



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

---

**ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550**

**ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270**

---

**HB 1278**

**DATE: March 11, 2026**

**SPONSOR: Delegate Smith**

**ASSIGNED TO: Ways and Means**

**CONTACT PERSON: Leslie Frey**

( [leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:leslie.frey@montgomerycountymd.gov))

**POSITION: SUPPORT (Department of Health and Human Services)**

---

### **Maryland Positive Youth Development Commission and Fund – Establishment**

House Bill 1278 establishes the Maryland Positive Youth Development Commission in the Maryland State Department of Education to make grant awards to statewide youth-serving organizations, local governments, and schools delivering youth programs outside regular school hours. The grants will be made from the Maryland Positive Youth Development Fund which will consist of all revenues consisting of funds received by the State from any source resulting, directly or indirectly, from any judgment against or settlement with social media companies found to have harmed youth.

For the past two decades, Montgomery County Government has created and funded myriad positive youth development program initiatives across County government departments, investing heavily in a supportive, violence-free community for children, youth and families where young people are valued, treated with dignity and given opportunities to realize their full potential. The County and its partners respond to the urgent need to reach out to support youth who are faced with challenges including gang involvement, poverty, and pressure to engage in risky behavior. The Youth Development Team works to ensure young people are healthy, connected, and productive during out-of-school time. Program staff work to change the landscape of communities by tackling pressing and diverse issues, reducing barriers to participation, and improving equitable access to high quality out-of-school time opportunities which improve outcomes for young people. Positive youth development strategies are used to meet youth where they are and include opportunities, programs, and services which emphasize active and healthy living, youth leadership and social equity, engagement in learning, workforce readiness, and connection to caring adult role models. House Bill 1278 recognizes the importance of the work being done by local governments to engage young people by dedicating funds received as a result of litigation against social media companies who have harmed children to supporting this type of impactful programming.

Because Montgomery County has demonstrated its commitment to Positive Youth Development programming and would benefit from additional State support of our work in the form of these grants, the Department of Health and Human Services respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1278.