



THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR
WES MOORE
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN

FY 26 Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund Notice of Funding Availability Technical Assistance

AGENDA

- 1** **FY26 CCIF NOFA Overview**
- 2** **Question and Answers**
- 3** **Next Steps**



Elements of the CCIF NOFA

- 1. Purpose and Background:** Provides an overview of the NOFA and establishes baseline requirements (e.g. proposed activities should be evidence-based, informed by needs assessment, etc.)
- 2. Community Support Initiatives:** Describes the types of projects in which LMBs can invest FY26 CCIF funds
- 3. Systems Change Initiatives:** Describes activities LMBs must engage in order to ensure they are good financial stewards
- 4. Application Process**
- 5. Award Allocations and Timeline**

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF)

Md. Code. Ann. §8–503 - 508 establishes the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF) to allocate funds to LMBs aligned to the priorities of the Children's Cabinet and to:

- Strengthen the decision-making capacity at the local level;
- Design and implement strategies that achieve defined results for children, youth, and families through a 5-year strategic plan;
- Maintain standards of accountability;
- Influence the allocation of resources across systems;
- Build local partnerships to coordinate children, youth, and family services within the county to eliminate fragmentation and duplication of services; and
- Create an effective system of services, supports, and opportunities that improve outcomes for all children, youth, and families.

1.2 All-of-Government Approach to Ending Child Poverty

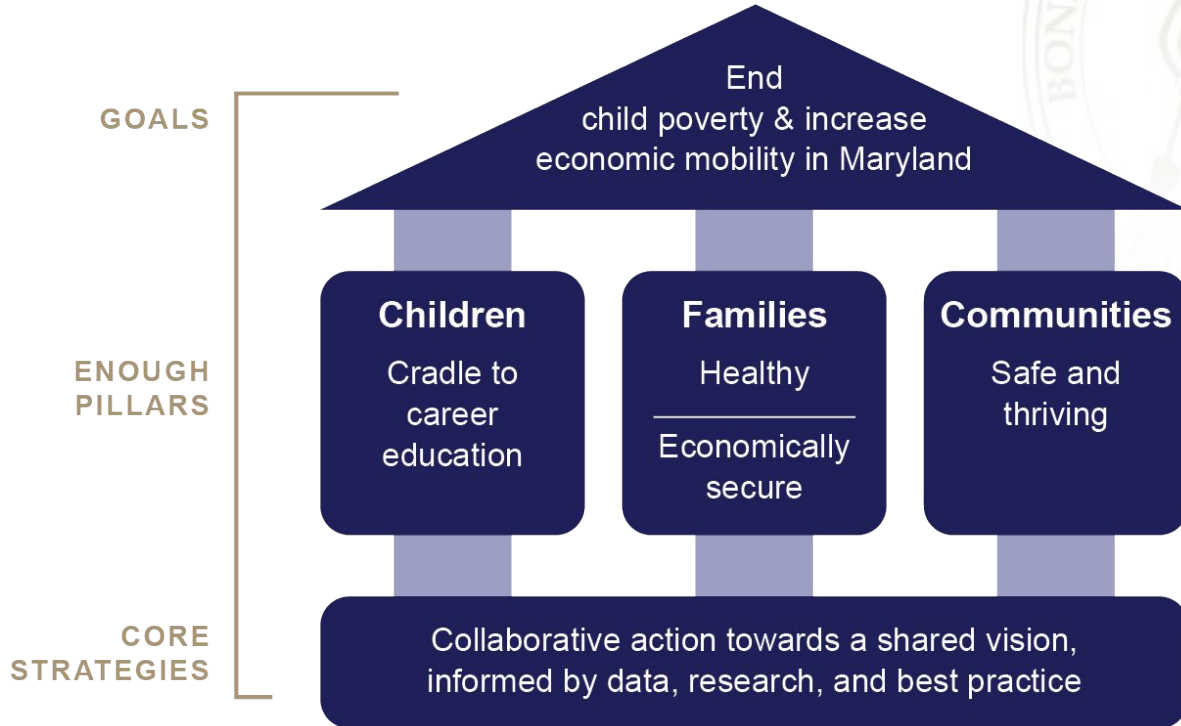
The Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments and Households (ENOUGH) Initiative is a first-of-its-kind state-led, place-based investment strategy designed to create poverty-fighting opportunities driven by communities, data and cross-sector partnerships.

- ENOUGH Act signed into law May 9, 2024
- Administered by the Maryland Governor's Office for Children
- Whole of government approach to ending child poverty

“Communities across Maryland will provide the vision, and the state will provide the support.”

- Governor Wes Moore

ENOUGH Theory of Action



1.3 Driving Systems Change

Local Management Boards are expected to demonstrate systems change leadership through each clear approaches and strategy. Systems leadership change is defined as ***“a set of skills and capacities that any individual or organization can use to catalyze, enable and support the process of systems-level change.”***

The FY26 CCIF NOFA provides LMBs with the elements of system change leadership along with key strategies to incorporate or expand upon throughout their grant submission.

Some of these strategies include:

- High Quality Programs
- Aligned Structures and Processes
- Data-Driven Decision-Making
- Policy Focus and Shifts

1.4 Community Needs Assessment, Asset Mapping, and Community Planning

LMBs should propose activities and infrastructure that support comprehensive assessments of community needs and assets for children, youth, and families, with the goal of addressing and reducing child poverty, whether this means developing needs assessment and asset mapping processes and/or updating existing data sets and analyses.

Grant applications will need to demonstrate direct connection between **community voice/input** and the proposed projects outlined in each LMB's application.

1.5 Evidence-Based Programs and Models

It is strongly preferred that programs/strategies proposed for FY26 implement a continuum of clinically researched practices that have demonstrated success with youth, including promising practices, best practices, and evidence-based practices.

“Evidence-based” means that there is evidence from an experimental or quasi-experimental study that a project component has been effective in improving a relevant outcome with similar populations or in similar settings.

Resources for identifying and evaluating evidence-based programs can be found in the FY26 CCIF NOFA along with instruction on how each LMB should illustrating each evidence-based strategy or tool used in their proposals.

1.6 Universal Evaluations, Outcome Indicators and Progress Measures

LMBs will be expected to contribute to, and participate in, the GOC's comprehensive review and evaluation of the ENOUGH Initiative's all-of-government approach to ending child poverty and increasing economic mobility.

- The Children's Cabinet and GOC will adopt required measures within the four (4) ENOUGH Results Areas to evaluate outcomes of initiatives funded through the CCIF funding.
- LMBs will develop individualized program-level progress measures using the Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework.
- LMBs and their local partners are also expected to examine local data disaggregated by race/ethnicity (when available) when planning, implementing and monitoring community plans and driving systems change.

1.7 Board Administration and Direct Community Investments

For FY 2026, LMBs may allocate CCIF funding for both Local Management Board Administration (overhead expenses) and Direct Community Support and Systems Change Investments. However, **Board Administration may not exceed 30% of the total allocation.**

For purposes of this NOFA, the definitions of **Board Administration and Community Support have been revised to include “Systems Change Investments”** and clarify the distinction between LMB overhead costs and organizational backbone infrastructure costs.

1.7 Board Administration and Direct Community Investments

*“**Board Administration**” means the costs to support the administration of the LMB as an entity and its office. Examples include, but are not limited to, chief executive level wages and benefits, office rent and utilities, liability or board insurance, procurement and vendor management personnel, financial management software, etc.*

*“**Community Support and Systems Change Investments**” refer to costs that support the community-facing work of the LMB. Examples include, but are not limited to, cross-sector data integration systems and data sharing processes; convenings to make collaborative decisions and share learnings across providers.*

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & SYSTEMS CHANGE INITIATIVES

Community Support Initiatives

LMBs can invest in *one or more* of the following:

1. ENOUGH

- Project-based initiatives that complement or expand place-based work aligned with the ENOUGH theory of action.

2. Benefits Access

- Projects that will expand the awareness and uptake of public benefits and economic assistance.

3. Participate in a GOC/DJS Pilot accessing matching funding: Big Brothers, Big Sisters Community-Based Mentoring Program

- Evidence-based mentoring, particularly for court-involved youth.
- Through partnership with Arnold Ventures and DJS, local affiliates will receive a three-dollar match for every LMB dollar invested.

2.1 ENOUGH Pillars: Children, Families, and Communities



Cradle to Career Education: Unlocking children’s potential through early care and education from birth until working in a career, specifically ensuring smooth transitions through kindergarten, middle school, and high school graduation with a pathway to college and/or career



Healthy Families: Ensuring community member and family access to high quality healthcare with goals of decreasing infant mortality, increasing life expectancy, and improving mental health



Economically Secure Families: Ensuring higher employment and entrepreneurship resulting in livable and family-sustaining wages, and stable, thriving households where families can provide for necessities, weather hard times, and build wealth



Safe and Thriving Communities: Creating communities where residents feel safe and where the built environment supports their ability to thrive, including through high-quality, affordable housing, a thriving commercial core, and access to recreational spaces, nutritious food, and transportation

2.1 ENOUGH Pillars: Children, Families, and Communities

Investments under this option 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)

2.2 Benefits Access

Benefits access initiatives that expand, strengthen or improve uptake of economic assistance resources are eligible through this funding.

Proposed investments in this area should be evidence-based and should drive increased awareness of, access to, and use of economic assistance and benefits.

Examples of high impact economic assistance programs include, but are not limited to:

- Childcare scholarships, tax credits, nutrition assistance (e.g. SNAP), housing subsidies, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), unemployment insurance, and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program.

2.3 Big Brothers, Big Sisters Community-Based Mentoring Program

Through a special partnership with the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), GOC, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and Arnold Ventures, ***LMBs have the option to invest into an opportunity that provides evidence-based youth mentoring while maximizing on funding approaching through matching.***

Big Brother Big Sister is a community-based mentoring model with strong evidence showing improved outcomes for youth, including youth who are at-risk of court involvement.

Arnold Ventures and DJS will each provide ***annual matching funds, for LMB-identified CCIF investments over 4 fiscal years, (FY26, FY27, FY28, and FY29).***

2.3 Big Brothers, Big Sisters Community-Based Mentoring Program

This opportunity is applicable to the following counties (counties in Maryland that have participating, existing Big Brothers, Big Sisters affiliates):

Baltimore Metro Area	Eastern Shore	National Capitol Area	Washington County
Anne Arundel Baltimore City Baltimore County Carroll Harford Howard	Caroline Cecil Dorchester Kent Queen Anne's Somerset Talbot Wicomico Worcester	Frederick Montgomery Prince George's	Washington

2.3 Big Brothers, Big Sisters Community-Based Mentoring Program

Roughly two-thirds of mentor-youth matches last more than 1 year. As an approximate breakout:

- 33% last 0-1 years
- 25% last 1-2 years
- 20% last 2-3 years
- 21% last 3+ years

The program's cost averages \$4,400-\$4,800 per match

- Cost is highest in year 1 (~\$2,600) and lower in subsequent years (~\$1,500/year)
- Costs vary somewhat across BBBS site affiliates, due to regional variations in staffing & other costs

Systems Change Initiatives

LMBs are ***required*** to invest in the following:

1. Fiscal Mapping

- Oversee the maintenance and enhancement of county-level fiscal mapping efforts.
- Funding can be used to support increased staff capacity.

2. Local Care Team (LCTs)

- Continue to require LCTs to address out-of-home placement requests.
- Ensure LCTs have systems in place (including deploying case management software) to strengthen and expand strong case management practices.
- Encourage LMBs who have capacity to serve additional families to focus on children with risk factors for out-of-home placements.
- Increase accountability for LCT funding by expanding data reporting.



3.1 Mapping Local Assets and Fiscal Resources

LMBs are required to support a county-level fiscal mapping tool through annual maintenance and updates. LMBs will be asked to use the fiscal mapping tool to strategically allocate resources, identify gaps, and guide decision-making to ensure financial support is efficiently directed to programs that best serve the needs of youth, families, and children in their communities.

Funding through this FY 2026 CCIF NOFA can be used to staff capacity for the purposes of fiscal mapping management and sustainability.

Some examples include:

- Hiring Part-Time or Seasonal Staff
- Internal Staff Assignments
- Collaborating with other LMBs
- Contracting with External Consultants

3.2 Local Care Team

The Children's Cabinet is continuing to allocate **\$1.8 million**, jointly funded by DHS, DJS, MDH, MSDE to support LCTs' work. Each jurisdiction must use this funding to support the **salary of an LCT Coordinator** who is administratively housed within the LMB.

FY26 LCT activities include:

- Prioritize families and children with an out-of-home or out-of-State placement request or those imminently at risk of out-of-home or out-of-State placement
- Equipped with a comprehensive asset map of all local resources and services
- Ensure that systems are in place to strengthen and expand strong case management practices
- **Optional:** LCT Coordinators who have capacity and want to do early intervention work to support youth who are most at risk of out-of-home placement.

Funding allocations for LCTs will need to be included in each LMB's Budget Worksheet. Administration cost should be outlined in the Board Administration budget.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application Requirements

All application must have the following:

1. **Cover page:** To be completed through Submittable
2. **Uploads:** Templates are provided for each of the following,
 - Project Narrative
 - CCIF Funded List of Programs and Strategies
 - FY 26 Annual Work Plan
 - Line Item Budget and Budget Narrative.
3. **Supporting Documents:**
 - Community Needs Assessment
 - Community/Strategic Plan



Application Requirements

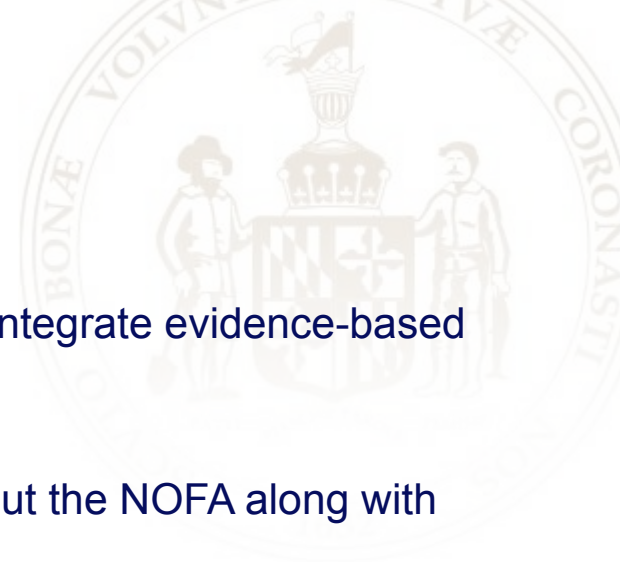
Project Narrative Guidelines:

Purpose: Outlines holistic strategy to reduce child poverty and integrate evidence-based practices

Alignment: Must be aligned with the priorities outlined throughout the NOFA along with the ENOUGH theory of action

Format:

- Max 20 pages, single spaced
- 11 pt font in Times New Roman
- Organized by provided headers with page numbers.



AWARD ALLOCATION AND TIMELINE

5.1 Award Allocations

In FY 2026, **\$20,280,335** is available through the CCIF to support LMBs. ***Allocations for each jurisdiction is identified comprehensive chart found on below.***

*These allocations do not include LCTs Coordinator salaries.

Allegany: \$518,940
Anne Arundel: \$1,391,832
Baltimore City: \$3,275,466
Baltimore County: \$1,566,378
Calvert: \$400,383
Caroline: \$631,775
Carroll: \$575,348
Cecil: \$591,413

Charles: \$430,389
Dorchester: \$485,992
Frederick: \$441,353
Garrett: \$594,591
Harford: \$640,263
Howard: \$502,403
Kent: \$422,015
Montgomery: \$1,712,433

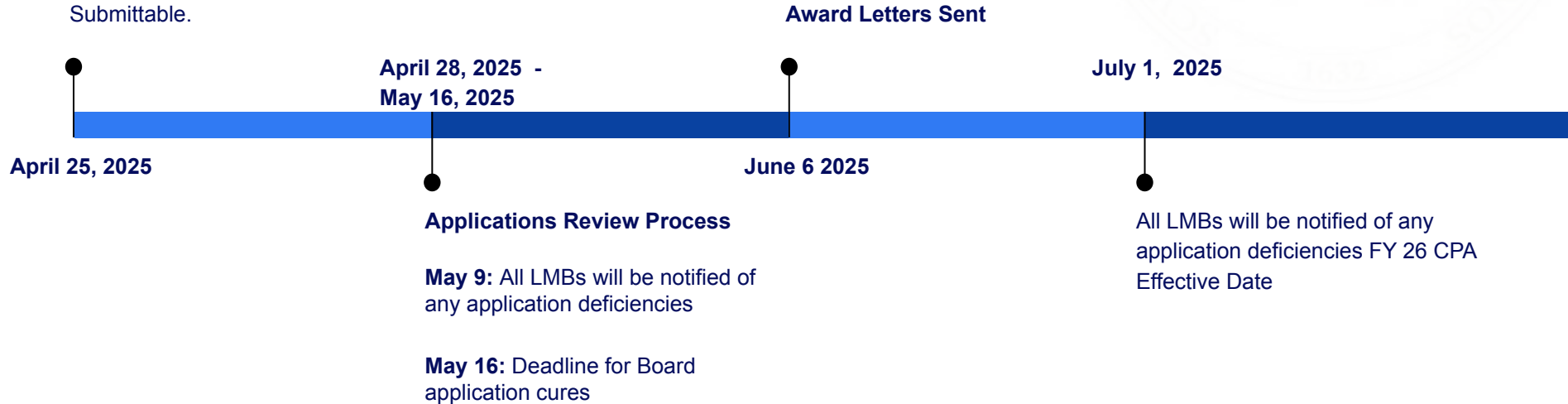
Prince George's: \$1,933,586
Queen Anne's: \$375,961
St. Mary's: \$450,451
Somerset: \$323,784
Talbot: \$527,553
Washington: \$756,266
Wicomico: \$857,229
Worcester: \$874,531

5.2 Important Dates and Deadlines



Applications Due

LMBs submit applications through the GOC's grant management system; Submittable.



5.3 Fund Distribution, Reporting, and Compliance

Payment schedule (outlined in the Manual)

Local Management Board CPA	
Q1	Calculated at four twelfths (4/12) of the award - Issued upon fully executed Community Partnership Agreement
Q2	Calculated at three twelfth (3/12) of the award - Issued first week of October* *Payments will be made only after FY25 Year-End Expenditure Reports and FY25 Full-Year Program Data (due 9/13/25) are received and accepted by the Office.
Q3	Calculated at three twelfth (3/12) of the award - Issued first week of January* *Payments will be made only after all required reports and other deliverables are received and accepted by the Office.
Q4	Balance of award - Issued first week of April* *Payments will be made only after FY26 Mid-Year Expenditure Reports and FY26 Half-Year Program Data (due 2/14/25) are received and accepted by the Office.
Local Care Team Coordinator	
	Issued in full upon executed Community Partnership Agreement

5.3 Fund Distribution, Reporting, and Compliance

Match

- No match required except for YSBs funded in accordance with Human Services Article, § 9-233 and COMAR 16.17.01.
- Non-Children's Cabinet Fund revenue paid/awarded/ administered to/by the Board in support of a CPA program/strategy must be identified in the appropriate budget(s).
- In-kind support also be identified in appropriate budget(s).

5.3 Fund Distribution, Reporting, and Compliance

Special Conditions

- May be imposed to address deficiencies identified in the application, to remedy issues that are raised during review, and/or concerns that cannot be satisfactorily addressed prior to 7/1/25.

5.3 Fund Distribution, Reporting, and Compliance

Reports

- Local Management Boards are required to submit programmatic and fiscal reports in a timely manner using the format and system provided by the Office.

5.4 GOC Contacts and Technical Assistance Resources

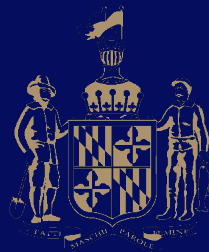
- For **programmatic questions**, please contact **Mysiki Valentine**, Community Initiatives Program Manager at mysiki.valentine@maryland.gov.
- For **budget questions or grant management system** technical assistance, please contact **Tracey Webb**, Grants and Data Manager at tracey.webb@maryland.gov.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

NEXT STEPS

Next Steps

- Issue FAQ Document and update throughout the pre-application period
- Share additional guidance and information on Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Fiscal Mapping, and LCTs
- Schedule additional information sessions for fiscal mapping and LMBs interested in Big Brothers, Big Sisters match opportunity



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