BCYOL collects information on youth opportunities available to Baltimore City youth from birth to age 24. Through BCYOL, Baltimore’s Promise centralizes, aggregates, maps, and analyzes these opportunities to understand baseline numbers, gaps, and access issues. This information tells us how we are doing as a city in supporting our youth outside of the school day. Our current efforts examine how many opportunities were available to youth from birth to 24 years of age between September 2018 and September 2019. Understanding where there are disproportionate levels of access to opportunity helps us address the structural and systemic barriers faced by youth of color in Baltimore.

What Is A Youth Opportunity?

In BCYOL, a youth opportunity is defined as an opportunity, usually within a program, that serves young people before or after the school day. This also includes opportunities occurring over the summer, winter, and spring breaks as well as programs for older youth occurring after high school graduation and for younger children enrolled in early childhood programs.

1 Youth Opportunity = 1 Youth Served or Program Seat

WHY DO WE NEED BCYOL?

Baltimore City Today:

There are 185,551 children and youth ages 0–24. We have had NO WAY to know definitively how many opportunities exist for young people in the city.

There is NO WAY to know to what extent existing programs are responsive to youth needs and interests.

There is NO WAY to track youth opportunity information in a central database, nor a process updating this information annually or biannually. Data is siloed.

An Initiative of
There is currently no way to identify unique opportunities, and therefore we are not able to say how many distinct young people were served during this time period.

To learn more about how Baltimore’s Promise is building a system in partnership with public systems and other non-profits to understand this and other questions of resource utilization in the city, read more about the Baltimore Youth Data Hub at: baltimorespromise.com/initiatives.

** As reported by programs identified through the BCYOL data collection process.

*** In this first phase of BCYOL, “program focus area” was defined primarily by data aggregators. In the next phase, programs will be able to create their own definitions for areas of focus and priorities.
**BCYOL WORK TO DATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEC 2019</td>
<td>Youth-serving stakeholders engaged to inform development of BCYOL process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC-FEB 2019</td>
<td>Collected youth opportunities data from data aggregators like funders, public systems, and databases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>JULY 2020</td>
<td>Began Youth Focus Groups: What do youth want from programs?</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUG 2020</td>
<td>Conducted data analysis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPT-OCT 2020</td>
<td>Program outreach to 120 new organizations identified through research and focus groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOV 2020</td>
<td>Conducted more youth and parent/caregiver stakeholder sessions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOV 20- FEB 21</td>
<td>Identified new opportunities and programs through MSDE Meal Data Request. Updated and revised report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR-MAY 2021</td>
<td>Drafted and revised BCYOL Report and Dashboard.</td>
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**WHAT WE HEARD FROM YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES**

When asked what a supportive, desired youth opportunity looked like, youth and their parents/caregivers repeatedly indicated the following themes:

**SAFE SPACES, MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY**
Youth feel physically and mentally safe, are able to relax, and can discuss personal issues with each other and/or trusted adults.

**ENGAGED, PROFESSIONAL STAFF**
Programs have staff members who are knowledgeable, caring, and respectful.

**ACCESSIBILITY**
Programs accommodate needs, including but not limited to cost, transportation, and allowing younger children and siblings to attend.

**YOUTH-CENTERED STRUCTURES**
Youth participants and parents/caregivers want programs that are fun and enjoyable, and that have the capacity to meet their individual needs and wants.

**EXPOSURE AND DIVERSE EXPERIENCES**
Programs allow youth to experience new and interesting things.

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL BUILDING**
Young people build skills through experiences or mentorships that will help them as they grow older.
WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT OF BALTIMORE’S PROMISE

Phase 1: Full Release of Our Findings

- Public website with a BCYOL dashboard that allows programs to enter and validate their own information and for families to locate programs in their neighborhood (Spring 2021).

Phase II: Release the Baltimore City Youth Opportunity Index

- The Baltimore Youth Opportunity Index will be a comprehensive measure of the access to opportunities that support the well-being of young people in Baltimore from birth to 24 years of age to become thriving adults. The index will offer decision-makers a way of identifying and understanding opportunities for critical youth investments (Fall 2021).

Phase III: Sustain the Work of Baltimore City Youth Opportunities Landscape

- Engage out-of-school time stakeholders and public systems to consider how we automate this process in the future to keep the data current and accessible.
- Establish a permanent infrastructure for this process leading to annual or biannual updates creating collaborative opportunities to respond to the needs of young people in Baltimore.

Ongoing

- Meaningfully and actionably engage young people and their families to shape the work of the Baltimore City Youth Opportunities Landscape and Opportunity Index.

Join us to learn more and find ways to get involved.
For more information on the Baltimore City Youth Opportunity Landscape, please visit baltimorespromise.org/BCYOL.