

SCORE!

All youth served by the Ready by 21 Project will be invited to join **SCORE!** (Simply Creating Opportunity Rich Environments!), which provides extra-curricular leadership activities designed to open their world to new people and places.

SCORE! is a network of youth and adults with a single purpose -- **to increase opportunity in the lives of all its members and thereby bring within reach those things some Baltimore City youth may have never believed possible.** It accomplishes this end by providing a safe and nurturing space for participants to set their own goals, connect with resources they need to achieve their goals, and develop relationships to support them in pursuit of those goals. In the process, participants learn to know their strengths, their needs and desires, how to go after them, and how to get support and provide support when needed. Participants receive rewards for their efforts and accomplishments. These incentives reinforce the behaviors and attitudes that lead to success – shifting the norms, one person at a time.

Youth in the process of charting the course for their lives after an involvement with the Maryland State Department of Juvenile Services or as youth aging out of Baltimore City Department of Social Services foster care can advance together if we:

- **Make resources and funding available more directly to people,** not just institutions.
- **Allow youth and families the freedom to determine their own paths,** instead of taking direction from case managers and social workers.
- **Encourage and reward personal initiative,** instead of penalizing or reducing eligibility for help if a family makes progress.
- **Support and promote mutuality and building social capital,** instead of helping individuals outside of the context of their families and communities.
- **Honor resident leadership and expertise,** instead of professionals and outside intervention.
- **View youth and families as consumers with valuable feedback entitled to hold services and programs accountable,** instead of needy victims.

SCORE! offers a full range of activities: SCORE! Mixers, SCORE! Raps and SCORE! Workshops.

- **SCORE! Mixers** are monthly networking events where participants (adult and youth), in a circle dialogue, identify themselves as assets and resources in the community, and then name their needs to advance their goals. They spend the remainder of the event setting goals, making plans to achieve those goals inter-connecting.
- **SCORE! Raps** are weekly discussion circles where participants have free-flowing, but facilitated conversation on what they are experiencing daily to acknowledge and address the context in which they seek to advance their goals.
- **SCORE! Workshops** are periodic trainings on topics participants identify and request in pursuit of their goals. Often, workshops are peer-led trainings and when the group prefers deeper expertise, an expert is invited and paired with a participant to develop, promote and facilitate these workshops.

- **SCORE! Children** are facilitated play groups with the SCORE! teens and their children where child development play is modeled and take-home kits distributed to reinforce the use of the same activities at home.

The Safe and Sound Campaign and the Family League of Baltimore City are committed to broadening the connections and experiences of all willing youth served by the initiative. The Safe and Sound Campaign has a broad and deep connection to a wide variety of nonprofit, civic, faith and for profit institutions.