



Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date:
January 12, 2026

Submitted by:
Daniel Frishkorn, Acting Police Chief
Michelle Bailey-Hedgepeth, Town
Administrator

Item Title: Information Memo | SFY26 BEACON Grant Update | January 2026

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Work Session Item [X]
Council Meeting Item [X]

Documentation Attached:

Recommended Action:

This is an information memo on the SFY26 BEACON grant update. The Town received notice that we were approved for \$78,360. A budget adjustment will be brought to the Council in February 2026. Since this a new program, staff wanted to share this information with Council.

Item Summary: The Bladensburg Police Department applied for and was awarded funding under the State Fiscal Year 2026 BEACON Grant in the amount of \$78,360 to support a collaborative, community-based youth boxing and mentoring program. This initiative is designed to provide structured, positive engagement opportunities for youth while advancing evidence-based violence prevention and youth development strategies.

Grant Purpose and Program Overview

The Youth Boxing Program will be implemented through a partnership model that includes the Police Department's Community Services Division, local schools, community organizations, and recreation partners. While the program will be open to all youth residents, its primary focus will be on engaging at-risk youth who may be experiencing risk factors such as school disengagement, chronic absenteeism, behavioral challenges, or exposure to trauma.

Consistent with Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) best practices, the program will combine athletic training with mentoring, social-emotional learning, and behavioral support. The boxing component serves as a structured framework for teaching discipline, accountability, self-regulation, and teamwork, while mentoring and coaching reinforce positive decision-making and pro-social behavior.

Recruitment and Community Engagement

Youth participants will be recruited through a coordinated community engagement strategy that includes partnerships with local schools, school counselors, MNCPPC community centers, community-based organizations, and Town-sponsored youth activities. Outreach efforts will utilize the Town's website, social media platforms, flyers, and in-person engagement at community events. The Police Department's Community Services Division will assist in identifying youth who may benefit most from the program, including referrals from school personnel, community resource officers, truancy officers, and the Prince George's County Department of Juvenile Services (DJS). Parent and guardian engagement will be an integral component, with outreach conducted through school communications, PTA groups, and community meetings.

- Program Structure and Support Services
- The program will follow a mentoring-based model aligned with BJA's Community-Based Violence Prevention and Building Youth Resilience frameworks. In addition to boxing instruction, the program

will incorporate:

- Consistent mentor-to-youth coaching emphasizing discipline, respect, and self-control
- Structured goal-setting and progress tracking
- Positive Youth Development (PYD) and trauma-informed engagement practices
- Conflict resolution and de-escalation skill development
- Reinforcement of teamwork and healthy peer relationships
- Regular communication with parents and guardians
- Referrals to school counselors, social workers, or DJS caseworkers when additional support is needed

The curriculum will include a light-touch behavioral framework modeled on evidence-based approaches such as Botvin LifeSkills and school-based social-emotional learning practices, focusing on emotional awareness, decision-making, perseverance, and stress management.

Grant Period, Reporting, and Administrative Considerations

The current award period is October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Due to program startup timing, a no-cost extension to December 31, 2026, may become available later in the grant cycle. While this option has not yet been confirmed, staff will monitor availability and return to Council if an extension is recommended.

This grant supports the Town's broader public safety and youth engagement goals by investing in early intervention, mentorship, and community-based prevention strategies, while strengthening positive relationships between youth, families, and the Bladensburg Police Department.

Town Staff will work on this matter to determine what can be accomplished, as this information was sought by our Public Safety Grant writer. Questions can be addressed by the Town Administrator and AC Frishkorn.

Budgeted Item: Yes [] No [X] Budgeted Amount: One-Time Cost: 78,360 Ongoing Cost:	Continued Date:
Council Priority: Yes [] No []	Approved Date: