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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

The Committee on Education, Workforce and Youth (EWY) is responsible for creating opportunities for our young people, ensuring economic opportunity and prosperity for Baltimore's workforce, and supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include public education, labor relations, workforce development, employment, public parks, recreation, and youth affairs. Issue areas include, but are not limited to: education, including adult education, higher education, workforce development, labor, senior affairs, veterans, childcare, accessibility and disability issues, recreation and parks, and historical landmarks.

**The Honorable Robert Stokes, Sr.
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022
5:00 PM**

VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING

Legislative Oversight – LO 21-0007

Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund – An Update

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LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth

LO 21-0007

Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund – An Update

Purpose:

Representative(s) from the Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund will come before the committee to give an update on the status of and/or activities associated with the Fund.

Background

There is a continuing, non-lapsing Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund to be used exclusively for purposes of establishing new and augmenting existing programs for and services to the children and youth of Baltimore City.¹ *(See attached laws)*

No later than June 30th 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.²

On Thursday, December 2, 2021, representative(s) on behalf of the Fund came before the committee to give an update about the activities and impact of the Fund.

Following are notes from that hearing:

Major Speaker(s) – December 2nd

- Davyon Love, Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund

¹ Baltimore City Charter, Article 1, Subsection 13 – Children and Youth Fund

² Baltimore City Charter, Article 5, Subsection 9-10 – Annual Report

Major Issues Discussed – December 2nd

1. Mr. Love gave a PowerPoint Presentation. *A copy is on file.*
2. Seven (7) questions were submitted to Mr. Love prior to the hearing. During the hearing Chairman Stokes read each question out loud and asked Mr. Love to respond in writing to each one as soon as possible.
3. A committee members thanked Mr. Love for his Presentation.
4. The hearing was recessed.

On Tuesday, December 14, 2022, Mr. Love submitted the attached response for the seven (7) questions referred to above.

On Thursday, March 10, 2022, representative(s) on behalf of the Fund will come back before the committee to give an update about the activities and impact of the Fund.

Marguerite Murray Currin

Committee Staff: Marguerite Murray Currin

Date: March 7, 2022

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

Currin, Marguerite (City Council)

From: Dayvon Love <dlove@bcyfund.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 8:33 PM
To: Thompson, Nikki A. (City Council)
Cc: Brown, Dariya T.; Currin, Marguerite (City Council); Stokes, Robert (City Council); Kelleher, KC (Comptroller); Degraffenreidt, Aaron (City Council); Dorcas Gilmore
Subject: Re: BCYF board members follow up

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Good evening,

My apologies for the delayed written response to these questions. If there are additional information needed to address these questions or any others, please feel free to reach out. Thanks again for all of your help and support. Below are the written responses to the questions sent to BCYF on November 18th 2021.

-Dayvon

Question 1: What steps are you taking to guarantee that the fund is more transparent to the public moving forward (ie announcing committee meetings, publicizing the work done in committee meetings, etc.)? How do you plan on reporting out the activities of the fund's committee moving forward?

The ordinance that passed in 2020 that codified the independence of BCYF has many statutory requirements that are designed to give the public all the necessary instruments of oversight. This includes an annual hearing in front of the city council where BCYF presents its operations and priorities to the public. BCYF is bound to all of the requirements of the Public Information Act. We have already received numerous request for public information. Additionally, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act the board meetings are open to the public. Furthermore, the ordinance requires that there are 4 representatives from city government that serve an additional oversight function. These four representatives include the director of the office of children and family success, the city council president or their designee, a representative from the office of the city solicitor (as an ex-officio), and a representative from the department of finance (also ex-officio). Lastly, prospective board members are required to come before the city council in order to be seated on the board. Given all of these requirements in the ordinance and the BCYF by-laws, this provides many mechanisms for pubic engagement, and transparency.

Question 2: In the last oversight hearing BCYF stated that 35.9% of Year 2 grantees rely on BCYF funding for 50%-100% of their operating budget. What assistance has been provided to grantees to ensure that they are sustainable? What supports are you offering to grantees to ensure that they are not solely relying on BCYF to remain solvent?

It is important to clarify that the first grantee cohort has ended, and that currently the only grantees that BCYF has are our partners for our aligned grant making strategy. During the 2 year period of the first grantee cohort BCYF offered all of its grantees extensive technical assistance that included issues of financial sustainability. Given the administrative burden of managing a 70+ grantee portfolio, a lesson that BCYF has learned is that having less grantees at one time will allow the institutions to go deeper on issues of sustainability that are of upmost importance to grassroots community organizations. Additionally, BCYF organized and executed sessions in early 2021 that were free and open to the public to address the issue of financial sustainability for organizations that serve youth.

Question 3: Are you providing assistance to grantees to apply for the city's ARPA funds through the Mayor's Office of Recovering Programs? If so are you connecting them with larger organizations to submit proposals?

BCYF reached out to the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs and offered its support and lessons learned. That offer has not been taken up. Maryland Nonprofits has been actively supporting organizations with the application process. We are waiting to hear back from the Mayor's Office regarding any request to help them with our lessons learned that would be useful for ARPA applicants.

Question 4: What processes has BCYF done to date and how is BCYF working to include youth into its leadership?

The ordinance that was passed in 2020 requires that a third of the board members are youth. BCYF has established the Avis Ransom Institute which is currently working with young people in order to prepare them to serve on the board.

Question 5: What strategic planning has BCYF done to date and how is BCYF working to include youth input in its future planning?

The board of BCYF and BCYF team members collaborated to produce an approach to youth development that rooted in Black Liberatory practice, particularly the importance of youth being trained and socialized in culturally, and community affirming environments in order to effectively assume leadership roles. The framework is housed in the documents that are apart of the work of the Avis Ransom Institute. Our intention is that this institute will provide the tools youth will need to meaningfully assume a role of leadership in major civic institutions, and rebuke the tokenism that is often deployed to merely place youth on decision making panels without proper training needed for them to be meaningful participants.

Question 6: What's the plan for transitioning and onboarding BCYF's permanent board of directors and president?

We have recently concluded a public process to onboard new board members. The process of actually onboard is currently being designed. BCYF launched a public search for the president role and intends to publicly announce the inaugural president later this month or early next month.

Question 7: What are the permanent processes, systems and procedures for grant making based on lessons learned from the initial cohort of grantees will be implemented before the spring 2022 application opens?

The document that was provided to the council regarding the grant making approach address this. There will be a variety of different pools of funds that the public will have access to. One of the most important lessons learned is that having a large grantee portfolio strains the administrative infrastructure for BCYF to effectively carry out other areas of operation. This, in part, is the rationale for having smaller grantee portfolios.

On Dec 7, 2021, at 3:52 PM, Dayvon Love <dlove@bcyfund.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

Nikki and I touched base briefly and I proposed that we move the hearing date to next Thursday December 16th. I think that will serve us better so that we do not have to rush. I am also working on getting the resumes for the entire board to everyone tonight. Additionally, I will work on getting the written answers for the questions posed during the hearing last Thursday. Does this work for everyone?

-Dayvon

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 6, 2021, at 8:27 AM, Thompson, Nikki A. (City Council)
<Nikki.Thompson@baltimorecity.gov> wrote:

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<mime-attachment.ics>

BYLAWS
BALTIMORE CITY
CHILDREN & YOUTH FUND

See attached

(2) do not revert to the general revenues of the City; and

(3) their appropriations do not lapse.

(Res. 11-032, ratified Nov. 9, 2011.)

§ 13. Children and Youth Fund.

(a) *Fund established; Scope.*

(1) There is a continuing, nonlapsing Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund, to be used exclusively for purposes of establishing new and augmenting existing programs for and services to the children and youth of this City.

(2) These programs and services must be from among those designed to:

- (i) ensure that Baltimore's children and youth are healthy, are ready to learn and succeed in school, and live in stable, safe, and supportive families and communities;
- (ii) ensure that Baltimore City supports families as an important part of the City population and civic culture;
- (iii) focus on the prevention of problems and on supporting and enhancing the strengths of children, youth, and their families;
- (iv) complement the City's community development efforts;
- (v) strengthen community-based networks of recreation and after-school services in all neighborhoods; and
- (vi) ensure that children and youth with the highest needs receive maximum benefit from the Fund.

(3) The Fund shall be administered in accordance with the following standards:

- (i) programs and services shall be provided and funds allocated based on best practices and successful and innovative models;
- (ii) to the maximum extent feasible, funds shall be allocated equitably among services for all age groups – from infancy to transitional-aged youth;
- (iii) programs and services shall be gender-responsive and culturally competent; and
- (iv) programs and services shall be designed to strengthen collaboration among service providers for children, youth, and their families, including collaboration among public agencies and non-profit organizations.

Editor's Note: For statutory requirements governing the proposal, adoption, and publication of administrative rules and regulations, see General Provisions Article, Title 4 {"Administrative Procedure Act – Regulations"}.

(b) *Limitations on use.*

The Children and Youth Fund may not be used to substitute for or replace funding for children and youth programs or services provided in the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2017, except to the extent that federal, state, or private agency funds for those programs or services have since been discontinued.

(c) *Revenue sources.*

The Children and Youth Fund shall comprise:

- (1) a mandatory annual appropriation in the Ordinance of Estimates of an amount equal to at least \$0.03 on every \$100 of assessed or assessable value of all property in the City of Baltimore (except property exempt by law); and
- (2) grants and donations made to the Fund.

(d) *Continuing nature of Fund.*

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter, unspent portions of the Children and Youth Fund:

- (1) remain in the Fund, to be used exclusively for its specified purposes;
- (2) do not revert to the general revenues of the City; and
- (3) their appropriations do not lapse.

(e) *Implementation.*

By Ordinance, the Mayor and City Council shall provide for the oversight, governance, and administration of the Children and Youth Fund, including:

- (1) methods and criteria for identifying specific program and services eligible for funding by the Fund;
- (2) methods and criteria for allocating available funds among eligible programs and services; and
- (3) the establishment of any other legislative or administrative rules, regulations, or standards, consistent with this section, governing the Fund, its operations, and programs and services funded by it.

(Res. 16-026, ratified Nov. 8, 2016.)

**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”).

(Ord. 18-103; Ord. 20-363.)

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

(Ord. 18-103.)

§ 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.
- (Ord. 20-363.)

§ 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:

- (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.

(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 and continuing every 3 years thereafter, the fiscal agent shall conduct a community-wide needs assessment to assist the Board in determining grant-making areas.

(Ord. 18-103; Ord. 20-363.)

(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 the City Charter Article I, § 13 {"Children and Youth Fund"}.
- (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.
(Ord. 20-363.)

§ 9-6. Annual financial plan.

(a) *In general.*

Subject to the requirements of this section, 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.

(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;
- (C) materials for education, marketing, and promotion of fund-related efforts; or
- (D) facilitation and execution of community participatory processes for grant making.

§ 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.

Editor's Note: By authority of Ordinance 20-431, Section 5, the Director of Legislative Reference, in consultation with the Law Department, has conformed the text of this section to refer to and reflect the requirements of the recently-enacted Administrative Procedure Act that, effective January 15, 2021, governs the proposal, adoption, and publication of administrative rules and regulations.

(Ord. 18-103; Ord. 20-363; Text Conformed 02/14/21.)

§ 9-10. Annual report.

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.

(Ord. 20-363.)

EDITOR'S NOTE TO SUBTITLE: This subtitle was substantially modified by Section 1 of Ordinance 20-363 (Council Bill 20-519). For effective dates and transitional provisions, *see also* the following uncodified provisions of that Ordinance: Section 2 (Transition Board; First Financial Plan), Section 3 (Interim fiscal agent close-out and transfer of records), Section 4 (Unused Fund balances from FY 2019 and FY 2020), and Sections 6 and 7 (Effective dates).