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# 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.

## FY17 RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

The FY17 Recommended Budget includes approximately \$20.6 million in tax-supported resources identified for the Positive Youth Development Initiative. The FY17 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 \$285,481 in non-tax supported resources for positive youth development.

### Department of Health and Human Services

- Add funds to support full-year operations of Somatic Health Services and positive youth development at the Wheaton High School Wellness Center (\$618,970).
- Add funds to provide housing support for homeless unaccompanied minors (\$125,000).
- Replace State funding reduction to continue Family Navigation, Youth Services Bureau, and Pathway to Services programs provided through the Collaboration Council Local Management Board (\$162,500).
- Continue funding support for the Children's Opportunity Fund jointly with Montgomery County Public Schools to address the social determinants that impact the achievement gap for vulnerable children (\$250,000).
- Add funds to enhance the implementation of the Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) program, which provides summer academic and enrichment support for students who lack reading and math skills to perform at grade level. This program is funded through a non-departmental account for the Children's Opportunity Fund in partnership with the Norman and Ruth Rales Foundation to support local fundraising efforts to raise additional funds (\$375,000).

### Department of Recreation

- Add funds to support a year-round soccer program to enhance the successful Futsal Program for anti-gang efforts (\$167,398).
- Support community partners with the launch of the Child First afterschool program, geared towards providing a comprehensive enrichment program including family engagement opportunities at South Lake and Burnt Mills Elementary Schools (\$240,000).
- Continue the Excel Beyond the Bell program with expanded County support (\$271,000).

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### Office of the State's Attorney

- Enhance Truancy Court by expanding from 15 to 20 middle schools, converting a contract Program Coordinator to a permanent position, and increasing operating expenses (\$84,264).

### Non-Departmental Account Community Grants

- Provide non-profit grants to our community partners of more than \$2.57 million for 63 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, and 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 Long Branch communities.
- Six Street Outreach Staff have been trained and certified in evidence and culturally-based, trauma-informed curriculums.
- Conservation Corps provides job, education, and life skills training for out-of-school and unemployed County youth ages 17 to 24.

### **Department of Recreation**

- Rec Zones provide direct leadership during the critical after-school hours for five high schools, including Einstein, Wheaton, Montgomery Blair, Springbrook, and Watkins 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-hours 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). 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. 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.
- 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 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 and 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, Health and Human Services, 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

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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 Free and Reduced Meals (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 to and combating criminal gang activity in Montgomery County through the Centralized Gang Task Force, which includes the gathering of intelligence, surveillance, 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.
- 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 that 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.
- 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 to operate a 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 a second *Studio i* Digital Media Lab at Silver Spring Library, joining Long Branch Library in providing modern digital content creation tools and collaboration space, classes, and a dedicated computer lab.
- Providing 3D printing services at Silver Spring, Long Branch, Twinbrook and Kensington Park branches, soon to be expanding system-wide.
- Offer teen spaces in many branches where they can gather, collaborate, use computers, or enjoy library materials specially selected for their interests. Recently added 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).
- Added Customer Courtesy Charging stations to all branches, where teens and others can securely store and charge their electronic devices.
- 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, Gandhi-Brigade, and My Montgomery Media, writing and chess clubs, and graphic novel drawing.

- Implemented the Stories of Migrant Youth Exhibit at Silver Spring Library, where teens made and displayed powerful hand-made books documenting their experiences coming to America for the first time.
- 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 two e-magazine products with access to over 100 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.
- Allow for customers to book small group study/tutor rooms online, enhancing the customer experience for these resources, which are frequently used by students.
- 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**

- Provide visitation monitoring for at-risk children to have regular contact with their estranged parents. Estimated to benefit 832 families.
- Provide an after-school Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) program at two subsidized housing sites for low-income families. Estimated to benefit 30 students.
- Continue to provide transitional housing support, case management, and workforce development for eight young adults who have aged out of the care of public systems and are homeless or living in unstable situations. Estimated to benefit 8 clients.
- Provide classroom, experiential, and paid internship learning for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities to assist with skills and attitudes that lead to lifelong employability. Estimated to benefit 36 clients.
- Provide homework assistance, tutoring, and reading assistance to raise the academic proficiency for at-risk students. Estimated to benefit 50 students.

#### **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 a Voter Registration Drive in April 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 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.

#### **WorkSource Montgomery, Inc.**

- 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.

**County Executive's Positive Youth Development  
FY17 recommended Operating Budget**

**Tax-Supported**

Department	Project/Program	FY17 Recommended
Health and Human Services	High School Wellness Centers (Northwood, Gaithersburg, Watkins Mill, Wheaton)	3,356,634
	Youth Opportunity Centers - Crossroads and UpCounty	1,247,722
	Street Outreach Network to provide services to gang involved youth in underserved parts of the County	914,648
	Conservation Corps	541,060
	Gang Prevention Initiative to Serve at-risk Latino Youth	337,161
	Children's Opportunity Fund	250,000
	Staffing for the Kennedy Cluster Expansion	216,299
	Expand Funding for Family Navigation, Youth Services Bureau, and Pathways to Services Programs	162,500
	Gang Prevention Coordinator	148,920
	Latin American Youth Center, Inc. Support for Maryland Multicultural Youth Center	146,707
	Homeless Housing Support for Unaccompanied Minors	125,000
	Asian American LEAD	124,515
	<b>Sub-total, Health and Human Services</b>	
Recreation	Sports Academies	1,127,712
	Excel Beyond the Bell (EBB)	838,260
	TeenWorks (Formerly Student Teen Employment Program)	818,757
	Rec Extra Programs	346,354
	Continue the EBB Program with Expanded County Support	271,000
	Anti-gang Soccer League	167,398
	Teen Leadership and Programming	277,939
	Child First Afterschool Pilot Program	240,000
	Teen Café	153,000
	Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) Programs to Six Middle Schools for Summer Programming	94,140
	Teen Events	69,800
	Summer Mobile Teen Program	15,000
	<b>Sub-total, Recreation</b>	
Police	School Resource Officers	1,899,559
	Centralized Gang Task Force, Special Investigations Division	1,226,436
	Community Services Officers	722,865
	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
	<b>Sub-total, Police</b>	
Office of State's Attorney	Five Assistant State's Attorneys for Gang Prosecution	648,720
	Truancy Court Program at 20 Middle Schools	237,432
	Gang Investigators	206,715
<b>Sub-total, Office of State's Attorney</b>		<b>1,092,867</b>
Other Departments	Community Grants NDA - Grants Serving County Youth for Positive Youth Development	2,573,579
	Children's Opportunity Fund Non-Department Account	375,000
	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	32,000
	<b>Sub-total, Other Departments</b>	
<b>Total Tax-Supported</b>		<b>20,604,866</b>

<b>Non-Tax Supported</b>		
<b>Department</b>	<b>Project/Program</b>	<b>FY17 Recommended</b>
Cable Communications Plan	Youth Media Program	100,000
Housing & Community Affairs	Community Development Block Grant - Future Bound Transitional Housing Program through the National Center for Children and Families, Inc.	45,000
	Community Development Block Grant - The ARC of Montgomery County, Inc.	45,000
	Community Development Block Grant - Greater Washington Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc. (Power Hour)	38,655
	Community Development Block Grant - The Armand Center for Conflict Resolution, Inc. (Supervised Visitation)	36,826
	Community Development Block Grant - Housing Opportunities Community Partners, Inc. (Kids' STEM Program)	20,000
<b>Total Non-Tax Supported</b>		<b>285,481</b>

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