

YOUTH, PARENTS & CAREGIVERS



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 your community*. This living dashboard will also allow community members and program leaders to add and revise programming opportunities that benefit the community. As you search and realize that there are still gaps in the amount and kinds of opportunities sought by youth and families in your community, you can use the landscape data to make the case for change and action.

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

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



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?

Identify Assets and Needs in My Community

- Locate your community in the data set and learn about the available assets and resources and those that may still be needed.
- Compare your community to those with both similar and different demographics. Do these differences raise questions about equity and how resources are allocated to your community?
- Use other data sets like the [Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance](#) to create a more detailed and complete picture.
- Share and discuss the resources you've found and the resources you think your community needs with other people in your neighborhood. Celebrate the assets and set goals for change around the areas of need and challenge. Where possible engage your [community association](#).

Advocate for Change

Bring the data to the attention of decision-makers and policymakers for your community. For example:

- Meet with your [city councilperson](#) and/or testify at a [city council hearing](#) or [school board meeting](#).
- Reach out to your [state and congressional representatives](#).
- Ask policymakers and decision-makers to provide more information about how they will participate in this change and what else you and your community can do.
- Encourage programs in your community to design and implement programs that center on the needs expressed by youth and families.

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: