

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

18 DEC 13 PM 5:29

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual Financial Disclosure Statements of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, 135 Cannon House Office Building, within 15 days after travel is completed. Please do not file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Marek Laco
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: \_\_\_\_\_ or None ☒  
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: Friday, Nov. 30, 2018 Return: Nov. 30, 2018  
b. Dates at personal expense (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ or None ☒
4. Departure city: Washington, DC Destination: Baltimore, Md Return city: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF)
6. Describe meetings and events attended: Visited various programs in Baltimore, Maryland that serve system-involved youth and help them get back on track.
7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box):
  - a. ☒ a completed Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form;
  - b. ☒ the Primary Trip Sponsor Form completed by the trip sponsor prior to the trip, including all attachments and Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;
  - c. ☒ page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the employee; and
  - d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. (Signify that statement is true by checking box): ☒  
b. If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF TRAVELER: [Signature] DATE: 12/13/18

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

NAME OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: Jason Lewis DATE: 12/13/18

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: [Signature]

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. ***A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) was the sole sponsor of this trip.
2. Travel Destination(s): Baltimore, Maryland
3. Date of Departure: Friday, November 30, 2018 Date of Return: Friday, November 30, 2018
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): See attached list. AYPF invited select staff who handle relevant youth, education, & workforce policy issues.  
(NOTE: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.)
5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in response to Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$45.05 (charter bus)	N/A	\$21.38	\$16 - parking, Approx. \$44.69 in mileage
Accompanying Relative	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. (Signify statement is true by checking box): ☒

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Betsy Brand

Name: Betsy Brand

Title: Executive Director

Organization: American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF)

**I am an officer of the above-named organization (signify statement is true by checking box):** ☒

Address: 1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20036

Telephone number: (202) 775-9731

Email Address: bbrand@aypf.org

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at (202) 225-7103.

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Marek Laco
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF)
3. Travel destination(s): Baltimore, Maryland
4. a. Date of departure Nov. 30, 2018 Date of return: Nov. 30, 2018  
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
If yes, dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a relative at the sponsor's expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
b. If yes:  
(1) Name of accompanying relative: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Relationship to traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age: ☐ Yes ☐ No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: ☒ Yes ☐ No  
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.  
As a Legislative Assistant, I handle juvenile justice policy for Congressman Jason Lewis. He is leading the House bill to reauthorize the federal program supporting juvenile justice, including reforms that encourage community-based services and alignment with educational programming. Learning from the successful programs included in this visit will help me advance this legislation.
9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip? ☐ Yes ☒ No

10. **FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:**

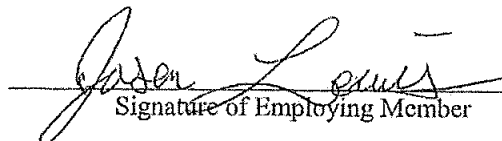
**TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:**

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date:

10/25/2018

  
Signature of Employing Member

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Ethics**

**PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM**

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a Traveler Form at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee Web site ([ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.**

1. Sponsor (who will be paying for the trip): \_\_\_\_\_  
American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) \_\_\_\_\_
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒
3. Check only one: I represent that:
  - a. the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip ☒ *or*
  - b. the trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds ☐ *or*.
  - c. the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities. ☐If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members and employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary):  
See attached list. AYPF is inviting select staff who handle relevant education, judiciary, and child welfare policy issues.
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)? ☐ Yes ☒ No
6. Date of departure: Friday, November 30, 2018 Date of return: Friday, November 30, 2018
7.
  - a. City of departure: Washington, D.C.
  - b. Destination(s): Baltimore, Maryland
  - c. City of return: Washington, D.C.
8. I represent that (check one of the following):
  - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: ☐ *or*
  - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: ☒ *or*
  - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event and lobbyist/foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations. ☐
9. Check one of the following:
  - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above: ☒
  - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging: ☐
  - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night: ☐ *or*
  - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights: ☐If "d" is checked, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities the House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees) (indicate agenda is attached by checking box): ☒

11. Check one:

a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒ or

b. N/A – trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education. ☐

12. For each sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

AYPF's mission is to provide professional development for policymakers on youth and education issues. This study tour demonstrates innovative programs in the Baltimore, MD area that are focused on improving outcomes for systems-involved youth through a range of holistic supports. AYPF has created the agenda and organized all logistics, and will manage and facilitate school site visits.

13. Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary.

a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☒ Car ☐ Other ☐ (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☒ Other ☐ (Specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

c. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒

15. I represent that either (check one of the following):

a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees: ☐ or

b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation: ☒

If "b" is checked:

1) Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximately \$20.00 per participant

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: \_\_\_\_\_  
AYPF selected Living Classrooms and The Choice Program at University of Maryland, Baltimore for their nationally recognized programs that have improved outcomes for systems-involved youth.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel name: N/A City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per night: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel name: N/A City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per night: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel name: N/A City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost per night: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. (signify that the statement is true by checking box): ☒

18. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates	Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$30 per participant	N/A	\$20 per participant
For each accompanying relative			

	<i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee		
For each accompanying relative		


**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

19. Check one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below. ☒ or  
b. N/A – sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education. ☐

20. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip. ☒

21. I certify by my signature that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge

Signature: 

Name: Betsy Brand

Title: Executive Director

Organization: American Youth Policy Forum

Address: 1200 18th Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20036

Telephone number: (202) 775-9731

Email address: bbrand@aypf.org

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-7103 (phone)  
(202) 225-7392 (general fax)

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana  
*Chairwoman*  
Theodore E. Deutch, Florida  
*Ranking Member*

Kenny Marchant, Texas  
Leonard Lance, New Jersey  
Mimi Walters, California  
John Ratcliffe, Texas

Yvette D. Clarke, New York  
Jared Polis, Colorado  
Anthony Brown, Maryland  
Steve Cohen, Tennessee



ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

## U.S. House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Donna Herbert  
*Director of Administration*

Megan Savage  
*Chief of Staff and Counsel to  
the Chairwoman*

Daniel J. Taylor  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

November 29, 2018

Mr. Marek Laco  
Office of the Honorable Jason Lewis  
418 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Laco:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Baltimore, Maryland, scheduled for November 30, 2018, sponsored by the American Youth Policy Forum.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$390 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Susan W. Brooks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being the most prominent.

Susan W. Brooks  
Chairwoman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Theodore E. Deutch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Deutch" being the most prominent.

Theodore E. Deutch  
Ranking Member

SWB/TED:kej





American Youth  
Policy Forum  
*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

## From Diversion to Reentry: How Community-Based Programs Support Federal and State Policies for Systems-Involved Youth

An AYPF Study Tour  
Washington, DC  
November 30, 2018

Young people involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems often face significant challenges during multiple stages of their education and career journey. As a result, only 51 percent of youth in foster care graduate high school and nearly 2 percent will complete college. For youth involved in the juvenile justice system, [only about 12 percent](#) will graduate high school (or obtain a GED). Title I, Part D of the ***Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)***, provides funding to states to establish or improve educational programs for **neglected or delinquent** youth, or those who may be **at risk of involvement** in the justice system. There are also new provisions to improve education within juvenile justice facilities and promote successful **reentry** for youth who are returning to their schools and communities after incarceration. For youth at-risk of entering foster care, the ***Family First Prevention Services Act*** allows states to now access funding for prevention services without removing youth from their homes, which includes substance use, mental health and family wraparound supports to stabilize families that are likely to enter the child welfare system. The role that community-based programs play in helping to execute successful programs for systems-involved youth is extremely critical. Federal initiatives, such as ***Promise Zones*** and the newly implemented ***Opportunity Zones*** are examples of federal and local collaborations to transform low-income and under resourced communities.

We will bring together a group of bipartisan congressional staff with expertise in child welfare, juvenile justice, education, and workforce to tour and learn about [Living Classrooms](#) Target Investment Zone and [The Choice Program](#) at University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Both programs have been nationally recognized for improving outcomes for systems-involved youth through a range of holistic supports that include diversion and prevention; restorative practices; family engagement; intensive case management; afterschool programs; and job training.

### Goals of this study tour include:

- Highlighting successful and effective programs that are holistically supporting youth involved or at-risk of entering the juvenile justice and foster care systems through the use of diversion and reentry supports.
- Engaging with and learning from program staff and youth about their experiences as a recipient and administrator of services.

- Gaining a better understanding of how community-based best practices can help inform the implementation of federal and state policies.

## Agenda

Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>9:00am</b>          | <b>Board Bus for Living Classrooms</b><br>The bus will pick up participants at Peace Circle on Capitol Hill. The drive to Baltimore will take approximately one and a half hours. |
| <b>10:45am</b>         | <b>Arrive at Living Classrooms Headquarters, Frederick Douglass – Isaac Myers Maritime Museum/Park</b><br>1417 Thames St.<br>Baltimore, MD 21231                                  |
| <b>10:45am-11:00am</b> | <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b><br>Betsy Brand, Executive Director, American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF)<br>James Bond, President and CEO, Living Classrooms Foundation          |
| <b>11:00am-11:20am</b> | <b>Framing the Day and Introductions</b><br>Samaura Stone, Senior Policy Associate, AYPF<br>Jesse Kannam, Policy Associate, AYPF  |
| <b>11:20am-11:24am</b> | <b>4 minute walk from Headquarters to Fresh Start Program led by Cheryl Riviere, Program Director, Fresh Start, Living Classrooms</b>   |
| <b>11:24am-12:00pm</b> | <b>Site Visit #1: Fresh Start Program</b><br>802 South Caroline Street<br>Baltimore, MD 21231   |

Participants will have the opportunity to tour the Fresh Start building and learn about the carpentry and computer programming/coding programs that are offered to youth. There will be time to ask questions and also view the equipment.

### Site Description:

Fresh Start is a 40-week job skills training program that serves out-of-school youth, ages 16-19, most of whom are referred by the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. The program uses carpentry as a medium to teach reading, writing, math, history, and science. Youth also receive classroom instruction and one-on-one tutoring. The curriculum is designed to increase self-reliance, teach problem solving and academic skills, and demonstrate how academic skills and knowledge are used in a practical work environment. Students increase their math, reading, and writing levels by an average of 1.5 grade levels while in the program. 75-80% of Fresh Start graduates remain employed and/or in school for three years after completion of the program.

**12:00pm-12:08pm     2 minute drive from Fresh Start to Community Center**

**12:08pm-12:30pm     Site Visit #2: POWER House Community Center**  
316 S. Caroline Street  
Baltimore, MD 21231

Participants will be able to briefly tour the POWER House Community Center to hear about the various services that are provided for youth and adults, as well as the importance of holistic “one-stop” services and resources that focus on the full spectrum of youth development and workforce readiness.

**Site Description:**

POWER House community center is located directly in Baltimore's largest public housing community, Perkins Homes. POWER is an acronym for Providing, Opportunities, to Work, Expand, and Rise. Year-round out-of-school time programming provides services in five core areas: Education and Career Development, Character and Civic Development, Health and Life Skills, The Arts and Cultural Enrichment, and Health and Wellness. In addition, the POWER House offers financial literacy, English as a Second Language, GED preparatory classes, and job training courses for adults weekly. POWER House's Teen Club, serves high school students, providing them with academic support and enrichment activities to meet the program's goals of increased academic achievement and graduation rates, readiness for higher education, and improved behavior and attitudes toward learning.

**12:30pm-12:35pm     5 minute travel time via charter bus from POWER House Community Center to UA House**

**12:35pm-1:00pm     Lunch with Program Staff and Participants at Site Visit #3: UA House**  
1100 E. Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**Site Description:**

The UA House at Fayette operated by Living Classrooms is the heartbeat of the Target Investment Zone and serves over one hundred students daily with academic enrichment, health, sports and physical fitness education, and career development. It also serves adults with workforce development, career services, entrepreneurial development, and GED and ESL support. Services have been developed as a response to the community's assessed need for intervention that supports the academic and social development of youth by providing year-round out-of-school-time programming for elementary, middle, and high school students, as well as adults living in East Baltimore.

**1:00pm-1:45pm     Closing Discussion: How can state and federal policies improve outcomes for youth transitioning back into the community?**  
Linda Kellum, Case Management Specialist Supervisor, Baltimore City Division, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services  
Justine Buckingham, Case Management Specialist III, Baltimore City Division, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

Cheryl Riviere, Program Director, Fresh Start Program, Living Classrooms  
Tykiem Sanders, Student Representative, Fresh Start Program, Living Classrooms

**1:45pm-2:00pm**      **15 minute travel time via charter bus from UA House to The Choice Program at UMBC**

**Site Visit #4: The Choice Program at UMBC**

University of Baltimore's John and Frances Angelos Law Center  
1401 N. Charles St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**2:00pm-2:15pm**      **Flying Fruit Café Social Enterprise Tour**

Participants will start the visit by touring and speaking with youth from the Flying Fruit Café, operated by students from the Choice Program.

**2:15pm-2:55pm**      **Program Overview and Discussion**

Eric Ford, Director, The Choice Program  
Frank Anderson, Associate Director, The Choice Program  
Elysabeth Stuehrmann-Salbego, Department of Social Services, AmeriCorps Member  
Colleen Chatfield, Department of Social Services, AmeriCorps Member  
Stuart Blair, Department of Social Services, AmeriCorps Member  
Rachina Hill, Choice Program Parent

**Choice Department of Social Services Foster Care Diversion Program Description:**

The Choice DSS Foster Care Diversion Program provides intervention services to families who are at risk of entering the foster care system. The program serves youth ages 13-17 in Baltimore City, and their families. Families are referred from the Department of Social Services (DSS). The program offers voluntary services aimed to prevent out of home placement of youth and preservation of the family unit through intensive mediation and informal counseling, family centered activities, and connections to key support services in the community. Program services include job readiness and employment development, assistance in navigating school and court systems, 24/7 crisis intervention, and case management.

**2:55pm-3:00pm**      **Break**

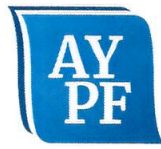
**3:00pm-3:45pm**      **Bridging Policy and Practice: Maryland's approach to Diversion and Reentry for Crossover Youth**

Betsy Tolentino, Executive Director of Pre-Adjudication Services & Reform, Maryland Department of Juvenile Services

After touring and learning about community-based programs in Baltimore that are serving systems-involved youth, participants will now have the opportunity to learn about how the state is implementing policies and practices to support crossover youth in their pursuit of education and employment.

**3:45pm-4:00pm      Key Takeaways and Reflections**

**4:00pm                Study Tour Concludes**



American Youth  
Policy Forum  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## From Diversion to Reentry: How Community-Based Programs Support Federal and State Policies for Systems-Involved Youth

An AYPF Study Tour  
Friday, November 30, 2018  
9:00am-4:00pm

Dear Marek,

We are excited to invite you to participate in our ***From Diversion to Reentry: How Community-Based Programs Support Federal and State Policies*** study tour in Baltimore, Maryland on Friday, November 30, 2018 from 9:00am-4:00pm. Federal initiatives, such as ***Promise Zones*** and the newly implemented ***Opportunity Zones*** are examples of federal and local collaborations to transform low-income and under resourced communities. During this study tour, we will conduct site visits to **Living Classrooms** and **The Choice Program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)**, two nationally recognized programs that are improving outcomes for systems-involved youth through a range of holistic supports that include diversion and prevention; restorative practices; family engagement; intensive case management; afterschool programs; education support and job training.

### Goals of this study tour include:

- Highlighting successful and effective programs that are holistically supporting youth involved or at-risk of entering the juvenile justice and foster care systems through the use of diversion and reentry supports.
- Engaging with and learning from program staff and youth about their experiences as a recipient and administrator of services.
- Gaining a better understanding of how community-based best practices can help inform the implementation of federal and state policies.

This is an invitation-only event and space is limited. **Please, register using the link below.** The deadline to register and submit your ethics paperwork is **Wednesday, October 31, 2018**. Attached please find the agenda as well as all necessary ethics paper work.

This learning opportunity is being organized for Congressional staff and therefore intends to comply with Ethics Rules. AYPF will pay for ground transportation and meals during the study tour.

Sincerely,

Betsy Brand  
Executive Director

Please contact Samaura Stone at [SStone@aypf.org](mailto:SStone@aypf.org) or 202-775-9731 if you have any questions

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**



## 11/30/18-From Diversion to Reentry Study Tour Invited House Staff

First Name	Last Name	Office	Title
Kevin	O'Keefe	Rep. Lou Barletta	Legislative Assistant
Olivia	Oo	Rep. Tony Cardenas	Legislative Assistant
Meghann	Galloway	Rep. Tony Cardenas	Legislative Counsel
Jacqueline	Usyk	Rep. Tony Cardenas	Legislative Director
Tejasi	Thatte	Rep. Tony Cardenas	Legislative Counsel
Jack	Spasiano	Rep. Rosa DeLauro	Legislative Assistant
Sarah	Laven	Rep. Lloyd Doggett	Legislative Assistant
Afton	Cissell	Rep. Lloyd Doggett	Legislative Assistant
Marek	Laco	Rep. Jason Lewis	Legislative Assistant
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Dvora	Lovinger	Rep. John Sarbanes	Child/Family Issues Legislative Assistant
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Brittany	Lundberg	Rep. Peter DeFazio	Legislative Assistant
Matthew	McMurray	Rep. Anna E. Eshoo	Chief of Staff
Meaghan	Hart	Rep. Dennis Ross	Press Assistant/Staff Assistant
Davis	Ingle	Rep. Dennis Ross	Staff Assistant