

Baltimore City Youth Data Hub

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The Baltimore Youth Data Hub is a collaborative cross-sector effort which aims to help agencies and policymakers make informed decisions on the complex needs facing youth and families across the city.

Who: Baltimore's Promise

Where: Baltimore, Maryland

Management Model: Community-Based Organization

Domains: Education, Community-based organizations, Health, Housing

The Baltimore City Youth Data Hub integrates individual-level data across Baltimore's Promise (a collective impact non-profit), Baltimore City Public Schools, and the City of Baltimore. Authorized through legislation in 2022, the Youth Data Hub has a community governance model where Baltimore City residents have many ways to get involved and direct data and policy priorities.

Although the Baltimore City Youth Data Hub was officially established by State of Maryland legislation in 2022, conversations on establishing an integrated data system in the city started in 2015 and much groundwork was laid in those early years. At the time, the legal landscape in Maryland did not allow for the sharing of individual-level data between public institutions and nonprofit organizations without cumbersome ad hoc legal agreements that could not facilitate the type of on-going data sharing that partners envisioned. The Baltimore community acknowledged that in order to understand how best to serve its youth residents—from topics covering kindergarten readiness, summer programming, postsecondary pathways, and more—the city needed an integrated data system that would allow data to be shared, linked, and analyzed seamlessly.

In 2017, work on the Youth Data Hub advanced when Baltimore's Promise joined the [AISP Equity in Practice Learning Community](#) (EiPLC) to share with and learn from other integrated data systems around the country. Soon after this experience, the Baltimore's Promise team convened two working groups. First, they developed a project team that included representatives from the City, City Schools, and nonprofit organizations to think through vision, governance, shared data priorities, community engagement, and equity. Second, they formed a city-wide data workgroup to help inform the data agenda and to discuss centering equity. Through these two groups, they developed a race and equity framework as well as the following guiding principles for the Baltimore City Data Hub:

Baltimore City Youth Data Hub

1. Quality data analysis can only be achieved with an understanding of historical context and competence.
2. Transparency and community trust building are key priorities of data governance, sharing, and use.
3. The Data Hub will focus on improving system-level program efficiencies and service coordination, not on individual participants.
4. Data will be used to highlight and eliminate racial disparities and inequities.
5. Data use will be ethical, and transparent, and enforce high standards of privacy.

In 2020 and 2021, Baltimore's Promise focused on developing the foundational legal agreements needed to create the Youth Data Hub. Originally, with the support of AISP, legal consultants, and their partners' legal teams, the plan was to establish the Youth Data Hub with a series of MOUs and data-sharing agreements providing legal authority. Soon, they discovered that this solution would not work within the context of Maryland law, so the group pivoted to draft legislation authorizing an exception to sharing certain types of data restricted by the Maryland Public Information Act. After the legislation was drafted, team representatives, including Baltimore City Mayor Brandon M. Scott, testified in Annapolis on behalf of the Data Hub. On April 11, 2022, state legislation authorizing the Baltimore City Youth Data Hub passed, and the law went into effect on June 1, 2022.

The Youth Data Hub adheres to a community governance model, with oversight from three core committees.

The **Executive Committee** includes the Mayor of Baltimore City and the CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools (or their designees), and is charged with overseeing the work of the Youth Data Hub. With a commitment to transparency and accountability, quarterly meetings of the Executive committee are open to the public and widely advertised.

The **Data Oversight Committee (DOC)**, made up of data and programming staff of institutions that provide data to the Youth Data Hub, meets monthly to oversee the development and implementation of policies and procedures governing how data are accessed and used.

The **Community Research and Action Committee (C-RAC)** is an intergenerational group of 14 Baltimore Residents, half of whom are age 26 or younger, that helps drive the vision and purpose of the Youth Data Hub. Members of the C-RAC ensure that lived experiences are central to data products, that data is digestible and accessible to multiple different audiences, and that the questions and projects of the Youth Data Hub serve the wider Baltimore City Community.

Baltimore City Youth Data Hub

The Youth Data Hub's first use case, the Summer Engagement Ecosystem, was conducted in 2024 and answers questions about the landscape of summer programming opportunities in Baltimore City. Next, the Youth Data Hub will work on other projects related to kindergarten readiness, postsecondary pathways, and other questions the Baltimore City community seeks to answer.

Both national and local philanthropic foundations fund the Baltimore City Youth Data Hub. They are particularly grateful for the support of local foundations such as the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. Additionally, they have received funding through the AISP Equity in Practice Learning Cohort grant and the MADE for Health Justice grant, both initiatives of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Learn more about the [Baltimore Youth Data Hub](#) on their site and on their [AISP Network page](#).



This is part of a series of case studies that expand on work written for AISP's Toolkit for Centering Racial Equity Throughout Data Integration Version 2.0. The original Toolkit, released in 2020, catalyzed the formation of the Equity in Practice Learning Community (EiPLC), a cohort-based technical assistance initiative to put the Toolkit into practice in ten sites. The updated Toolkit is the result of a year-long Participatory Action Research (PAR) Project, and learnings from EiPLC cohorts.