CHOICE VISION
Envisioning communities where youth make choices that strengthen their lives, their families, and their world.

CHOICE MISSION
Strengthening communities through innovative, family-focused strategies that connect youth to opportunities for positive choices.

QUESTIONS?
PROGRAMMING: choiceprogram@umbc.edu
RECRUITMENT: choiceserves@umbc.edu

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Who We Serve:
• Young people aged 13 - 17 in Baltimore City & their families
• Families referred from the Department of Social Services (DSS) whose children are at risk of entering the foster care system.

What We Offer:
• Voluntary services aimed to prevent out of home placement of youth & preservation of family unit through intensive mediation & informal counseling
• Family-centered activities & connecting to key support services in the community

PROGRAM SERVICES
Youth Development
• Consistent connection to positive role models
• Informal counseling & conflict resolution
• Structured recreational, educational, & community service activities
• Daily contact through home, school, & community
• Job readiness training & employment development
• Weekly school visits aimed to increase attendance & performance

Family Engagement
• Assistance in navigating school & court systems
• Accompaniment to court hearings
• 24/7 crisis intervention
• Parental support

Community Resources
• Case management & referral services for family & youth needs
• Liaison to DSS, including regular case manager meetings & written updates

The Choice DSS Foster Care Diversion Program provides intervention services to families who are at risk of entering the foster care system. We believe all children deserve a healthy home environment in which they can thrive.

1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250
410.455.2493
www.choiceprogram.org
Follow us online!

INTENSIVE ADVOCACY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

The Choice DSS Foster Care Diversion Program provides intervention services to families who are at risk of entering the foster care system. We believe all children deserve a healthy home environment in which they can thrive.
The DJS Intensive Advocacy Program provides an effective alternative to the incarceration of youth. We believe young people thrive when they have access to supportive resources and are able to contribute to, and connect with, their communities.
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CHOICE EDUCATION PROGRAM
IN PARTICIPATING BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Choice Education Program utilizes supported education strategies to provide in-school services, out-of-school services, and parent support to ensure youth succeed in their educational goals.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Who We Serve:
• Young people directly referred from partnering Baltimore City Public Schools (Elementary, Middle, & High Schools)

What We Offer:
• School-based & community-based interventions to reduce suspensions, expulsions, & in-school arrests
• Ways to address & appropriately navigate issues as they arise during the school day
• Assurance that learning and behavioral plans are up to date for all students
• A response to the school-to-prison pipeline

PROGRAM SERVICES

Alternatives to Traditional School Discipline
• Behavior intervention & behavior plans
• Short-term academic-focused out-of-class sessions
• Classroom coaching

Youth Development
• Consistent connection to positive role models
• On-site afterschool programming 2 days a week
• Weekly recreational, educational, & career preparation activities
• Daily attendance monitoring

Family Engagement
• Attendance & advocacy at school meetings
• Home visits to engage families & connect to educational goals
• 24/7 crisis support

Community Resources
• Case management & referral services for family & youth needs
• Service learning & community service opportunities

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THE CHOICE JOBS PROGRAM
PREPARING YOUTH FOR THE WORLD OF WORK

We believe the first job is an essential experience for the growth and development of a young person. The Choice Jobs Program allows youth to carve a unique pathway to employment success.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Who We Serve:
• Young people aged 14 - 24
• Youth connected with other Choice Program areas & referred from the Department of Juvenile Services, Department of Social Services, & community

The Flying Fruit (FF) Social Enterprise:
• On-the-job training for program youth
• Food service locations specializing in fruitshakes, coffee & frozen yogurt
• 3 locations: Camden Yards, Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, & café at the University of Baltimore
• Operates year round (UB Location only)

PROGRAM SERVICES
Individual and Group Job Readiness Training
• Career exploration
• Resumes & cover letters
• Job searching & completing applications
• Interviewing skills & practice

On-the-Job Training (at FF social enterprise)
• Time management
• Customer service
• Problem solving & making good decisions
• Workplace communication & conflict resolution
• Job retention

Life Skills Development
• Financial literacy training
• Linkage to community resources

Placing Youth in Jobs
• Relationship-building with employers
• Paid internships with community partners
• Linkage to employment after program