FY26 Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF) Notice of Funding Availability
Frequently Asked Questions
<mark>**Issued 3/14/2025**</mark>

Note: Clarifications in this document do not supersede the requirements in the [Notice of Funding Availability](#) (NOFA).

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1. General NOFA & Application

1. ***Is the 20-page limit for the project narrative inclusive of all the different narrative parts or just Part 1?***

The 20-page limit includes all sections of the project narrative. There are other attachment documents that help provide additional information about individual programs, initiatives and strategies. These additional documents do not count towards the 20-page limit.

2. ***For the program/strategy name on the template, must we name the actual vendor/partner or can we just list the program. Due to the timeframe required for notice and procurement for vendors, we may not know the actual vendor/organization at the time of submission.***

Yes, you may include the name of the program/strategy in the template if the vendor is currently unknown. You can note that the vendor will be identified through an RFP or procurement process.

3. ***For the Annual Work Plan, how detailed should we be when outlining primary activities, deliverables, benchmarks, and/or events for FY26? Is GOC looking for general timelines for the programs, or do you need specifics for each program?***

The work plan should include the LMBs' primary activities, deliverables, and timelines, in addition to the primary activities of each programs/services/strategies supported with CCIF funds.

4. ***Can you provide additional clarification on the work plan? I'm wondering if it makes sense for us to complete a work plan before our applications are approved or if it's something that would make sense to complete after our applications are approved?***

LMBs should complete the work plan with the activities, deliverables, and timelines planned. During contracting and before the start of the fiscal year, LMBs can revise the work plan as needed.

5. ***Please describe your understanding of "people with lived experiences" and does that mean people who have programs that employ them or just individuals or both?***

Lived Experience refers to understanding yielded from an individual's human experiences, personal identities, history, and options. People with lived experience are those directly affected by social, economic, health, or other issues and by the strategies that aim to address those issues. This gives them insights that can inform and improve systems, research, policies, practices, and programs. Centering lived experience helps develop a deeper understanding of the conditions affecting certain populations, the solutions that are most appropriate for those impacted by the issue, and the potential harm or unintended consequences of actions.

6. ***Evidence Based Programs: "Is strongly preferred". Does that mean not totally***

required?

Evidence-based programs are not required, however, LMBs will need to provide a strong justification and alignment to aspects of their community assessment/needs with proven strategies that demonstrate strong outcomes.

7.   ***Outcome indicators: What is the expected time period of the types of outcomes you are expecting?***

Outcome indicators are population-level data points which help quantify the amount of impact a strategy has yielded. Outcome indicators are often longer-term, and it may take time to see results. LMBs should continue to track and monitor changes in data over time and use it to inform progress in the specific Result Area.

Progress Measures tells us how well a program, agency, or services system is working and if the project is on track to succeed as planned. Progress measures are often more immediate and can be tracked throughout the duration of a project. The program/strategy level measures should reflect the activities during the grant year which is from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026.

2.   Community Support Initiatives

2.1   ENOUGH Pillars: Children, Families, and Communities

8.   ***Can LMBs invest in a strategy that supports a community where there are high rates of childhood poverty but there is not a Community School in it?***

Yes. See page 10 of the [NOFA](#), which outlines how LMBs should prioritize ENOUGH-eligible or high-poverty communities. Communities meeting this requirement include:
- ENOUGH Grant Program recipients
- Communities with at least one Census tract where more than 30% of children are living in poverty + a community school with a concentration of poverty level of at least 80% that did not receive funding through the ENOUGH Grant Program
- Communities with at least one Census tract where more than 20% of children are living in poverty (not currently eligible for ENOUGH Grant Program)

Please see the Maryland Department of Planning [ENOUGH Initiative: Community Eligibility Map](#) to view ENOUGH-eligible and other high-poverty geographies.

9.   ***Can LMBs invest in a strategy that supports more than one community in a jurisdiction?***

Yes, but should still prioritize ENOUGH-eligible or other high-poverty communities.

10.   ***Can LMBs serve a high-poverty community if the census tract the community is located in does not meet the 20% child poverty threshold?***

We strongly encourage LMBs to prioritize serving high-poverty communities and neighborhoods as listed in the [NOFA](#). If the proposed program/strategy serves a high-poverty neighborhood that does not align with a census tract with at least 20% child poverty, LMBs must provide data

to demonstrate the proposed neighborhood/geographic area has a high child poverty rate.

11. ***Can the focus be on high poverty areas and allowing it to serve the entire jurisdiction or could it possibly be a specific demographic on which we want to focus (such as disconnected youth who are not in school and not working?)***

Programs/strategies should be prioritized for families and children in the identified high poverty communities. Programs can provide services to non-target populations but the majority of participants should be from the prioritized communities with high childhood poverty. Overall, activities and strategies are to be place-based.

12. ***If 85% of our funds are focused on ENOUGH related activities and communities, can we continue to fund a promising program with the remaining 15%?***

Yes, LMBs can allocate funds to support one of the other community support initiatives areas such as benefits access or other systems change initiatives to reduce child poverty and increase economic mobility.

2.2 Benefits Access

13.

2.3 Big Brothers, Big Sisters Community-Based Mentoring Program

14. ***For jurisdictions without a Big Brothers, Big Sisters program. What options are there through the Arnold Ventures, DJS, GOC and Big Brothers, Big Sisters partnership to address this gap?***

If your jurisdiction does not have a BBBS affiliate and you are interested in this evidence-based mentoring program–please reach out to GOC about alternatives. There are affiliates open to serving outside of their current service areas.

15. ***Are we to treat Big Brothers/Big Sisters like any other funded program?***

LMBs will serve as a passthrough to the Big Brothers, Big Sisters affiliate. LMBs that participate in this option should promote the availability of these mentoring services to community members and ensure LCTs are referring families to these services when appropriate.

16. ***Can we allocate funding to a program and they receive the funds for Big Brothers/Big Sisters?***

In order to participate in the matching funding opportunity, LMBs will need to invest in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters affiliate serving their jurisdiction.

17. ***Can you be more specific about the type of child Big Brothers, Big Sisters is looking to mentor?***

Big Brothers, Big Sisters Community-Based Mentoring has been evaluated in two rigorous randomized controlled trials and found sizable (30-50%) reductions in youth substance use and arrests. Youth who are at-risk of court involvement, justice impacted, or impacted by other

systems should be prioritized. LMBs should engage with the local affiliate to gain a better understanding of youth served.

18.   Can Big Brothers, Big Sisters provide LMBs with data?

Yes, LMBs should reach out to local affiliates for jurisdictional data on the young people served.

19.   Can you explain the match for Big Brother's, Big Sisters?

For every dollar invested into the program DJS and Arnold Ventures will collectively invest three dollars.

20.   The recommended funding for Big Brothers Big Sisters is a minimum of $24,000 - due to county procurement processes we would have to put this out for bid - it wouldn't be able to just be allocated to Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Can we still participate?

If LMBs need to go through county procurement for this opportunity, a sole source procurement may be an option for consideration. LMBs should follow all applicable state and local procurement policies and procedures.

21.   Is the funding designed to increase capacity beyond who is currently served?

Yes, this match funding opportunity is for expanding the capacity of current programs to serve new youth/mentees.

22.   Is the Y of Central Maryland part of this conversation and commitment?

Yes, the Y of Central Maryland is the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Affiliate for central Maryland.

23.   Does our local DJS office know about this new partnership?

DJS has not yet communicated with local offices since this partnership has not been formalized and is not yet official. If everything moves forward and we do launch this program, DJS will work on creating a referral process and communicating with all offices impacted by the program to train them on that process.

3.   Systems Change Initiatives

3.1   Fiscal Mapping

24.   In regards to the maintenance and enhancement of the county-level fiscal mapping efforts- is the state purchasing a tool for us to use or are jurisdictions required to purchase their own with CCIF funds?

No. The LMB does not need to purchase software to complete fiscal mapping activities.

25.   How will the Children's Funding Project be a part of this process?

CFP will continue to be an advisor and partner on this project providing guidance and expertise regarding fiscal mapping.

26. *If we are supposed to be targeting primarily areas of child poverty, why are we being asked to "be aware of the flow of funds allocated for youth, families and children in their jurisdictions" or does this just mean the identified areas of child poverty.*

Through the fiscal mapping initiative, LMBs and community partners will have a more holistic view of the funding resources related to children, youth, and families in their jurisdictions. This information should be used to help strengthen advocacy, system-change and aligning funds to more prioritized communities, specifically those with high concentrations of childhood poverty

27. *Are we able to use our ENOUGH Capacity Building Funds for the Fiscal Mapping?*

No, Fiscal mapping is a required annual activity of LMBs and will be supported through the CCIF. ENOUGH Capacity funds are designated to build capacity for ENOUGH grantees and other high poverty communities to progress through the ENOUGH Theory of Action.

28. *The NOFA states that we should be using the GOC fiscal map to inform our proposal, but will it be done in time for us to review and use?*

The county-level fiscal maps will not be available for the development of the FY26 NOFA response. Once available, LMBs are expected to use this information moving forward in its routine asset mapping, needs assessing, and community planning activities.

More detailed guidance is forthcoming on fiscal mapping, and training and support will be provided throughout the mapping process.

3.2 Local Care Team

29. *In regards to the requirement for LCTs to deploy a case management software- Our LCT uses Apricot to manage LCT case files. Is it an option or is it a requirement to use Compyle?*

LCTs will be required to collect data through Compyle. LCTs may utilize other platforms to collect additional data not required by GOC.

30. *Will there be training for LCT Coordinators on Compyle?*

Yes. GOC will coordinate and schedule training for the LCT Coordinator and LMB staff prior to data collection and the start of the fiscal year.

31. *What does "leverage their LCT designated funding to ensure teams are equipped to meet the needs of youth and families".*

The LCT funding supports the LCT coordinator salary and additional costs for the administration of the LCT. In FY26, LCTs will continue to address out-of-home placement requests; ensure systems are in place to strengthen and expand strong case management practices; LMBs who have capacity to serve additional families can focus on children with risk factors for out-of-home placements; and increase accountability for LCT funding by expanding data reporting.

32. *Define "case management" for LCT staff.*

The Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that strong practices and procedures are in place to manage the cases coming to the LCT, these activities include, but are not limited to: completing intake forms, scheduling LCT meetings and developing case agendas, documenting referrals and action items, completing referrals, collecting necessary data, document if families are returning to the LCT and why. These activities will ensure strong administration of the LCT and ensure families receive the support needed.

33. LCT Coordinators are NOT case managers so why case management software? Are all agencies going to be required to use it?

Compyle is being made available to all LMBs as an additional software tool to accompany Clear Impact's Scorecard. GOC is requiring usage of Compyle to better capture families' needs, local efforts to address these needs, and gaps for the State to address. To aid in these goals, Compyle will help Coordinators capture and maintain data on cases and family interactions with the LCT. Additionally, LMBs can use this tool to support other activities supported through the CCIF.

34. Is there a cap on LCT funding requests?

No, LMBs should request the amount needed for the coordinator salary. If the amount requested exceeds the funding available, the Office will provide LMBs with additional instructions.

4. Board Administration & Community Support

35. Are Local Management Boards still able to support planning grants through the FY26 CPA NOFA?

Yes, planning can be included in the Community Support/Planning budget page or incorporated in applicable Systems Change Investment budget pages.

36. Can a director salary be funded in both admin budget and community support in FY 26 as has been done in previous years?

Yes. LMBs have the opportunity to split salary costs across the Board Administration and Community Support budget categories.

37. If we elect to fund staffing specific to the fiscal mapping will that fall under community support or is that part of the 30% cap on admin?

No, fiscal mapping is a systems change activity and is not considered Board Administration. Therefore, staffing or other associated costs will not factor into the 30% administrative cap. Fiscal mapping costs should be included on a separate budget page.

38. The NOFA on pg 13 says "Administrative costs supporting the LCT should be included in the Board Administration Budget page." Shouldn't this be included in the LCT Budget page? If we put it in the Board Administration page it would count against our 30% cap.

In FY25, LCT funding requests exceeded the $1.8 million available. GOC provided guidance to fully fund the salary costs and reduce the allowable administrative costs to 4%. For FY26, GOC allowed the use of the CCIF allocation to support the LCT administrative costs. The LMB may include non-salary administrative costs in the LCT budget, however, if LCT requests exceed available funds, GOC will consider reductions in non-salary costs first.

The Office will issue a revision to the NOFA to indicate that these costs may be included in the community support budget and not factored into the Board Administration cap.

39. ***Because the allocations have not increased, is it understood that the requirement to fund and monitor fiscal mapping at the local level will inevitably result in a decrease to direct services funding in a time when families are in need of those tangible services more than ever?***

LMBs are responsible for allocating funding in alignment with the priorities and activities included in this NOFA. Depending on the jurisdiction, additional staffing resources may not be needed to complete fiscal mapping requirements. If funding is allocated for fiscal mapping, it will not be applied towards the 30% Board Administration cap.

40. ***The NOFA has a fringe cap, can we request a waiver to go above this percentage if the county's fringe is above that %? Many jurisdictions do not have control over fringe calculation.***

LMBs should comply with local policies, procedures, and HR requirements. LMBs can request a waiver.

41. ***Under travel the NOFA state requires us to use the GSA rates and state rates for housing and meal reimbursement. If this doesn't align with county policy what policy do we follow since we are required to follow county policy? Also, if where the conference is, costs are way above GSA (which is what we saw this year with our conferences in St. Louis and Atlanta) will the state make an exception?***

LMBs should comply with local policies, procedures, and HR requirements. LMBs can request a waiver.

5. Other

42. ***We have traditionally provided funding to our Youth Service Bureau (YSB). We have not required a match. Can we get information on where to find this?***

Requirements relating to Youth Service Bureau are included in the LMB Manual in Appendix 5 beginning on page 65. This information is also reflected in COMAR 16.17.01. The match requirement and the corresponding required performance measures are applicable if the LMB is funding the core activities required of the YSBs.

43. ***Is GOC anticipating LMBs will receive the ENOUGH LMB Capacity building funds in FY26***?

Funding for the FY26 ENOUGH LMB Capacity Building was included in the Governor's budget request and the Office is preparing for the issuance of these funds following the legislative session, pending legislative approval. GOC will provide updates regarding this funding, as available. The Capacity Building Grant may inform the development of the LMBs CCIF budget request. LMBs will have the opportunity to revise their budget submission following the conclusion of the legislative session as needed.