Under the proposal, the Fiscal Agent for the Fund must adopt a standardized and publicly transparent grant process, including a uniform application, published evaluation criteria, community review of applications, and feedback to all applicants. Grantees would be required to submit monthly performance and financial reports, though compliant organizations will be able to report quarterly. To ensure oversight, the Fund would undergo a performance audit by the Comptroller's Office every three years beginning in Fiscal Year 2027.

The bill changes the composition of the Board of Directors, responsible for fund oversight. The bill expands the Fund's minimum number of members of the Board of Directors from 9 to 13. The legislation also expands the maximum number of members of the Board of Directors from 20 to 21 members and adds new ex-officio voting seats, including representatives from the Baltimore City Youth Commission.

The table below summarizes major changes proposed by this legislation.

Change	Current	Proposed
<b>Annual Financial Plan</b>	Includes: -a budget -an amount to be disbursed from the Fund	Additional requirements: -the fund balance -present year's property tax contribution -most recent fiscal audit -a plan to spend fund balance
<b>Spending Allocations</b>	Limits spending: -up to 5% for public engagement -up to 15% for staff and admin costs	Limits spending: -up to 2% for Community grant reviews -up to 3% for public engagement -up to 15% for staff and admin costs -up to 20% for technical assistance to grantees
<b>Spending Limitations</b>	No Limitations	- No single grant may exceed 20% of the Fund's total grant disbursements in a fiscal year. - The Board may not award a grant to any organization that fails to comply with policies and procedures.
<b>Grant Eligibility</b>	No eligibility limitations for grants.	Must be a tax-exempt organization
<b>Board Composition</b>	Board Size: -9–20 voting members, of whom: -2 ex-officio voting members -2 non-voting members	Board Size: -13–21 voting members, of whom: -3 ex-officio voting members -2 non-voting members

### Fiscal Impact

As shown earlier in the response, approximately \$15 to 16 million is transferred from the City's General Fund to the Children and Youth Fund each year (actual amount fluctuates based on property tax assessments). Annual allocations represent property tax revenues equal to the Charter-required amount. The Children and Youth Fund functions as a non-lapsing fund where any balances carry forward across fiscal years.

Since the inception of the Fund, total City funding for youth-related programs has increased by approximately 46%, reflecting expanded investments across schools, recreation, and related services.

Under the current policy, the City cannot use proceeds from the Children and Youth Fund to supplant funding for youth-related services at the funding levels in the Fiscal 2017 Ordinance of Estimates. This legislation would further restrict the City's ability to coordinate funding strategies with the Children and



Youth Fund by limiting the extent to which Fund resources may be used to offset or complement General Fund spending for youth-related services beyond the Fiscal 2017 baseline.

Amendments to the legislation modify the budget and financial reporting timelines for the Fund's Fiscal Agent. These updates are in line with broader budget timelines, the Department of Finance has no obligation to these requirements as amended. We do acknowledge there may be additional administrative costs associated with being compliant with these additional requirements.

### **Conclusion**

The Department of Finance supports efforts to improve transparency and accountability in the administration of the Children and Youth Fund. However, the Department notes that provisions limiting the flexibility of fund usage may constrain the City's ability to respond to changing fiscal and operational needs while continuing to support increased investments in services for the City's children and young people.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance opposes City Council Bill 25-0100.**

cc: Michael Mocksten  
Nina Themelis



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Dr. Debra Y. Brooks, Director, Mayor's Office of Children Family & Success
<b>CC</b>	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
<b>DATE</b>	December 17, 2025
<b>SUBJECT</b>	25-0100 Children and Youth Fund - Updates

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**Position:** Without Recommendation

## **BILL SYNOPSIS**

City Council Bill 25-0100 makes updates to the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund (the Fund), specifically addressing its operational processes, the composition of its Board of Directors, and reporting requirements. The bill aims to increase transparency, standardize grant-making procedures, enhance community accountability, and strengthen the Fund's overall governance and impact measurement.

## **SUMMARY OF POSITION**

### *Baltimore City Youth Commission*

The Youth Commission supports the bill, as amended, to allow the Commission to select a representative from among its members to serve on the Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund Board.

### *Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success*

The Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success was established to ensure that Baltimore's children and families have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed and thrive through citywide service coordination, smart policymaking, data-driven programming, strategic resource allocation, and deep engagement with partners and the community. In keeping with this mission, the Office supports BCYF's work to invest in youth-serving organizations, including city programs, and cautions against any actions that could discourage the creation or continuance of opportunities for young people.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

This bill will have no fiscal impact on MOCFS.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.

## **Baltimore City Council Bill 25-0100** **Children and Youth Fund – Updates**

Education, Youth, and Older Adults Committee  
December 18, 2025

The Baltimore City Public School System (City Schools) has reviewed Council Bill 25-0100, which seeks to modify the process and procedures by which the Children and Youth Fund (Fund) may disperse grants, alter the Fund’s Board of Directors composition, and establish reporting requirements. City Schools has concerns with the bill as drafted and respectfully requests adoption of the following amendments, which we understand will be offered by the bill sponsor:

- **Amendment 1:** On page 6, line 7, strike the requirement for the Chair of the Board of School Commissioners or their designee to serve as a member of the Fund’s Board of Directors.
  - *Rationale: The grant eligibility limitations described on page 3 explicitly state that organizations employing a member or officer of the Fund’s Board are ineligible to receive a grant from the Fund. Without this amendment, the bill will have the unintended consequence of terminating the current middle school sports partnership, as well as any potential future partnerships, between City Schools and the Fund.*
- **Amendment 2:** On page 6, line 17, insert "publicly" as follows:  
The Board shall reflect the diverse economic, social, geographic, and racial demographics of the City, as reflected in the most recent **PUBLICLY** available Baltimore City Public School System student enrollment data.
  - *Rationale: The clarification of “publicly available” enrollment data will ensure the bill does not unintentionally create data sharing challenges. In addition, City Schools advises the Council to carefully consider the Board characteristics as outlined and how they will be operationalized. For example, City Schools’ publicly available enrollment data does not specify geographic characteristics.*

While City Schools must oppose Council Bill 25-0000 as drafted, adoption of the two amendments above will address our concerns. We appreciate the committee’s consideration and stand ready to provide additional information upon request.



## MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the City Council  
c/o Shamoyia Gardiner, Deputy Chief of Staff, Council President's Office

From: J Hardy, Community & Legislative Affairs Coordinator

Date: December 15th, 2025

Re: 25-0100 – Children and Youth Fund - Updates

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### **Position: Favorable as Amended**

The Office of the Comptroller is reporting on City Council Bill 25-0100, introduced by Councilmembers Bullock and Parker. The Comptroller's Office has reviewed the proposed amendments to this bill and supports the bill as amended.

The bill affects the Office of the Comptroller by establishing a recurring performance audit obligation. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2027, and every three years afterwards, the fiscal agent must participate in a performance audit conducted by the Office of the Comptroller. This requirement will have a fiscal impact on the Department of Audits and will require additional staffing. This additional staff will not only be utilized to complete the BCYF Performance Audit but will also be involved with other projects that align with the city's Audit Plan. The estimated cost for these additional hires would be \$321,255.

This bill will allow for financial accountability for all disbursements made from the Fund. Increased data and standardized reporting from grantees will also improve the city's capacity to evaluate the financial stewardship and effectiveness of Fund operations.

**The Office of the Comptroller supports the passage of City Council Bill 25-0100 as amended.**

CC:

Celeste Amato, Chief of Staff, Comptroller Office  
KC Kelleher, Deputy Chief of Staff, Comptroller's Office