



State of Maryland Executive Department

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To: LMB Board Chairs and Points of Contact

From: Kim Malat, Deputy Director

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Re: Question and Answer Recap #4

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**1. What is meant by Child Hunger?**

Reducing Childhood Hunger, one of the Governor's Four Strategic Goals, addresses food insecurity as defined by "the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally-adequate and safe foods, or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways."

Strategies to address this goal should encourage family self-sufficiency and focus on far-reaching impact. Assisting people with obtaining food stamps or enrolling youth in school meal programs is, and has been, an extremely important first step. However, given that we are several years into this effort as a State, it is time to shift our strategies to the long-term solutions needed to address this goal. That does not preclude immediate hunger-alleviating strategies, but all programs should begin to add, or move toward, self-sufficiency approaches.

For example, partnerships around school or community gardens can be established or strengthened and could include weekly cooking programs that include parents for both the class and the meal. (A number of jurisdictions have such programs in place which could be expanded to other schools or used as models for other jurisdictions.) Another example is creating a hub for both enrollment and self-sufficiency programs, such as Baltimore City Health Department's Baltimarket ([www.baltimarket.org](http://www.baltimarket.org)). For more information see resources such as: Community Food Security Programs: What Do They Look Like? ([http://www.maineecf.org/portals/0/pdfs/shared/CFS\\_projects.pdf](http://www.maineecf.org/portals/0/pdfs/shared/CFS_projects.pdf)) or the USDA's Community Food Security Assessment Toolkit ([http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/327699/efan02013\\_1\\_.pdf](http://www.ers.usda.gov/media/327699/efan02013_1_.pdf))

**2. If an after-school program is providing a meal, does that address childhood hunger?**

Again, a meal is a very important first step, but initiatives that address childhood hunger should begin to focus on transformation, not transactions. Provision of a single meal is a transaction that results in no long-term impact for that child or family in addressing food insecurity. Program models that assist a family by teaching them how to access resources, develop skills to produce and/or secure their own food, and provide educational information on nutritionally-adequate and safe foods allows for transformation in meeting the ongoing needs of the family impacted by hunger. Any activity for Reducing Childhood Hunger should direct nearly all of its program activities toward the goal of reducing food insecurity.

Assuming that the community plan shows this as a critical need and the plan demonstrates that the program addresses a gap in resources in the county, an out-of-school time program that has almost 100% enrollment eligible for FARMs and program activities that address an aspect of food insecurity and/or family self-sufficiency (there is a daily activity related to a garden, cooking class, farmer's market, budgeting and shopping, etc.) would be eligible under this goal. If this is an out-of-school time program open to all students regardless of FARMs eligibility that provides a meal while the program is focused on non-food security activities (such as homework or sports activities), the program would not be eligible for funding simply through the provision of a meal.

**3. When looking at Reduce Youth Homelessness, can the youth be living with their parents who are also homeless?**

Please refer to the definitions associated with "Governor Hogan's Four Strategic Goals" in the PowerPoint presentation from September 10, 2015, *Looking Ahead: FY16-FY19*. The definition of youth homelessness excludes parental/guardian involvement, unless the youth is under age 24 and is the parent.

**4. What about a Wrap-around program that wraps the child of an incarcerated parent, the caregiver/parent and the incarcerated parent in services?**

Yes, this is eligible for funding under the Strategic Goals. Project SEEK, out of Michigan, is an example of a program model that addresses this target population. For more information on this or other program examples, explore The National Resource Center on Children and Families of the Incarcerated at <https://nrccfi.camden.rutgers.edu/>.

**5. Could Children's Cabinet Funds be utilized to address the needs of children of incarcerated parents who are part of a larger crossover youth initiative (i.e. youth in DJS and DSS)?**

Yes, such a plan may be acceptable, but the initiative must primarily target the children of incarcerated parents within the crossover population, or the population of crossover youth must be nearly 100% children of the incarcerated. In either case, the need for the program must be identified to be a critical need in the community plan

**6. If we chose to address “Reduce Impact of Incarceration on Children, Family and Communities”, can we look at a program that helps the incarcerated parent and/or the child, or is this goal specific to the incarcerated parent only?**

The goal is to reduce the impact on children, families or communities - that is the first priority. Given this scope, there are many different intervention types that could be designed, but any program must be shown to improve outcomes either directly or indirectly for the child. For example, parenting programs in a prison facility or detention center would provide skills to parents directly but, as with all parenting programs, also improve outcomes for their children. Other examples would include book reading programs, where parents are provided books to read to their children during visits or to read on tape to send to their children along with the book. Likewise, interventions that are known to reduce recidivism rates and improve the economic standing of parents, including those that promote educational attainment or workforce development, for example, would also be considered beneficial to the family and community as a whole (where the incarcerated individual is both a parent and involved with his family).

Additionally, interventions that are specifically aimed at children, including mentoring programs, educating schools and community partners that work with children, support groups or other behavioral health interventions specific to this population, or the revision of visitation protocols to make visiting a prison or jail more child-friendly, are also considered acceptable in the pursuit of this goal.

**7. What if the LMB decides that what is needed is someone to serve as the coordinator that links the needed programs (workforce development, housing, child care, soft skills, parenting skills, etc.) to serve pregnant and parenting teens and young adults? Can the coordinator be housed in the LMB?**

Yes, but be cautious about building infrastructure that may not be sustainable. If the LMB members review the community-specific data and services, and conclude that a resource rich area needs someone to link existing programs, that could be a part of a strategy. This could be navigation for a different population than has previously been funded by the CCIF.

**8. By incarcerated, do you mean currently or formerly?**

Both. As indicated in Answer #3, please refer to the definitions associated with “Governor Hogan’s Four Strategic Goals” in the PowerPoint presentation from September 10, 2015, *Looking Ahead: FY16-FY19*.

**9. Do LMBs have two years to transition programs that do not impact one or more of the Strategic Goals?**

If the community plan demonstrates that those programs currently funded by the Children’s Cabinet are critically needed in the jurisdiction, the LMB will be allowed time

to transition the program, not to exceed two years. Critical need should be demonstrated by:

- 1.) county-specific data that shows this is a significant problem in the jurisdiction (high rate of child poverty, high rate of single mothers under 24 living in poverty, high rate of youth homelessness, etc.);
- 2.) an assessment of local resources included in the plan that shows there are no, or insufficient, programs addressing this issue/need, and;
- 3.) the members of the LMB ranked the problem among the top issues needing to be addressed in the county, above all other problems identified in the community plan, based upon input from the community and their own assessment of the data.

If critical need is not clearly demonstrated (both in the needs of the population and the gaps in resources in the County) in the community plan, the program will not be funded with Children's Cabinet funds beginning in FY17 regardless of whether it is currently funded through the Children's Cabinet.

In either case, the LMB should begin the transition planning immediately, as this will become a part of the FY18 process for continued funding of those programs.

**10. Regarding Disconnected Youth - to confirm what has been stated previously, this target population is youth that are no longer in school, nor working. The goal is not about preventing youth from dropping out of school. Is that correct?**

Correct. Although a drop-out recovery program would be appropriate under this Strategic Goal.