
Positive Youth Development

MISSION STATEMENT

Montgomery County is committed to creating a supportive, violence-free community for children, youth and families where young people are valued, treated with dignity and given opportunities to realize their full potential. The County and its partners are responding to the urgent need to reach out to support youth who are faced with challenges including gang involvement, poverty, and pressure to engage in risky behaviors. The methods used to respond to these challenges include positive youth development and gang intervention and suppression. Multiple agencies throughout the county are working actively together to engage youth and families positively and to prevent and address youth violence and gang activity.

LINKAGE TO COUNTY RESULTS AREAS

- ❖ *Children Prepared to Live and Learn*
- ❖ *Healthy and Sustainable Communities*
- ❖ *Safe Streets and Secure Neighborhoods*

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Gabriel Albornoz of the Department of Recreation at 240.777.6800 or Pofen Salem of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2773 for more information regarding this initiative's operating budget.

FY16 RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

The FY16 Recommended Budget includes approximately \$17.3 million in tax-supported resources identified for the Positive Youth Development Initiative. The FY16 budget increases the number of grantees receiving County Executive community grants, reflecting the County's commitment to continue all aspects of service delivery for County youth. In addition, the recommended budget includes \$296,000 in non-tax supported resources for positive youth development.

Department of Health and Human Services

- Establish the Children's Opportunity Fund jointly with Montgomery County Public Schools to support policy priorities related to addressing the social determinants that impact the achievement gap for vulnerable children and the barriers faced by their families (\$250,000).

Department of Public Libraries

- Open the new Silver Spring Library with innovative features that include a Technology Corral, a Studio i Digital Media lab, new Teen Space, a variety of program and meeting space, and other amenities to support youth needs.

Office of the State's Attorney

- Enhance Truancy Court from ten middle schools to fifteen using an additional Program Coordinator and increasing the number of volunteer mentors (\$57,000).

Non-Departmental Account Community Grants

- Provide non-profit grants to our community partners with more than \$2.23 million for 55 projects engaged in positive youth development. Community organizations augment and supplement government programs by providing services such as after-school programming, mentoring, leadership development, college prep, education on domestic violence, and internship programs to engage youth that are high risk, low income, new immigrants, and/or disabled. These community organizations are critical to an effective network of services and are often able to provide these services in a more cost-effective, culturally appropriate, and flexible way than County Government. They also are able to leverage community resources that may be unavailable to County Government. For details, please see Community Grants: County Executive in the Non-Departmental Accounts section.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In December 2006, County Executive Isiah Leggett articulated a new vision for focusing on the issues of gang activity and youth violence based on the fact that gang crime and activity are more pronounced in specific locations in the County. This new vision also called for new efforts to encompass a broader cross-discipline approach for positive youth development rather than strictly gang prevention.

The Positive Youth Development/Gang Intervention and Suppression Initiative is a comprehensive response to the problems of children and youth exposed to trauma, gangs, and youth violence in the County, and reflects the commitment by the County to an approach that includes prevention, intervention, and suppression components. The Initiative's priorities serve to enhance existing approaches and services, and ensure the County's ability to respond to emerging trends and challenges utilizing culturally competent and evidence-based approaches.

The leadership of these efforts is provided by the Director of Health and Human Services, the Director of Recreation, the Chief of Police, along with key members of the County Executive's staff, Public Libraries, Correction and Rehabilitation, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), the State's Attorney's Office, and community leaders. Work continues in the areas of suppression and enforcement, outreach and education, violence prevention, and deterrence.

The Positive Youth Development Initiative (PYDI) also includes multiple efforts to strengthen out of school time programming throughout the County. The Montgomery County Collaboration Council, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Recreation, the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Montgomery College, MCPS, and many other key partners are working together to address quality, to assess needs, to unify funding approaches, and to develop shared program approaches and outcomes. These efforts will result in the increase of programs and support for the youth of the County. In addition, many of the Health and Human Services PYDI Programs provide opportunities for children and youth to heal from trauma and utilize trauma informed, evidence-based curriculums accordingly.

Services benefiting County youth are incorporated in the general department program offerings as well as targeted services. These projects respond to multiple critical needs facing the County at this time and the desired outcomes of addressing trauma, reducing gang violence and crime, and promoting youth success and development. Below are some of the major County Government programs currently supporting County youth:

Department of Health and Human Services

- The Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center and the UpCounty Youth Opportunity Center provide a wide array of culturally-based, trauma-informed intervention support services for high-risk youth, youth who seek to exit gang life, youth engaged in juvenile delinquency and criminal activity, and violence prevention services.
- The Identity After-School Program provides after school programming to serve at risk Latino youth in middle and high schools.
- The Maryland Multicultural Youth Center provides case management, GED preparation, job readiness development, and after school programs to high risk youth.
- High School Based Wellness Centers provide school-based, culturally-based, positive youth development services such as after school activities, job readiness, academic support, trauma-informed mental health services, parent support groups, leadership development, truancy reduction, substance abuse treatment, and other health related services. The High School Based Wellness centers are located at Watkins Mill, Northwood, and Gaithersburg High Schools.
- The Street Outreach Network (SON) provides culturally-based, trauma-informed, evidence-based gang and youth violence intervention services, conflict management services, and recreational and leisure activities. In addition, the SON offers wellness and nutrition programs, after school services to elementary, middle, and high school youth groups, job readiness and workforce development, and community-based projects that engage youth and young adults in life-affirming activities, and support services to youth and young adults returning to the community after incarceration or detention. The SON also provides transformational healing for children and youth impacted by trauma and/or violence.
- Asian American Leadership, Empowerment and Development for Youth and Family Program provides after school enrichment programs and mentoring to students at four middle schools and two high schools.
- The Street Outreach Network continues to focus its intervention services throughout the County especially targeting the Montgomery Village, Germantown, Wheaton, Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, Rockville, Briggs Chaney, and the Long Branch communities.
- Six Street Outreach Staff have been trained and certified in evidence and culturally-based, trauma-informed curriculums.

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- Conservation Corps provide job, education, and life skills training for out-of-school and unemployed County youth ages 17 to 24.

Department of Recreation

- Rec Zones (previously called Sports Academies) provide direct leadership during the critical after-school hours for five high schools, including Einstein, Wheaton, Montgomery Blair, Springbrook, and Watkin Mills, which serve over 3,000 students throughout the school year. The program offers structured, semi-structured, and self-directed opportunities customized to meet the needs of students entering middle adolescence, where voice and choice and perceived freedom are critical to retention. Programming ranges from sports, arts, job readiness and college exploration, and community services to leadership development.
- Excel Beyond the Bell Program (EBB), a partnership among Recreation, the Montgomery County Collaboration Council, and MCPS, is offered at seven locations four days a week from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. EBB offers a structure designed to increase school engagement through concentrated and expanded programming which includes: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), sports, a variety of dance and arts programs, Youth Advisory Council (YAC), a hot dinner, and delayed after school transportation.
- Rec Extra expands the capacity of extra-curricular and after-school opportunities for Middle Schools students. Programs are customized to each school and operate from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at thirteen middle schools. These programs offer sports, STEM, yoga, hip-hop dance, art, certified babysitting training, cooking, and other activities.
- Teen Events provides after-hour teen programming at a number of community recreation centers that are spread out among five regions. The program partners with Identity and HHS Street Outreach Network to reach underserved and disconnected youth. Events include: Teen Cafés, as well as special events such as Futsal tournaments, Spring Break Basketball tournaments, Summer Basketball tournaments, Stars Soccer league focusing on leadership development through sports, Teen Talent Show, college tours, and service learning opportunities.
- Teen Leadership offers a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) and a Summer Leadership Challenge (SLC). SLC is a leadership development program that encourages exploration, independence, and personal growth. Young people participate in interactive workshops that prepare them for leadership roles and employment opportunities available to teens. Participants will become competent in leading activities and coordinate a “capstone” project benefiting young campers. Participants will earn service-learning hours, receive individual participant evaluations and fulfill pre-requisites needed to become a Junior Counselor. YAC is a program designed to promote youth voice, connect young people to the community, and engage youth in civic leadership. YAC facilitates opportunities for youth to connect to key stakeholders and decision makers as well as participate in service-learning.
- Summer Teen Programs offer opportunities for young people during the summer and has partnered with Identity, Linkages to Learning, Hispanic Business Foundation, Kid Museum, MCPS and the Community Foundation, to provide a wide variety of outreach and programming including teen summer programs and programming for disconnected children and children in economically challenged communities.
- TeenWorks (previously called Student/Teen Employment Program (STEP)) is the Department’s comprehensive youth workforce development initiative; which offers experiential learning and job readiness training in financial literacy, job etiquette, teamwork, and communication leadership for disadvantaged youth in school ages 15 to 19 years. Through work teams and apprenticeships, TeenWorks provides young people with on-the-job training through a wide range of work experiences including parks & recreation, conservation, environmental science, community non-profit work, and local government. Program partners include the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, MCPS, Montgomery Parks, National Park Service, HHS, Kid Museum, and Hispanic Business Foundation.
- Professional development and training initiatives for all our front line workers and community partners that include: Advancing Youth Development; Youth Program Quality Intervention; Developmental Assets; Youth Program Quality Methods (series); Behavior Management; Youth Mental Health First Aid; Bullying Awareness and Prevention; Professional Competencies of Youth Workers; and Person First/ Disability Characteristics.
- Mobile Recreation is a program designed to improve wellbeing and reduce barriers to health by targeting school communities with high FARMS rates. The program combines structured physical activity and play with the Summer Food Service Program, ensuring that any young person 18 and under has the opportunity to be active and has access to nutrition. Program partners include MCPS and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Department of Police

- Responding and combating criminal gang activity in Montgomery County through the Centralized Gang Task Force, which includes the gathering of intelligence, surveillance, and investigations, street enforcement, and educating the public and other governmental agencies on gang activity.
- Provide one School Resource Officer (SRO) for each public high school to assist school staff in maintaining safety of the schools and serving as a liaison between the Montgomery County Police Department and MCPS officials for school and police related concerns and incidents. The SRO serves to deter and prevent acts of school violence and gang activity while also fostering positive relationships between the County’s youth and the police.

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- Provide one Community Services Officer for each of the six police districts to address long-term problem solving issues, including Neighborhood Watch, Community Outreach, CRIMEREPORTS.com, day to day citizen questions, station web sites, National Night Out events, community presentations, and neighborhood/homeowner association meetings. These officers provide community outreach and community relations.

Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

- Detention Services provides a General Educational Development (GED) and High School Diploma Program which: graduates participants with family attendance; manages the Gang Management Program which primarily involves youthful offenders; offers the Model Learning Center Education Program for intensive Adult Basic Education, GED, English as a Second Language, and Computer Skill Literacy; and provides a Dedicated Youthful Offender Housing Unit focusing on life skills, positive youth development, and education.
- Pre-Release and Re-Entry Services partners with Future Link to provide youth coaches, self-advocacy education, and other academic, vocational and career supports to assist vulnerable yet motivated young adults successfully transition into adulthood.
- Refer young Latino residents under the supervision of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation to the Latin American Youth Center for GED programming and other services.

Office of the State's Attorney

- Prosecute gang related crimes through five Assistant State's Attorneys. These attorneys work with one full-time and two part-time investigators who screen all cases, maintain a database to track trends and conduct analyses of gang related cases. The Assistant State's Attorneys work closely with the Police Department and neighboring jurisdictions to reduce gang related activity.
- Address the root causes of truancy through a collaborative effort with the State's Attorney's Office, Montgomery County Public Schools, parents and other partners called Truancy Court. Through positive one-on-one interaction with students, this 10-week early intervention program identifies why children are either not regularly attending school or are not on time for school. The program not only puts resources in place to support regular and timely attendance, but successfully encourages students to enhance school performance. Truancy Court is expanding to five additional County middle schools.
- Participate in the Kennedy and Watkins Mills Clusters in a multi-agency collaboration to improve school performance.

Department of Public Libraries

- Implemented the first Library Digital Media Lab, Studio i at the Long Branch Library, providing modern digital content creation tools and collaboration space, classes, and a dedicated computer lab.
- Offer teen spaces in many branches where they can gather, collaborate, use computers, or enjoy library materials specially selected for their interests. Newly renovated Teen Spaces at the Gaithersburg and Olney branches have enhanced Wi-Fi, space and furniture for "Bring-Your-Own-Device" use, a dedicated collaboration room (Olney), and a movie/presentation area (Gaithersburg).
 - Provide innovative programs for, with, and by Teens, including the Financial Literacy Boot Camp for teens, Library Public Service Announcements and other content created by Teens in partnership with MCPL Studio i, the Cable and Broadband Office, Ghandi-Brigade, and My Montgomery Media, writing and chess clubs, and graphic novel drawing.
- Opened the KIDMuseum at Davis Library - a leveraged partnership which allows a growing non-profit learning organization to refresh former training and book storage space at the Davis Library into a state-of-the-art Makerspace, which will provide dedicated state-of-the-art maker programming for young library customers.
- Expanded the e-book collection with dedicated additional funding, including adding 100 e-magazine titles, downloadable music, e-books specifically for children, and numerous electronic databases to support K-12 school work, and web-sites (Teensite and Kidsite) dedicated to serving youth.
- Engage youth and leverage their talents, skills, and energies in several ways, including a collaboratively developed and maintained Teen Facebook page on the Internet and an active Teen Advisory Group that provides feedback and advice on library services to the Library Director, administrators, and library staff. The department also offers volunteer opportunities for youth who are completing school-required public service, as well as job opportunities for teens as Library Pages. There is programming presented by the department, teens, or collaborations of both, including a Summer Reading program, homework help, writing and author program, and eReader training.
- Provide a young adult services librarian at each library branch to coordinate programming and collection efforts throughout the library system. A Teen Services Steering Committee advises the Administration on teen issues, teen collections, teen training for staff, and teen programming.
- Developed a new method for customers to book small group study/tutor rooms online, enhancing the customer experience for these resources, which are frequently used by students.

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- Offer a library materials collection that supports school or home schooling needs, personal interests, career/college preparation, and STEM resources.
 - Provide RideOn Youth Cruiser SmarTrip cards for the Department of Transportation, making acquisition of this free transportation service much easier for County youth to obtain.

Department of Technology Services (Cable Communication Plan)

- Training, equipment, facilities, support, and employment for youth to generate youth media content including: youth events and public performances; video, audio and written content for cable television and the Internet; facilitating youth webpages and on-line community space; and presentations on topics of current interest to youth.

Department of Housing and Community Affairs

- Continue Power Hour program of homework and reading assistance and tutoring after school and summer program to increase academic proficiency of low-income Germantown youth.
- Provide parenting skills training workshops to targeted low income families.
- Provide after School programs for students grades K-5 at Arcola Elementary School.
- Continue to provide housing support, case management and workforce development for young adults who are homeless or living in unstable situations.
- Provide life skills training for disabled youths ages 18-24.

Department of Economic Development

- Continue the Montgomery Moving Forward Initiative, a partnership of County Government, Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, the non-profit community and the private sector, to assist unemployed and underemployed County residents in gaining employment in the health and wellness industry.

Department of Environmental Protection – Solid Waste Services

- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program pays for young offenders doing alternative community service to bulk and mix good paint for donation to non-profits and harden unusable paint for disposal in the HHW area.

Board of Elections

- Partner with Montgomery County Public Schools to hold the Voter Registration Drive conducted in April of each year. The activity encompasses Student Leadership Week, and concludes on the Student Member of the Board of Education Election Day.
- Future Vote increases current and future voter knowledge, educates, and strengthens ties related to civic participation for Montgomery County's youth and families by actively providing an opportunity for civic duty, community involvement, and emphasis on the importance of preserving participatory democracy.

**County Executive's Positive Youth Development
FY16 Recommended Operating Budget**

Tax-Supported		
Department	Project/Program	FY16 Recommended
Health and Human Services	High School Wellness Centers (Northwood, Gaithersburg, Watkins Mill)	2,485,066
	Youth Opportunity Centers - Crosswalk and Upcounty	1,154,981
	Street Outreach Network to provide services to gang involved youth in underserved parts of the County	820,400
	Conservation Corps	500,000
	Gang Prevention Initiative to Serve at-risk Latino Youth	330,550
	Children's Opportunity Fund	250,000
	Gang Prevention Coordinator	146,598
	Latin American Youth Center, Inc. Support for Maryland Multicultural Youth Center	143,830
	Asian American LEAD	122,073
	Staffing Need for the Kennedy Cluster Expansion	111,565
	Continue Saturday Schools through the George B. Thomas Academy Learning	100,000
	Add One Program Specialist II Position for the Positive Youth Development	82,394
Sub-total, Health and Human Services		6,247,457
Recreation	Sports Academies	893,140
	TeenWorks (Formerly Student Teen Employment Program)	818,757
	Excel Beyond the Bell	475,027
	Rec Extra Programs	336,440
	Expand Excel Beyond the Bell to One New Site	217,959
	Teen Café	153,000
	Teen Leadership	139,260
	Expand High School Sports Academy in Watkins Mills Cluster	224,598
	Expand EBB from Two to Four Days Per Week at Neelsville and Forest Oak MS	137,352
	Add one Manager III position for Teen Programming	132,259
	Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) Programs to Six Middle Schools for Summer Programming	94,140
	Teen Events	69,800
Add Summer Mobile Teen Program	15,000	
Sub-total, Recreation		3,706,732
Police	School Resource Officers	1,891,896
	Centralized Gang Task Force, Special Investigations Division	888,440
	Community Services Officers	715,202
	Police overtime hours to respond to disruptive behavior incidents occurring in County Libraries	25,000
	Reallocate Resources to Enhance Explorer Program	24,390
	Police Adventure Camp	5,000
Sub-total, Police		3,549,928
Office of State's Attorney	Five Assistant State's Attorneys for Gang Prosecution	536,193
	Gang Investigators	196,470
	Truancy Court Program - Expand From 10 to 15 Middle Schools	135,000
Sub-total, Office of State's Attorney		867,663
Other Departments	Community Grants NDA - Grants Serving County Youth for Positive Youth Development	2,230,467
	Department of Public Libraries - Digital Media Lab for Teen Students and E-Books and Other Downloadable Content Relevant to Youth of All Ages	300,000
	Department of Correction and Rehabilitation - Gang Sergeant Position	145,144
	Department of Economic Development - Moving Montgomery Forward	192,500
	Department of Environmental Protection, Solid Waste Services - Household Hazardous Waste Program	36,000
Sub-total, Other Departments		2,904,111
Total Tax- Supported		17,275,891

Non-Tax Supported		
Department	Project/Program	FY16 Recommended
Cable Communications Plan	Youth Media Program	100,000
Housing & Community Affairs	Community Development Block Grant - Power Hour Program through Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Inc.	38,655
	Community Development Block Grant - Future Bound Transitional Housing Program through the National Center for Children and Families, Inc.	45,000
	The Arc of Montgomery County, Inc. - Training Youth Employment Project	44,835
	Montgomery Housing Partnership - 21st Century Gator Program	38,000
	Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth & Families - Strengthening Families Program	29,510
Total Non-Tax Supported		296,000