

Children's Cabinet Strategic Plan Summary

The Children's Cabinet Strategic Plan lays the groundwork for the 3 Year Children's Plan (which is required by Executive Order) by outlining short and medium term objectives for programs and services to advance Governor Hogan's four Strategic Goals. The strategic plan provides a comprehensive, unified vision and framework for action to develop policies, and link resources, research, budget requests, and legislative initiatives to advance the Governor's vision for Economic Opportunity for All Marylanders. This is only the beginning, in the coming year the plan will be refined into the 3 Year Plan, with the goal of further integration and alignment of the work by each agency along with expanded interagency activities.

Children's Cabinet Four Strategic Goals

Governor Hogan charged the Children's Cabinet with focusing on four specific areas:

- Reduce the Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children, Families and Communities
- Improve Outcomes for Disconnected Youth
- Reduce Childhood Hunger
- Reduce Youth Homelessness

Background, Gaps in Services, Current Statewide Approaches: For each goal area the Children's Cabinet put the problem into context by briefly outlining the research and the data. The agencies then described the current gaps in services, followed by individual agency descriptions of their current work in this area. The current programs are detailed in a catalog at the end of the document.

Local Approaches: The Children's Cabinet also described their relationships with local entities that are their partners in delivering services; including brief descriptions of current activities supporting the four Strategic Goals.

Next Steps, Immediate Implementation, What can be Accomplished in Fiscal Year 2016, Beyond Fiscal Year 2016: The agencies each listed what they could be doing differently in the near and medium term. This process led to early opportunities for cross agency collaboration and activities. Notable examples include:

- Data and Information Sharing: The agencies identified the need for this work to begin immediately, which led to the Children's Cabinet meeting in June to discuss Secretary Maholtra's plan for a data warehouse approach.
- Pilot Program: DHMH will start a pilot program in collaboration with DHR, DJS, and MSDE to address an identified population of youth at high-risk of becoming homeless, disconnected, or with parents in prison to bring health, mental health, and substance use assessments and treatment as well as other appropriate DHMH programs, to foster better outcomes for these youth.
- Visitation Protocols and Policies: DHR will work with DPSCS to explore facilitating visitation between foster youth and their incarcerated parent, where appropriate.
- Apprenticeship Program: DLLR and MSDE are jointly designing a youth apprenticeship system – Apprenticeship Maryland – by cooperating with other relevant State agency

government leaders; building new partnerships with representatives of education, business and industry; and creating policies, resources, and professional development opportunities that are important for implementation and sustainability.

- Data Collection: All the agencies will participate in or support an effort to obtain accurate, detailed information on the number, characteristics, and needs of homeless youth in the State.
- Colocation of Services: DLLR will work with all agencies to explore the co-location of services to provide customers an opportunity for a “one-stop” experience.
- Technology Solutions: In collaboration with GOCCP, DPSCS will explore video visits to increase parent/child contact while reducing the burden of transportation on families.
- Public Education: The agencies, through the Interagency Homelessness Council, will develop materials to educate the public about the prevalence and roots of youth homelessness and share a catalogue of State and local efforts taking place across the State.

Action Plans and Timelines by Agency: The agencies developed individual plans for implementing programs and services to support the four Strategic Goals.

Program Catalog: As the first step in crafting the implementation plan, the Children’s Cabinet requested a catalog of each Children’s Cabinet Agency’s existing programs and initiatives that directly impact the four Strategic Goals. The catalog will be used to inform decisions, to eliminate duplication, and allow the Children’s Cabinet to clearly see the gaps in services.