

**City Council Working Session - BCYF, BCYF Revolving Fund
May 4th 2:00 PM**

BCYF:

- Councilor Bok

1. Double Up Food Bucks, Boston Eats external funds are listed at \$0 for FY22. Were these funds moved elsewhere or is the funding no longer available? ***These programs are now reflected within the Office of Health and Human Services where the Office of Food Access is funded.***
2. What are the main contracts the department has? ***Appendix E in the documents submitted to the Council lists our main contracts.***
3. What is the large increase to the repairs and services to equipment line item owed to? ***With the agreed-upon shift of BCYF site administrative costs from the site councils to BCYF, costs related to photocopying equipment operation and maintenance have been transferred.***
4. Can you explain what operational differences exist from HHS moving out of BCYF. ***The transition of HHS into its own department of the Office of Health and Human Services has allowed for HHS along with the Office of Food Access and the Office of Public Safety to take a more programmatic approach to their work than they had previously within BCYF.***
5. The number of teen visits is below FY19 number in your metrics. Why is this? ***For the months we were operating, our numbers were consistent, but for the months that we were impacted by COVID-19 our numbers were down. We expect they will be back up to normal as soon as we reopen fully.***
6. There is funding being put into girls-only programming. Details on this? Is it inclusive of trans and non-binary youth? ***Currently BCYF Girls Initiative is funded for gender specific girls only time weekly programming at community centers citywide however anyone who identifies as female is welcome to attend any BCYF girls programming. Additionally BCYF offers Girls Leadership Corps for middle school girls during the school year and in summer. For activities and recreational opportunities for girls BCYF Girls Nights gives girls a chance to socialize, receive resources and support.***
7. There is a new data system BCYF is implementing; is this monitoring programming? ***The new system will meet our data and operational needs, provide constituents and members with better service by allowing constituents to register for programs online and allow us to better track program registration and attendance.***

8. Can you speak to BCYFree and the structure of all of it? **Membership will be free for Boston residents but specific programming managed locally by the site councils may have fees to support the programming costs.**
9. Can you talk about STEAM-based programming? **We have a number of sites that offer STEAM and STEM based programming for youth and teenagers that include coding, robotics and Early Engineering. We also have an ongoing partnership with New England Aquarium on STEAM programming. We are always looking to expand and replicate these programs at other BCYF centers.**
10. What potential federal funding uses could you see not already in your budget? **New technology at centers such as tablets, laptops, STEAM, Robotics and funding for tutors at all centers for afterschool support to students to help recover from lost learning during pandemic.**
11. What has outreach been like to Native American and indigenous youth? **When we identify any ethnic group that needs assistance accessing our programs and activities we provide it. We try to reach all groups in our outreach by sharing information broadly including on social media, website, newsletter, via community organizations, via COB teams such as ONS, Age Strong, Food Access, BPS, BPD (via PAL), and our community center staff also share resources directly with residents within the neighborhood their center is located. If you are aware of specific organizations or programs that we should add to our lists please let us know, we are always happy to include more ways to reach constituents.**
12. Requests an update on SOAR housing and youth employment overlap. **SOAR Boston does not have a housing initiative. However, we are working diligently to identify housing resources for our program participants. It is one of our clients' greatest needs. In April, SOAR Boston piloted the Training and Development Institute (TDI), a workplace-readiness and core life skills virtual training program that offers specialized transitional employment for 20 young adults. The first cohort of 10 young adults officially launched on April 5. TDI is a 12 week program, operating 3 days per week for 10-12 hours per week at \$25 per hour. SOAR Boston's Service Delivery team has developed a tailored curriculum with three modules:**
 - **Exploration of Self** - Sets the foundation for the remainder of the program. Conversations will center on social and personal identities, privilege and burden of identities; systems of oppression and intersectionality.
 - **Training and Development** - Builds on the knowledge and skills learned during module 1, and introduces a series of hard skills which will allow entry level access to an array of employment fields.
 - **Workforce Readiness** - Focuses on professional development. Participants will work towards developing a network, presentation skills and documents to be work ready.

Currently, the first cohort is in module 2. Last week, 8 TDI program participants secured their First AID/CPR certifications through collaboration with Boston EMS. This training was hands on, and allowed our TDI program participants to meet in person for the first time. This week the cohort will begin the ServSafe, Customer Service & Sales and Osha-10 certifications. 80% of the program participants are attending and participating consistently. The second cohort will begin in the fall.

13. Requests an update on Tobin Community Center; any investments in programming or capital planned there. **BCYF Facilities is working with the Department of Youth Engagement & Employment Participatory Budgeting program to add a future media center to the BCYF Tobin lower level with budgeted costs of \$333,000. The BCYF Tobin recently received \$2.1M in energy efficiency upgrades through the City's Renew Boston Trust that includes new rooftop HVAC and ventilation system, solar Panel installation on the gym roof (both sides) and LED retrofitting upgrades throughout the facility (which also houses BCYF's Admin Office) as well as other cost effective energy efficiency improvements. The capital plan includes \$100,000 for repairing or replacing the retaining wall adjacent to the community center.**
14. Requests an update on BCYF Hennigan. **The BCYF Hennigan is housed within BPS' Hennigan School so any/all facilities upgrades and improvements as well as day to day custodial work (interior and exterior) are performed and funded by BPS facilities management not BCYF. We have collaborated on joint funding in the past in the gym and pool Areas. This one is a question that should be further addressed by BPS Facilities Management.**

- Councilor Breadon

15. The Jackson Mann will be closing for work. What are the plans for accommodating the services that are there like voting and others? **We are working with various COB departments to see what assets may be available for temporary relocation of the BCYF Jackson Mann. Voting and other services may have to relocate. BCYF's request in The FY22-FY26 Capital Plan includes \$100,000 for a Allston/Brighton Study to find locations to build a new BCYF facility in the coming years, one that can be open more hours, offer more programming, to people of all ages in the A/B area.**
16. Could BCYF provide more youth worker positions at Commonwealth Housing at Fidelis Way and Faneuil Gardens housing? **Commissioner Morales met with Councilor Breadon on the matter to further discuss next steps. We agreed that we are in favor of taking a collaborative approach on the matter with other youth serving organizations in the area and will further explore short to long term solutions to address this need because we currently do not have additional positions in the budget to assign to these specific locations.**

17. In 2020 there was an appropriation for Youth at Risk for \$33k but there has not been any money for Youth at Risk in FY21 and FY22... How do we define youth at risk and how do we decide on funding these? ***The \$33K spent in FY20 came from a one-time state-budget earmark for improvements at the Nazzaro Community Center, Youth at Risk was the State Line Item it referenced.***

- Councilor Flynn

18. Requests an update on Quincy Community Center auditorium upgrades. ***The BCYF Quincy CC is housed within the BPS Quincy School so any/all facilities upgrades and improvements as well as day to day custodial work (interior and exterior) are performed and funded by BPS facilities management not BCYF. We have collaborated on joint funding in the past in the gym and pool areas. We do have an update from BPS Facilities Management on the Quincy Auditorium upgrades and this project is actually in the bidding process now. We are hoping to get more details on the construction phase shortly also from BPS Facilities Management but the good news is that this work is coming soon.***

19. Requests an update on renovation plans at the Blackstone Community Center. ***The BCYF Blackstone CC is housed within the BPS Blackstone School so any/all facilities upgrades and improvements as well as day to day custodial work (interior and exterior) are performed and funded by BPS facilities management not BCYF. We have collaborated on joint funding in the past in the gym and pool areas. We are unaware of any specific renovation plans for the Blackstone facility. This question should be addressed to BPS.***

20. Requests an update on outreach to young people during the summer time. ***We use social media, share with community partners, post on our website, notify schools, distribute flyers, reach out to prior summers' participants etc.***

- Councilor Flaherty

21. Which community centers are serving seniors, and what are their working hours? ***Due to public health guidance, we are not allowed to serve seniors. We look forward to resuming senior programming soon. We do however currently offer some remote services at BCYF Golden Age and Grove Hall Senior centers and we have many seniors that take advantage of lap swim at our open pools.***

22. Are operation hours convenient at both senior and youth serving centers for their constituents? ***We believe so, yes.***

- Councilor Arroyo

23. Where did BCYF redirect its savings in Utilities? ***The savings realized by the Renew Boston Trust program are offset by debt service payments for the energy efficiency improvements made to the buildings.***

24. How is the department planning to increase the number of minority and women-owned businesses they contract with? ***BCYF awards its contracts according to the guidelines provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's General Laws as it relates to the Public Procurement statutes. Additionally, adhering to the executive order signed by Mayor Walsh in 2016, BCYF awards its contracts in strict adherence to the guidelines laid out by the City of Boston Equitable Procurement Process (EPP) which states that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE), Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Women Business Enterprise (WBE), and Veteran Owned Small Business Enterprise (VOSBE) firms shall be afforded full opportunity to submit qualifications in response to any invitation for bids and will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, gender, transgender status, political affiliation, age, sexual orientation or religion in any consideration leading to the award of a contract. No qualified disabled person shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in any consideration leading to the award of a contract. These guidelines are strictly followed by the department not only when issuing contracts valued at \$10,000.00 or more, but also when issuing service orders under the \$10,000.00 threshold using sound business practices.***
25. Does BCYF draw from their operating budget in City Hall Childcare when expenditures are higher than revenue? ***Yes, we do draw from the operating budget if necessary.***