



**Committee:** Joint  
**Committee Review:** At a future date  
**Staff:** Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst  
**Purpose:** To receive testimony/final action - vote expected  
**Keywords:** newcomers

AGENDA ITEM #11  
July 27, 2021  
**Public Hearing/Action**

## SUBJECT

Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget; Montgomery County Government; Department of Health and Human Services [(\$2,903,172)] \$3,183,185; Montgomery County Department of Recreation (\$300,000); Community Engagement Cluster (\$330,000); and Montgomery County Public Schools (\$1,585,633); (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves); Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

## COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Joint Health & Human Services (HHS) and Education & Culture (E&C) Committee held a worksession on July 22, 2022. The Joint Committee received an update on the County's proposed framework for assisting and supporting Newcomers (newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children, youth, and families) and the Executive's proposed funding to support this framework.
- The Joint Committee recommends two amendments: (1) the addition of \$280,013 to fund four positions and two vans to enhance Street Outreach Network (SON) services; and (2) shifting of \$93,000 within the recommendation for the Department of Recreation to allow the department to hire a merit administrator rather than a contractor. The Joint Committee discussed the importance merit positions to create stability for these positions. It was noted in the discussion of SON the importance of building long-term relationships with the youth that are being served.

## DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

This appropriation will fund a coordinated and effective response to support newcomers to Montgomery County that include newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children, adolescents and families. Funding to the County Government departments will support communication and navigation, social services, school-based health and human services (including expansion of existing Wellness Center services), mental health supports, case management, legal needs for children and families, and youth recreation programming. Funding to Montgomery County Public Schools will support coordination, professional development and training, transitional counselors, and elementary coaches for Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE).

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- An Interagency Committee has been working to create a model for Montgomery County to prepare and respond to the needs of newly arriving children, many who will be enrolling in MCPS. The goals of this coordinated response are to: (1) strengthen interagency coordination and create a navigation network; (2) enhance family and community-based supports; and (3) strengthen education and school-based services. The goals reflect national best practices.

- Significant components in the funding requested are coordinator positions for both DHHS and MCPS; support for MCPS METS (Multidisciplinary Education, Training, and Support) and SLIFE (Students with Limited or Interrupted Education); support for DHHS wrap around programs for mental health, Linkages to Learning, School Wellness Centers, a Navigation Network and Case Management; the creation of a mobile response unit for those schools that do not have METS or certain other supports; expansion of Family Reunification; enhanced legal services and the creation of a public private partnership to fund enhanced legal services; and increased arts and recreation programming.
- On Thursday, July 22, the Joint HHS and E&C Committee held a session to receive an overview on the overall issue of migrant and asylum- seeking children, adolescents, and families. This included information on unaccompanied children who have been released to live with sponsors in Montgomery County by the Federal DHHS Office of Refugee Resettlement and the expectations regarding the number of children will come to live with sponsors in Montgomery County and the Washington D.C. region in the upcoming year. It also included a presentation on the components of the framework for responding the needs of children who are here as well as those who are newly arriving.
- The Joint Committee discussed that currently about 84% of funding from the federal government is allocated to the situation at the border and services provided by federal agencies and contractors. It has not been provided to states or localities and the State of Maryland has not allocated any State funding to address this issue.
- The Joint Committee discussed the purpose of this work is to create a response that goes beyond any wave of children and families, the work presented is really phase 1 of this process, and the continuing work will implement a system that is person centered and responds to immediate and long-term needs.
- The Joint Committee will reconvene in the fall to receive further updates and information on how the work to date and the continuing work is being fully developed into a strategic plan.

**Attached:**

Special Appropriation Resolution as amended by HHS and E&C	©1-3
Memo from County Executive	©4-5
Excerpt of Staff memo for HHS/E&C July 22 #2 with summary of components of special appropriation	©6-10
Excerpt of Staff memo for HHS/E&C July 22 #1 presentation on newly arriving migrant children, youth, and families	©11-13
DHHS/MCPS presentation slides from July 22 HHS/E&C meeting	©14-43
Catholic Charities presentation slides from July 22 HHS/E&C	©44-63
DHHS provided spreadsheet re: special appropriation	©64-71

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Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

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SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-7 to the FY22 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government:  
Department of Health and Human Services, [\$2,903,172] \$3,183,185;  
Montgomery County Department of Recreation, \$300,000;  
Community Engagement Cluster, \$330,000; and  
Montgomery County Public Schools, \$1,585,633  
Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance (Source of Funds: General Fund  
Reserves)

Background

1. Section 307 of the Montgomery County Charter provides that any supplemental appropriation shall be recommended by the County Executive who shall specify the source of funds to finance it. The Council shall hold a public hearing on each proposed supplemental appropriation after at least one week's notice. A supplemental appropriation that would comply with, avail the County of, or put into effect a grant or a Federal, State or County law or regulation, or one that is approved after January 1 of any fiscal year, requires an affirmative vote of five Councilmembers. A supplemental appropriation for any other purpose that is approved before January 1 of any fiscal year requires an affirmative vote of six Councilmembers. The Council may, in a single action, approve more than one supplemental appropriation. The Executive may disapprove or reduce a supplemental appropriation, and the Council may reapprove the appropriation, as if it were an item in the annual budget.
2. The County Executive has requested the following FY22 Operating Budget appropriation increases for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Department of Recreation (MCDR), the Community Engagement Cluster (CEC), and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS).

<u>Department</u>	<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
DHHS	\$0	\$2,903,172	\$0	\$2,903,172	General Fund Reserves
MCDR	\$57,000	\$243,000	\$0	\$300,000	General Fund Reserves
CEC	\$80,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$330,000	General Fund Reserves
MCPS	\$1,205,633	\$380,000	\$0	\$1,585,633	General Fund Reserves
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,342,633</b>	<b>\$3,776,172</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,118,805</b>	

3. This increase is needed to support and fund transitional counselors, elementary coaches for Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education, mental health support and case management, expansion of existing Wellness Center services, family reunification, and legal screening and representation.
4. The County Executive has requested a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget in the total amount of \$5,118,805 for Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance and specifies that the source of funds will be General Fund Reserves.
5. The Joint Health & Human Services and Education & Culture Committee held a worksession on this special appropriation on July 22, 2021. The Joint Committee recommends approval with two amendments: (1) the addition \$280,013 for four positions and two vans for the Street Outreach Network; and (2) the shifting of \$93,000 for the Department of Recreation from Operating Expense to Personnel Cost to allow the new position to be a merit, rather than contract, position. The Joint Committee recommends a total special appropriation of \$5,398,818.
6. The public was notified, and a public hearing was held.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland, approves the following actions:

1. A special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Department of Recreation (MCDR), the Community Engagement Cluster (CEC), and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is approved as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
DHHS	[\$0] <u>\$135,213</u>	[\$2,903,172] <u>\$3,047,972</u>	\$0	[\$2,903,172] <u>\$3,183,185</u>	General Fund Reserves
MCDR	[\$57,000] <u>\$150,000</u>	[\$243,000] <u>\$150,000</u>	\$0	\$300,000	General Fund Reserves
CEC	\$80,000	\$250,000	\$0	\$330,000	General Fund Reserves
MCPS	\$1,205,633	\$380,000	\$0	\$1,585,633	General Fund Reserves
<b>Total</b>	<b>[\$1,342,633] <u>\$1,570,846</u></b>	<b>[\$3,776,172] <u>\$3,827,972</u></b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>[\$5,118,805] <u>\$5,398,818</u></b>	

2. The County Council declares that this action is necessary to act without delay in the public interest and to provide resources for a unified systemic approach to serve newcomers.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.  
Clerk of the Council




OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich  
County Executive

**MEMORANDUM**

July 15, 2021

TO: Tom Hucker, President, County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation #22-7 to the FY22 Operating Budget  
Montgomery County Government:  
Department of Health and Human Services, \$2,903,172;  
Montgomery County Department of Recreation, \$300,000;  
Community Engagement Cluster, \$330,000; and  
Montgomery County Public Schools, \$1,585,633  
Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance (Source of Funds: General Fund  
Reserves)

I am recommending a special appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget totaling \$5,118,805 for the following Departments and Agency for Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance:

- Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$2,903,172;
- Montgomery County Department of Recreation in the amount of \$300,000;
- Community Engagement Cluster in the amount of \$330,000; and
- Montgomery County Public Schools in the amount of \$1,585,633.

This special appropriation will fund social service, school-based services, mental health support, case management and legal needs for these families and individuals.

This increase is needed to support and fund transitional counselors, elementary coaches for Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education, mental health support and case management, expansion of existing Wellness Center services, family reunification and legal screening and representation. I recommend that the County Council approve this special appropriation in the total amount of \$5,118,805 and specify the source of funds as General Fund Reserves.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this action.

ME:dl

Special Appropriation #22-7, Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance  
Page 2 of 2  
July 15, 2021

Enclosure: Special Appropriation #22-7, Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance

cc: Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
Jennifer Bryant, Director, Office of Management and Budget  
Caroline Sturgis, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

July 20, 2021

TO: Health and Human Services Committee  
Education and Culture Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst  
Nicole Hernandez-Rodriguez, Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the FY22 Operating Budget – Department of Health and Human Services (\$2,903,172); Department of Recreation (\$300,000); Community Engagement Cluster (\$330,000); and Montgomery County Public Schools (\$1,585,633) for Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)

PURPOSE: Worksession; vote expected

Expected for this session:

***County Government:***

Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
JoAnn Barnes, Consultant to DHHS  
Gillian Huebner, Consultant to DHHS  
Diane Vu, Director, Office of Community Partnerships  
Luis Cardona, Administrator, Positive Youth Development (DHHS)  
Monica Martin, Administrator, Child/Adolescent School and Community-Based Services, (DHHS)  
Deborah Lambert, Senior Policy and Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget

***Montgomery County Public Schools:***

Everett Davis, Acting Associate Superintendent, Office of Teaching, Learning, and Schools – Student & Family Support & Engagement  
Ruschelle S. Rueben, Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Schools  
Margarita I. Bohorquez, Acting Director, Student, Family, and School Services – International Admissions & Enrollment

Just prior to this agenda item, the Joint Committee will have been briefed on the proposed framework for supporting newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children and families



(newcomers). This proposed response model will: (1) Strengthen interagency coordination and create a navigation network; (2) Enhance family and community-based supports; and (3) Strengthen education and school-based services.

On Tuesday, January 20, the Council introduced a special appropriation transmitted by the County Executive to fund this proposal. It is scheduled for public hearing and action on July 27. A spreadsheet detailing the different expenditure components is attached at © 1-8. A summary of the items is in the table below.

<b>MCPS:</b>		
Transition Coordinator for Newcomers	\$130,000	One (1) contract position at MCPS Central Office. Coordinates school-based resources, aligns learning program and works with Navigation Network for newcomers to link students and their family/sponsor to integrated services.
ESOL Transition Counselors	\$766,667	Eight (8) new positions. Increase capacity for direct supports to students. Currently, MCPS has 14 ESOL Transition Counselors.
Elementary SLIFE (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education) Coaches	\$438,966	Six (6) SLIFE Coaches will support several elementary schools to help meet the academic needs of newly arrived students. Work with core teams and teachers and can work as a co-teacher at times to model English language acquisition strategies.
MCPS Professional Development	\$250,000	Multi-tiered professional learning for central office and school teams. Use of culturally-sensitive, trauma informed, and resilience-oriented approaches. MCPS has already budgeted \$100,000 for La Cultura Cura and neurosequential training.
<b>SUBTOTAL MCPS</b>	<b>\$1,585,633</b>	
<b>DHHS:</b>		
Newcomer Coordinator	\$141,167	One (1) new contract position through the Primary Care Coalition. Ensure coordination with existing HHS programs, providers, other agencies and stakeholders. Will serve as primary point of contact for issues related to newly arriving migrants and asylum seekers.
Monitoring and Evaluation	\$60,000	Evaluation services for the first year of the program.

Navigation Network and Case Management Support – Wellness Centers and community	\$240,000	Increase capacity within current DHHS-MCPS school-based/linked partnerships. Identity to double case management capacity at Wellness Centers with target of 10 case managers and 3 support staff to serve 1,375 youth/families.
Navigation Network – Linkages to Learning (LTL) at METS sites with Cluster Programs	\$193,368	Increase LTL case managers by 3 FTEs to serve 6 METS (Multidisciplinary Education, Training, and Support) sites to serve up to 90 additional families. Funding is for 9 months in FY22.
Navigation Network – METS sites with Cluster Programs	\$178,013	Increase capacity to serve 4 METS sites that do not have High School Wellness Centers or LTL. Funding for 2 broker positions for 9 months for FY22.
Navigation Network – Other METS sites and community sites – Mobile Resource Team	\$280,000	Address the urgent need to increase access to mental/behavioral health, medical, legal orientation, family reunification and other supports and referrals through the creation of a multidisciplinary Mobile Resource Team. Will support METS sites without Wellness Centers, LTL, or Cluster Projects.
Communications Support	\$100,000	Integrate communications support to ensure outreach and quality services to newcomers, including indigenous populations. Create announcements about services and the importance of enrolling in school.
Family Reunification Support	\$165,000	Double capacity of current program to serve an additional 50 families (100 total). Children arriving to the U.S. may be reunited with family they have never met or been separated from for years. Reunification is a process that requires preparation, support, and follow-up based on each child's needs and past experiences or trauma. Funding will allow Identity to serve an additional 50 families. Expansion may not occur until October but will be achieved in the first year.
Expand mental and behavioral health supports through LTL and School and Community Based Services (SCYS)	\$350,000	Many children who arrive from northern Central America are vulnerable and have experienced trauma and lifelong poverty. LTL and SCYS therapists provide individual, family, and group therapy in a school-based setting.

Expand Mental and Behavioral Health through Care and Connections for Families (CCF) contract	\$225,000	Funding for 2 FTE (therapist and stabilization worker/case manager through CCF.) Clinical services include individual and group therapy and psychiatric services with medication management. Funding for 9 months for FY22.
Expand Mental and Behavioral Health through DHHS Behavioral Health and Crisis Services Community Mental Health	\$172,500	Two (2) contractual, multilingual clinicians devoted to the Mobile Resource Team. Funding is for 9 months for FY22.
Positive Youth Development – Expand services through Imagination Stage/Oyeme	\$135,000	Fund program for an additional 6 MCPS schools and 360 students, which would double the current program. Oyeme uses evidence-based and culturally sensitive arts programming to address trauma, build resilience and support community and provides a safe space for immigrant youth to share stories.
Positive Youth Development – Annual Youth Conference	\$25,000	Conference for newcomer youth that will reach at least 100 youth and families. Facilitated by DHHS in partnership with MCPS, community partners, and other county agencies.
Health Care – community health workers	\$138,000	Two (2) Community Health Workers through the Primary Care Coalition to be deployed at Rocking Horse Center and other settings to triage and engage families to enroll for Care for Kids and other programs. ORR does not pay for medical care once a child is released from their custody.
Expand Wellness Center hours of operation	\$500,124	Expand access by extending the operating hours of current 5 Wellness Centers by 5 hours per week. (Seneca Valley is expected to open in January 2022) This will help serve youth who are unable to access during regular school hours and CREA day and evening students.
<b>SUBTOTAL DHHS</b>	<b>\$2,903,172</b>	
Office of Community Partnership/Gilchrist Center - Legal Services	<b>\$330,000</b>	Fund legal services coordinator position and add funding for additional legal services needed for children and families/sponsors. All unaccompanied migrant children are placed in deportation proceedings upon release to family/sponsor. Data indicates that 73% of unaccompanied minors with legal representation were allowed to stay compared to 15% without representation. Providers working under current county contracts are at capacity. The legal services coordinator, housed at Gilchrist Center, would coordinate

		referrals, services, and develop/implement a public-private partnership.
Recreation	<b>\$300,000</b>	Increase funding for therapeutic recreation with coaches trained in trauma-informed approaches. Funding will expand Soccer4Change, youth workforce development, and targeted recreational events to meet migrant youth throughout the county. Funds would be used for 1 FTE administrator.
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST</b>	<b>\$5,118,805</b>	

**NOTE:** This is an excerpt from the original staff memorandum provided to the Joint Committee. DHHS and MCPS presentation slides are update to those presented at the Joint Committee session. Also included in the information to the Council are the presentation slides from Catholic Charities.

**M E M O R A N D U M**

July 20, 2021

TO: Health and Human Services Committee  
Education and Culture Committee

FROM: Linda McMillan, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst  
Nicole Hernandez-Rodriguez, Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children, youth, and families in  
Montgomery County

PURPOSE: Update and Discussion

Expected for this session:

***County Government:***

Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
JoAnn Barnes, Consultant to DHHS  
Gillian Huebner, Consultant to DHHS  
Diane Vu, Director, Office of Community Partnerships  
Luis Cardona, Administrator, Positive Youth Development (DHHS)  
Monica Martin, Administrator, Child/Adolescent School and Community-Based  
Services, (DHHS)  
Deborah Lambert, Senior Policy and Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget

***Montgomery County Public Schools:***

Everett Davis, Acting Associate Superintendent, Office of Teaching, Learning, and Schools –  
Student & Family Support & Engagement  
Ruschelle S. Rueben, Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Schools  
Margarita I. Bohorquez, Acting Director, Student, Family, and School Services – International  
Admissions & Enrollment

***Community Partner Representatives:***

Diego Uriburu, Executive Director, Identity, Inc.

Celia Rivas, Immigration Services Coordinator, Catholic Charities

At this session the Joint Committee will receive an update on the national and regional/local landscape regarding the arrival of migrant children who have come to live with approved sponsors through the Office of Refugee Resettlement and newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children and families who are now residents of Montgomery County.

The Joint Committee last had an update on unaccompanied children/children fleeing violence in April<sup>1</sup>. (Link to the packet in footnote.) At that session, the Joint Committee also heard from Ms. Cabrera-Lopez and Ms. Say of the International Mayan League who informed the Joint Committee about the circumstances that have led to a large percentage of new migrants coming from Guatemala, the trauma they have faced at home and on their journey, healthcare needs, and the importance of the county understanding the indigenous languages that are spoken in addition to capacity for those who are Spanish speakers. The Joint Committee was told that DHHS was convening a steering committee with MCPS and others to plan and coordinate a response so that the county is well prepared to address the needs of newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children and families.

The presentation slides for today's update are attached at ©1-30. Following the presentation by representatives from DHHS and MCPS, the Joint Committee will also receive comments from Mr. Uriburu and Ms. Rivas, representing two of the County's community partner organizations.

Some notes from the presentation slides:

- More than 65,000 unaccompanied children have crossed the United States – Mexico border between January and May 2021. The highest percent are from Guatemala (48%), followed by Honduras (25%) and El Salvador (14%). Seventy-two percent (72%) are over 14 years old. Sixty-eight percent (68%) are boys. Families also approach the border. Some with children under the age of 6 are allowed to stay in the United States.
- According to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), 473 unaccompanied children have been released to sponsors in Montgomery County between January and May; 182 of those children arrived between April and May. The District of Columbia Metropolitan Region has been the destination for 1,814 children with 661 living with sponsors in Prince George's County, 560 in Fairfax County, and 120 in the District of Columbia. Children and families may also arrive through other avenues without going through the ORR process.

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[https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2021/20210428/20210428\\_HHSEC1.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2021/20210428/20210428_HHSEC1.pdf)

- Children enrolling in MCPS may, but do not have to show documentation from ORR when they enroll. Currently, MCPS data shows that few children have enrolled but these numbers may not be fully representative.
- The Steering Committee has been reviewing national best practices and programs in other jurisdictions. A summary of best practices is included in the presentation slides.
- The Steering Committee has developed a proposed response model that will: (1) Strengthen interagency coordination and create a navigation network; (2) Enhance family and community-based supports; and (3) Strengthen education and school-based services.
- Included in the proposal are coordination positions, one each in DHHS and MCPS; development of a strong navigation network; the creation of a Mobile Resource Team that supports schools that do not have existing supports such as Wellness Centers, Linkages to Learning, and certain other DHHS-partnered efforts; a public-private partnership to expand access to legal services; expansion of mental health supports; family reunification support; recreation and positive youth development; and efforts to address safety issues including bias, exploitation, gang recruitment, and trafficking. The Steering Committee has discussed and considered the best practices that have been developed by Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar and its communications and network model. MCPS will have professional development programs; implement a newcomer orientation program, expand in and after-school programs such as therapeutic recreation including art, music, athletics, gardening, and community-building programs; and provide opportunities for older newcomers to access the Career Readiness Education Academy (CREA).

This proposal provides a framework for better serving those newcomers who have already arrived and for preparing the County to support those that are expected. The Steering Committee and its partner committees and work groups will continue to work on mapping the system flow and navigation model with a focus on a person-centered system that responds, no matter what door the child comes through. This will provide an understanding of what each child or family needs and when they need it so they can be linked to immediate crisis services, and longer-term education, health and mental health, legal, safety, and other supports.



## Newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children, youth and families in Montgomery County

Planning a coordinated and effective response

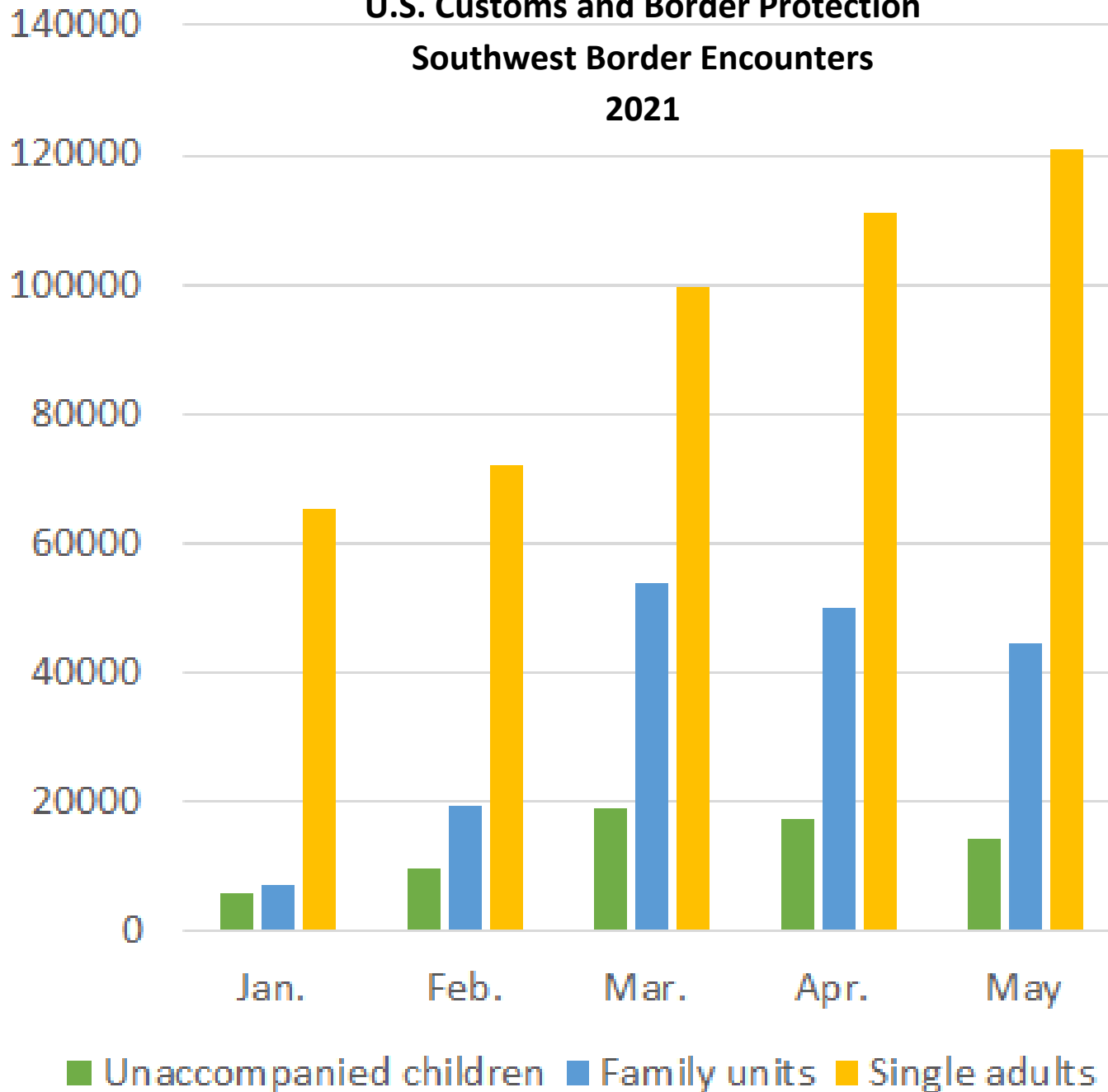


# Situation Update

# Situation update - national

- **Arrivals**: The U.S. is expecting a 20-year high in the number of unaccompanied migrant and asylum-seeking children approaching the border. These young people are fleeing high levels of violence, crime, natural disasters, the effects of climate change, food insecurity and poverty. The majority (90%) are seeking to unify with family members in the United States.
- **Numbers**: More than 65,000 unaccompanied children crossed the U.S.-Mexico border between January and May. In March, the number of unaccompanied child arrivals was the highest on record (18,960); April was the second highest (17,171).
- **Demographics**: The majority of unaccompanied children are from Guatemala (48%), Honduras (25%) and El Salvador (14%). 72% are over 14 years old and 68% are boys. Many newly arriving children from Guatemala are Native American, not Hispanic/Latino. They speak indigenous languages (for example, Mam, K'iche', and Q'anjob'al).
- **Not only unaccompanied children**: In addition to unaccompanied children, family units and single adults continue to approach the border in high numbers. Most continue to be pushed back under Title 42, although some families with children under age 6 have been allowed to enter the United States. Some children and adults cross the border undetected by immigration authorities and are not included in numbers reported by DHS/CBP or the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

## U.S. Customs and Border Protection Southwest Border Encounters 2021



Most individuals who approach the border are returned or apprehended.

Unaccompanied children under age 18 are currently allowed entry.

Some families with children under age 6 are allowed entry (per CBP discretion).

## The process to get here...



1. If apprehended at the border, the child is placed in a **DHS/CBP** detention facility for processing.

2. If identified as “unaccompanied”, DHS/ICE is meant to transfer the child to an **HHS/ORR** facility within 72 hours. Protection screenings and family reunification processes commence. The average length of stay in ORR facilities is currently 37 days.



3. Once family members or other sponsors have been identified/vetted, the child is released. 49% are released to a parent or legal guardian, 41% to an immediate relative, 10% to a distant relative. Upon release, all children are placed in removal/deportation proceedings.

## FUNDING THE RESPONSE

- In FY 2021, the federal appropriation for unaccompanied children was \$1.3 billion.
- 84% of program costs are spent on border facilities (typically the first 30 to 60 days after children's arrival in the U.S.).
- Less than 16% of federal funding is spent on supporting unaccompanied children with access to post-release services, legal services, and child advocates.
- The U.S. government spends as much as \$775 per child per day on emergency facilities at the border, resulting in program costs of \$62 million per week.
- UNICEF reports that it is 80 percent more expensive to detain children than to provide appropriate care and services within the community.
- Montgomery County has not received additional funding from the federal government or the state to facilitate our response to newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children and their families.

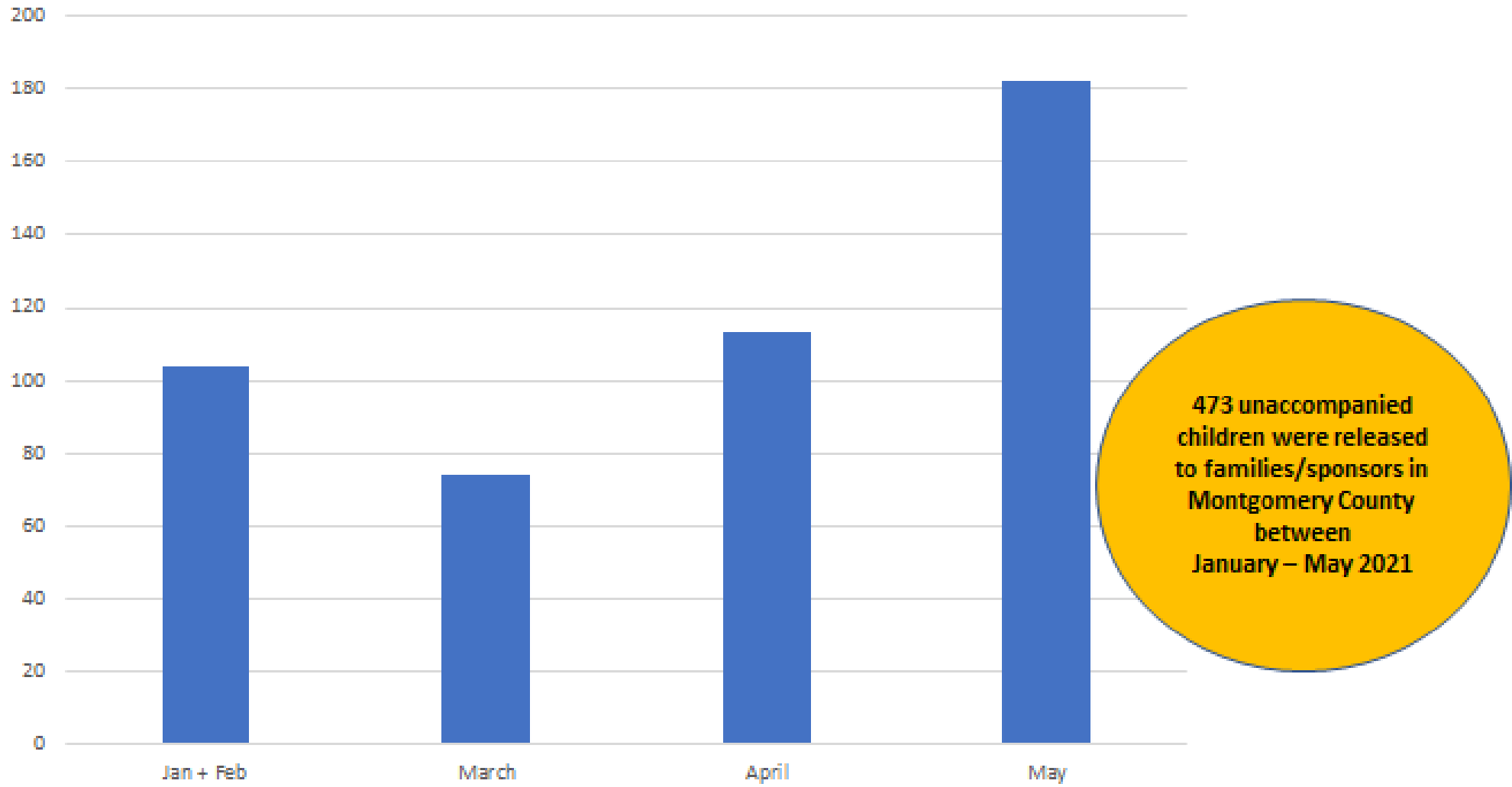
# Situation update – Montgomery County

- Montgomery County is a primary destination for unaccompanied children seeking to unify with families/sponsors.
- Between 2014-2021, Montgomery County was the 11th highest receiving county in the nation; the second highest (after Princes Georges) in Maryland.
- Release numbers from border facilities have been low because case management has not been in place. ORR is working to expedite the release process and numbers of children released are expected to increase in the coming weeks and months.
- According to ORR, 473 unaccompanied children have been released to sponsors in Montgomery County between January and May, with an increase of 182 children between April and May.
- In addition to unaccompanied children released to sponsors in Montgomery County, an unknown number of children are arriving with parents or other caregivers. There is no mechanism to track the total number of migrants and asylum-seekers arriving in each state or county.

## Unaccompanied children released to families/sponsors in our region

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021 through May
Montgomery	1,168	214	473
Prince Georges	1,557	263	661
Fairfax	1,318	226	560
D.C.	322	48	120
	4,365	751	1,814

# Unaccompanied children released to families/sponsors in Montgomery County in 2021





## NATIONAL BEST PRACTICES

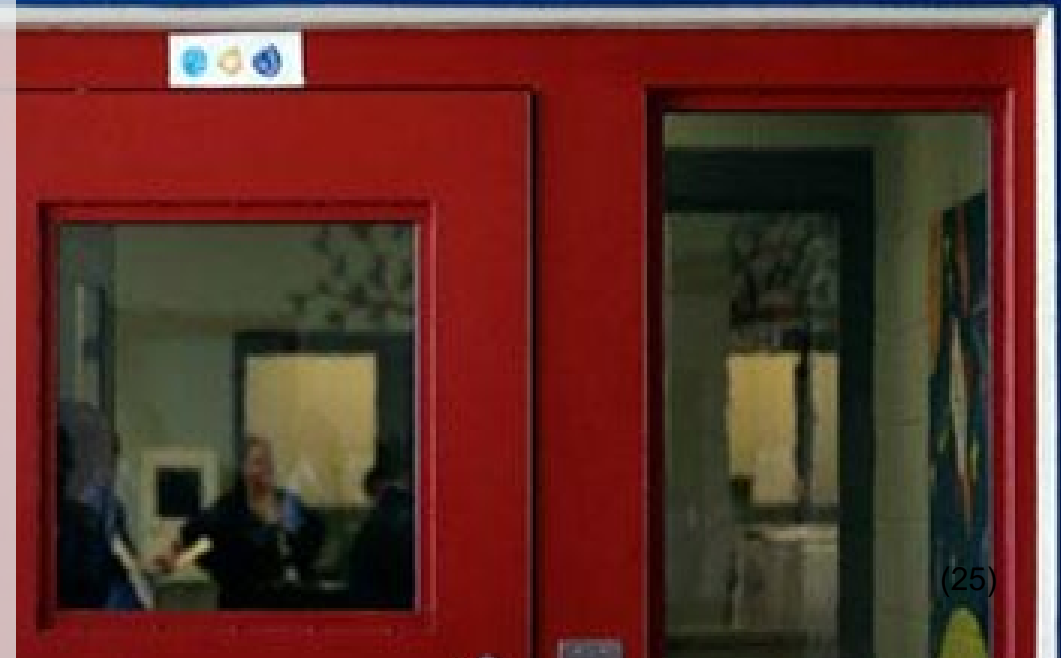
- Dedicate County, agency, and school-based **point persons** to support newcomers, coordinate services, and ensure implementation of best practices.
- Prioritize and facilitate **enrollment** (education and social services).
- **Co-locate services** (case management, legal services, mental and behavioral health support) where children/youth are (i.e. schools).
- Establish clear **referral pathways**.
- Support ongoing and comprehensive **newcomer programs** at impacted schools and in the community.
- Let Latino/Hispanic and indigenous **culturally-competent** professionals and community partners lead.
- Offer trauma-informed and resilience-oriented **professional development** to district- and school-based staff interacting with newcomers.
- **Assess** the situation and **evaluate** the response.

# Montgomery County's Response (a proposal)

# Montgomery County's Response

BIENVENIDOS  
WELCOME

1. Strengthen interagency coordination & create a navigation network
2. Enhance family and community-based supports
3. Strengthen education and school-based services



## USE EXISTING STRUCTURES

### Steering Committee (New)

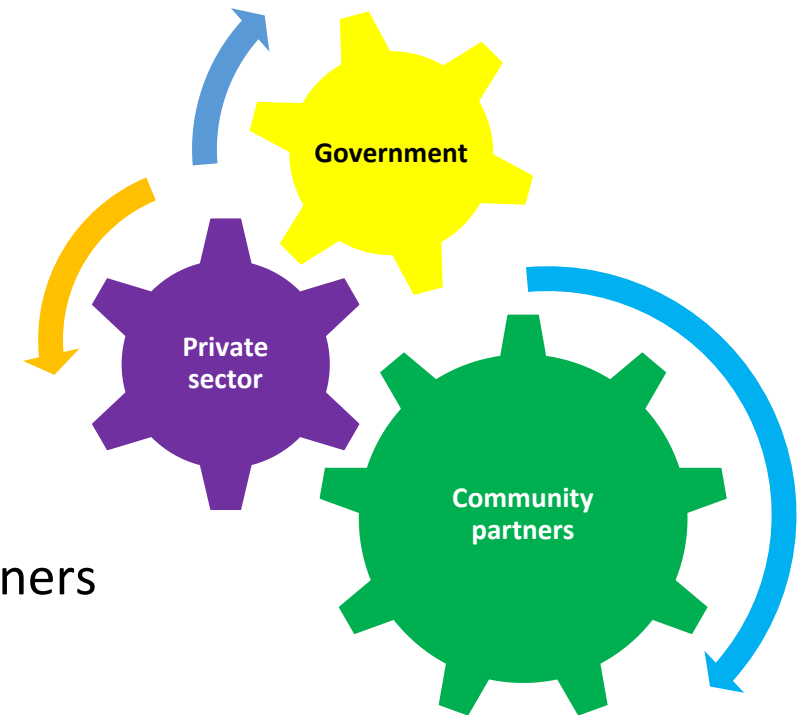
- Montgomery County government agencies
- Chaired by 2 part-time consultants (DHHS)
- Launched in April 2021

### Children Fleeing Violence Working Group

- Montgomery County government agencies + community partners
- Chaired by MCPS and DHHS
- Launched in 2014

### Trafficking Prevention Committee

- Three subcommittees: education/outreach, victim services, legislative outreach
- Launched in 2014



## ESTABLISH NEW POSITIONS

- **Newcomer Coordinator (DHHS)**: Coordinates family- and community-based supports and works with the Navigation Network for Newcomers to support newly arriving children, youth and families to access services, including child care, medical and mental/behavioral health care, food and housing assistance, and legal services, and leads data collection/analysis.
- **Transition Counselor for Newcomers (MCPS)**: Coordinates school-based services, aligns learning programs and works with Navigation Network for Newcomers to link students and their families/sponsors to wrap-around supports and integrated services in and out of school, and leads data collection/analysis.

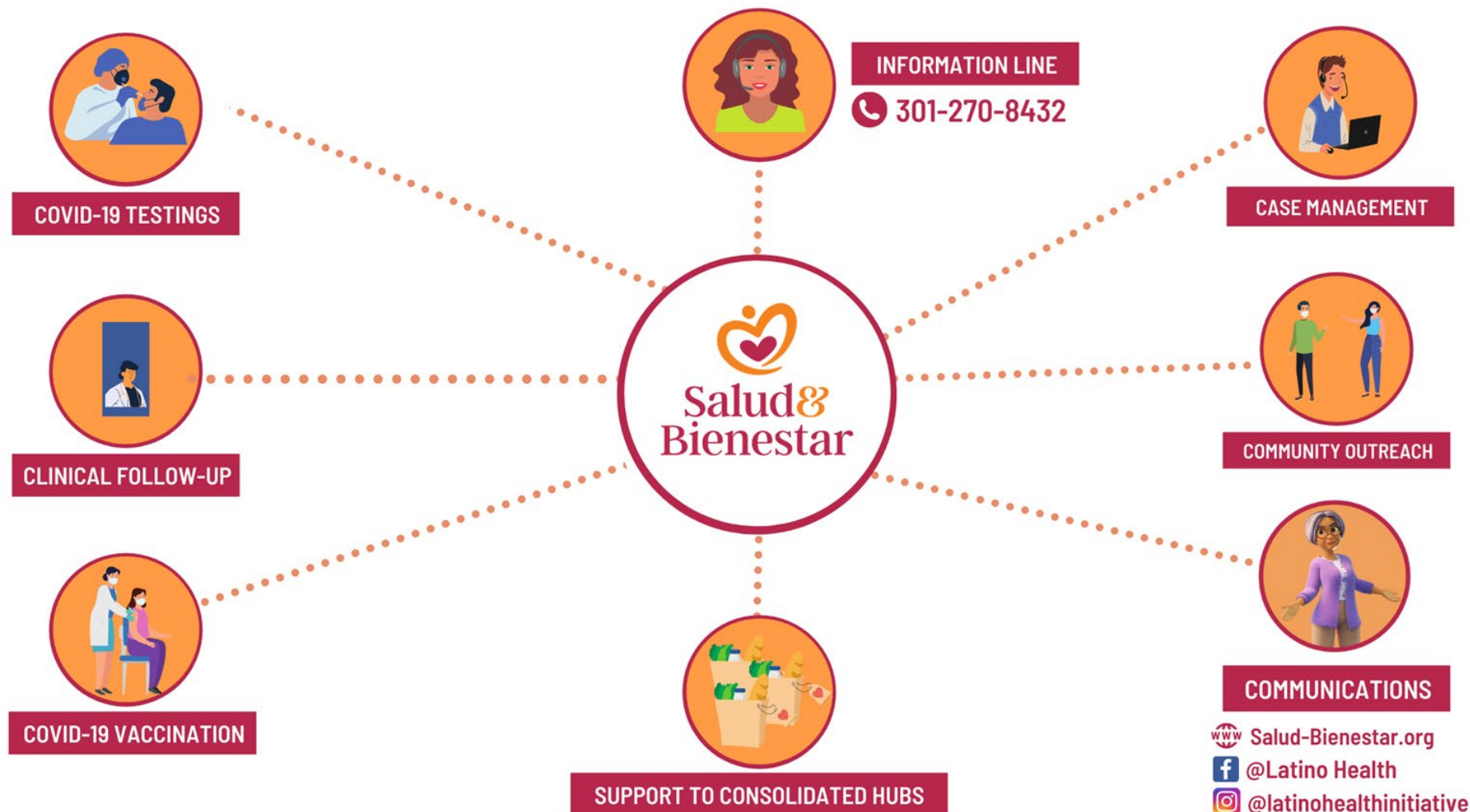
\*positions may be contractual



# USE A NETWORK MODEL

## Learn from what exists and works:

The Latino Health Initiative launched *Salud y Bienestar* in response to the COVID-19 crisis. It is a partnership between the Montgomery County government and local organizations with strong connections to the Hispanic/Latino community. The same model can be used to support newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children and their families.

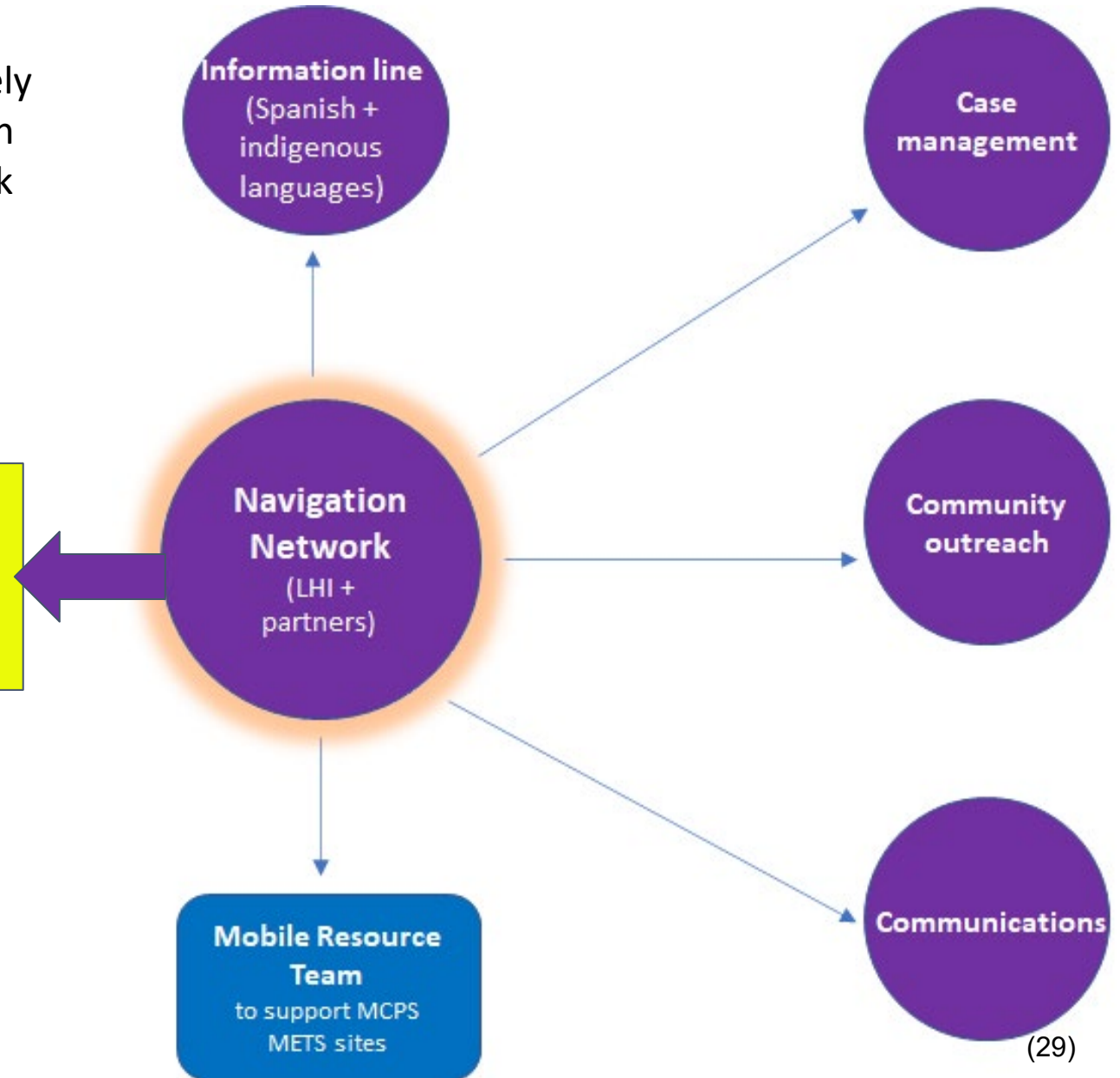


# CREATE A NAVIGATION NETWORK FOR NEWCOMERS

The **Navigation Network for Newcomers** will proactively link newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children and families/sponsors to existing services. The Network will facilitate case management, referral to services, community outreach and communications through culturally competent community- and school-based partners.

**Link to education, health care, mental health and behavioral health supports, family reunification programs, legal services, gang/trafficking prevention/response, and other essential services.**

Facilitated by the Latino Health Initiative (LHI) in collaboration with CASA, Catholic Charities, Identity, Linkages to Learning and MCPS Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement (ETCs, PCCs, PPWs).



## Why do we need a Mobile Resource Team?

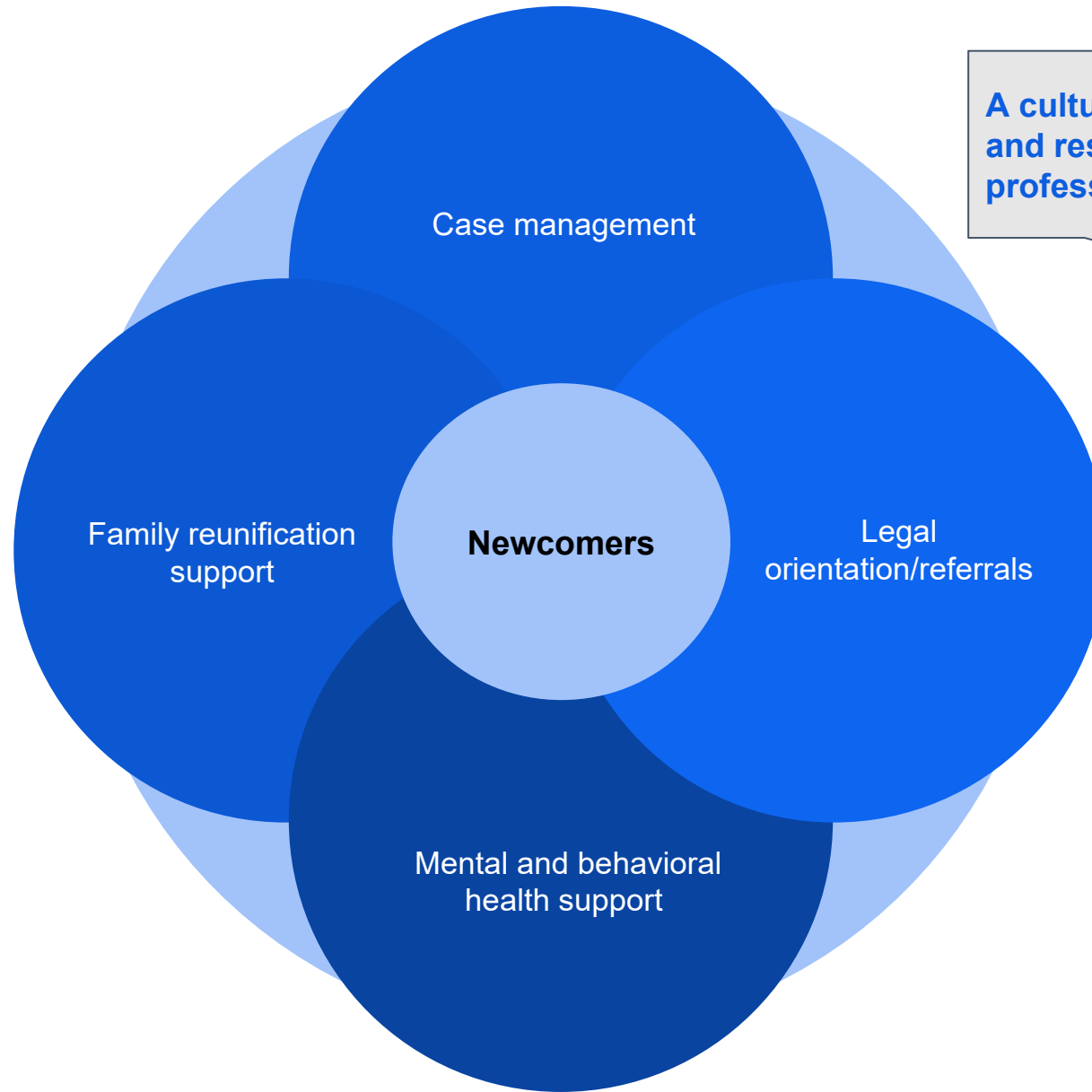
*Of 12 HS METS sites, 4 have Wellness Centers.*

*Of 10 MS METS sites, 3 have Linkages to Learning.*

*2 METS MS sites and 1 HS METS site can access care coordination through the Cluster Projects.*

*8 METS sites do not have DHHS-partnered supports. 12 METS sites do not have DHHS-partnered supports that include family case management/care coordination (4 METS sites w/SCYS only have part-time mental health support).*

# MOBILE RESOURCE TEAM

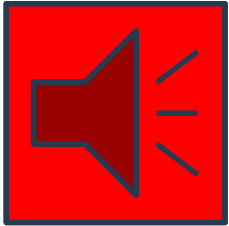


**A culturally-competent, trauma-informed and resilience-oriented team of professionals.**

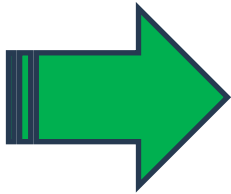
*The Mobile Resource Team can support schools without wrap-around supports, serving students in school as part of a newcomer orientation program, after school, and in collaboration with Community Resource Hubs, parishes, and other community organizations that support newcomers.*



# ESTABLISH A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO EXPAND ACCESS TO LEGAL SERVICES



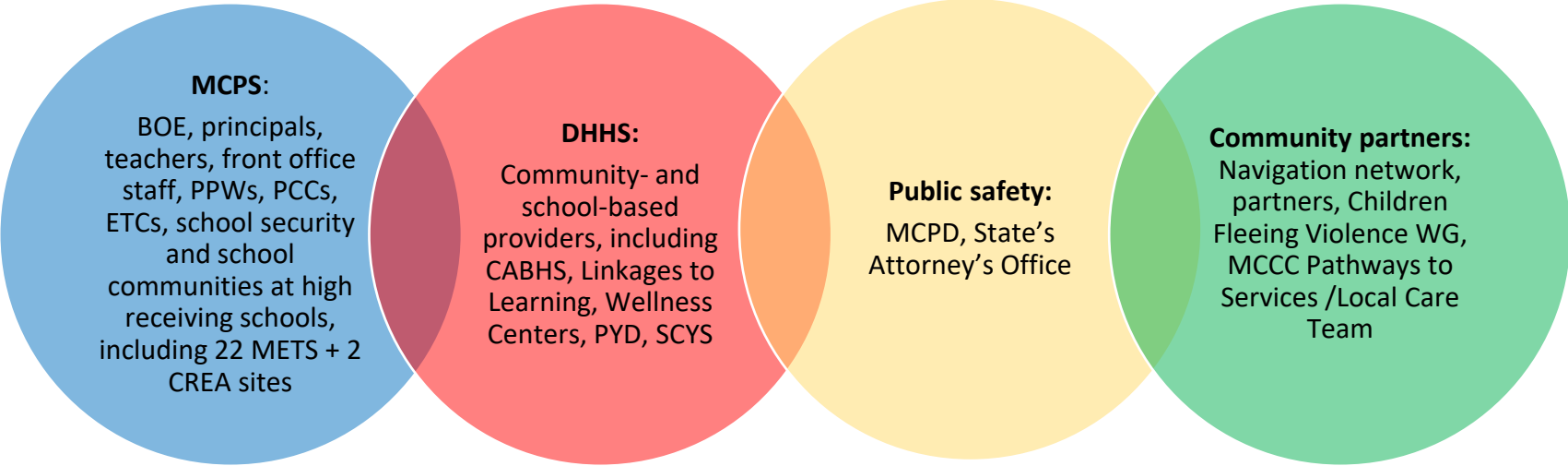
All children have the right to access protection, seek asylum and reunite with family members. All unaccompanied migrant children/youth are placed in deportation proceedings upon release to families/sponsors. 73 percent of unaccompanied minors who were represented in court were granted permission to stay in the United States, compared to 15 percent of unrepresented children.



Build on existing County investments and increase access to legal orientation, representation and counsel for children and families seeking asylum, immigration relief, and facing deportation and removal proceedings in Montgomery County. Reinforce a safety net that is pro-family, pro-economic growth and pro-civil and human rights.

# Build awareness and responders' competencies

*Who is arriving? Why are they coming? What are their rights?  
What are the risks they face and assets they bring?  
What is a culturally-sensitive, trauma-informed, resilience-oriented approach?  
What resources are available to help?  
What is my role in the response?  
How can I coordinate with other partners?*



# Enhance family and community-based support

## Legal Services:

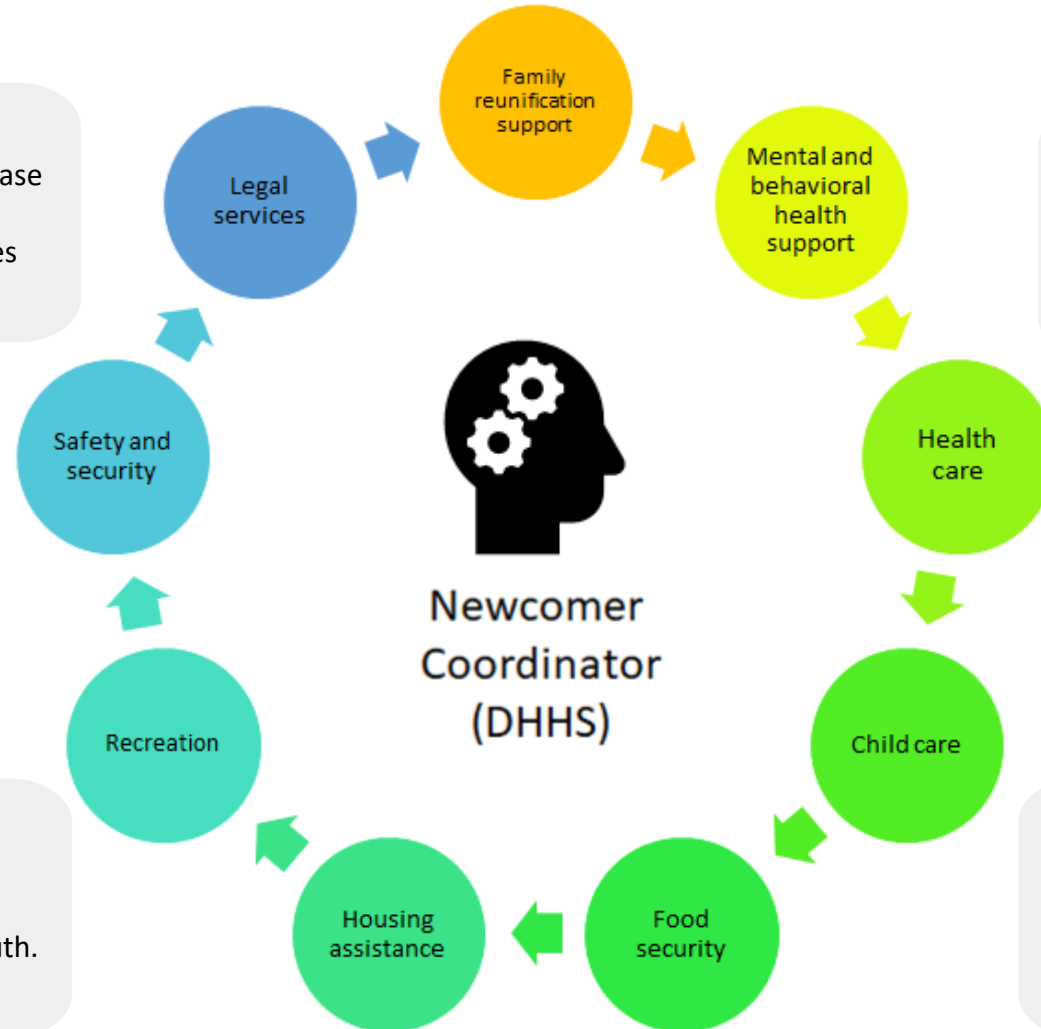
Coordinate provision of legal services and increase access to legal orientation, counsel and representation for children, youth and families facing deportation/removal proceedings.

## Public safety:

Protect newly arriving children, youth and families from discrimination and bias; prevent and respond to exploitation, violence, gang recruitment and trafficking.

## Recreation and positive youth development:

Expand recreational and community-building opportunities for newly-arrived children and youth.



## Family reunification support:

Offer additional programs in coordination with MCPS and the Navigation Network.

## Mental and behavioral health support:

Increase multilingual and culturally-competent crisis intervention, clinical support and case management capacity.

## Link to existing services:

Ensure that newly arriving children, youth and families/sponsors are able to access existing services, including health/dental care, child care, food and housing assistance.

# MCPS International Enrollment Data

Month	Number of Student Intakes 2017-2018	Number of Student Intakes 2018-2019	Number of Student Intakes 2019-2020	Number of Student Intakes/Cleared 2020-2021	Number of ORRs 2020-2021	Number of Student Intakes/Cleared 2021-2022	Number of ORRs 2021-2022
July	366	271	515	1	0	64	3
August	869	748	1174	228	2		
September	362	748	1104	186	4		
October	213	430	571	78	5		
November	127	250	227	62	1		
December	155	210	211	56	0		
January	242	359	361	43	3		
February	186	342	228	82	6		
March	195	328	82	98	12		
April	198	349	5	97	5		
May	146	343	42	81	10		
June	156	240	10	74	10		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3215</b>	<b>4618</b>	<b>4530</b>	<b>1086</b>	<b>58</b>		

**Of the 473 unaccompanied children who've entered Montgomery County since January 2021, only a small percentage has enrolled in school.**

\*MCPS does not collect data on students' country of origin. Students who arrived in the country unaccompanied and came through the ORR system are not obligated to show ORR documentation to MCPS. Therefore, the ORR numbers reported by MCPS may not be fully representative.

Elementary METS Sites	Middle School METS Sites	High School METS Sites
Broad Acres LTL school-based health center	Eastern (30) LTL (no health component)	Bethesda-Chevy Chase (10)
R. Sargent Shriver LTL (no health component)	Gaithersburg (31) LTL (no health component)	Montgomery Blair (73) SCYS (YMCA 1 day/week)
South Lake LTL (no health component)	A.Mario Loiderman (28) LTL (no health component)	Albert Einstein (27) SCYS (EveryMind 2 day/week)
	Montgomery Village (12) Access to Cluster Project	Gaithersburg (87) Wellness Center
<p><b>8 METS sites do not have DHHS-partnered supports. 12 METS sites do not have DHHS-partnered supports that include family case management/care coordination (4 METS sites w/SCYS only have part-time mental health support).</b></p> <p><b>(#): # METS students enrolled (2020-2021)</b></p> <p><b>LTL: Linkages to Learning</b></p> <p><b>No DHHS-partnered supports</b></p> <p><b>SCYS: Part-time mental health support. Counselors may or may not serve METS students and may or may not speak Spanish.</b></p>	Neelsville (12) Access to Cluster Project	Richard Montgomery (26) SCYS (Rockville 1 day/week)
	Takoma Park (5)	Northwood (85) Wellness Center
	Julius West (11)	Quince Orchard (21)
	White Oak (22)	Rockville (19) SCYS (Rockville 1 day/week)
	Sligo (28)	Seneca Valley (25) (+ CREA) Wellness Center (January 2022)
	Wood (12)	Springbrook (41) Access to Cluster Project
		Thomas Edison (+ CREA)
		Watkins Mill (46) Wellness Center
		Wheaton (53) Wellness Center

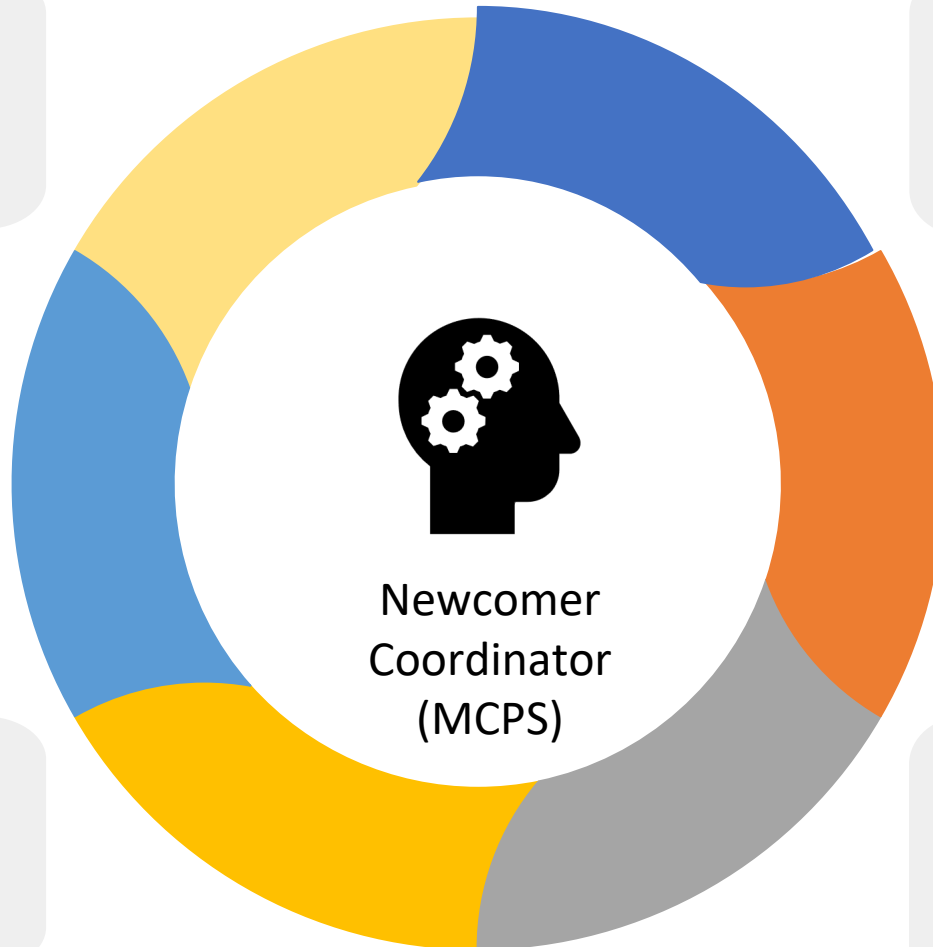
(35)

# Strengthen education and school-based services

Link students and families to services in coordination with the Navigation Network and Mobile Resource Team.

Expand in- and after-school therapeutic recreation, including arts, music, athletic, gardening, and community-building programs.

Provide opportunities for older newcomers to access the Career Readiness Education Academy (CREA).



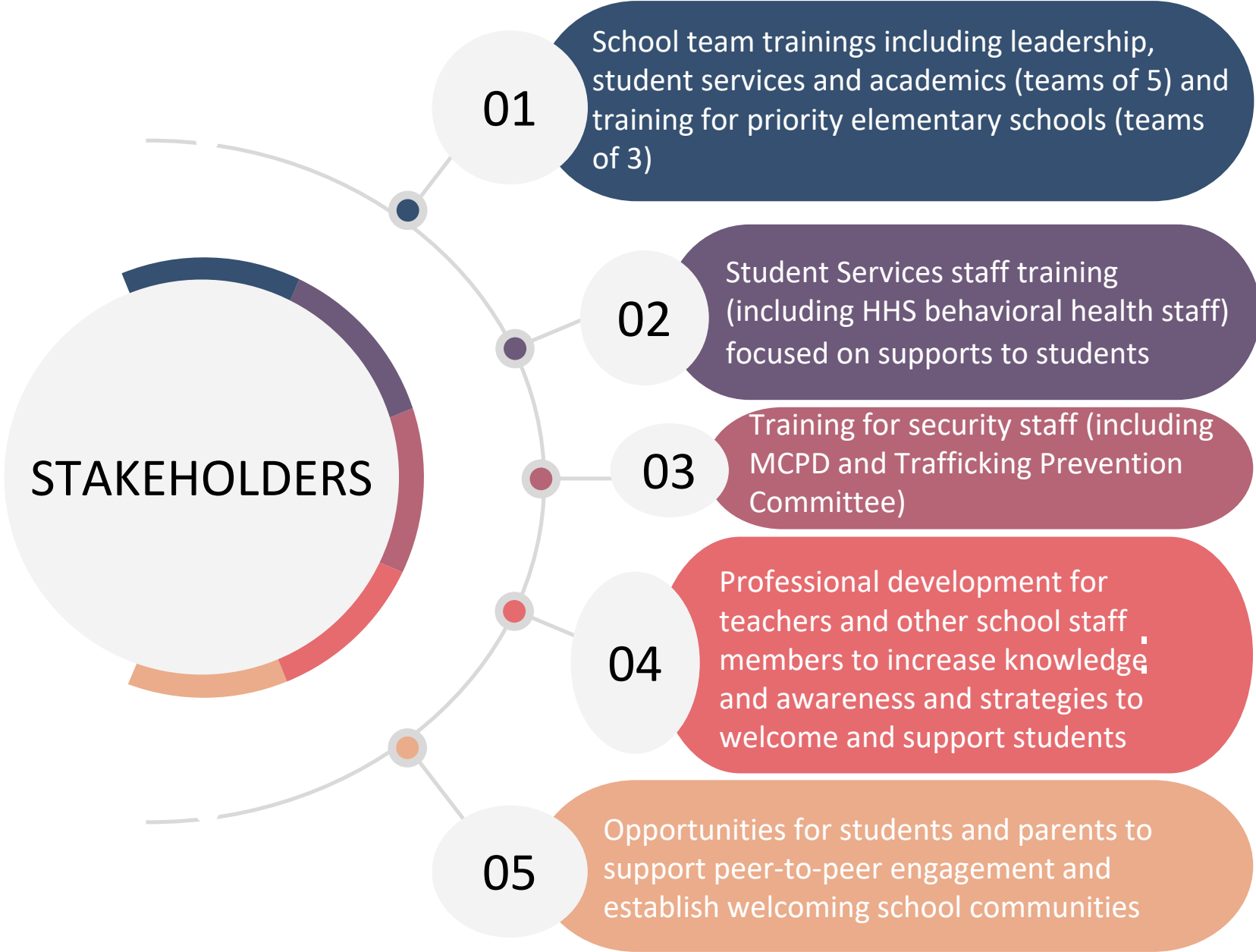
Provide professional development and cultural sensitivity programs for staff, students and families.

Review the secondary METS program and implement a newcomer/orientation program and targeted support at 22 METS sites + CREA.

Create flexible schedules to allow integrated supports during the school day.

# MCPS Professional Development

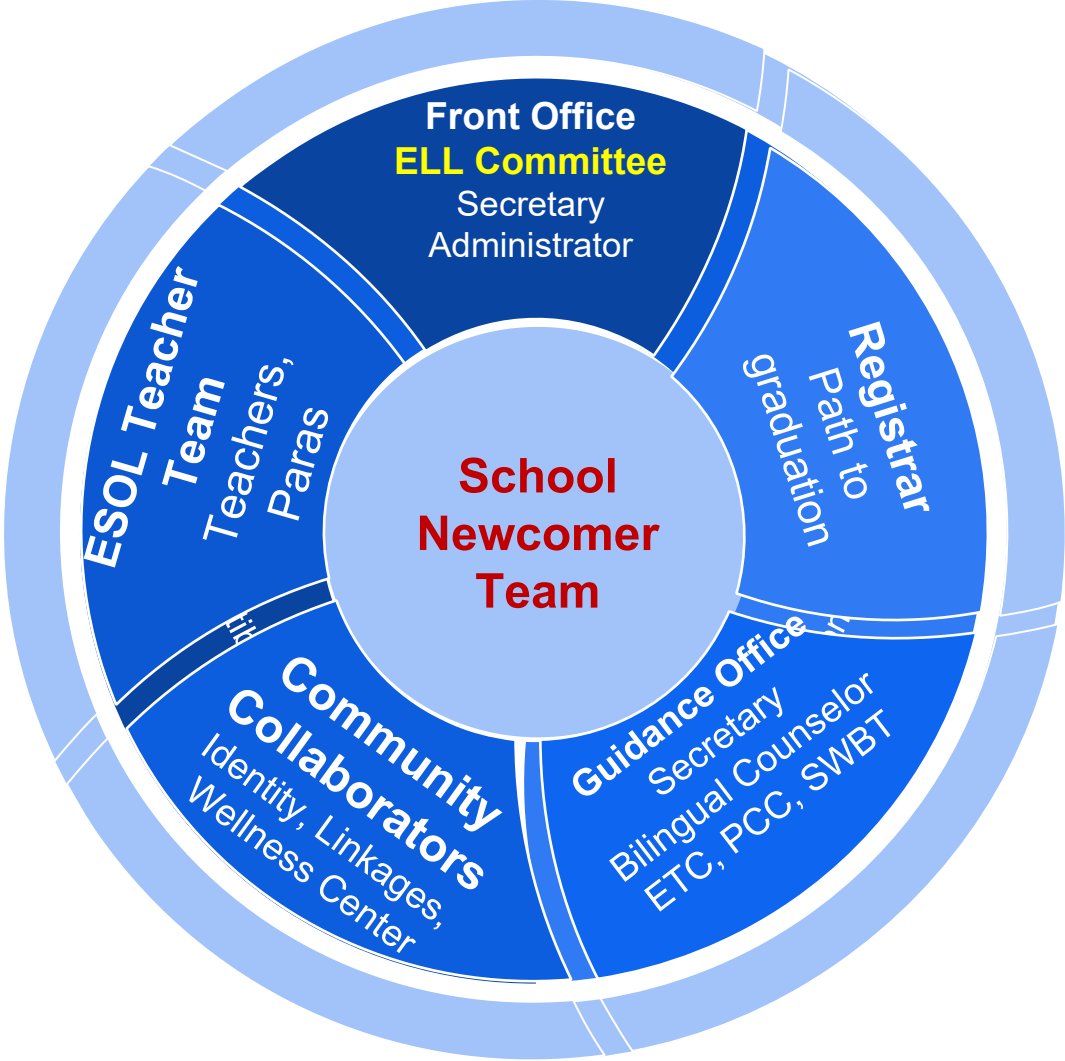
**Vision:**  
*Create an environment where all students and families feel welcome. Use culturally-sensitive, trauma-informed, and resilience-oriented approaches to ensure that newcomers are ready to learn and engage in the community.*



# School-based Newcomer Team



- Admin: Chair ELL Committee**
- Collaborate with all stakeholders
  - Meet weekly
  - Monitor attendance
  - Progress toward attaining English Language Proficiency
  - Referrals - intervene with RJ early
  - Collaborate with guidance on student and family supports
  - Student scheduling





# Plan for New English Learners at Elementary Multilingual Programs

## Curriculum

- Provide scaffolds to support the academic needs of students
- Build foundational literacy and math skills to accelerate students access to grade-level standards

## Professional Development

- Support 135 elementary schools receiving students with limited formal education (SLIFE).
- Provide ongoing PD and training throughout the year

## Instruction

- Hire six SLIFE coaches to travel and provide instructional support to elementary schools
- Hire additional teachers to support new students

## Collaboration

- Support the social emotional learning needs of students
- Working with the counseling and parent outreach to support parents and students
- Working with international office team to support testing and placement of students

# Plan to Support New English Learners in the Secondary ELD Programs

## Curriculum

- Curriculum resources are aligned to grade level standard with scaffolds and supports
- Literacy and math interventions to accelerate student learning

## Professional Development (PD)

- PD for teachers and leaders to address academic needs of students
- PD to support collaboration and co-teaching to support content and language instruction

## Instruction

- Scheduling guidelines for secondary schools
- Monitoring student data to provide targeted instruction
- Additional instructional FTE staffing will be needed for new students

## Collaboration

- Support the social emotional learning needs of students
- Work with the counseling and parent outreach to support parents and students
- Work with international office team to support testing and placement of students

# New and Enhanced Components at MCPS

## Newcomer Orientation

Provide orientation and additional supports for Newcomers at school sites in collaboration with MCPS, MC and community partners

## Wraparound Services

Provide opportunities to embed integrated supports throughout the school day (e.g. community services and counseling)

## Targeted Support Team

Provide ESOL Transition Counselors to support 2 METs sites per FTE

Collaborate with a Mobile Resource Team

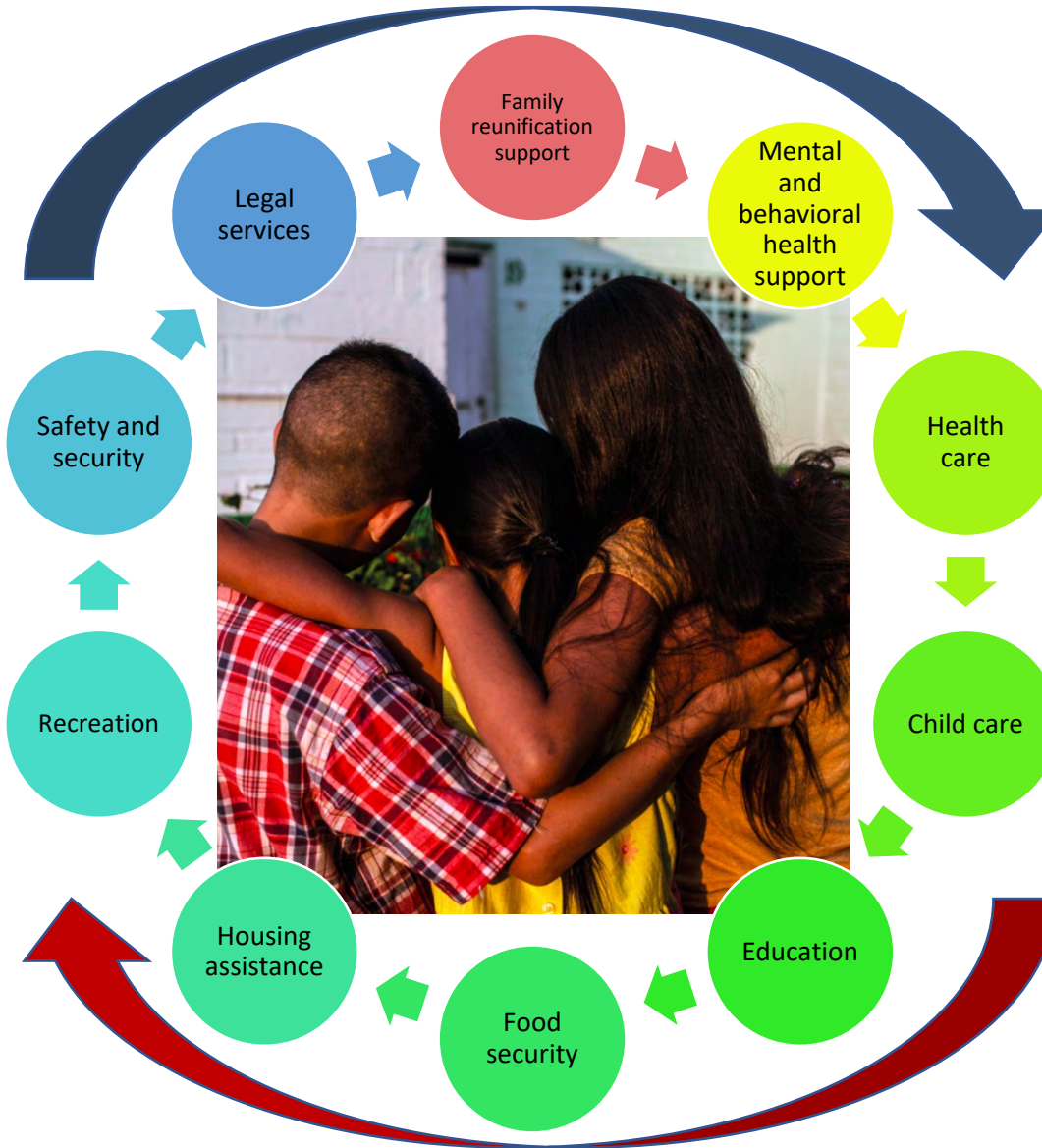
## Therapeutic Recreation

Expand contracts with PYD and community partners to provide programs that embed the arts, music, athletics, peer-to-peer engagement, and recreation (schools with high need and low/no program options)

# Summary of Collaborative Efforts



Transition Counselor for Newcomer (MCPS)  
 22 METS sites and other impacted schools  
 6 SLIFE Coaches for 136 elementary schools  
 Capacity building  
 Professional development  
 ESOL Transition Counselors  
 Pupil Personnel Workers  
 Parent Community Coordinators  
 Communications  
 Data monitoring and evaluation



Newcomer Coordinator (DHHS)  
 Capacity building  
 Professional development  
 Case Managers  
 Navigators  
 Mobile Resource Team  
 Information line  
 Communications  
 Legal Assistance  
 Therapeutic Recreation and PYD  
 HHS' Network of Programs and Service Providers  
 Data monitoring and evaluation

## REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

- HHS/Office of Refugee Resettlement: [Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors by County](#)
- Migration Policy Institute: [Unaccompanied Children Released to Sponsors by State and County, FY 2014-Present](#)
- Migration Policy Institute (June 2021): [Strengthening Services for Unaccompanied Children in U.S. Communities](#)
- UNICEF (February 2021): [Building Bridges for Every Child: Reception, Care and Services to Support Unaccompanied Children in the United States](#)
- KIND (July 2021): [How to support unaccompanied immigrant children and youth students in U.S. schools](#)



Catholic Charities

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Inspiring Hope, Building Futures.

# Challenges and Legal Services for Unaccompanied Minors



# WHAT'S THE REALITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA?

## Honduras



- A combination of economic hardship, poor social and natural disasters, violence.
- Honduras leads the world with the highest homicide rate: organized crime and street gangs.

## El Salvador



- The crime rate reached historic levels in 2015 with 102 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants, gang violence.
- Economic hardship, poor social structure.

## Guatemala



- "The country does not offer the working or economic conditions that promote the integral development of these people".
- Violence and family problems.

# What is it happening?

The number of unaccompanied children held by Border Patrol has plummeted by 88% since late March, when U.S. migrant holding facilities became severely overcrowded as thousands of minors crossed the southern border alone.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) was holding 677 unaccompanied children, compared to the record 5,767 lone minors the agency had in its custody on March 28.

Unaccompanied children were spending an average of 130 hours in Border Patrol custody in March, beyond the three-day legal timeframe the agency has to transfer them to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Unaccompanied minors are now being held in Border Patrol facilities for an average of 20 hours.

The record arrivals quickly overwhelmed the U.S. government's infrastructure to process lone minors. The largest Border Patrol facility for migrant children was at 1,640% capacity in late March, holding more than 3,200 unaccompanied minors in a tent designed for 250 people.





# Children's Realities

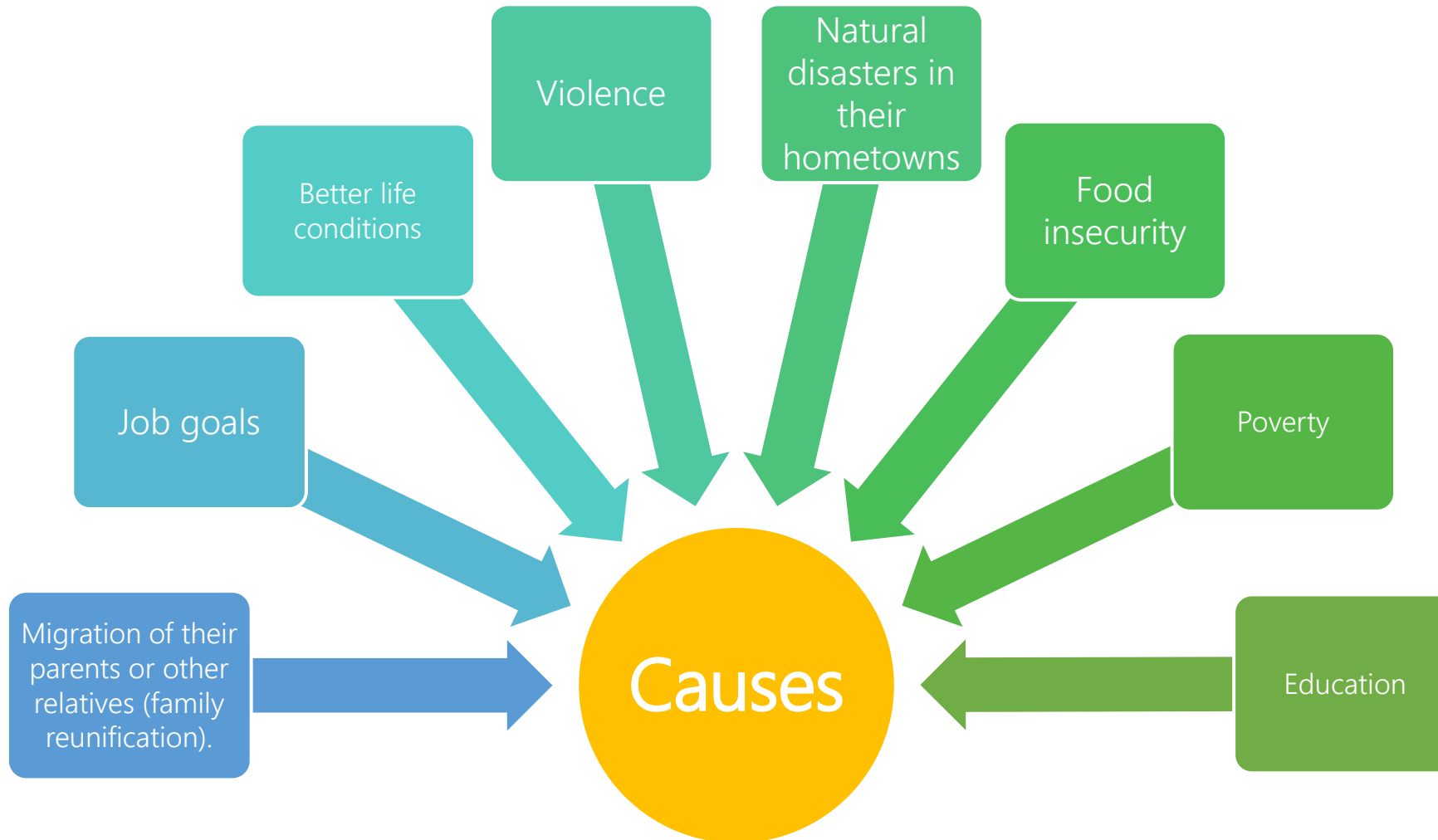
- Most of those children have been abandoned, abused or neglected before age 18 by at least one of their biological parents
- Teens often arrive at the U.S. border by themselves to escape actual gang violence or the threat of gang violence:
  - Some have already been victims (girls forced to be gang members' girlfriends, sexually assaulted, boys recruited or forced to "help" gang members as lookouts, transporting bags, etc).
  - Some are afraid of becoming victims (received verbal threats by gang members on way to school, know of classmates/neighborhood kids who were already recruited and/or killed by gangs). To protect their children, caretakers often restrict children's movement -- other than going to/from school; they do not go outside





- Many of them are able to reunite with a parent or other close relative in the U.S. Some are not able to reunify with anyone and remain in government custody.
- Even when the children are reunited with a parent or close relative in the U.S., the relationship may turn sour and teens find themselves abandoned, abused or neglected once again.
- Younger children often enter with a mother or father (enter as family unit), or if not, they arrive with an older sibling, cousin or aunt/uncle (and so are considered “unaccompanied” b/c they are not with a parent):
  - Often, the older relative (parent, sibling or aunt) is fleeing violence (gang extortion, recruitment, or domestic violence)
  - The young child may not have been directly threatened, but has witnessed violence and/or is in danger b/c of their family relationship to the person being persecuted.

# Children and migration:



# < For this reason: >

It is necessary to understand this social, cultural, economic and political reality and phenomenon, where the central actors are children and young people.



Whose causes, arrangements, routes and dynamics of their migratory processes to cross territorial borders places them in a situation of social vulnerability and defenselessness in the face of their rights.



That can lead to accidents, illnesses, family estrangement, labor exploitation, child trafficking and involvement in the commission of crimes, or being object of abuse, discrimination, segregation, rejection, deceit and abuse.



# Sequelae of separation:

The ravages of the absence and breakdown of family ties put the mental and emotional health of a generation of future adults at risk and Placement instability, the transfer of children between multiple installations.

Anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and behavioral changes that lead to violent or criminal acts.

## Migration-related changes:

Lack of appetite, aggressiveness, rebellion, running away from home and sleep disorders, and highlighted that in some cases the persistence of symptoms leads to the diagnosis of mental illnesses.



## Children:

- Appetite changes
- Irritability
- Crying
- Aggressiveness
- Lack or excess of sleep
- Lack of concentration

## Teenagers:

- Appetite changes
- Rebellion
- Household leaks
- Poor academic performance
- Anxiety
- Lack or excess of sleep
- Sadness
- Hopelessness



- Some children arrive to a parent's home in the U.S. after years of separation or to a relative they have never met.
- Some have lived with a great deal of independence, taking care of their own survival under extraordinary circumstances.
- Even when a young person is released to a parent, prolonged periods of separation may have strained family relationships.

An unaccompanied child's reunification with family and transition to community life is not a single event but along process requiring preparation, support and follow-up adapted to each child's age, needs, evolving capacities, the cause of separation, past experiences or trauma.



# COVID-19, family and migration:

In northern Central America, stay-at-home orders and other measures put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 have exacerbated the direct and secondary impacts of the pandemic:

1

Domestic violence and abuse against women and children have increased in many countries.

2

Economic shocks have compounded existing hardships, creating a potent mix for violence to thrive.

3

Child welfare and protection systems, already fragile prior to the pandemic, have been overwhelmed and ill-equipped to respond to the scale of need.

4

Some migrant shelters operated by non-governmental organizations have had to close due to an inability to ensure COVID-19 prevention measures and a lack of resources to continue operations. <sup>(53)</sup>

A photograph of several children sitting at wooden desks in a classroom. The children are of diverse backgrounds and are looking towards the camera with various expressions, some smiling. The room has a whiteboard and some papers on the wall. The text 'Unaccompanied Minors in Shelters' is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font, framed by yellow L-shaped brackets.

# Unaccompanied Minors in Shelters





# Steps in relation to education:

1

A child may present at an official port of entry and request protection or attempt to cross the border between ports of entry. A CBP official conducts an initial screening, and the child is held in a CBP detention facility, either a small outpost or a large "processing center," until being repatriated or sent to longer-term U.S. government custody.



2

ORR is responsible for providing housing and care commensurate with the child's safety and emotional and physical needs, including medical care, education and other services, and identifying and vetting sponsors (usually family members) to whom the child may be safely released while awaiting immigration proceedings.



3

ORR locates relatives or legal guardians

Receive education by shelters

Unaccompanied minors can attend public schools.

1

# Education in shelters:

According to the ORR Guide, permanent shelter facilities must provide:



- An initial educational assessment within 72 hours of a child's admission to determine the child's level of academic development, literacy and linguistic ability.
- Educational services with six hours of instruction per day, Monday to Friday, to take place in a structured classroom environment, throughout the calendar year.
- Instruction in basic academic subject areas including science, social studies, mathematics, reading, writing, physical education, and English language development.

- Academic reports and progress notes for every student.
- Educational and classroom materials that are reflective of the children's diversity and that are sensitive to differences.
- Materials in all native languages represented at the facility.
- Curricula that include remedial education, after-school tutoring, and opportunities for academic advancement, such as special projects, independent studies and preparation courses for the General Educational Development (GED) test which provides certification equivalent to the US high school diploma.

# Practices and challenges of shelters:

These shelters must comply with the minimum educational requirements established by the ORR Guide, various factors including:

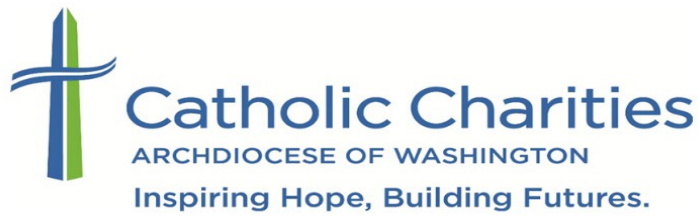
- The facility's physical size
- Staff expertise
- Lack of a standardized curriculum degree of support from the local school district mean that educational programming differs across shelters.

Challenges are:

- Shelters are often limited in the physical space they have available and must make adaptations to provide education to all children.
- Students are grouped by age or according to academic development and linguistic ability is a decision taken by the shelter teachers, and both options pose challenges for classroom instruction.
- Classrooms host students of varying ages and educational backgrounds who enter and exit care at different times.
- Behavioural issues, fluctuating levels of interest in education, and trauma responses – often restrict the teachers' ability to adequately prepare students for entering a local school system after release.
- Students who remain in care for longer than the average length of stay may repeat the curriculum
- Unaccompanied children arriving at the south-western border are Spanish-speaking, some speak indigenous Mayan languages, and others are from countries such as Guinea, Ghana, India and Bangladesh, leading to linguistically diverse classrooms. Locating interpreters and culturally relevant materials for less widely spoken languages can be difficult, which hinders students' access.
- Although federal law protects the rights of individuals with disabilities, students in shelters may not be properly diagnosed due to limited access to qualified and certified assessors.



# Immigration Legal Services



### Immigration Legal Services

### Legal Orientation Program for Custodians on Unaccompanied Minors Program

### Newcomer Network Department at CC

- The Archdiocese of Washington covers DC and 5 Maryland counties (including Montgomery County).
- The highest number of clients we serve live in Montgomery County.

For example, in the last fiscal year (July 2019-June 2020), we completed 2,965 cases (including legal consultations to full representation)

Of that total, 1,485 cases were for Montgomery County residents.

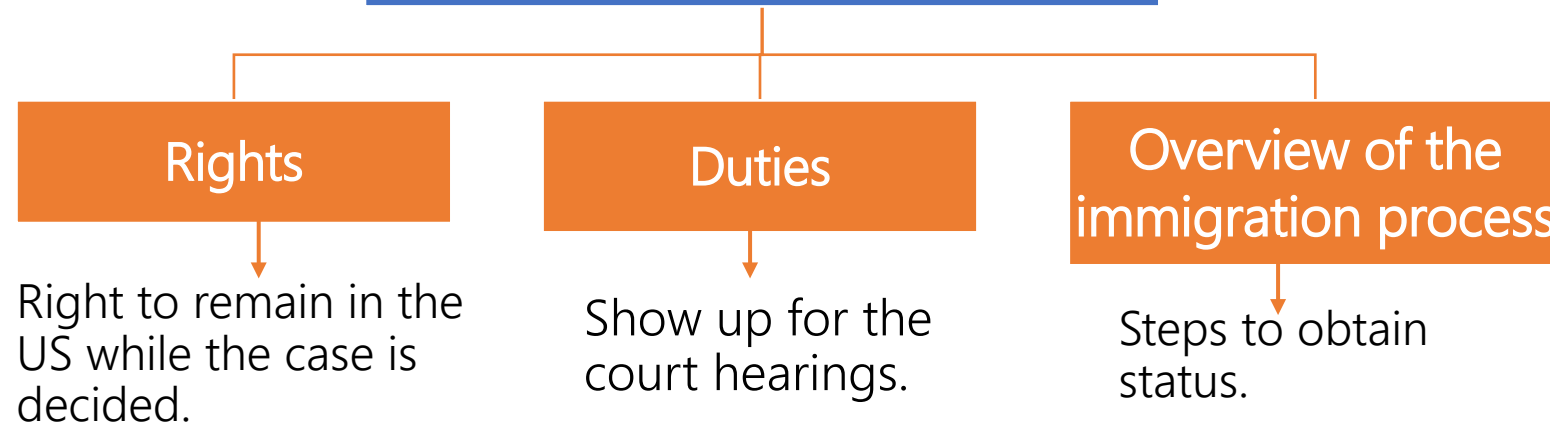
- We are designated by the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) to provide LOPC services in this region covering MD, DC, and VA (covering both the Baltimore Immigration Court and the Arlington Immigration Court).
- We have been a provider for the LOPC program since : 2011.
- When an unaccompanied minor settles in this area to come live with their custodian, the LOPC program is one of their first contact points in the community.

- This past year, CC started the Newcomer Network composed of the Immigration Legal Services Program and the Navigator Program. Based on the many needs of newcomers to the U.S., We are working to provide a more holistic approach to serving the community. The Immigration Legal Services program provides direct legal representation, matches cases for pro bono representation, and provides community outreach and education. Within the ILS program, we have a strong pro bono program and serve as the area's provider for the Legal Orientation Program for Custodians (LOPC) of Unaccompanied Minors.
- The Navigator program works with our most vulnerable clients living in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. When ILS identifies a client in need of case management services in these counties, the client is then referred to the Navigator Program for these follow up services.

# LEGAL ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR CUSTODIANS OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN (LOPC)



The LOPC aims to provide legal literacy to custodians of unaccompanied children on three main topics:



## SERVICES OFFERED BY LOPC\*

- Screening on human trafficking, i.e. 4 cases of labor and/or sexual exploitation abroad were identified and flagged, the minors are receiving mental and financial support through the ORR;
- General inquiries;
- Guidance on school enrollment;
- Referrals for social services.
- Legal Literacy Orientations;
- Legal screening with attorneys;
- Workshops on change of address and venue (jurisdiction);
- Assistance with the change of address, i.e. we fill out and mail forms;
- Workshops on asylum applications for unrepresented individuals

(60)  
**\*Free of charge**



# WHY IS LEGAL LITERACY RELEVANT FOR CUSTODIANS AND CHILDREN?



Knowledge is power and empowers our communities.



LEGAL: To find help one must understand the process and what it involves

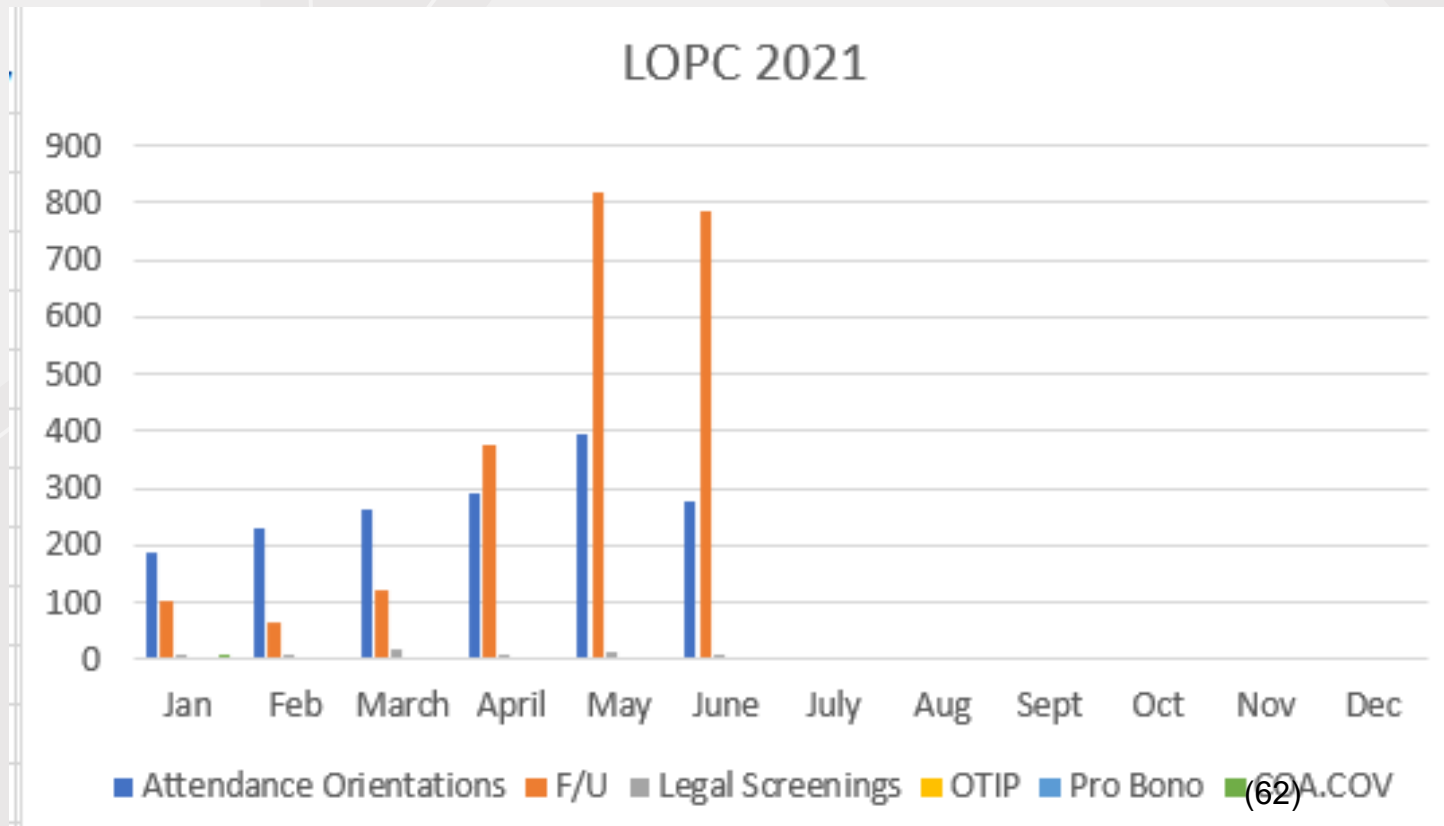
Children's safety: The custodians will learn about children's rights and their duties as custodians, i.e. duty to protect child from abuse, exploitation, provide education and healthcare

Lack of status: Undocumented individuals have rights, i.e. right to attend school, get medical treatment, report crimes, etc.

2021	Attendance Orientations	F/U	Legal Screenings	OTIP	Pro Bono	COA.COV
Jan	189	102	8			10
Feb	232	64	9			4
March	262	123	16	2		
April	289	378	10	1		
May	396	819	12	2		
June	279	784	10	1	2	

## LOPC IN NUMBERS: APRIL 2021

- Orientations: 289+ custodians attended the orientations.
- Emailed 289 packets;
- Conducted 378+ follow-ups;
- Provided 10+ legal screenings;
- In total we served at least 677 custodians (sponsors) of unaccompanied minors.





# Office of Trafficking in Persons (OTIP)

## OTIP in a nutshell:

Children who were forced to work or sexually abused (not all cases qualify, more elements are required) in their home countries:

- Forced to work, i.e. domestic, farm work, etc, or
- Sexually abused (not all cases of sexual abuse qualify), i.e. abused by relative, isolated, not allowed to go out by herself, etc.

Children who qualify receive benefits to the same extent as refugees, i.e. medical and rental support, funds (very little and it's hard exceptional) to pay legal fees, food stamps, etc.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Under 18 years-old (application must be filed before 18th birthday, i.e. day before)
- No immigration status.
- Sexually abused forced to work in home country, 3rd country, in transit to the US or in the US.

## BENEFITS

- Food assistance
- Cash assistance (refugee cash assistance must be requested within 8 months of OTIP approval)
- Medical Aid
- Mental health services
- Education
- Foster care (URM program)

Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance		July 2021 Full supplemental request				
Objective	Overview	HHS	MCPS	MCDR	OCP/Gilchrist	Description
<b>MCPS</b>						
Transition Counselor for Newcomers	1 contract position at MCPS Central Office		\$ 130,000.00			Coordinates school-based services, aligns learning programs and works with Navigation Network for Newcomers to link students and their families/sponsors to wrap-around supports and integrated services in and out of school, and leads data collection/analysis. Provides counseling, coordinates wrap-around services and academy support for newcomers (Pre-K-12). Provides multilingual and culturally-sensitive supports (acculturation, trauma, etc.)
ESOL Transition Counselors	Total request 8 positions		\$ 766,667.00			The total request is for 8 ETCs. Currently, there are 14 total ETCs. This is an approximate increase of 50%. This would allow us to increase direct support to schools that currently receive support on a referral basis only.
Elementary SLIFE Coaches	Increase coaches by 6		\$ 438,966.00			SLIFE (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education) coaches will support several elementary schools that receive SLIFE students providing additional support in meeting the academic needs of our newly arrived students.. They would serve as coaches and work with core teams and teachers around programming and instruction for students as well as working as a coteacher at times to model English language acquisition strategies and would help provide guidance around building the necessary prerequisite skills to get students performing at the grade level standard.
MCPS Professional development			\$ 250,000.00			Through the use of culturally-sensitive, trauma-informed, and resilience-oriented approaches to ensure that newcomers are ready to learn and engage in the community, funding will be used to create an environment where all students and families feel welcome. The PD will be multi-tiered including professional learning for central office and school teams (admin, main/counseling office, counselors, security and teachers), as well as families. MCPS has already budgeted \$100,000 for La Cultura Cura and neurosequential training.

Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance		July 2021 Full supplemental request				Description
Objective	Overview	HHS	MCPS	MCDR	OCP/Gilchrist	
<b>HHS</b>						
Newcomer Coordinator	1 Coordinator at HHS	\$ 141,167				This is a new position equivalent to an M3. The purpose is to ensure coordination with existing HHS programs and providers and other County agencies and stakeholders. In addition, the position will serve as the primary point of contact on issues related to newly-arriving migrant and asylum-seeking populations with regional, state, and federal partners. The position will be under LHI brokered through the Primary Care Coalition. Start date August 15, 2021. \$110,000 (salary), Fringe Benefit (@28.05%)=\$30,855, and Indirect Cost (@ 8.88%)= \$12,508 TOTAL= \$153,363.
Monitoring and evaluation	Partnership for Evaluation of effectiveness of interventions	\$ 60,000				Evaluation services for first year of program. The M&E work could be contracted with an individual or university.
Navigation Network & Case Management Support - METS sites, Wellness Centers, and community		\$ 240,000				The Navigation Network for Newcomers will proactively link newly arriving migrant and asylum-seeking children and families/sponsors to existing services. The Network will facilitate case management, referral to services, community outreach and communications through culturally competent community- and school-based partners. Increase capacity within current DHHS-MCPS school-based/linked partnerships serving METS sites and the community (Identity to double current case management capacity at HS Wellness Centers, new target of 10 case managers + 3 support staff to reach 1,375 youth/families (\$288,000).
Navigation Network & Case Management Support - METS sites with LTL		\$ 193,368				LTL Family Case Managers link families to needed resources, assist families in applications for appropriate supports and address food, housing, and health care access. They are primarily bilingual (English/Spanish). LTL to increase intensive family case management capacity by 3 FTE to serve 6 METS sites (\$193,368 @ 9 mos for FY22) with capacity to serve up to 90 additional families; current capacity of LTL Family Case Management is 27 Family Case Managers serving over 700 families.
Navigation Network & Case Management Support - METS sites with Cluster Programs		\$ 178,013				Cluster Projects to increase capacity to serve 4 METS sites that do NOT have HSWC/LTL (\$178,013 for 2 brokers @ 9 mos for FY22).

Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance		July 2021 Full supplemental request				
Objective	Overview	HHS	MCPS	MCDR	OCP/Gilchrist	Description
Navigation Network & Case Management Support - Other METS sites and other community sites		\$ 280,000				<p>8 METS sites do not have DHHS-partnered supports. 12 METS sites do not have DHHS-partnered supports that include family case management/care coordination (4 METS sites w/SCYS only have part-time mental health support).</p> <p>There is an urgent need to increase access to multiple supports (mental/behavioral health, medical, legal orientation, family reunification support and other referrals) to METS sites without or with limited HHS-partnered services. A Mobile Resource Team is recommended to deploy to support sites in need of additional culturally-competent and multidisciplinary support. The Team can work with students in school as part of a newcomer orientation program, after school, etc. The Mobile Resource Team will be a multidisciplinary team to support METS sites without Wellness Centers, Linkages to Learning, or access to Cluster Projects. Current contract is thru Dec 2021; a full 6 months of support is also reflected. We should assess the continued need in the fall.</p>
Communications Support	Create public announcements regarding services available and the importance of enrolling newcomers in school.	\$ 100,000				<p>Integrate communications support to ensure outreach and quality service to newcomers, including indigenous populations (\$100,000 to the Communications Shop). Evaluate needs mid-fall in order to make adjustments as necessary. Resources requested will be complemented by other partners involved in ongoing community outreach and navigation (MCPS/SFSE, Catholic Charities, Community Resources). These funds will be the same for a 6 month or full year model.</p>

Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance		July 2021 Full supplemental request				
Objective	Overview	HHS	MCPS	MCDR	OCP/Gilchrist	Description
Family reunification support	Double the capacity of the current Family Reunification contract with Indentity, Inc, reaching 100 families total.	\$ 165,000				Some children arrive to a parent's home in the U.S. after years of separation or to a relative they have never met. Even when a young person is released to a parent, prolonged periods of separation may have strained family relationships. An unaccompanied child's reunification with family and transition to community life is not a single event but a long process requiring preparation, support and follow-up adapted to each child's age, needs, evolving capacities, the cause of separation, past experiences or trauma. Identity currently provides family reunification support to 50 families. With additional funding, Identity can double its capacity in this area, reaching an additional 50 (total 100) families through 6 virtual, non-clinical emotional support group sessions for parents/guardians; 6 virtual family reunification sessions for youth and their parents/guardians; 6 virtual sessions on parenting adolescents on topics such as communication, positive discipline, etc. Even though this program may not be expanded until October, it will reach capacity in the first year.
Mental and behavioral health support through expansion of LtL and SCYS programs		\$ 350,000				Unaccompanied migrant and asylum-seeking children and youth from northern Central America are extraordinarily vulnerable. El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras account for some of the highest rates of murder, femicide and gender-based violence in the world. Many children who leave the region for the United States have experienced a combination of lifelong poverty and severe trauma. LTL and SCYS therapists provide individual, family, and group therapy in the school setting and many have training in addressing the effects of trauma.

Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance		July 2021 Full supplemental request				
Objective	Overview	HHS	MCPS	MCDR	OCP/Gilchrist	Description
Mental and behavioral health support by expanding CCF contract		\$ 225,000				Additional contractual services through CCF, including 2 FTE (therapist plus an in home stabilization worker or case manager) for CCF to provide 1) Clinical Services that include individual and group therapy, psychiatric services with medication management; 2) Case Management Services that provides recreation linkages, school support, community integration activities, housing and food security information. We anticipate 9 months for a full FY22. Current capacity of Care and Connections for Families (CCF) is 2.5 therapists serving approximately 35 clients served per month; 27 clients open simultaneously. Contract total is currently \$529,213.60. Full annual amount for future fiscal years is \$300,000.
Mental and behavioral health support through expansion of BHCS CMH programs		\$ 172,500				\$230,000 for 2 contracted, multilingual behavioral health clinicians devoted to Mobile Resource Team. We anticipate 9 months for a full FY22.
Positive Youth Development	Expand services received from Imagination Stage/Oyeme;	\$ 135,000				Imagination Stage/OYEME currently serves 3 schools (6 classes of 30 ESOL/METS students), reaching 180 students. This is a critical resource in light of the current shortage of bilingual and culturally proficient mental health practitioners. Oyeme uses evidence-based and culturally-sensitive arts programming to address trauma, build resilience, and support community. \$135,000 request would double Oyeme program in MCPS (6 schools/360 students). This program provides a creative arts outlet for young people, utilizing best practice culturally-based, trauma-informed theatre and arts activities to create a sense of community among the participants, and provide a safe space for immigrant youth to share their stories.
Positive Youth Development	Annual Youth Conference	\$ 25,000				Annual youth conference facilitated by DHHS/PYD at \$25,000/year (in partnership with MCPS, Community Partners, and other County Agencies), reaching at least 100 newcomer youth and families. A conference for newcomer youth and families is an important way to facilitate community-building, access to resources, social-emotional wellbeing and youth voice and empowerment.

Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance		July 2021 Full supplemental request				
Objective	Overview	HHS	MCPS	MCDR	OCP/Gilchrist	Description
Health care	2 community health workers at Rocking Horse	\$ 138,000				Poverty and other social determinants of health are associated with adverse physical, developmental, and mental-health-related outcomes. Conditions in unaccompanied children's countries of origin, such as extreme poverty and food insecurity, make it more likely that these minors experience chronic conditions such as malnutrition, obesity, and undiagnosed developmental disorders. HHS/ORR does not pay for medical care once a child is released from its custody, and unaccompanied children face significant barriers to accessing medical services after release. Just six states and the District of Columbia offer health insurance coverage for children under a certain income threshold regardless of immigration status. request includes cost of two Community Health Workers (salary + fringe) through the Primary Care Coalition. The positions can deploy to support families in group programming at Community Hubs and other locations where the Mobile Resource Teams are deployed.
Expand Wellness Center hours of operation	Wellness Centers at Gaithersburg, Northwood, Seneca Valley, Watkins Mill and Wheaton High Schools	\$ 500,124				Wellness Centers currently operate at 5 high school sites during the school day. The Seneca Valley WC is expected to be operational beginning in January 2022. Given that many newcomer youth work during and/or after school hours, they are unable to access the WCs when they are open. CREA day and evening students have not been able to access the wraparound services offered at Wellness Centers. With the increase in evening enrollment, CREA students need consistent access to comprehensive services offered at flexible schedules. In order to better meet the needs of day and evening CREA students, the multiagency taskforce is proposing to expand access to and extend the operating hours of the Wellness Centers. The additional 5 hours per week will allow targeted services and programs for newcomers, including behavioral health and family reunification support, legal orientation, and resource workshops.

Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance		July 2021 Full supplemental request				
Objective	Overview	HHS	MCPS	MCDR	OCP/Gilchrist	Description
Legal services	Increase existing capacity through philanthropic funds + legal services coordinator at Gilchrist				\$ 330,000	All unaccompanied migrant children/youth are placed in deportation proceedings upon release to families/sponsors. 73 percent of unaccompanied minors who were represented in court were granted permission to stay in the United States, compared to 15 percent of unrepresented children. DHHS currently funds 4 legal service providers that provide both legal screenings and direct legal representation to people in deportation and removal proceedings at a total cost of \$670,000 and a maxed out capacity of 200 cases in total. The legal services coordinator (LSC), housed at Gilchrist, would coordinate referrals to legal service providers and will develop/implement a public-private partnership. This position, while the equivalent to a Program Manager II, Grade 25 is being requested as contractual. The full cost for FY23 would be \$110,000 (\$80,000 for FY22 with the understanding it will take at least 3 months to fill the position). The FTE will also serve as the County's point of contact for the development and oversight of a public-private partnership for immigration legal services. Rational for budget request for additional legal services (\$250,000): Not only are providers at capacity but the current HHS legal immigration funds mentioned above are only for non-citizen residents in removal or deportation proceedings and does not include representation for asylum or other forms of immigration relief. We will also seek matching funds through private sources.



Newcomers Enhancements and Assistance		July 2021 Full supplemental request				
Objective	Overview	HHS	MCPS	MCDR	OCP/Gilchrist	Description
<b>DEPT OF RECREATION</b>						
Recreation (Seasonal WYs)	Soccer4Change; youth workforce development (coaching)			\$ 300,000		While one-on-one mental health service provision is effective, it is not cost-efficient. It is important to include community-based mental wellness, using non-traditional avenues including therapeutic recreation with coaches trained in trauma-informed approaches. \$300,000 request (\$93,000 career admin 2, \$150,000 operating, \$57,000 seasonal to include hiring youth to support program). This would be sufficient to replicate/expand the successful Soccer4Change program and potentially add youth workforce development opportunities (youth employees hired to support program and/or stipends for work experiences/apprenticeships for undocumented youth); and other specialized targeted recreational events to meet migrant youth throughout the county.
<b>TOTAL July 2021 supplemental</b>		<b>\$ 2,903,172</b>	<b>\$ 1,585,633</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	<b>\$ 330,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,118,805</b>
						<b>Full FY22 Budget With Certain Items Prorated</b>