
CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor
Zeke Cohen – Council President



Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead - Director
100 Holliday Street, Room 415
Baltimore, MD 21202

EDUCATION, YOUTH, & OLDER ADULTS COMMITTEE

The Honorable John Bullock
CHAIR

HEARING NOTES

25-0100

Children and Youth Funds Update

Hearing Date: 3/19/2026

Hearing Start Time: 12:03 PM

Hearing End Time: 3:43 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

Total Estimated Attendance: around 30 people

Committee Members in Attendance:

- **Chair** John Bullock
 - Sharon Green Middleton
 - Jermaine Jones
 - **Vice Chair** Mark Parker
 - James Torrence
 - Odette Ramos
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MAJOR SPEAKERS

(This is NOT an attendance record.)

- **Brandon Hansen, Vice President of External Affairs for the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund**
 - **Isaiah Griffith, Mayor's Office of Government Relations**
 - **Jeffrey Hochstelter, Law Department**
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NOTES

- The Chair opened the hearing back up for the voting session for 25-0100.
- Vice Chair Parker, the sponsor of the bill gave a brief overview of the amendments. They will be voting on the single amendment that fixes the entire bill as one.
- Council President Cohen gave brief remarks on the bill. Thanking the sponsor, the youth fund, and everyone else that assisted with this bill.
- Isaiah Griffith from MOGR thanked Vice Chair Parker on the collaboration and they are favorable as amended

- Brandon Haines from the Baltimore City Youth Fund mentioned the only concern is with the invitation only section of the bill.
- Councilman Torrence stated that he is still uncomfortable with this bill. Thinking of the environment back in 2020 where the youth fund gave those resources.
- Councilwoman Ramos asked the sponsor, wanted to understand the dialog and what does it say in the bill and what they are trying to accomplish
 - Vice Chair Parker, all eligible applicants are able to apply and be able to benefit from these resources. Because these are public funds everyone should have the opportunity to receive the funds.
- Councilwoman Ramos mentioned how there should be some emergency situation, she interpreted the president fund as emergency situations.
 - Vice Chair Parker believes that capacity already exists, in this bill it will be noted that there are emergency funds set to the side.
- Vice President Middleton mentioned how the Brooklyn mass shooting was a serious situation and wants to know that support like that will not disappear. Councilman Torrence then jumped in stating that it needs to be explicit. If it is not written in the law, it will not be implemented and therefore, they can be sued by the grantees.
- Chair Bullock mentioned how this can be offered as an amendment if anyone wants to bring that forward
- Vice Chair Parker stated how the law allows for emergency situations and if he did not think that it was there, he would be offering up the amendment, but he believes it is addressed.
- Councilwoman Ramos asked for a written document from Law department that the emergency access is there.
- Councilman Torrence asked that if this is there, can it be made public and explicit to where if it does go to court it is very explicit for a judge to see.
- Vice Chair Parker stated he is glad to get a written documentation from law department
- Vice President Middleton asked if the entire committee could get something in writing, she would like to propose to hold the vote if everyone wants to see this in writing before voting. Is the sponsor willing to get this document in writing for the committee to get everyone in organization
- Vice Chair Parker is happy to get this in writing but am calling for a vote to be held today.
- Councilwoman Ramos asked if the sponsor can specifically point to the language where this is stated
- Vice Chair, Parker stated that BCYF has the option for the grantees and choose where the money goes and who to. They can call for an emergency grant where they can ask people to apply within that situation.
- The Chair stated it seems that if this is voted today it will go 3-3, and if it goes to 2nd reader there will be additional language.

- BCYF stated that it is a little gray and they asked law department and there was not a definitive answer. They believe it is very important.
- Councilwoman Ramos took the initiative to take charge on this issue
- Vice Chair, Parker stated that if the law department does have issues with this, he will be open to additional language.
- Councilwoman Ramos mentioned that if it is a tie that bill will fail.
- BCYF mentioned that having the emergency funds go to only current grantees and they do not think that is needed because there are instances where something can happen in an area where there are no grantees.
- Councilman Jones stated that he would prefer clarification before casting a vote.
- The Chair stated there should be clear explicit language from the law department so that there are no more questions.
- BCYF offered context within the funds. About 7% is invitation grant funds
- Vice President Middleton stated that the statics shared is very important and that they need this in writing.
- Jeff Hochstelter from the Law department was able to come and answer verbally.
 - There are two paths for grants within the amendments. Community panel and youth panel. If this is time sensitive the process will be expedited. This would cover an emergency.
- Councilman Torrence asked Jeff, would non-current or past grantees be able to receive the fund within a very short time period
 - Answer: there is nothing legal that states this would not be able to happen. This is up to the internals of BCYF.
- BCYF stated some instances may not be an emergency but just a gap that needs to be filled. It was invitation only because the grantees could not follow the city's process.
- Councilman Torrence stated he does not feel comfortable voting yes today if BCYF still does not feel they can do this
- The Chair decided to hold this over and get this together to get to a finish line. Suggested having this in a written form so that there is any need for an amendment that is available.

Hearing Packet in bill file? ----- YES NO N/A
Attendance Sheet in bill file?----- YES NO N/A
Agency reports read? ----- YES NO N/A
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? ----- YES NO N/A
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the bill file? ----- YES NO N/A
Evidence of notification to property owners in bill file? ----- YES NO N/A

Notes by: Juliane Jemmott
Notes Date: 3/20/2026

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