



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Policy Division (LPD)
FROM: Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council
DATE: February 5, 2024
RE: Request for a Report on the Establishment of a Youth Budget FY 25'

Approaching the upcoming budget season, establishing a dedicated youth budget in Detroit is crucial to address the distinct needs and challenges faced by the city's young demographic. My office is actively considering proposing a modest financial allocation to support the creation of this youth budget.

Similar to participatory budgeting, this initiative aims to empower our youth by granting them decision-making authority over a specific portion of the budget. Introducing this system not only allows young individuals to acquire essential skills in financial decision-making but also fosters a heightened sense of responsibility and accountability. This method of budget allocation stimulates critical thinking, promotes civic engagement, and facilitates a more profound understanding of the intricacies associated with resource management. Furthermore, it provides a platform for the younger generation to express their viewpoints, offer inventive suggestions, and actively contribute to determining the community's priorities.

The execution of this youth budget initiative may involve the active participation of young Detroiters in leadership positions. By integrating the perspectives and insights of these emerging leaders, the implementation process gains a more comprehensive understanding of the distinctive needs and aspirations of the city's youth. This collaborative approach not only enhances the effectiveness of the youth budget but also provides valuable opportunities for mentorship and skill development, fostering a culture of inclusive decision-making and civic engagement among the younger generation.

Essential questions to be investigated in the report should include:

1. What successful models from other cities can be considered as benchmarks for Detroit's youth budget?
2. What are the proposed implementation strategies for the youth budget?
3. What is the current demographic composition of Detroit's youth population?
4. How can a budget tailored for youth specifically encourage increased community engagement and participation?
5. How might a youth budget be effectively utilized to implement strategies for crime prevention and intervention?
6. In what manners can a dedicated budget amplify cultural and recreational opportunities for the younger generation?
7. How much is LPD recommending the Council allocate to the youth budget to effectively address the unique needs and challenges experienced by the city's younger population?

By thoroughly addressing these questions, we aim to gain comprehensive insights that will inform the development and successful execution of a youth budget, aligning with our commitment to fostering a prosperous and inclusive future for Detroit's youth. Please contact Caryn Shannon from my office at caryn.shannon@detroitmi.gov if you have any questions.

Cc: Honorable Colleagues
City Clerk