

Baltimore City

Youth

Opportunities

Landscape

An Initiative of

**BALTIMORE'S
PROMISE**

Every Child. Infinite Possibilities.

Baltimore City Youth Opportunities Landscape

Cataloging and Analyzing Programming Opportunities



2023

Introduction

The Baltimore City Youth Opportunities Landscape is a public and collaborative effort facilitated by Baltimore’s Promise to compile, map, and analyze the opportunities available to young people ages 0-24.

Youth opportunities are defined as programming for individuals in this age range that is distinct from — or designed to support or supplement — in-school instruction.



Quality out-of-school time programming increases student outcomes for young people.

Opportunities Landscape 2023, which builds on the project’s [Opportunities Landscape 2021 report](#), is the largest and most comprehensive dataset of youth opportunities in Baltimore City, offering information on 2,725 programs serving Baltimore City youth in the year ending December 2022.

To help program providers, policymakers, philanthropic funders, parents, youth, and the greater Baltimore City community learn more about the opportunities available to young people, we created an interactive dashboard that allows anyone to create a personalized view of the city’s programming opportunities. You’ll find the dashboard on the interactive version of this report at bcyol2023.org.

In addition to our dashboard, explore our 2023 Findings, Spotlight on Older Youth, Recommendations, and Next Steps on our interactive web version at bcyol2023.org.

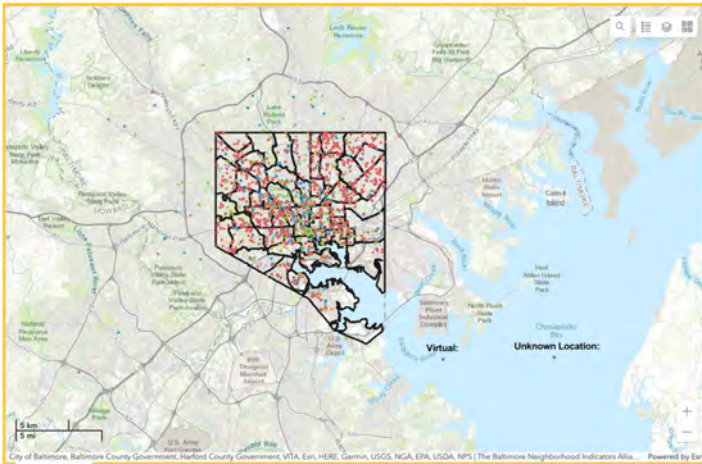


Baltimore’s Promise is grateful for receiving or sourcing data from the following institutions, as well as hundreds of programs that directly provided data:

- Abell Foundation
- Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks
- Baltimore Children & Youth Fund
- City Schools
- CLLCTIVLY
- Enoch Pratt Free Libraries
- Family League of Baltimore
- Grads2Careers
- Holistic Life Foundation
- Maryland Family Network

- Maryland State Department of Education
- Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement
- Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success
- Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice
- Mayor's Office of Employment Development
- National Center for Charitable Statistics
- Summer Funding Collaborative
- Youth Grantmakers Initiative

Baltimore City Youth Opportunities Landscape 2023 Dashboard



To help program providers, policy-makers, philanthropic funders, parents, youth, and the greater Baltimore City community learn more about the opportunities available to young people, we created an interactive dashboard that allows anyone to create a personalized view of the city's programming opportunities.

Visit the interactive dashboard at bcyol2023.org.

Key Findings



The 2,725 programs captured in Opportunities Landscape 2023 offered 124,115 youth opportunities and an early childcare capacity of 19,445 seats.



The report identified 32% more programs than in the 2021 dataset, in part to more comprehensive data collection, including more information about programs and how they served young people.



There are 2.3 times the number of opportunities for elementary school-aged children than for older youth (ages 19-24). The gap in programming for older youth decreased from our last analysis, but still exists.



Programming for older youth is largely limited to the summer months. Specifically, 94% of program sites and 70% of opportunities identified for older youth occurred during the summer.



Academic Enrichment remained the primary focus with the greatest number of programs (19.9%) and opportunities available (53.9%) for young people, consistent with 2021 data.



Health and Wellness programs played a larger role than in the pre-pandemic dataset. Nearly five times the number of programs (270) and nearly eight times the number of opportunities (23,133) had this primary focus.



Neighborhoods with higher needs tend to have relatively more programs than those with lower needs. However, there is no direct connection between the amount of need in a neighborhood and the number of programming opportunities.



Opportunities Landscape 2023 Findings

The number of opportunities available to older youth increased. This may be due to better data collection and a coordinated effort by city stakeholders to increase opportunities for older youth as a result of 2021 findings.

Childcare, Academic Enrichment, and Workforce/Youth Development comprise the top three primary focus areas in terms of number of programs.

Our analysis finds a significant relationship between neighborhood need and the number of programs available to young people. In general, neighborhoods with higher needs have greater numbers of programs, though we found plenty of exceptions.

Our Opportunities Landscape 2023 dataset identifies 2,725 program sites operating in 2022 in 1,499 distinct locations, offering 124,115 opportunities.

Youth opportunities are defined as programming for individuals age 0-24 that is distinct from — or designed to support or supplement — in-school instruction; “opportunities identified” refers to the total number of young people served, as reported by each data source. As many young people take advantage of multiple programs throughout the year, “opportunities identified” does not represent distinct individuals.

Early childcare capacity numbers are provided by the Maryland Family Network, whose [dataset](#) contains information on all licensed child care facilities in Maryland, including center-based and home-based care. Data on actual enrollment in childcare facilities (i.e., the number of opportunities) is not reported in the dataset. Thus, the 19,445 early childcare capacity figure is in addition to, not a subset of, the 124,115 opportunities identified figure.

Please visit bcyol2023.org to learn more about key findings by:

Age Group

Focus Area

Neighborhood

Recommendations

These recommendations emerged from the analysis of 2023 data and the themes emerging from the Opportunities Landscape 2021 youth and parent/caregiver sessions.



Expand Youth Opportunities

Quality out-of-school programming improves outcomes for young people, but significant numbers of youth 14-24 are still not being

served. Continue to increase high-quality opportunities for older youth that can strengthen pathways to career-sustaining wages.



Ensure Citywide Access

Stakeholders should focus on neighborhoods with high needs — and not just the number of programs but the number of

opportunities, aiming to ensure equitable access to resources and support for youth across all areas of the city.



Program Data Collection

Leverage findings to build a more systematic and coordinated approach to data collection, inform policy decisions, and

allocate program resources effectively for programs supporting older youth.



Empower Youth

Widely share the data and findings of the Opportunities Landscape with young people and youth-serving organizations

to empower them to more effectively advocate for change in their communities.

Data and Methodology

For the [Opportunities Landscape 2021 report](#), Baltimore's Promise collected program data from over a dozen sources, mostly from philanthropic and public institutions. Our final dataset contained 2,086 programs that served Baltimore City youth ages 0-24 from September 2018 to September 2019.

For Opportunities Landscape 2023, we sought information about programming opportunities that served Baltimore City youth ages 0-24 during 2022. We gathered updated data from organizations that provided data for the 2021 report, as well as from [CLLCTIVLY](#) and the [National Center for Charitable Statistics](#) from the Urban Institute, among others, to source additional program information.

By the Numbers		
	2021 DATASET	2023 DATASET
Program Dates	Sept. 2018-Sept. 2019	Jan. 2022-Dec. 2022
Program Sites Identified	2,086	2,725
Distinct Locations	1,147	1,499
Opportunities Identified	92,604	124,115
Early Childcare Capacity	18,210	19,445

Details Identified Across Program Sites		
	2021 DATASET	2023 DATASET
Location	90.3%	97.6%
Number of Opportunities or Program Capacity	59.9%	81.6%
Primary Focus Area	80.4%	96.1%
Ages Served	83.2%	96.8%
Program Time	42.7%	82.0%
All Above Data Points	38.2%	67.2%

After aggregating the collected data, Baltimore's Promise hired two Community Outreach Representatives to contact programs to confirm programmatic information. Our team then spent several weeks cleaning and formatting data from different sources, including a robust check for duplicated programs.

Compared to Opportunities Landscape 2021, the Opportunities Landscape 2023 report identified 32% more programs, with higher quality information about the programs captured. This makes this year's report the largest and most comprehensive dataset of youth opportunities in Baltimore City.

Next Steps

Continue Opportunities Landscape Data Collection

The Opportunities Landscape dataset continues to improve as stakeholders recognize its importance and the value of contributing to it: updates, revisions, and efforts to fill in missing data will only increase its quality and its ability to affect policy and funding decisions. For example, the dataset currently lacks complete data on program length and schedules. More detailed data would pinpoint further gaps in programming for stakeholders interested in supporting youth opportunities throughout the day, week, and year.

Baltimore City Youth Opportunity Index (Opportunity Index)

Access to youth opportunities in Baltimore City differs based on neighborhood, as does the need for youth programming. In the coming year, Baltimore's Promise plans to release the Opportunity Index to provide a comprehensive measure of access to opportunities that support the well-being of young people in Baltimore ages 0-24 and help them become thriving adults. The Index will consist of programming and opportunities data from the Opportunities Landscape, as well as other neighborhood-level data on transportation, safety, economic well-being, and more. These two data sets together will tell a powerful story, highlighting concerns such as those we heard from focus groups for the 2021 report: that youth are more likely to attend programs close to home, and even subsidized public transportation passes are often not enough to surmount transportation and accessibility barriers.

Baltimore City Youth Data Hub: Summer Engagement Ecosystem

A key recommendation from the Opportunities Landscape 2021 report was to develop an integrated data system that would allow the city to better understand the current needs and opportunities available for young people. In Spring 2022, the [Maryland General Assembly passed legislation](#) to establish the Baltimore City Youth Data Hub, an integrated data system developed by Baltimore's Promise, Baltimore City Public Schools, and the City of Baltimore.

The [Baltimore City Youth Data Hub](#) will help overcome limitations of the Opportunities Landscape dataset, which provides program-level information without revealing who the programs serve, where they live, or their racial and ethnic demographics. With data from multiple sources, the Data Hub will provide a deeper understanding of youth opportunities across the city.

The Summer Engagement Ecosystem, a collaborative effort to highlight gaps in summer opportunities and provide intelligence for planning more equitable programs, will provide a first-use case of the Data Hub. Integrated data from the partners will provide data on the participation of Baltimore City children and youth in summer programs. Updates will be available in 2024.



State of Older Youth Programming

In our [Opportunities Landscape 2021 report](#), one of our main findings revolved around the lack of older youth programming. In focus groups with older youth, participants told us that they experienced a large decline in the availability of interesting and engaging programming as they got older — echoing our findings that there were four times the number of programming opportunities for elementary-aged children than older youth.

Since the 2021 report, Baltimore’s Promise has used both the qualitative and quantitative data from the report to advocate for increased programming opportunities for older youth and the centering of community voice and engagement in funding decisions.

Expanding programming opportunities for older youth during non-summer months can help reconnect youth to communities and workforce opportunities. U.S. Census data reveals that in 2021, 15.7% of youth ages 16-24 in Baltimore City, including 21.2% of Black or African-American youth, were not in school nor working. This group is also known as Opportunity Youth. Data also reveals that high school graduation does not necessarily lead to further education or employment. According to a Post-Secondary Pathways Report released by Baltimore’s Promise and the Baltimore Education Research Consortium (BERC), 26% of the City Schools graduating class of 2009 did not enroll in college or appear in the Maryland workforce during the fall after graduation.

Programming focused on older youth can help secure and strengthen the pathway from secondary education to career-sustaining wages. Youthworks has recently announced they will expand their job program to fall 2023 and spring 2024 — encouraging news, though the expansion is currently limited to 200 City School students still enrolled in high school.

Expanding programming opportunities for older youth during non-summer months can help reconnect youth to communities and workforce opportunities.



The Opportunities Landscape 2023 findings show the gap in programming opportunities between older and younger youth decreased since the 2021 report, in part due to the efforts of Youth Grantmakers and the Summer Funding Collaborative. [LEARN MORE](#) about these two initiatives that use Opportunities Landscape data to enact change.

Baltimore's Promise is a city-wide collaborative composed of public, business, higher education, nonprofit, community, and philanthropic leaders. We serve as a catalyst for organizing efforts and resources — including Baltimore City Youth Opportunities Landscape — around a shared vision: all Baltimore City youth will travel a safe, healthy, and successful educational path from cradle to career.

The data was last updated on June 2, 2023. Data Analysis conducted by James Sadler and Lizzy Stier. Data Collection conducted by Lizzy Stier, Abby Drager-Davidoff, Christina Fox, Chanya Anderson, James Sadler, and Bridget Blount. Communications Support from Melanie DeStefano, Waldron Strategies, and Spitfire Strategies

To learn more about Baltimore's Promise, please visit our baltimorespromise.org.
For questions and comments about Baltimore City Youth Opportunities Landscape 2023,
please email us at bcyol@baltimorespromise.org.

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