

2022 Annual Report



building frameworks

amplifying voices

converting aspiration into action



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THE PAST YEAR WITH COLLABORATION COUNCIL

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Dear Friends,

We are excited to share with you our 2022 Annual Report! In it, you will find highlighted examples of the work we continue to do in partnership with a myriad of others to create transformational change for our community.

The transformational change we seek does not happen in just one year. Deep, sustained change is realized through continuous collaboration, not a singular interaction. We must build new relationships with those we serve, and also strengthen familiar ones.

In the upcoming year, we continue to look forward with enthusiasm and curiosity as we chart a path to remove barriers to opportunity and well-being – things that every member of our community rightfully deserves.

We thank the many collaborators with whom we work and who join us in creating innovative ideas. We thank our staff for their commitment to positive change and their ongoing dedication. With an immense feeling of gratitude, we also thank our community, those who are on the front lines demanding change and a well-deserved seat at the table. We ask you to join us in amplifying their voices and perspectives as we all work toward a more just and truly equitable future.

In Service and Solidarity,



Elijah Wheeler
Executive Director



Adriane Clutter
Chair, Board of Directors

About Us

Since 1992, the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families has brought together public and private service providers to address the needs of Montgomery County, Maryland's children and their families.

Designated as a Local Management Board by the State of Maryland, the Collaboration Council's purpose is to be a catalyst for agencies and other groups to collaborate to achieve positive results in the community.

Now a quasi-public nonprofit, our work continues to grow and change to meet the ever-evolving needs of the county's residents. Our work is led by a diverse and dedicated Board of Directors who represent the community we serve.

OUR VALUES: The Collaboration Council values active and authentic community engagement; the contribution of strong families to the well-being of children, youth, and their families; and the importance of ensuring all people have equitable opportunities to achieve success, regardless of their individual identities or social group memberships. The Collaboration Council's current agenda is to promote access to care, ensure all youth have a successful transition to adulthood, and build equitable opportunities for all children and youth to thrive.

MISSION

To promote the well-being of children, youth and families through collaborative partnerships.

VISION

To nurture a caring Montgomery County community with stable families, in a place where children are healthy, safe, ready to learn, successful in school, and prepared for life.

OUR APPROACH

We shape our areas of focus and community outcomes by staying in a mode of active listening, as well as conducting a formal Community Needs Assessment every three years.

To learn more, visit collaborationcouncil.org/our-approach

Community Engagement is a hallmark of the Collaboration Council's approach to transformation. In 2022, our Community of Practice was reimagined as a Community of Engagement (CoE). The CoE hosts community forums, listening sessions, and community-led trainings.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Advancing Youth Development

Our signature Community of Practice (CoP) program, Advancing Youth Development (AYD) Training, is an intensive four-day professional development opportunity for community youth workers who work directly with youth ages 10 to 24 in school and community settings in Montgomery County.

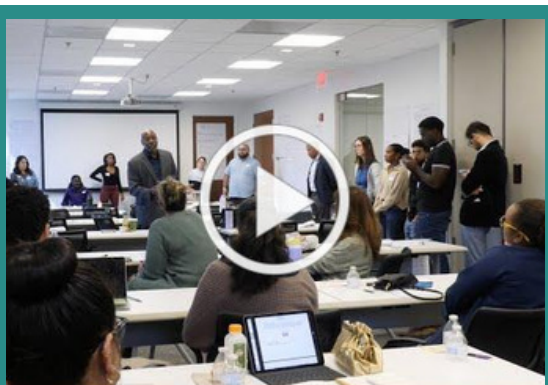
AYD Training gives participants the necessary tools and skills to understand youth culture. Participants learn how to help youth navigate and use resources, identify their own strengths, and define and achieve their goals.

In 2022, after two years of hosting AYD online, we celebrated the return to in-person training for 34 Montgomery County youth practitioners, several of whom are featured in the video below.

VIDEO

Participants reflect on what the AYD Training in September 2022 meant to them.

Click the image to watch on YouTube.



In 2022, the Community of Engagement (CoE) proudly launched Conversations at the Intersection.

This series is meant to be an exploration of the multiple layers and identities that we experience, and then to discuss how those identities – and the intersectionality of those identities – impact how we navigate the world we live in.

Another aspect of this conversation, which is mirrored in the overall CoE, is having a platform that provides tools for understanding each other and our lived experiences. Topics explored this past year include anti-Black racism, antisemitism, and supporting LGBTQIA+ people.

VIDEO

Dr. Rodney Glasgow, one of our conversation facilitators, addresses the question "What is identity development?"

Click the image to watch on YouTube.





PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

infoMONTGOMERY

The website infoMONTGOMERY.org is a collaborative effort of public and private agencies to provide detailed information about health, education, and human service resources throughout Montgomery County. This resource provides information about more than 500 organizations and more than 1,300 programs in 16 categories.

In 2022, infoMONTGOMERY experienced an 11% increase in searches compared to the previous year, particularly for resources supporting:

- Digital equity
- Emergency financial assistance
- English language learners
- Living with special needs
- Recreational opportunities

Learn more at infoMONTGOMERY.org

R.E.D. Committee

The Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R.E.D.) Committee is tasked with addressing disparities in treatment and outcomes for youth of color. In 2022, the R.E.D. Committee stood in solidarity with MCPS students to advocate for removing law enforcement officers from schools.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Youth Action Board

The Youth Action Board is a collaborative entity supported by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (Services to End and Prevent Homelessness), the Collaboration Council, the Montgomery County Interagency Commission on Homelessness, and the MoCo Reconnect Youth Drop-In Center and its partners.

The YAB consists of community members ages 17 to 24 who have lived expertise and a desire to influence the way their peers and future generations of young people experience homelessness in Montgomery County. Their voice helps hold government and nonprofits accountable.

Thirteen youth were involved with the YAB last year. One of their key activities was participating in four community meetings with Arts on the Block to plan interior design for the MoCo ReConnect Youth Drop-In Center that opened in June 2022 (see *next page*). The YAB also held monthly community outreach events, connecting with youth and sharing resources at local high schools, community centers and parks, and at the new Drop-In Center.



On June 25, 2022, MoCo ReConnect, along with the Youth Action Board, co-hosted a Pride Youth Open Mic at Woodside Urban Park featuring poetry, stories, and songs.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Youth Drop-In Center: MoCo ReConnect

On June 22, 2022, we celebrated the ribbon cutting of the new Youth Re-engagement Drop-in Center, located in Wheaton. The Drop-in Center is a unique approach in Montgomery County as the only dedicated youth space specifically centering the needs of youth ages 16 to 24, particularly those impacted by housing insecurity and seeking alternative opportunities to traditional education pathways.

MoCo ReConnect values youth as decision-makers and has centered the design of the space and programming around the voice of its Youth Action Board. The Re-engagement Center brings together, for the first time under one roof, a collaboration of agencies providing outreach, case management, education, housing assistance, and employment training.

Recognizing that Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ young people are disproportionately impacted by systems that lead to disconnection from school and/or homelessness, the Collaboration Council, through MoCo ReConnect, ensures that providers offer culturally relevant programming and LGBTQIA+ service navigators to create a safe and welcoming space for all.



FY22 Outcomes

- 217 young people referred to programming
- 70% (154) of referrals enrolled in programming to take advantage of case management
- 86% (133) of participants reported enrollment in education programming, job training, or obtained/maintained employment

Learn more at
MoCoReConnect.org



PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Conservation Corps

In partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and Latin American Youth Center, the Collaboration Council administers this initiative, providing opportunities for several dozen young people each year (ages 17 to 24) to gain hands-on experience in the environmental sector by working on conservation projects in the field (including County, State, and National Parks as well as in the nonprofit environmental community), while balancing this with work in the classroom as they work toward gaining their GEDs.

Evening Reporting Center

The Evening Reporting Center (ERC) is an after-school program for court-involved youth that serves as an alternative to detention.

The program seeks to provide structure during evening hours through therapeutic intervention, skill-building and service learning.

Climate Justice Initiative

Since May 2022, the Collaboration Council has been actively engaged in an innovative co-creation effort to advance climate and racial justice. Working in close collaboration with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, community-based organizations, and community members, the goal of the Climate Justice Initiative is to challenge conventional top-down planning approaches and shift instead towards a co-creation process where power flows equitably between local government and frontline communities in order to advance real, just solutions that directly impact people's everyday lives.

This initiative presents an exciting and innovative opportunity for grassroots residents, community-facing organizations, and County government to work together to forge an anti-racist, climate change-ready region – where everyone not only has what they need to survive, but also what they need to thrive.

In addition to our County government partners and community members, our community-based partners for the Climate Justice Initiative include Latin American Youth Center, Everyday Canvassing, Faith Alliance for Community Equity and Sustainability (FACES), IMPACT Silver Spring, CASA, and the Montgomery County Racial Equity (MORE) Network.





MoCo BOOST
GUARANTEED INCOME
PILOT MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, MD

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Guaranteed Income Pilot

Montgomery County's Guaranteed Income Pilot, MoCo BOOST, is an initiative to provide \$800 a month to 300 Montgomery County households for 24 months.

The pilot is made possible through a public-private combination of County funding (via a special appropriation by the County Council) and a \$1 million private investment by the Meyer Foundation. The pilot includes 100 households recently served by the Montgomery County Homeless Continuum of Care and 200 participants with at least one child/dependent who had previously sought assistance from the County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

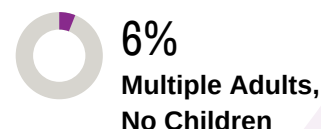
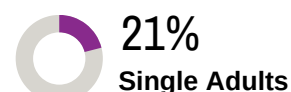
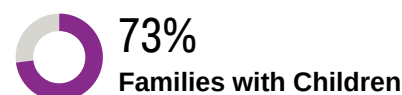
VIDEO

Introduction to MoCo BOOST Guaranteed Income Pilot.

Click the image to watch on YouTube.



ENROLLMENTS BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE



ENROLLMENTS BY GENDER



VIDEO

On November 17, 2022, MoCo BOOST participants and their families came together at Arts on the Block for a Fall Family Social Hour.

Click the image to watch on YouTube.



Learn more at MoCoBOOST.org

Our Community Health & Well-Being department focuses on the combination of social, economic, cultural, and environmental factors – otherwise known as the social determinants of health – that people need to achieve health equities. By adopting a health-equity framework, we believe that a baseline level of health is actually achievable for all people across the lifespan.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Children with Intensive Needs

The Children with Intensive Needs (CWIN) program provides referrals to family-driven and culturally competent services and supports to youth experiencing emotional and/or behavioral health challenges as well as developmental disabilities and their families.

Our Pathway to Services office is a specialized access point that provides information that connects youth and their caregivers to community-based supports and services in Montgomery County.

Youth requiring a higher level of intensive services are referred to the Collaboration Council's Local Care Team (LCT), which is a coordinated interagency team designed to assist parents/caregivers with accessing and coordinating services, as well as developing plans of care for community-based services.

The LCT also serves as the access point to wraparound care, a strengths-based, family-driven process that puts in place an array of services and informal supports to help strengthen families and address emotional and behavioral concerns. The goal of the LCT is to ensure that every family feels supported, valued, heard, and respected.

FY22 Outcomes

- 776 calls received by Pathway to Services Office
- 108 cases referred to and reviewed by Local Care Team (LCT)
- 35 LCT cases were referred for wraparound services and a total of 62 youth were served

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Healthy Families Montgomery

Healthy Families Montgomery (HFM) is a nationally accredited home-visiting program for first-time parents.



HFM, through our partner provider Sheppard Pratt, promotes child well-being through the use of family focused and empathic support provided in the home.

Program participants receive services for three years, and emphasis is placed on health care, child development, parenting education and support, and family self-sufficiency.

FY22 Outcomes

- 89 families served through 1,405 home visits
 - 100% of mothers who delivered in FY22 completed postpartum care
 - 98% of children had a primary health care provider
 - 97% of children up to the age of 2 completed immunizations
- ** There were no reported cases of child abuse or neglect among program participants.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Basics

The Basics is a community-level initiative designed to improve early childhood outcomes by ensuring that ALL children begin kindergarten with the skills and attitudes they need to truly thrive.

We are excited to work with community partners to implement The Basics in Montgomery County's 20877 zip code. The Basics is a free program that consists of five evidence-based parenting and caregiving principles that promote high-quality cognitive and social-emotional development among children 0-5. The purpose of these principles is to emphasize that everyday interactions between children, their parents, and other caregivers provide abundant opportunities to improve early childhood outcomes, including kindergarten readiness.

In 2022, we participated in several community outreach events to increase awareness of The Basics in zip code 20877. These events included The Gaithersburg Book Festival and a Summer Community Day at Harriet Tubman Elementary School. In addition to the distribution of educational and promotional materials to help more parents become familiar with The Basics, we also promoted Basics Insights, a free text messaging program that helps parents incorporate early childhood learning into everyday routines.

We convene The Basics Advisory Committee which includes a dozen public- and private-sector implementing partners.



You may spot our posters about The Basics at bus stops in the Gaithersburg/20877 area.



Learn more at
collaborationcouncil.org/TheBasics

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Substance Use Prevention

We work in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to implement substance use prevention strategies that educate about the long- and short-term consequences of substance use and misuse, and the importance of safe storage and proper disposal of prescription opioids.

Media Campaigns

In addition to flyers created specifically for Prescription Drug Take Back Day, targeted social media posts highlighted a different take-back location each month. A total of 15 posts reached approximately 53,560 County residents and had an engagement rate of 455.

Approximately 929 pounds of medications were collected at six MCPD district stations.

Additionally, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and rise in mental health challenges among youth, social media posts encouraged youth to ask for help to address their mental health concerns.

We partnered with Montgomery County DHHS and Surviving our Ultimate Loss to create a video for International Opioid Awareness Day allowing family members to tell the stories of loved ones lost to accidental overdoses.

FY22 Social Media Outcomes

- 1,534 total engagements
- 341,944 user impressions
- 345,427 Montgomery County residents reached



Youth Ambassadors Program

The aim of this program is for ambassadors to educate peers and their families about underage drinking, non-medical use of prescription drugs, and related mental health challenges; learn about policy change; and build advocacy skills.

In FY22, 12 MCPS schools and 2 private schools participated in the Youth Ambassadors Program.

Learn more at:

MontgomeryCountyPreventionAlliance.org

KnowTheRisksMC.org



**Montgomery County
Prevention Alliance**

Our Out-of-School Time (OST) framework utilizes a Positive Youth Development approach to ensure that young people have access to quality out of school programming so that they can be supported in ways that are safe, accessible, and youth-focused.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Excel Beyond the Bell

The Excel Beyond the Bell (EBB) Collaborative is a public-private partnership created by the Collaboration Council to inspire our youth to realize their full potential by offering safe, quality, and accessible out-of-school time programs. EBB works in partnership with the Montgomery County Recreation Department, Montgomery County Public Schools, and other community-based organizations.

In FY22, EBB served **1,290 students** through **96 programs** at eight middle schools.

VIDEO

Lauching a new year of Excel Beyond the Bell, fall 2022.

Click the image to watch on YouTube.



Learn more at
ExcelBeyondtheBell.org

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Montgomery County Community Youth Support & Engagement (MoCoCYSE)

MoCoCYSE was created in response to widespread pandemic-related disconnection from in-person out-of-school-time engagements and to a call for an increase in social-emotional supports for Montgomery County's middle- and high-school youth.



MoCoCYSE is a public-private partnership working together with the Montgomery County Council, Montgomery County Department of Recreation, and Montgomery County Community Use of Public Facilities. The program leverages community space and youth service partnerships to provide OST program engagement opportunities and supports for youth and families.

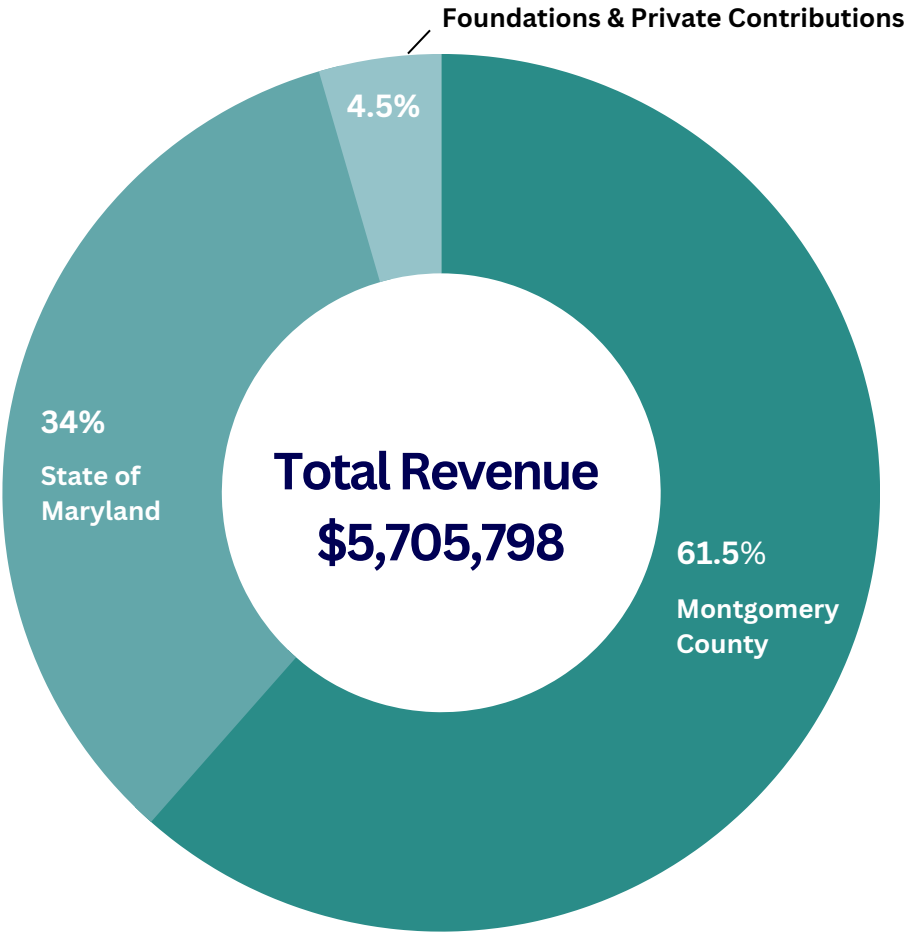
FY22 Outcomes

- 1,051 youth engaged in programming ranging in duration from 4-6 weeks with a 90% participation rate
- 80% of youth reported that the program made them feel safe, and 72% reported that the program made them feel like they belonged and were a part of a group

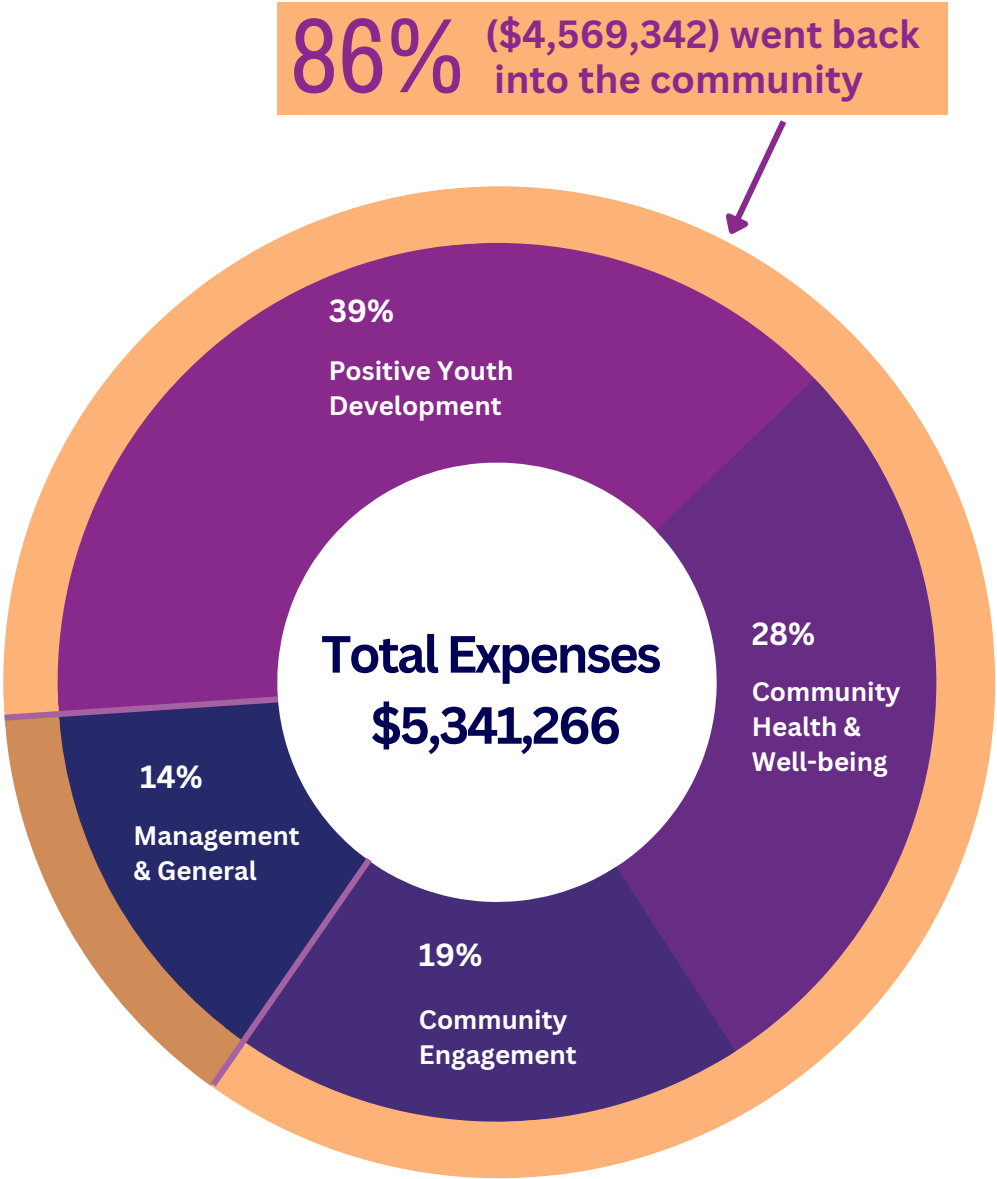
Financials: Fiscal Year 2022

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

FINANCIALS



No revenue from Federal Government in FY22



Contributors & Collaborators

Our work is made possible by the generosity and support of the following donors:

Private Donations & Grants

America's Charities

Christ Congregational Church

Foundation Housing

Meyer Foundation

Michelle Taylor and BETAH Associates

National Basketball Players Association

The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

United Way of the National Capital Area

Individual Donors

Jerrilyn Matthews

Lorraine A. Rogstad

Navid Salimian

Jana Sharp

Erin Taylor

Public Funders

Montgomery County

State of Maryland



We accomplish more by working collaboratively with partners across the County.

Many thanks to the following providers:

480 Club
 Abrakadoodle
 Arts on the Block
 Ball 2 Life
 Big Learning
 Camp Fire Patuxent
 Clancy Works
 Communibuild
 Community Bridges
 Crittenton Services of Greater Washington
 Davinci STEAM Academy
 DrewStar Productions
 Elite Soccer Youth Development Academy
 Empowering the Ages
 Future Resource Learning
 Gen Next Group
 Girls on the Run of Montgomery County
 The Imprint
 Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA)
 KIDS Kitchen

Latin American Youth Center (LAYC)
 Latino Student Fund
 Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center
 Liberty's Promise
 My Girlssss
 National Center for Children and Families (NCCF)
 Passion For Learning
 Play Ball Academy
 Poach Sizzle Stir
 Pride Youth Services
 Queens Royal Priesthood
 Rosemary Hills Lacrosse
 SciTech2U
 Sheppard Pratt (formerly Family Services Inc.)
 SMYAL
 So What Else
 Take Flight
 Washington Youth Foundation
 Wildcat Steppers
 YMCA

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DHHS Representative

Anita Vassallo

Montgomery County Public Libraries Representative

Lori-Christina Webb

MCPS Board of Education Representative

Board list reflects the composition of the Board as of December 31, 2022

Our People

as of December 31, 2022



Elijah Wheeler, Executive Director

Susan Guevera Augusty, infoMONTGOMERY Program Coordinator

Kathy Boland, Local Care Team (LCT) Coordinator /
Pathways Resource Specialist

Meredith Bowers, Deputy Director

Alycia Chuney, Re-engagement Project Director

Alicia Church, Operations Manager

Freddy Climaco, Out-of-School Time Program Coordinator

Peter Garza, Communications Manager

Jenny Kim, Senior Accountant

Sandy Lombardo, Finance Director

Yaineababa Masresha, Accountant

Zamzam Nur, Grants and Contracts Coordinator

Karina Funes-Oviedo, CWIN & The Basics Program Coordinator

Jayne Park, Senior Fellow of Innovation

Jade-Ann Rennie, Public Health Program Manager

Thylan Singleton, Out-of-School Time Program Manager

Bezil Taylor, Community Engagement Specialist

Kurt Turnier, Youth & Community Program Coordinator



**We thank the following consultants
for their expertise & support:**

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Amy Southerland, Wordhoney

Annual report digital production by Wordhoney

Contact Us

Montgomery County Collaboration Council

1803 Research Blvd, Suite 208

Rockville, Maryland 20850

(301) 610-0147

info@collaborationcouncil.org

