



State of Maryland Executive Department

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

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To: LMB Board Chairs and Points of Contact

From: Kim Malat, Deputy Director

Date: September 29, 2015

Re: Question and Answer Recap #3 from LMB Meeting on 9/10/15

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1. Under what circumstances, if any, will GOC fund prevention of "Disconnected Youth"?

There are some strategies that are interventions that also serve as prevention. As stated in previous responses, while we transition over the upcoming years to target the specific populations in the Governor's four Strategic Goals, there will be some flexibility in the earlier phases as LMBs transition programs and interventions; however, for the new funding that will be made available (in FY17 and FY18) and for all FY19 programs, the LMB will be required to use Children's Cabinet funds to ONLY address one or more of the four Strategic Goals.

Due to the severe budget challenges Maryland continues to face, it is critical that the limited resources of the Children's Cabinet be allocated in a targeted way in order to address "improving the economic stability of Maryland's most vulnerable families." If an LMB wishes to support prevention with Children's Cabinet funding, the focus should be on developing two generation approaches with an intervention for the parent and prevention for the child - linking home visiting and workforce development programs is an example of such an approach. However, in the development of a full community plan, LMBs are being encouraged and supported in their efforts to identify other funding sources for activities outside of the Children's Cabinet priorities.

2. Where does the LAM fit into the coming fiscal years for planning? Will the LAM and its components need to "fit" within the four Strategic Goals?

There is no longer a requirement to fund the LAM; therefore, the LMB will need to: 1.) demonstrate how the LAM supports one or more of the four Strategic Goals; or 2.) retool the program to directly address one or more of the Strategic Goals; or 3.) transition the LAM to another funding source.

3. If LMBs wish to provide stipends for youth as a mechanism to support youth engagement, how is that stipend delivered to the youth? “The State of Maryland Policies and Procedures Manual for LMBs, Section V – Restrictions, page 57,” disallows the purchase of gift cards.

If an LMB chooses to provide stipends for youth engagement, provision of the stipend may be dependent on the type of participation. If the youth’s participation is regular and ongoing, such as membership on the Board, then it’s reasonable to expect that the LMB will issue a check to the youth after each meeting attended, as remuneration for participation in lieu of salary.

Gift cards are not actually stipends. If there was an instance where a gift card is the more reasonable option (for time-limited activities such as participation on a focus group, etc.), the LMB may request a waiver of the Manual requirement and GOC would approve it. The approval would be conditioned on the LMB only purchasing and distributing the exact number of gift cards needed for that particular participation. The LMB may not accumulate an inventory of gift cards that may or may not be used later. This also applies to any vendor funded by the Children’s Cabinet grant to the LMB. Vendors would be required to request a waiver through the LMB, which is conditioned on the vendor only purchasing and distributing the exact number of cards needed for that specific purpose. Vendors may not accumulate an inventory of gift cards for future use.

In all instances, the LMB shall include these costs as a line item in the appropriate budget.

4. Can you recommend an LMB’s community plan that we can read?

The community plan will be completed in accordance with guidelines that will be presented in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to be issued in January 2016. It is premature to offer suggestions at this stage since the NOFA is not final. More details about the process will be available upon issuance of the NOFA. In the meantime, LMBs who have developed a community plan are encouraged to share with other LMBs, or LMBs may look at community plans from jurisdictions outside of Maryland.

5. How were the four Strategic Goals selected based on the Governor’s vision?

Based on the data about economic instability, Governor Hogan charged the Children’s Cabinet with the responsibility of contributing to his goal of an economically secure Maryland by focusing on two new initiatives that directly address the building of human capital: 1) Reducing the impact of incarceration on children, families, and communities; and 2) Increasing the number of youth and young adults who are either advancing their educations or engaged in the workforce. In addition to these two new goals, the Governor reaffirmed two other Children’s Cabinet initiatives - reducing the incidence of childhood hunger and youth homelessness, ongoing Statewide activities established in the two previous administrations. From the press release dated 4/21/15:

“In order to provide economic stability and opportunity for all of Maryland’s children, youth, and families, I need [the Children’s Cabinet] to work together to

help build a stronger economy in our State,” said Governor Hogan. “I am tasking you with developing, implementing, monitoring, and being successful in a Maryland strategy that will provide critical services to vulnerable families and children. Be results-driven in your thinking. Provide the best return on Maryland's investment.”

GOC and the Children’s Cabinet have been charged with working across agencies and with other partners to ensure a more efficient and coordinated use of resources toward the common goals set for us by Governor Hogan.

6. How do Maryland’s Results for Child Well-Being tie into the four Strategic Goals?

As noted previously in the Questions and Answers Recap #1, we are transitioning over the upcoming years to target funding in support of the Governor’s four Strategic Goals. We are not abandoning the focus on Results and Indicators. In all years, the LMB is expected to prioritize Results and Indicators, and tie its Children’s Cabinet-funded programs to one or more of the standard Results and corresponding Indicators. In addition, the LMB will select one or more of the Strategic Goals on which to focus – so the Results and Indicators selected must “fit” with Strategic Goal. For example, if the Result “Families are Safe and Economically Stable” is prioritized by the LMB and the corresponding standard Indicator of “Homelessness” is prioritized, then “Youth Homelessness” is a Strategic Goal that could be aligned.