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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.

## FY15 RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENTS

The FY15 Recommended Budget includes approximately \$16.4 million in tax-supported resources identified for the Positive Youth Development Initiative, including funds for community organizations that augment County services to serve the youth and their families. It represents approximately \$1.4 million additional tax-supported resources to continue the implementation of the Positive Youth Development Initiative in FY15. In addition, the recommended budget includes \$302,410 in non-tax supported resources for positive youth development.

### Department of Health and Human Services

- Add staffing for the expansion of the Kennedy Cluster Project to the Watkins Mill Cluster. The Kennedy Cluster Project, a multi-agency effort, is a collaborative service model that works to improve school performance by breaking down institutional barriers, reducing educational and social disparities and addresses issues associated with the impact of poverty (\$111,565).
- Enhance the Saturday School Program through the George B. Thomas Academy Learning to serve Montgomery County Public School students who need educational supports (\$100,000).
- Create the Children's Trust, which will support services to improve educational outcomes for children and families (from birth to age 18) by addressing social determinants that impact the educational achievement gap. The Executive is launching this multi-disciplinary partnership approach to support student and family success. The approach is a collaboration led by a Governing Board made up of County leaders and supported by Department Directors through an Operations Committee with financial management and private sector fund leveraged through the Community Foundation (\$100,000).

### Department of Recreation

- Expand the Excel Beyond the Bell after school program to Montgomery Village Middle School and add full-time and seasonal staff to support the program expansion (\$217,959).
- Expand the Sports Academy Program to Watkins Mills High School starting in January 2015 (\$112,299).
- Add Summer Teen Mobile Recreation Program to provide outreach efforts at six Montgomery County Public School summer nutrition sites (\$15,000).

### Department of Public Libraries

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- Open the new Silver Spring Library, which will include a Digital Media Lab providing modern digital content creation tools and collaboration space, classes, and a dedicated computer lab; and a new teen space.

#### **Department of Police**

- Reallocate resources in the Police Explorer Program to provide enrichment and training opportunities for students to develop an array of inter personal and life skills at E. Brooke Lee and Montgomery Village middle schools (\$24,390).
- Add Two School Resource Officers as part of the Police Staffing Initiative (\$93,304).

#### **Office of the State's Attorney**

- Reallocate the existing staff to provide legal services needed for the expansion of the County's Kennedy and Watkins Mill Cluster projects.

#### **Department of Economic Development**

- Add funds to support 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 (\$130,000).

#### **Non-Departmental Account Community Grants**

- Provide non-profit grants to our community partners with more than \$2.21 million for 59 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:

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## Department of Health and Human Services

- Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center and UpCounty Youth Opportunity Center provide a wide array of trauma informed prevention and intervention support services for high-risk youth and youth who seek to exit gang life, juvenile delinquency, and criminal activity, along with the prevention of violence.
- Identity After School Program provides after school programming to serve at risk Latino youth.
- Maryland Multicultural Youth Center provides case management, GED preparation, job readiness development, and after school programs to high risk youth.
- High School Wellness Centers provide school-based, trauma informed positive youth development prevention and intervention programs for after school activities, job readiness, academic support, trauma informed mental health services, parent support groups, leadership development, truancy reduction, substance abuse, and other health related services. Two need High School Based Wellness centers at Watkins Mill and Gaithersburg High Schools were opened in FY14.
- Street Outreach Network provides gang and youth violence crisis intervention services, conflict management services, recreational and leisure activities, as well as programs that improve overall wellness of youth including healthy eating life styles and improved nutrition, prevention services to elementary, middle school, and high school based youth groups during and after school, job readiness and workforce development, and community based projects that engage youth and young adults in positive life-affirming activities, as well as support services to youth and young adults returning to the community after incarceration or detention. The program also provides transformational healing processes 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.
- Conservation Corps provide job, education, and life skills training for out-of-school and unemployed County youth ages 17 to 24.
- The Street Outreach Network has launched several community based interventions and programs in the Bel Pre, Briggs Chaney, and Middlebrook areas which have been identified as high needs communities for at-risk youth services.
- Two Street Outreach Network staff have been trained in a new trauma informed curriculum that focuses on young girls exposed to Trauma.

## Department of Recreation

- Sports Academies provide direct leadership for four high schools, including Einstein, Wheaton, Montgomery Blair, and Springbrook, that serve over 2,000 students throughout the school year. Programming ranges from sports, job readiness, and community services to leadership development.
- Rec Extra Programs provide after school programming from 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 13 middle schools. These programs offer sports, yoga, hip hop dance, certified baby sitting training, cooking, and other activities.
- Excel Beyond the Bell Program, a partnership among Recreation, the Montgomery County Collaboration Council, and MCPS, offered at five locations from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., provides very concentrated and expanded programming, including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), sports, a variety of dance and arts programming, a hot supper, and a delayed after school transportation.
- Teen Events provide an after-hour teen program at a number of community recreation centers that are spread out among five regions. Events include Teen Cafés, as well as special events such as Futsol tournaments, the Spring Basketball tournament, a summer outdoor basketball league, and the Fall Football – Turkey Bowl tournament.
- Teen Leadership offers a Summer Leadership Challenge program and Junior Counselor Leadership training and continues to provide limited support and leadership to the Youth Advisory Committee.
- Summer Teen Programs offer Teen Service Learning Opportunities for teens during the summer and has partnered with Identity, the Center for Adoption Support and Education, MCPS and the Community Foundation, to provide a wide variety of programming including teen summer programs and programming for children in adoptive or foster care.
- Student/Teen Employment Program (STEP) provides training in summer in general landscaping, maintenance skills, and support for community based events as well as job readiness training in financial literacy, job etiquette, teamwork, and communication leadership for at-risk youth in school ages 16 to 19 years.
- Training initiatives for all our front line workers and community partners that include: Advancing Youth Development and Youth Development Framework; Developmental Youth Outcomes (Supports and Opportunities) Providing Developmentally Appropriate & Responsive Programs; Increasing our Ability to Develop Young People; Expanding Opportunities for Youth Participation; Program Planning & Assessing Program Outcomes; and Professional Competencies of Youth Workers

## 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 of the six police districts to assist school staff in maintaining safety of the schools and serving as 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 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 that come into the State's Attorney's Office to ensure that gang related cases are handled by the Gang Unit. The investigators also maintain a database to track trends and conduct analyses of gang related cases. The Gang Unit works 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 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 currently operational at Neelsville, Francis Scott Key and Mario Loiderman Middle Schools.

#### **Department of Public Libraries**

- Implement the first Library Digital Media Lab at the Long Branch Library, providing modern digital content creation tools and collaboration space, classes, and a dedicated computer lab.
- Open two new Teen Spaces at the renovated Gaithersburg and Olney branches. The spaces have enhanced Wi-Fi, space and furniture for "Bring-Your-Own-Device" use, a dedicated collaboration room (Olney), and a movie/presentation area (Gaithersburg).
- Expand the e-book collection with dedicated additional funding, including adding 100 e-magazine titles.
- 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.
- Offer teen spaces in many branches where they can gather, collaborate, use computers, or enjoy library materials specially selected for their interests.
- Offer a library materials collection that supports school or home schooling needs, personal interests, career/college preparation, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) resources.

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**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**

- Support pre-school Play and Learn programs at five affordable housing complexes.
- Provide leadership development and college prep assistance in Wheaton and Silver Spring.
- Provide homework assistance and tutoring for elementary students in Germantown.
- Provide training and employment services to students with developmental or other cognitive disabilities.

**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

### Tax-Supported

| Department                                   | Project/Program   | FY15<br>Recommended |
|--|---|---------------------|
| Health and Human Services                    | High School Wellness Centers (Northwood, Gaithersburg, Watkins Mill)  | 2,396,752           |
|  | Street Outreach Network to provide services to gang involved youth in underserved parts of the County   | 1,029,723           |
|  | Youth Opportunity Centers - Crosswalk and Upcounty  | 1,145,117           |
|  | Conservation Corps  | 500,000             |
|  | Gang Prevention Initiative to Serve at-risk Latino Youth  | 467,326             |
|  | Latin American Youth Center, Inc. Support for Maryland Multicultural Youth Center   | 142,434             |
|  | Asian American LEAD   | 120,888             |
|  | Kennedy Cluster Expansion   | 111,565             |
|  | Children's Trust  | 100,000             |
|  | Enhance Saturday Schools through the George B. Thomas Academy Learning  | 100,000             |
|  | Grant replacement of Family Intervention Grant for the Upcounty Youth Opportunity Center  | 60,000              |
|  | American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) - FY09 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Recovery  | 23,880              |
|  | <b>Sub-total, Health and Human Services</b>   |                     |
| Recreation                                   | Sports Academies  | 893,140             |
|  | Excel Beyond the Bell   | 475,027             |
|  | TeenWorks (Formemery Student Teen Employment Program)   | 818,757             |
|  | Rec Extra Programs  | 336,440             |
|  | Expand Excel Beyond the Bell to one additional Middle School  | 217,959             |
|  | Teen Café   | 153,000             |
|  | Teen Leadership   | 139,260             |
|  | Expand High School Sports Academy in Watkins Mills Cluster  | 112,299             |
|  | Add one Manager III position for Teen Programming   | 107,751             |
|  | Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) Programs to 6 Middle Schools for Summer Programming   | 94,140              |
|  | Teen Events   | 69,800              |
|  | Add Summer Mobile Teen Program  | 15,000              |
|  | Add Seasonal Staff for a Club Rec After School Program at the Ken Gar Center  | 10,364              |
| <b>Sub-total, Recreation</b>                 |   | <b>3,442,937</b>    |
| Police                                       | School Resource Officers  | 1,513,652           |
|  | Centralized Gang Task Force, Special Investigations Division  | 859,778             |
|  | Six Community Services Officers   | 710,174             |
|  | 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>                     |   | <b>3,137,994</b>    |
| Office of State's Attorney                   | Five Assistant State's Attorneys for Gang Prosecution   | 543,633             |
|  | Replace the GANG Grant funding  | 210,705             |
|  | Truancy Court Program at Six Middle Schools   | 78,000              |
| <b>Sub-total, Office of State's Attorney</b> |   | <b>832,338</b>      |
| Other Departments                            | Community Grants NDA - Grants Serving County Youth for Positive Youth Development   | 2,206,786           |
|  | 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  | 142,298             |
|  | Department of Economic Development - Moving Montgomery Forward  | 130,000             |
|  | Department of Environmental Protection, Solid Waste Services - Household Hazardous Waste Program  | 36,000              |
|  | <b>Sub-total, Other Departments</b>   |                     |
| <b>Total Tax- Supported</b>                  |   | <b>16,426,038</b>   |

## Non-Tax Supported

| Department                     | Project/Program   | FY15<br>Recommended |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Cable Communications Plan      | Youth Media Program   | 50,000              |
| Housing & Community Affairs    | Community Development Block Grant - Next Steps Employment Service Program through Sunflower Bakery, Inc.                                  | 33,000              |
|                                | Community Development Block Grant - Power Hour Program through Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Inc.                            | 39,410              |
|                                | Community Development Block Grant - Play and Learn Program through Montgomery Housing Partnership   | 45,000              |
|                                | Community Development Block Grant - Asian American LEAD MD High School Program  | 45,000              |
|                                | Community Development Block Grant - Future Bound Transitional Housing Program through the National Center for Children and Families, Inc. | 45,000              |
|                                | Community Development Block Grant - Betty's House Program through the National Center for Children and Families, Inc.                     | 45,000              |
| <b>Total Non-Tax Supported</b> |   | <b>302,410</b>      |

*Note: \$1.6M is allocated to Council Community Grants, some of which will be used to support positive youth development.*