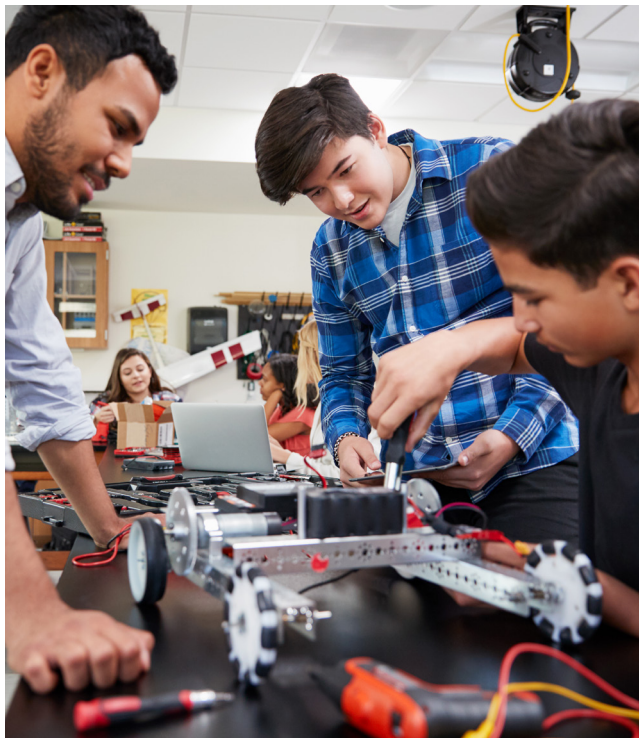# Baltimore City Youth Opportunities Landscape

YOUTH PROGRAM PROVIDERS

WHAT IS THE BYCOL?

The Baltimore City Youth Opportunities Landscape (BCYOL) is a public and collaborative effort facilitated by Baltimore's Promise to map and analyze the youth opportunities available to youth ages 0-24. A "youth opportunity'' is defined as programming for youth ages 0-24 that is distinct from, or supports/supplements (but does not take the place of), in-school instruction.

The BCYOL has two core components. First, Baltimore's Promise held listening sessions with youth, parents, and caregivers about their thoughts and opinions on the kinds of opportunities that are and should be available to youth in Baltimore City. Second, Baltimore's Promise cataloged and counted youth opportunities in Baltimore City that were available to young people from September 2018 to September 2019. The report shares a summary of findings from both components.

WHAT ARE THE BIG TAKEAWAYS?

The landscape effort gathered information on 2,086 programs in Baltimore City operating between September 2018 and September 2019. Most of these programs are academically focused opportunities and childcare providers. While many of these resources were more likely to be located in neighborhoods with higher poverty rates, most city neighborhoods were shown to have significant gaps. Resources are distributed inequitably across the city and across certain populations.

During community engagement sessions, we found that youth and parents/caregivers want and prioritize programs that have the following:

- accessibility
- engaging and professional staff
- youth-centered structures
- safe spaces (mentally and physically)
- exposure opportunities to diverse experiences
- skill and knowledge building opportunities.

WHY IS THE BYCOL EFFORT IMPORTANT TO ME?

The BCYOL Dashboard, an online tool accompanying the report, will be the first online tool of its kind that will allow you to *easily search and find existing resources for young people in Baltimore City*. As a youth program provider, you will be able to add and revise the programming opportunities that you offer, and your program information will be available to community members. Program providers can also use the tool to identify priority areas for expansion when applying for grants. Working in collaboration with community leaders, program providers can advocate for additional investment in neighborhoods with limited access to critical opportunities.

Learn more: The full report with data by neighborhood is available on the Baltimore's Promise website at: baltimorespromise.org/bcyol

An Initiative of

BALTIMORE'S PROMISE

We have collected the following about youth programming in Baltimore City:

2,086	**1,147**	**92,604**	**18,210**
PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED	DISTINCT LOCATIONS	OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED	EARLY CHILDCARE CAPACITY

One finding of particular concern is that opportunities serving young people known as Opportunity Youth, who are youth ages 16-24 who are not in school or working, are underrepresented in our database. **As of 2018, 17% of Baltimore City youth ages 16-24 are neither in school nor working, compared to only 11% statewide**. Youth unemployment has long-term consequences on the economic health of each individual as well as the overall growth of the Baltimore City economy.

HOW CAN I USE THIS DATA?

1) Check the information provided about your program on the BCYOL Dashboard and provide any updates or changes to the Baltimore's Promise team by completing the online form.

2) Share information about the BCYOL Dashboard with your program participants and families who may be looking for resources in their community.

3) Use the BCYOL Dashboard to find and connect with potential future program partners. For example, an early childhood program may have space to partner with another organization offering programs for older youth, and together they can serve young parents and their children.

4) Collaborate with communities to build additional assets:

- When applying for grant funding to expand your services, use the BCYOL Dashboard to identify communities with the greatest need for the type of programming you provide, and work with leaders from that community in support of the application.

- Design programs that meet the expressed needs of parents and young people and provide ongoing professional development for your staff to support engagement and high-quality program delivery.

- Work with leaders of those communities to advocate for additional public funds by bringing the data to the attention of decision and policymakers. For example:

  – Testify at a city council hearing or school board meetings.

  – Reach out to your state and congressional representatives.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Baltimore's Promise will continue to collect and update data for the BCYOL. To get more information or to request assistance with the dashboard, email **bcyol@baltimorespromise.org**. Sign up for announcements and news from Baltimore's Promise **here**. There will be additional opportunities for community engagement that will be shared through Baltimore's Promise's communication channels:

/BaltimoresPromise   **/BmoresPromise**