



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Master Plan for Children, Youth & Families

### 1. Why is the City of Little Rock developing a Master Plan for Children, Youth, and Families?

*The City of Little Rock (City) established the Department of Community Programs in 1996 with a mission to address crime prevention issues and to provide a greater array of social and human services needed and desired by citizens. The City would like to build on the critical work done over the past several decades to enhance youth's skills and abilities, increase graduation rates and academic proficiency, and reduce youth crime, school suspensions and youth violence. The Master Plan for Children, Youth, and Families will engage youth and the community, take into account national promising practices, and rely on local expertise to ensure that all youth in Little Rock have the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.*

### 2. What will the Master Plan include?

*Taking into consideration the Commission for Children, Youth, and Families' mission to help guide programs and services for Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (PIT)-funded programs, a Master Plan will help ensure that all of Little Rock's children and youth can grow into caring, contributing adults. The Master Plan focuses on strengthening PIT-funded programs so it can meet basic needs of children, youth and families; increase quality and drive programs toward desired outcomes; support programs helping kids succeed; improve outreach; and engage children, youth and families.*

### 3. What are PIT-funded programs?

*Grounded in a positive youth development framework that emphasizes children and youth as assets to the community, the development of PIT-funded programs fundamentally changed the way the City approached issues related to youth crime and law enforcement and how it supported Little Rock's highest need children, youth, and families.*

*PIT stands for Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment and thusly PIT-funded programs are loosely grouped into those three areas:*

**Prevention** – *Reach children and young adults before they commit a crime or become involved in juvenile delinquency or gang violence. These programs include the following (As of June 2016):*

- *Neighborhood-based Programs (after-school and out-of-school; ages 6-11/12-17))*
  - *Faith Care, Inc./Inner City FutureNet*
  - *Goodwill Industries of AR*
  - *In His Image Youth Development Center*
  - *Life Skills for Youth*
  - *Little Rock Boys & Girls Clubs*
    - *Mitchell*
    - *Penick*
    - *Thrasher*
    - *Whetstone*
  - *Our House, Inc.*
  - *Positive Impact for Youth*
  - *Promiseland CDC*
  - *Pulaski County Youth Services (Our Clubs)*

- *Additional Expanded Services*
  - *Little Rock Boys & Girls Clubs*
    - *Mitchell*
    - *Penick*
    - *Thrasher*
    - *Whetstone*
- *Enhancement Programs*
  - *Arkansas Community Dispute Resolution Centers*
  - *Arkansas Cradle to the Prison Pipeline Initiative*
  - *Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Society*
  - *Junior Achievement of Arkansas*
  - *LRSD-Computers for Kids*
  - *Museum of Discovery*
  - *Sylvan Learning Centers*
  - *The First Tee*
  - *UAMS-Center for Diversity Affairs*
- *Parks & Recreation Department*
  - *Various programs and services including the Summer Playground programs*
- *Little Rock Police Department (LRPD)*
  - *“Our Kids” – O.K. Program*
  - *“Girls Empowered by Mentoring Sisterhood” – G.E.M.S. Program*
- *Summer Recreation Programs*
  - *ABC Adolescent Center*
  - *Little Rock Boys & Girls Clubs*
    - *Mitchell*
    - *Penick*
    - *Thrasher*
    - *Whetstone*
  - *Centers for Youth and Families-Adolescent*
  - *Effective Leaders-Kingdom Foundation*
  - *EMOBA*
  - *Greater Center Star-CDF Summer School*
  - *Greater Second Care Center*
  - *Life Skills for Youth, Inc.*
  - *Our House, Inc.*
  - *Pfeifer Camp*
  - *Sipe Ministries (Little Scholars School)*
  - *Songbird/Baseline Summer Explore*
- *Summer Youth Employment Program*
- *Career Skills Training Program*
- *Scholars Recognition Program (National Merit, National Achievement, and National Hispanic)*
- *“Small Contracts” Programs*
- *Mayors Youth Council*
- *City Year*
- *Central AR Library System (CALs) Reading Program*

**Intervention** – Deliberate outreach to children and young adults who are known to be currently exposed to higher risk environments before they become involved in criminal activities or to change current juvenile delinquent activities. These programs include the following:

- Youth Intervention Programs (YIP) (after-school and out-of-school; male & female ages 13-19)
  - Better Community Development (BCD)
  - In His Image Youth Development Center
  - Little Rock Boys & Girls Clubs
  - Ministry of Intercession / Bridge 2 Success
  - Promiseland CDC
  - Pulaski County Youth Services (Our Clubs)
  - St. John – Unto Others, Inc.
- Re-Entry Services
  - Goodwill Industries of AR
  - Our House, Inc.
- Juvenile Diversion Program

**Treatment** – Assisting citizens with the training and skills they need to overcome issues or substance abuse. These programs include:

- Little Rock Police Department (LRPD)
  - Victims Services Coordinator
- Domestic Violence Counseling and Services
- Tobacco Education Programs

**Technical Assistance** – Providing specialized services or skills that a nonprofit does not possess within the organization, but which it may need in order to operate more effectively.

- New Futures for Youth, Inc.

#### **4. Where does PIT funding come from, how much is it, and who is in charge of it?**

This milestone achievement was the culmination of efforts that started in 1988 with a \$10 million grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to establish and underwrite the organization, New Futures for Little Rock Youth, which began to create the environment necessary for serious consideration of youth issues. That was followed in 1991 with a Fighting Back Grant of \$5 million from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This grant allowed the City of Little Rock to establish a base of substance abuse services and programs.

In 1993, the City of Little Rock passed a 1/2 cent City sales tax to permanently designate City funds to sustain and administer Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (PIT) funding, in addition to other major city initiatives. In 2011, Little Rock voters overwhelmingly approved a new 5/8 cent sales tax for operations in order to meet the increased needs of the city. As a result, the Department of Community Programs operates on an annual PIT budget of \$5.5 million dollars which in 2015 supported more than 50 programs and served more than 11,600 Little Rock children, youth, and families.

The Department of Community Programs is in charge of administering PIT funding in the form of contracts with programs and/or services that benefit children, youth and families who live in the City of Little Rock. In its advisory role to the City of Little Rock Board of Directors, the Little Rock Commission on Children, Youth, and Families (CYF) provides policy leadership and advocacy to promote healthy children, youth, and families in Little Rock. Additionally, City of Little Rock Board of Directors approves the direction and framework for PIT funding to provide guidance for PIT implementation. City Directors provide the ultimate oversight of the Master Plan implementation.

## **5. Who benefits from PIT dollars and are there any restrictions such as income or other factors that could prevent someone from being able to receive services?**

*The Master Plan outlines a system to identify unmet needs, prioritize services, and infuse resources (PIT dollars) where they are needed most. There is only one “restriction” to receiving services, and that is all recipients of PIT-funded programs or services must live within the City of Little Rock.*

## **6. Who developed the Master Plan?**

*Between February 2015 and June 2016, the Department of Community Programs (DCP) and its consultant team (Advocacy & Communication Solutions, LLC [ACS]; Joseph Jones, formerly of Philander Smith College’s Social Justice Institute; and the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation) engaged in a multi-pronged approach to develop the Master Plan.*

*From the beginning, the community was invited to participate in numerous community forums throughout 2015 and in January 2016. Specifically, the process sought to engage individuals and organizations throughout the city in a wide range of targeted categories who all have an interest in the welfare of children, youth, and families, including:*

- *Parents/Grandparents/Guardians*
- *Children and Youth*
- *Faith-based/Non-Profit Organizations and Neighborhood Associations*
- *City/County/State Organizations*
- *Current and potential PIT-funded Programs*
- *Educators*
- *Business Community*
- *Latino Community*
- *Media*
- *Elected Officials*
- *Law Enforcement and Re-Entry Programs*
- *City Departments such as the Little Rock Police Department and the Parks and Recreation Department*

*The recommendations for the Master Plan were also driven by the expertise and knowledge of an Advisory Committee comprised of 10 local individuals who have specific expertise in PIT funding areas.*

*Throughout the process, the consulting team leveraged PIT’s rich history, along with the successes and lessons learned from the past 22 years, and strengthened it with community feedback, City Board of Directors viewpoints, and national promising practices to identify and understand changing demographics, city dynamics, and innovations to develop the final product.*

## **7. How was the Master Plan developed?**

*The process taken by the Advisory Committee was intentional in that they deliberately considered several sources of information to understand the needs of children, youth and families in Little Rock. These reflect a grassroots effort to hear directly from children, youth and families about what they need; a review of quantitative data from the Little Rock School District, Little Rock Police Department and research from New Futures for Youth; and national promising practices. These elements included the following activities:*

- *Focus groups, surveys, and community meetings that reached 450 youth and 285 adults in total.*
- *Interviews with 12 community leaders.*
- *A survey to capture the viewpoints of all the Children, Youth, and Families Commission members.*
- *Local scan to better understand the programs – funded and unfunded – that serve Little Rock children, youth and families.*
- *National promising practices in the areas of prevention, intervention and treatment.*

- *Data on children and youth of Little Rock from a variety of sources, including the school district, New Futures for Youth studies and the Little Rock Police Department.*
- *Feedback from funded programs and others who have experience with children and youth who are at high risk for gang related activity.*

*Committee members met as a full group for a total of 10 times between February 2015 and June 2016. In addition, Advisory Committee members met several times as members of four Workgroups: 1) Systems; 2) Children and Youth; 3) Environment; and 4) Partnerships and Resources.*

## **8. Who was part of the Master Plan Advisory Committee?**

*The Advisory Committee included the following individuals:*

**Tammie Cloyes**, *Public School Program Coordinator; Arkansas Department of Education*

- Area of Expertise: afterschool education, teaching, educational leadership, school districts

**Ron Copeland**, *Director; University of Arkansas at Little Rock-University District Partnership*

- Area of Expertise: community development, non-profit management, county government, promise neighborhoods
- Member of the Pulaski County Planning Board

**Mark DeYmaz**, *Pastor & Author; Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas*

- Area of Expertise: faith based work and cultural competency

**Beth Echols**, *Attorney; Gill Ragon Owen Law Firm*

- Area of Expertise: Family Law
- Member of the Commission on Children, Youth & Families

**Scott Gordon**, *President; Gordon Consulting Group*

- Area of Expertise: community health, social work, reentry, and former executive vice-president of the Arkansas Children's Hospital
- Member of the City of Little Rock Ambulance Authority

**Paul Kelly**, *Senior Policy Analyst; Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families*

- Area of Expertise: early care and education, juvenile justice, child welfare, out-of-school programs, and family self-sufficiency
- Member of the Youth Justice Reform Board

**Dr. James Lagrone**, *Retired Pastor*

- Area of Expertise: counseling and domestic violence
- Member of the Commission on Children, Youth & Families

**Kareem Moody**, *Director-North Little Rock Campus; Pulaski Tech Network for Student Success*

- Area of Expertise: student success and enrollment retention, afterschool programming, and disconnected youth

**Jo Thompson**, *Director of Children's Systems of Care; Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services*

- Area of Expertise: child welfare and research and data analysis
- Chair, Commission on Children, Youth & Families

**Laveta Wills-Hale**, Network Coordinator; Arkansas Out-of-School Network / Arkansas State University

- Area of Expertise: out-of-school time programming, and youth development policy and research

### **9. Was the Little Rock School District (LRSD) involved in the development of the Master Plan?**

*The LRSD Volunteers in Public Schools (ViPS) Office was engaged by DCP at the start of the Master Plan process to understand existing programs offered by LRSD that were related to youth throughout the city. Additionally, at various points during the Master Plan process, individual LRSD employees were engaged to provide information requested as necessary. An official request was made by DCP to LRSD to participate in the development of the Master Plan. This request was received and LRSD Superintendent Baker Kurrus advised that lack of resources at LRSD would not allow for active participation in the Master Plan development process. DCP will continue to encourage participation of LRSD moving forward.*

### **10. Who will implement the Master Plan?**

*The Department of Community Programs will lead the implementation of the Master Plan for Children, Youth, and Families. However, it has been noted throughout the Master Plan that the way we serve and support our youngest residents and their families must change, and become more interconnected to mirror the challenges we seek to overcome. This means that solutions to the challenges our community faces today cannot be tackled by one department—or even by city government alone. DCP will work to augment and maintain an ongoing list of organizational partners and resources to increase the reach of programs and services that benefit Little Rock citizens. Nevertheless, caring for our children, youth and families is a responsibility we all share as members of the Little Rock community.*

### **11. How can I become involved in making a difference in the Little Rock Community?**

*Several of the PIT-funded programs are always looking for volunteers and mentors to assist as role models for their participants and program assistants. Additionally, the Master Plan is driven from community conversations. These discussions are not over. Included in the plan is a broader communication effort and ongoing conversation to engage children, youth and families throughout Little Rock to improve services and ensure they are meeting the needs of the community.*

### **12. Who can I contact to find out more about the Master Plan or Community Programs?**

*For more information, contact the Department of Community Programs:*

- Phone: 501-399-3420
- Email: [ProgramReferral@littlerockar.gov](mailto:ProgramReferral@littlerockar.gov)
- Website: [www.LRDCPCares.com](http://www.LRDCPCares.com)
- Facebook: [Facebook/LRDCPCares](https://www.facebook.com/LRDCPCares)
- Twitter: [@LRDCPCares](https://twitter.com/LRDCPCares)