



# THE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR **WES MOORE**

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR CHILDREN**

## **At-Risk Youth Prevention and Diversion Programs Annual Report FY 2024**

**Human Services Article § 8-605**

**Wes Moore**  
Governor

**Aruna Miller**  
Lt. Governor

**Carmel Martin**  
Special Secretary  
Governor's Office for Children

Submitted by:  
Governor's Office for Children

Contact: Christina Drushel Williams  
[christina.drushel@maryland.gov](mailto:christina.drushel@maryland.gov)

December 15, 2024



December 17, 2024

The Honorable Wes Moore  
Governor of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable William C. "Bill" Ferguson IV  
President of the Senate  
State House, H-107  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Adrienne Jones  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House, H-101  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Report required by Human Services Article § 8-605 (MSAR # 15696); At-Risk Youth Prevention and Diversion Programs Annual Report**

Dear Governor Moore, President Ferguson, and Speaker Jones:

In accordance with § 8-605 of the Human Services Article, which requires the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) to prepare and submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31st of each year about the implementation and effectiveness of at-risk youth prevention and diversion programs, please accept this letter as fulfillment of the required report.

**Background:** The report requirement was introduced in 2006 legislation, which included a potential addition to the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF) in the amount of \$10 million for at-risk prevention and diversion programs, but the legislation did not pass. In 2008 legislation, a bill passed that required the report with no dedicated funding stream, however, the CCIF appropriation increased over \$20 million from 2007 through 2008. The 2008 report referenced the uncoded requirement. Pursuant to its charge, GOC has submitted the required report to date, with the last report submission for state fiscal year 2023.

As this report requirement was initially tied to uncodified intent language that has no dedicated funding stream for at-risk youth prevention and diversion programs, GOC respectfully requests to permanently remove the report requirement. Although GOC works collaboratively with members of the Children's Cabinet on improving services for at-risk youth, we do not administer programs dedicated to these purposes. Further, the passage of the ENOUGH Act during the 2024 legislative session laid out a more comprehensive vision for supporting child wellbeing and ending child poverty that includes, but is not limited to, access to prevention and diversion programs.

Local Management Boards (LMBs) receiving CCIF funding will align their theory of action to the ENOUGH Act, which includes a range of priorities, including access to high-quality education and care, access to programs designed to support at-risk youth, enabling family-sustaining income and access to affordable high-quality housing, child care, and health care. Requiring LMBs to report on at-risk prevention and diversion programs as one particular

subset of funding activities is incompatible with this broader cross-sector approach. GOC, LMBs and ENOUGH grantees will continue to report on a range of activities consistent with statutory requirements, including publishing data dashboards against a broad set of indicators and measures, releasing a 3-year strategic plan aligned to ENOUGH results areas in 2025, and an annual legislative report issued by the Maryland Association of Local Management Boards. These reports will include their work related to at-risk youth prevention and diversion activities.

Should you have any questions relating to the request or information provided, please feel free to contact me at [carmel.martin@maryland.gov](mailto:carmel.martin@maryland.gov) or GOC's Deputy Secretary, Susan Inman, at [susan.inman@maryland.gov](mailto:susan.inman@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carmel', followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line.

Carmel Martin  
Special Secretary

**cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)**