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## **Boston City Council Committee on Ways and Means**

*Dockets #0524-0531 FY22 Budget  
Boston Centers for Youth and Families  
Docket #0537, BCYF Revolving Fund - City Hall Child Care  
Working Session: Tuesday, May 4, 21, 2:00 p.m.  
BCYF Hearing: Thursday, May 13, 2021, 10:00 a.m.*

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The following is a collection of questions that were asked by the Committee regarding the FY22 budget for the Boston Centers for Youth and Families at the Working Session on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Recording here: <https://youtu.be/6jxBne5Bovg>

The Administration is requested to respond to all questions in one of three ways:

1. Verbally at the BCYF hearing on Thursday, May 13th, at 10:00AM.
2. For factual questions, through written responses supplied prior to May 13th including budget book page numbers or other references where appropriate.
3. By deferring to a specific scheduled departmental budget hearing.

Please annotate and return this information request before May 13<sup>th</sup>, indicating how each question will be answered.

### **Boston Centers for Youth and Families Budget Questions**

#### **Councilor Kenzie Bok, Chair, asked:**

- The external funds relative to Double up Food Buck and Boston Children Hospital Boston-EATS are going to zero. Are these programs sunseting?
- Can you describe the specific roles of new BCYF employees added in this budget?
- The contracted services line has increased for summer programming; besides transportation, what do these contracts entail?
- What is the large increase to the repair and service to the equipment line?
- A year in, what is the operational difference in the movement of some anti-violence programming from BCYF to HHS last year? What is working and what still needs to be ironed out?
- In terms of BCYF performance measures, most of your goals are for FY22 to meet FY19 numbers, but the target number of teen visits is well below FY19 numbers. What is the reason for that?
- Describe the funding used to anchor some gender specific programming in some BCYF sites city-wide to help support the gender gaps. Please provide some details to ensure its inclusion on binary and trans youths.



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- Please provide an update on the new BCYF data system and how that's going to help us better measure the impact and equity of our programming -- or what it is going to measure.
- Can you please explain in detail BCYF's new fee structure? There is reference both to making it free and to implementing a new membership fee policy, so that is somewhat confusing.
- Last year we had talked about an expansion of BCYF's STEAM-based programming -- is that happening, and if so how so?
- Is BCYF anticipating any federal funds augmenting its work this year, besides those proposed to fund the annual budget?
- This may be a question for HHS, but how are SOAR and DND collaborating to make sure that housing access is part of our anti-violence work on employment pathways and other supports for young people?
- Does BCYF do any partnerships with or outreach to Native American and Indigenous youth? Boston is a hub for that community, although some members may live in surrounding towns; is there any flexibility, re: access to BCYF facilities, for a mixed Boston/not-Boston community like that?
- Can you provide an update on the Tobin Community Center specifically and whether there are any planned investments there, on the programming or capital side?
- Can you provide an update on the Hennigan Community Center and the prospects for a refresh and rethink of that facility?

### **Councilor Liz Breadon asked:**

- What are the plans for the Jackson Mann Community Center, which is the only community center in my district and where the building is scheduled to be closed in July of 2022? What is the plan for the continuation of programming moving forward, in the short-term and long term? Have you identified an interim space so the Community Center can continue operating without interruption?
- Commonwealth Housing and Fidelis Way and Faneuil Gardens Housing are lacking youth workers. Can we restore youth workers at these facilities to work with youths at risk to avert these young folks from getting into trouble and entering the juvenile justice system?



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- In FY2020 there was funding for Youth at Risk and there is no funding in this year's budget. How do you define "youth at risk" and how are allocations made for this population?

### **Councilor Richardo Arroyo**

- Please explain the decrease in the Children Hospital-Boston EATS- grant, Double Up Food Bucks grant, and the Tiny Tots program grant.
- Is BCYF planning on applying to any future rounds of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration program?
- In 2020 there seems to have been a drastic decrease in community center visits programs offered in teen visits as related to the pandemic. Can you talk about the decreases?
- Why is there a \$500,000 increase in non-personnel line items for sports and fitness? What represents this increase from zero in FY21 and 564 from FY20? Where did BCYF redirect its savings in utility, office furniture, and equipment and miscellaneous supply and materials?
- Of BCYF's 39 contracts only 1 is WBEs and none are MBEs or SLBEs. How is the Department planning to increase the number of WBEs, MBEs, and SLBEs?

### **Councilor Lydia Edwards, asked:**

- What are BCYF's plans to streamline its fee payments, are fees being temporarily or permanently lifted, and when or if fees do come back, how are we making sure they are consistent, accounted for, and structured for equality?

### **Councilor Michael Flaherty, asked:**

- Are the community centers aligned, in terms of programs and hours, with the type of services that cater to the needs of the senior and youth communities? How are we making sure there isn't a mismatch between staffing time and actual needs?
- Can you provide an update on all the community centers and the populations that they are serving and their hours of operation, to see if they line up around the programming -- especially during the summertime. We want to make sure that the community centers have pools, are serving as cooling centers, and are open for business for the right hours for the intended population.



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### **Councilor Ed Flynn, asked:**

- The Quincy Community Center received \$250,000 for replacing auditorium seating. What is the update on that and when it is going to happen?
- What are the renovations plans for the Blackstone Community Center?
- What are BCYF's outreach plans for youths and young adults during the summer time for tutoring programs, athletic programs, reading programs, and technology programs?
- What is BCYF doing regarding services for families, students, immigrants, and others around food access and overall wraparound services?

### **Councilor Julia Mejia, asked:**

- It's great to see programming created specifically for young girls. How can we build off that to include programming specific for other young people such as LBGQ+ youths.
- The documents we received from BCYF mentioned that BCYF will include a membership fee policy for all of their sites. What will that process look like and how will that impact low-income communities?
- The document also says that you will work with the City of Boston's Language Access Coordinator to expand translation and language interpretation. What will that process look like and what options do people who speak languages other than English currently have to access BCYF services?

## **BCYF Revolving Fund Questions**

### **Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, asked:**

- For FY20 expenditures of the revolving fund far outweigh the receipts. Was this due to COVID?
- Does BCYF draw from the operating fund when the expenditures are higher than the receipts?