

# Administration – Children and Family Success

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**Priority Outcome:** Prioritizing Our Youth

**Service Number:** 109

**Fiscal 2022 Recommended:** \$3,084,132

## **Service Description**

MOCFS incorporated existing city programs when it was created in 2020: Baltimore City Community Action Partnership (CAP) and its five community-based CAP Centers, Baltimore City Head Start, the Mayor’s Office of African American Male Engagement (AAME) and oversight and staffing of the Baltimore City Youth Commission. Programmatic additions since the office was launched include leading and staffing the Baltimore Children’s Cabinet, co-chairing the city’s new Trauma-Informed Care Task Force and staffing MBK-Baltimore. As part of the city’s COVID-19 response, MOCFS also leads the city’s Emergency Food Strategy, and through BCCAP has built and is administering the city’s Eviction Prevention Program. In addition to absorbing and standing up these programmatic components, MOCFS has built out its capacity to activate and engage youth, advance policy, maximize data and technology, deepen community and partner relationships and change the narrative around Baltimore’s youth—all with the goal of improving the lives of Baltimore’s children and families.

## **Major Budget Items**

- The recommended budget includes \$972,263 million in sustained funding for the Office of African American Male Engagement (5 positions and funding for contractual employees doing street outreach)
- The budget transfers two General Fund positions from Service 125: Executive Direction and Control-Mayoralty
- The budget includes \$78,000 in casino revenue to enhance literacy programming in Cherry Hill, Arundel and Lakeland elementary schools

# Key FY 2021 Work & Accomplishments

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## **Baltimore Children's Cabinet Action Plan**

The cabinet is led and staffed by MOCFS and seven priorities guide its work. The cabinet assigned a workgroup to each priority and these workgroups spent 2020 working across the community to identify specific actions to advance the priorities in 2021-22. All workgroups held town halls on their priority areas and in March 2021, the cabinet released its 2021 Action Plan, a set of 15 key actions that the cabinet workgroups are implementing in collaboration with community partners and that, as of June 2022, are all underway.

## **COVID-19 Emergency Food Strategy**

Since March 2020, MOCFS has co-led development and implementation of the city's COVID-19 Emergency Food Strategy in partnership with the Department of Planning. One year in, the effort:

- leveraged \$66 million in federal, state, city, community and in-kind support
- spanned 12 city agencies, 150+ community partners and 300 food sites
- distributed 8.7 million meals and 730,182 food boxes
- is supporting 15,000 households that don't typically access mainstream assistance channels with \$400 prepaid cards

## **Trauma-Informed Care**

MOCFS is actively working to expand our city's understanding and implementation of trauma-informed care. In FY2021, MOCFS:

- strongly supported the Elijah Cummings Healing City and establishment of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force
- co-chairs the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force
- staffs Baltimore Children's Cabinet in its efforts to advance its dedicated priority and workgroup for trauma-informed care
  - The Children's Cabinet 2021 Action Plan includes development of a youth-led media campaign to destigmatize and promote mental health among youth

## **Mayor's Youth Summit**

MOCFS led the planning and execution of the mayor's first Youth Summit, a series of three conversations between the mayor and more than 200 youth about how to make Baltimore a better, safer city for its young people.

# Head Start

**Priority Outcome:** Education

**Service Number:** 605 – Head Start

**Fiscal 2022 Recommended:** \$8,768,194

## Service Description

Baltimore City Head Start (BCHS) leads, and is the largest member of, a collaborative of five Head Start program operators in the City that provide early childhood and family development services for 759 low-income Baltimore City children (ages 3-5) and families across 44 centers citywide. Head Start services are federally funded through a five year, non-competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and free for families who meet age and income requirements.

## Major Budget Items

- The recommended funding will maintain the current level of service.

Type	Performance Measure	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Target	FY20 Actual	FY21 Target	FY22 Target
Output	# of children receiving Head Start services	759	759	759	759	759	759	759
Outcome	% of 3 year olds “ready” in each school readiness domain	92%	87%	87%	90%	61%	90%	90%

# Key FY 2021 Work & Accomplishments

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## **Providing Uninterrupted Learning, Support During the Pandemic**

- In spring 2020, Baltimore City Head Start staff were leading daily Zoom check-ins with families, uploading content onto ClassDojo and pushing out weekly text messages with activities for parents at home
- In summer 2020—despite multiple challenges, including very limited tech support—provided virtual learning for 514 children
- In summer 2020, Head Start took its grassroots community-based, paper-driven enrollment process fully digital and online

## **Making Head Start A Trauma-Informed Program**

Early in FY 2021, Baltimore City Head Start partnered with Sage Wellness to conduct a trauma-informed care audit and develop a plan to become a trauma-informed organization on all levels. New federal COVID relief funding in spring 2021 is allowing Head Start to deepen and sustain that effort—specifically to fund a Trauma Informed Care/Staff Wellness Coordinator to develop and embed sustainable strategies, systems and programs. The new funding also provides funding for staff wellness and appreciation.

## **Advancing A Commitment to Full Day, Full Year Care**

The Head Start model is for a 6-1/2 hour school day, 8:30am-3pm. In the latest Head Start Community Needs Assessment, families were loud and clear: they needed more support.

## **Helping Meet Child Care Needs During COVID, Elevate Child Care As Economic Necessity Among Lawmakers**

Baltimore City historically has struggled to meet families' child care needs: Just 48% of children under the age of 5 and 12% of infants under the age of 2 typically have access to regulated early care. The pandemic exacerbated that struggle.

- In September, MOCFS and the Family League launched the city's \$4 million Cares Act-funded Child Care Stabilization Fund to provide grants to child care providers to help keep child care centers open. 307 child care providers received support through the fund—222 family child care providers and 85 child care centers.
- During the 2021 legislative session MOCFS and the Baltimore Children's Cabinet advocated for investing more in—and reducing barriers to expanding—child care. One big win: Passage of the Growing Family Child Care Opportunities Pilot Program (HB944) to provide up to \$150,000 to individuals interested in opening family child care centers and reduce the many current barriers to becoming a family child care operator.

# Community Action Partnership

**Priority Outcome:** Prioritizing Our Youth

**Service Number:** 741

**Fiscal 2022 Recommended:** \$27,997,266 (All Funds)

## Service Description

The Baltimore City Community Action Partnership (CAP) and its five community-based CAP Centers are core to fulfilling the MOCFS charge to improve the lives of Baltimore’s children and families by connecting households in need to resources that support their move toward financial stability. These resources provide assistance with energy and water bills, food insecurity, financial education and empowerment, case management and, most recently, past-due rent through the city’s newly launched Eviction Prevention Program. CAP Center staff both provide direct support to individuals and refer individuals to other government and non-profit services to address areas of mental health, substance use, housing and employment development.

## Major Budget Items

- This service will continue to run its eviction prevention program funded with Federal, State, and local sources. \$31.2 million dollars in supplemental funds has been awarded to MOCFS to cover expenditures through Fiscal 2022. Funds will go toward reducing the number of evictions in Baltimore City.

Type	Performance Measure	FY17 Actual	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Target	FY20 Actual	FY21 Target	FY22 Target
<b>PM Measure Output</b>	# of energy applications processed	41,987	30,204	30,368	30,000	28,096	30,000	36,000
<b>PM Measure Outcome</b>	# of households diverted from housing instability via rental assistance	N/A	N/A	104	100	100	100	4,283

# Key FY 2021 Work & Accomplishments

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## **A Focus on Improving Customer Access and Service**

The pandemic accelerated a transformation at BCCAP to better serve and meet the needs of the community. In FY2021 BCCAP:

- digitized and took all assistance programs online
- stood up a call center that is averaging 12K calls/month
- provided ongoing training for CAP center staff
- launched comms strategy to better promote and make more accessible the city's energy, water and rental assistance programs

## **Eviction Prevention Program**

Baltimore City Community Action Partnership and its five CAP centers have led Baltimore City's efforts to support households financially impacted by COVID-19 come current on their rent and avoid eviction and homelessness. BCCAP built on a short-term, cross-agency Temporary Rent Support program last summer to create a more comprehensive assistance program that launched in November 2020 and as of May 21, 2021 has disbursed \$14 million in assistance, supporting 3,200 households to stay in their homes. During that same period, BCCAP has grown capacity to position the program to meet a projected spike in need this summer, as courts move to resume pre-pandemic caseloads and the national eviction moratorium is lifted on June 30.

## **Ensuring Continuity of, Access to BH2O**

Early in the pandemic, the city launched its Emergency COVID-19 Discount Program, an expansion of its BH2O water assistance program which BCCAP administers. The expansion made water bill discounts available to all residents who were financially impacted by the pandemic, and BCCAP quickly regrouped to step up its capacity to support the expansion. In spring 2021, the city announced it would change BH2O to a new water assistance program, for which BCCAP is now also leading the transition and support.

## **Expanding Capacity to Address Food Insecurity**

In FY 2021, BCCAP launched a partnership with The Franciscan Center to provide emergency meals to city residents experiencing homelessness, the first step in a commitment to addressing food insecurity as part of its holistic approach to supporting vulnerable households in their move toward financial stability and security. In its first quarterly report on April 9, the Franciscan Center reported serving 1,832 meals to children and families experiencing homelessness.