



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Honorable Mark Conway
CHAIR

HEARING NOTES

LO26-0046

Legislative Oversight – Summer Youth Program

Hearing Date: 4/21/2026

Hearing Start Time: 1:00 PM

Hearing End Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

Total Estimated Attendance: 40

Committee Members in Attendance:

- **Chair** Mark Conway
 - **Vice Chair** Zac Blanchard
 - Phylcia Porter
 - Paris Gray
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MAJOR SPEAKERS

(This is NOT an attendance record.)

- Noelle West – Assistant Deputy Mayor, Health and Human Services
 - Stefanie Mavronis – Director, MONSE
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NOTES

- Chair Conway welcomed those in attendance to the hearing
 - The City can't overlook what summer means for our young people
 - Will examine how we will keep young people safe during the highest risk times
 - Temporary federal funding is now ending
 - Who are we prioritizing and how are we reaching them
- Chair Conway shared a brief presentation on youth engagement (see attachment)
 - Older youth are particularly uncatered to
- The administration shared its presentation (included in bill file)
 - The initiative is more than a seasonal program
 - 57% reduction in youth as victims of non-fatal shootings
 - MONSE
 - Youth safety engagement
 - Expanded to half-year activation to engage youth with resources and support
 - BPD
 - Officers trained to use presence as the primary deescalation tool

- Baltimore City Schools shared their presentation
 - Reduced budget compared to summer 2025 (\$2million decrease)
 - Offer 10,350 seats (compared to 13,000 in 2025) – strategically prioritized
 - Some adjustments to food services – more hubs fewer small locations
 - Prioritized full day programming
 - Offers about a dozen summer programs and 4 externally led programs
 - Offering original credit offerings for rising 9th-12th graders
 - ESY – special education services delivered outside of the school year
 - 2025
 - 29 total sites
 - 1790 enrolled
 - 2026
 - 64% reduction in sites – now 12
 - Collocated with traditional summer programs
 - Offer YouthWorks opportunities
- BCYF
 - BCYF has had success investing in Baltimore’s youth development ecosystem
 - 2026 Summer of Possibility Fund
 - \$2million invested
 - 30 organizations funded
 - Also offers a fair to connect families with summer programs
 - Funding decisions moving to early December allows organizations to hire and staff earlier
 - Public safety impact
 - Supports community based programs that operate during peak summer hours
- Questions
 - Chair Conway
 - This is something we deal with every single year, acknowledges significant progress made since joining the Council, last year in particular was a major improvement
 - Are there any lessons learned after the rollout of last year’s plan that will be incorporated or improved on?
 - Admin
 - Worked with BPD and schools to talk about targeted areas
 - Ensure the right partners are at the table
 - Identified that it is much better to start earlier in the year
 - BCYF
 - A funding priority for this year
 - Admin
 - There are targeted efforts for youth opportunity centers
 - Occupational skills training, etc.
 - How are we targeting 19-24 year olds
 - BCYF
 - A funding priority for this year
 - Admin
 - There are targeted efforts for youth opportunity centers
 - Occupational skills training, etc.
 - How is outreach done to older young people?
 - Go to schools and market out of school programming in school
 - Also at community resource fairs
 - Target service of 800 young people – steady year to year

- Are there ways to increase the number or focus that number on areas where youth are not aware of opportunities
 - Work to coordinate with other organizations
 - Have we considered using social media influencers to connect individuals with services
 - Yes
- CM Blanchard
 - Do we have projections for summer 26 total seats
 - Admin
 - Not yet, grants closing soon
 - Are there any resources that consolidate and share all of the programs offered here
 - Updating bmore this summer website
 - Bmore children website has lots of resources
 - City schools can also be included
 - Along with job opportunities
 - Is everything posted on that page in time to capture the programs that open the earliest in the year
 - Summer camp programs open in March
 - There is early registration for parents from previous years
- CW Porter
 - Ask Baltimore Promise to explain the 170,000 data point demonstrated previously
 - 0-24
 - Is the programming done each summer targeting 0-24
 - This is the range that programs can apply to
 - Funding collaborative is an open request for proposals
 - Did Baltimore's Promise have a reduction? And how much?
 - Yes, more funds allocated but in a direct response to last year seeking additional sponsors
 - How many seats are offered
 - 57 programs funded, split from k-5 and 6-12
 - Programs currently sharing how many seats they will have
 - For BCPSS – what programming exists for differently abled programs over the summer
 - Are ESY programs full day?
 - Yes
 - 10 sites across the city can share list of those sites
- CM Gray
 - Difficult for kids in district to access programs because they would have to take several buses
 - Meal participation dropped from summer 24-25, why
 - Can discuss with food nutrition staff
- Chair Conway
 - Who is running point on operationalizing data
 - Admin – Noelle West
 - We should be having these conversations earlier in the year

- CM Blanchard
 - What is the strategy for responding to large teen meetups
 - Try to get ahead of the problem
 - Using influencers on the front end
 - Want to use negative imaging to convey this isn't what Baltimore is
 - What is the status of enforcement of curfews in parks
 - Enforcement of set hours
 - Least intrusive most effective
 - Generally successful by advising individuals of the limits
- CM Gray
 - Request in last budget season that rec and parks send information on park events every weekend

FURTHER STUDY REQUESTED

Request	From	Agency	Expected Timeline
Projection for estimated total summer seats offered through City programs	Blanchard	MOGR, et al.	1 month
Estimated seats for Baltimore's Promise programming by the end of May	Porter	Baltimore's Promise	1 month
Share location of ESY programs across the City	Porter	BCPSS	1 month
Provide placement hubs and slots by location relative to Council districts	Gray	BCPSS	1 month
Explain why food nutrition participation decreased from summer 24 to summer 25	Gray	BCPSS	1 month

Hearing Packet in bill file? ----- YES NO N/A
Attendance Sheet in bill file?----- YES NO N/A
Vote Record 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: Ethan Navarre
 Notes Date: 4/21/2026

Direct Inquiries to: Ethan.Navarre@baltimorecity.gov

SUMMER YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

2026 Planning

What Baltimore's Promise data tells us about where we've been — and where we need to go.

Baltimore's Promise | Summer 2025 Data



**MARK
CONWAY**
CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4

CHALLENGE 1 | THE SYSTEM IS SHRINKING

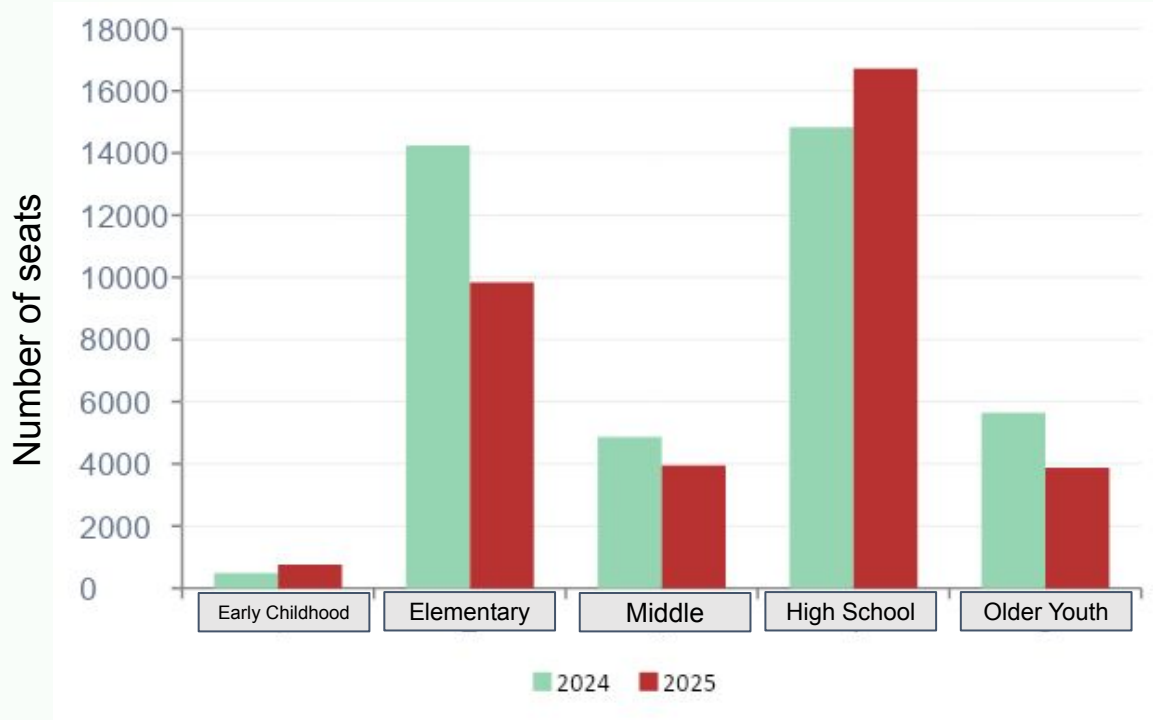
Capacity grew for 3 years then reversed in 2025. Reliance on a few large agencies makes the system fragile.



Agency	2024	2025	Change
City Schools	18,976	17,639	▼ -1,337
MOED/YouthWorks	10,266	8,624	▼ -1,642
SFC	10,227	4,413	▼ -5,558
BCRP	6,001	2,728	▼ -3,273
Family League	—	1,678	▲ +1,678
TOTAL	40,063	35,132	▼ -4,931

CHALLENGE 2 | WHO IS BEING LEFT BEHIND

Older youth (19–24) and elementary-aged kids each lost 31% of seats. Evening programming fell nearly 50%.



▼ **31%**

Older Youth seats lost

5,651 → 3,881

▼ **31%**

Elementary seats lost

14,245 → 9,833

▼ **49%**

Evening event sites lost

420 → 216 sites

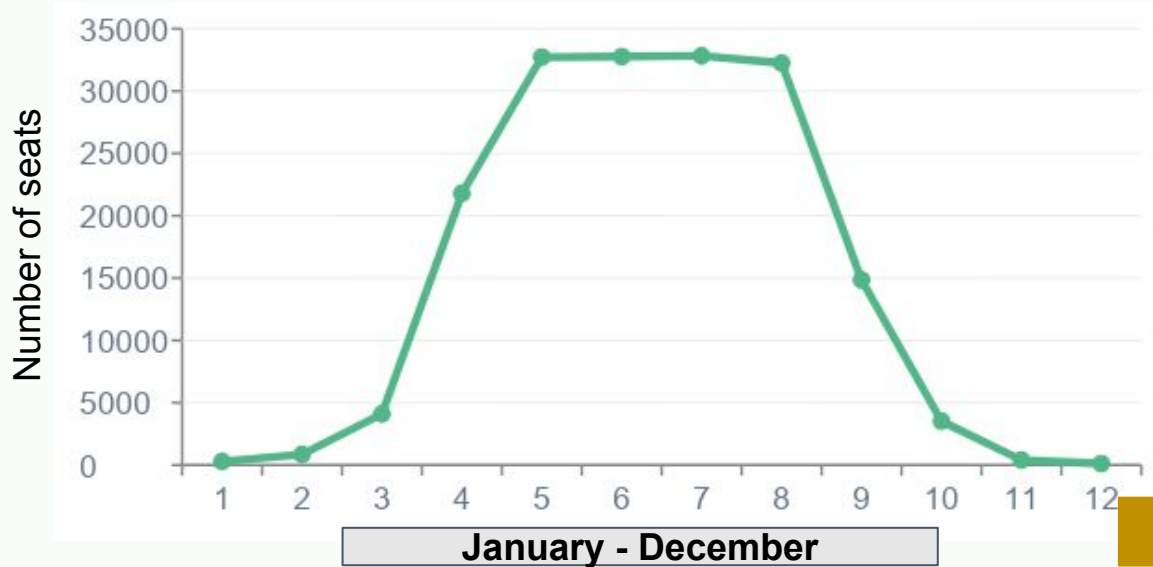
▲ **+13%**

High school seats gained

Only group to grow

CHALLENGE 3 | QUALITY AND TIMING GAPS

Comprehensive full-day programs fell 39%. And capacity collapses in mid-August — weeks before school starts.



90%+ capacity drop after Aug 10

What is a Comprehensive Program?

- 5+ hrs/day • 4+ days/week • 4+ weeks
- Formal enrollment • Food + enrichment

Research links these programs to lasting gains in academic achievement, social-emotional growth, food security, and reductions in youth arrests.

Program Type	2024	2025	Change
Comprehensive (full-day)	18,221	11,044	▼ 39%
Specialized	13,632	13,118	▼ 4%

CHALLENGE 4 | PROGRAMS AREN'T REACHING EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD

Even the most-served neighborhoods are still underserved. High-immigrant areas face an added gap.

170,000+ youth ages 0–24 in Baltimore City

35,132 program seats available

= 1 seat for every 5 young people in the city.

High-need neighborhoods like SW Baltimore rank higher in program count — but still only serve 17% of local youth. Southeastern Baltimore, with 32% foreign-born residents, has just 6 programs and ranks 44th of 55 neighborhoods.

Indicator	SW Baltimore	Southeastern	City Avg
Program Capacity	650 (#18 of 55)	180 (#44 of 55)	~639
% Youth Served	17.4%	6.0%	~20%
% Children in Poverty	31.9%	N/A	~22%
% Foreign Born	~8%	32%	8%
CCI Score (out of 24)	6 — lowest	—	—
Median Household Income	\$33,000	—	~\$55k

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? | 2026 RECOMMENDATIONS

01



Fight for 40,000 seats

Advocacy cut the projected 30% loss to 12%.
Target 40,000 in 2026, 83,000 by 2030.

02



Restore older youth programs

Reverse the 31% drop. Reinvest in YouthWorks
and workforce pathways for 19–24 year-olds.

03



Rebuild comprehensive options

A 39% cut to the highest-impact program type
is unsustainable. Prioritize full-day programs.

04



Protect evening hours

Restore after-4PM access — event sites fell 49%
in a single year.

05



Reach underserved neighborhoods

Target Southeast Baltimore and other
high-immigrant, low-capacity areas.

06



Extend programming to Aug 25

Bridge the gap between when programs end
and the first day of school.