



Child Friendly County Initiative (CFCI)

Point of Contact: Carla Plaza, Strategic Advisor
to the DCAO HHSE, cplaza@co.pg.md.us



Child Friendly County

► Where children:

- Are protected from **discrimination, violence, and abuse**
- Have access to quality **social services, including education, healthcare, and more**
- Have the opportunity to express their opinions and **influence policy decisions that affect them**
- Participate in **family, cultural, community, and social events**
- Live in a **safe, secure, and clean environment** with access to green spaces
- Have an **equitable chance in life** regardless of race, geography, ableness, gender identity, sexual orientation, or economic status
- Have a **strong start** particularly **birth to 3rd grade**



Child Friendly County – Priorities & Activities

▶ **Current Focus Areas:**

- ▶ Establish a Children's Cabinet and Budget; elevated and build out work of Local Management Board
 - ▶ Include children and youth representation in the cabinet.
- ▶ Early Childhood System Development

▶ **Activities**

- ▶ Establish Children's Cabinet
- ▶ Codify Children's Cabinet
- ▶ Create a Children's Budget
- ▶ Develop a 5-year early childhood strategic plan
- ▶ Hire Early Childhood Coordinator
- ▶ Invest in early childhood system development



Focus: Early Childhood System Development

Funds Raised: \$500,000; County Investment: \$25,000

Grant	Term	Total	Purpose
MSDE – Positive Outcomes For Infants and Toddlers	3 years	\$300,000 Year 1 = \$75,000 Year 2 = \$150,000 Year 3 = \$75,000 <i>anticipated</i>	This grant lays a foundation to support a sustainable infrastructure that deepens the County's commitment to families and newborns. Through the implementation of Family Connects MD, an evidence-based home visiting model, parents of newborns are connected to community resources through postpartum nurse home visits. Vendor: PGCRC
MSDE – Ready, Set, Learn	1 year	\$100,000 (State funds) + \$25,000 (County Funds) = \$125,000	This grant lays a foundation to build an “early childhood system” through the hiring of an early childhood coordinator and consultant with experience in early childhood systems to support the development of a 5-year strategic plan.
Early Start's Early Childhood Connector “Beta”	1 year	\$125,000	This grant supports the County's role as a systems builder to assist early childhood partners participate on an online platform designed to provide real-time support, knowledge base, and peer-to-peer connections. In addition, these funds can also be used to support the development of an early childhood system.