

Community Data for Development and Advocacy



At Harlem Children's Zone

**Mondawmin
Neighbors
United**

Greater Mondawmin ENOUGH Initiative

Kevin Miller
Kevin@greatermondawmin.org

GMCC Overview





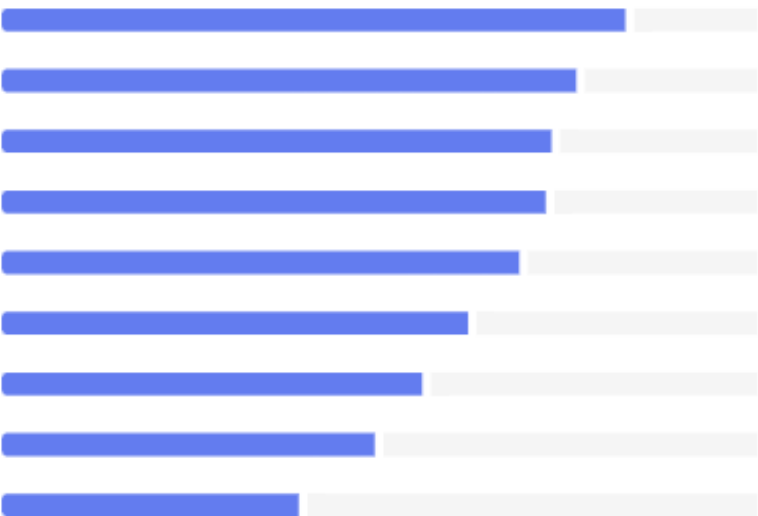


New Community Outreach Approaches



General Community Needs

- 1 Affordable Housing
- 2 Public Safety
- 3 Job Opportunities
- 4 Economic Activity / Availability of Stores and Retail
- 5 Recreational Opportunities
- 6 Childcare
- 7 Afterschool Activities / Youth Programming
- 8 Community Engagement / Social Cohesion
- 9 Transportation



Safety

Safety is ranked much higher than youth programming, but respondents who mentioned safety in their written response frequently noted a lack of youth programs or job programs for young men as a primary reason for safety concerns.

70% of respondents were over 40 years old

Job Opportunities

In our job survey we found that:

- 2/3 of job seekers have no post secondary education and most have children
- Many have previously attended workforce programming, but few attended Industry Recognized Credential conferring programming
- Healthcare is the #1 preferred option for potential job training

Barriers for Families



Transportation

Named as a barrier in childcare (53% of childcare respondents), food access (26% of parents), overall household costs (43%), and program participation (21%).



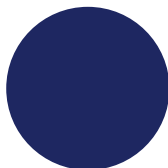
Utility Costs

The #1 household challenge overall, cited by 57% of parents. BGE was named unprompted alongside repeated reports of denied assistance.



Information & Navigation

40% of parents want help applying for benefits, and 18% have already lost SNAP/WIC benefits they once received. Head Starts have trouble filling seats, and parents have trouble registering.

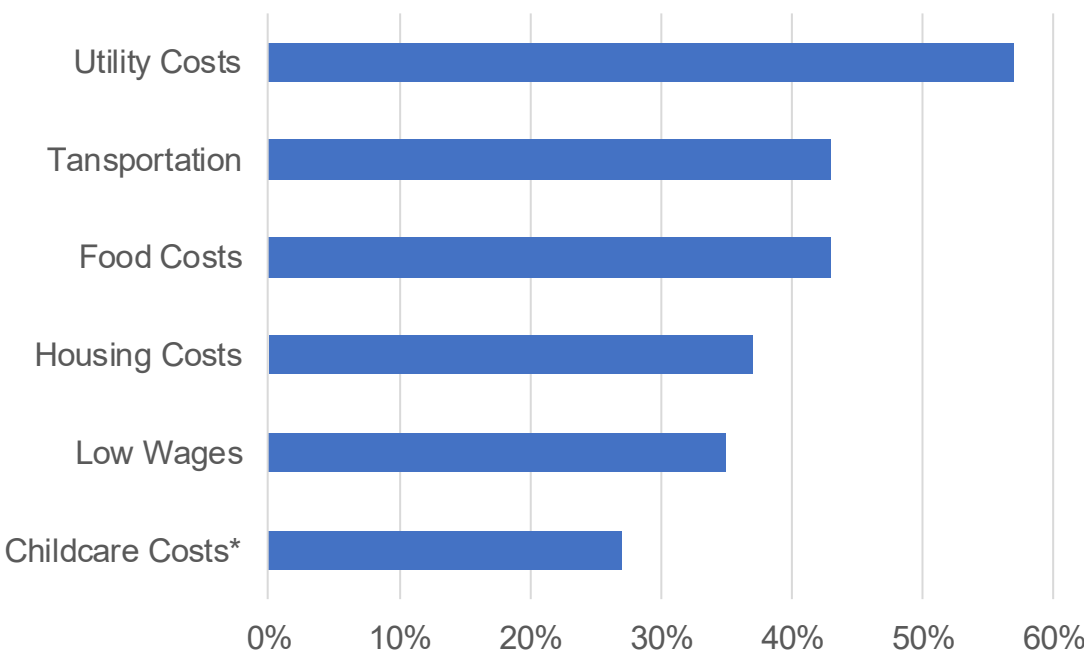


Healthy Food

While only 20% have significant difficulty regularly getting healthy food, cost was barrier for 41% and produce distribution was the #1 program that residents would most likely take part in.

*A significant portion of parents taking this survey have children already in school. Among pre-school aged parents, cost was far and away the largest barrier in receiving childcare

Top Household Challenges



Robert W. Coleman Elementary: A Closer Look

42 elementary parents interviewed and MSDE Report Card Data

Homelessness

21%

Multiple families listed their housing situation or that fact that children from different households lived with them as a challenge in getting to school

Chronic Absenteeism

72% to 59%
From '24 to '25

A significant drop in chronic absenteeism

Economically Disadvantaged

88%

of Coleman students are economically disadvantages, higher than the 50% of respondents who have trouble meeting household needs

Math Proficiency

10%

As compared to 42% statewide elementary math proficiency in 3rd grade



What challenges does your child face in school?

Checkboxes • 42 responses

Behavioral or Emotional challenges	17 (40.5%)
Tutoring or extra academic support needed	12 (28.6%)
Limited access to activities or sports	12 (28.6%)
No major challenges	12 (28.6%)
Transportation to programs	7 (16.7%)
Lack of after-school activities	6 (14.3%)
Technology or internet access	4 (9.5%)



What services would most benefit your child?

Checkboxes • 42 responses

Summer programs	20 (47.6%)
Mentoring programs	20 (47.6%)
Tutoring or homework help	20 (47.6%)
Sports or arts programs	17 (40.5%)
After-school programs	17 (40.5%)
Mental health counseling	15 (35.7%)
Restorative practices/meditation programs	14 (33.3%)

Frederick Douglass High School: A Closer Look

126 students surveyed on career & mentoring needs, plus the school's FY26 MSDE Community School Needs Assessment

College/Career Help Wanted

81%

of students want help planning for college or career — the highest need of any category

Chronic Absenteeism

84%

of high schoolers chronically absent in 2024–25

4-Year Graduation Rate

55%

in 2024–25, up from 45% the prior year — though still well below the state average

10th-Graders who have a mentor / trusted adult

31%

Lack of mentorship and college and career navigation was listed as a major concern in the 2024 school needs assessment and listed as top parent priority in 2026 assessment.



A Wide Gap Between Staff and Student Perception

Staff rate school safety and relationships highly (Physical Safety 7.3/10, Staff–Student Relationships 9.5/10), while students rate the same measures far lower (Physical Safety 2.9/10, Student–Student Relationships 2.3/10) — a stark disconnect in how the climate feels day to day.



Career Interest $\neq$ Career Pathways

Healthcare (28%), business administration (25%), and cosmetology (24%) are students' top career interests, but Douglass currently offers only an incomplete law pathway with no industry recognized credential. Construction and barbering trades are to be introduced.

Why focus on families?

2024 BNIA Vital Signs

Vacant housing rate

13.4%

About twice the city average, but about half as high as neighboring communities like Sandtown and Upton

Owner Occupancy

41.6%

Significantly lower than the city average, but also much higher than neighbors – Sandtown (25.6%), Upton (27.6%), Penn North/Reservoir Hill (32.4%)

% between 25-64

8th lowest

% over 65

9th highest

The housing cliff facing Greater Mondawmin

- A disproportionate number of residents are elderly
- There are very few 25-64 years olds in the community to replace these aging residents
- The housing market is just barely able to support property renovations and sales without significant public grant support, like in nearby Impact Investment Areas
- If significant changes aren't made to attract young families, retain existing families, and protect legacy homeowners, owner occupancy rates could plummet while vacancies rise

Where we're Headed – by ENOUGH pillar



Quality Childcare & Education

- Childcare navigators connecting parents with Head Start Seats
- Researched-backed math and reading interventions
- Healthcare career pathways for Frederick Douglass High
- Greater community-school connection



Healthy Families

- Preventable/treatable disease screening
- Increased access to health services at the Village at Mondawmin for the under or uninsured
- Healthy produce distribution



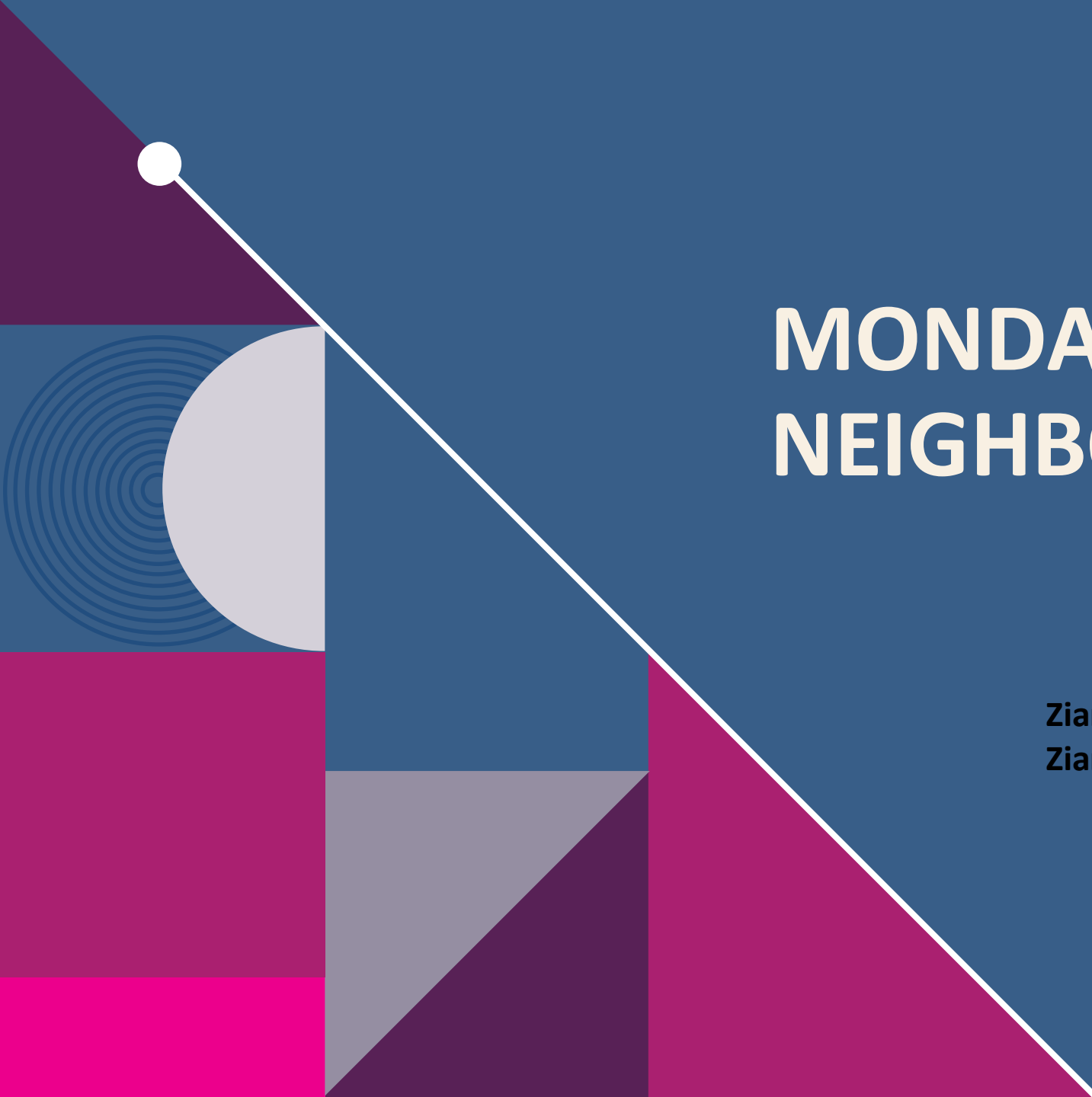
Economically Secure Families

- Industry recognized credential conferring program pathways that are paid, work with parents' schedules, and are background friendly
- Social mobility, utility assistance, and economic security supports for families



Safe & Thriving Communities

- Outreach connecting those facing addiction with trusted, properly certified and licensed recovery programs
- Legacy homeowner protection – property tax assistance, tax sale avoidance, and estate planning



MONDAWMIN NEIGHBORS UNITED

Zianab Sankoh
Zianab.sankoh@parksandpeople.org

NEIGHBORS UNITED

“I often come across the Neighbors United Initiative being described as not being the destination of a flight but the build of the plane bringing you to that destination”

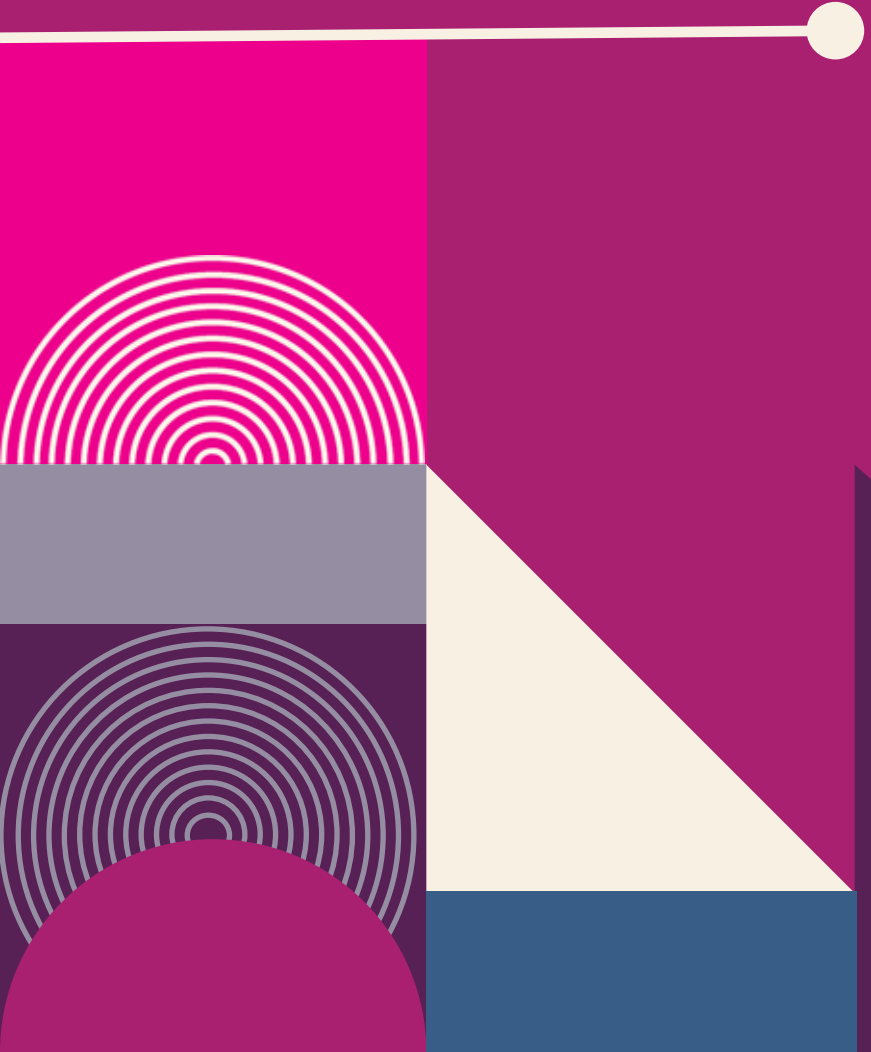


Goals:

To Advance the Greater Good: build resident capacities and improve community conditions in collaboration with local community members

To Engage in Strategic Action: address structural difficulties that contribute to community distress and work to create sustainable change





COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

- ~ What strengths do you see in your community?
- ~ How would you describe your relationship with the community?
- ~ How do you think people outside your community view and describe your community ?
- ~ What would your ideal community look like in 5 years?
- ~What is getting in the way of your community being the best it can be?
- ~Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about your community ?



WHAT WE LEARNED

Strengths:

- ~ Location accessibility & resources
- ~ Responsive neighbors
- ~ The neighbors

Relationship with Community

- ~ Good relationship
- ~ Keeps to self but still feels informed and supported
- ~ Friendly relationship with residents & neighbors

Outside Perspective of Community:

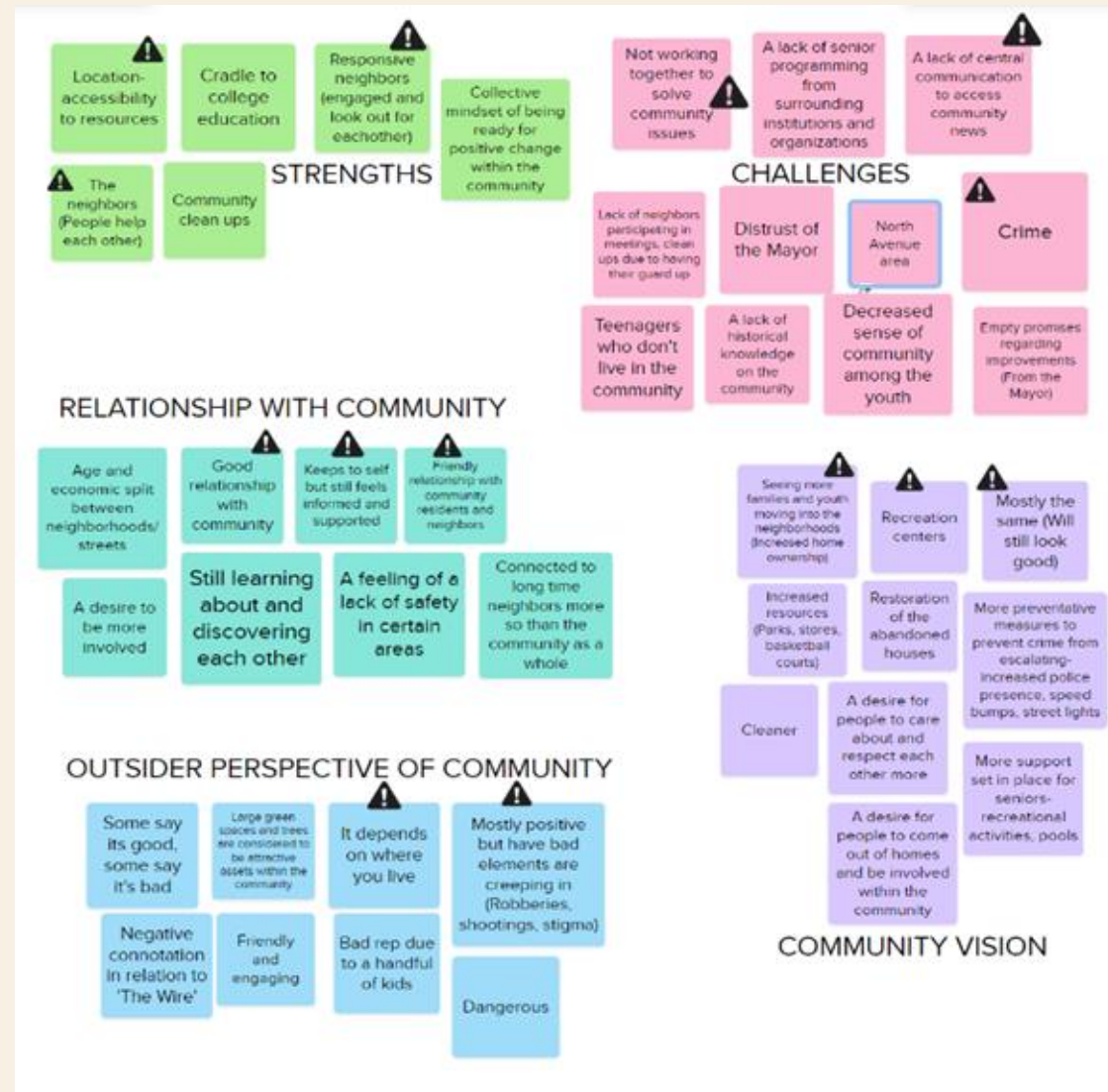
- ~ It depends on where you live
- ~ Mostly positive but have bad elements creeping in

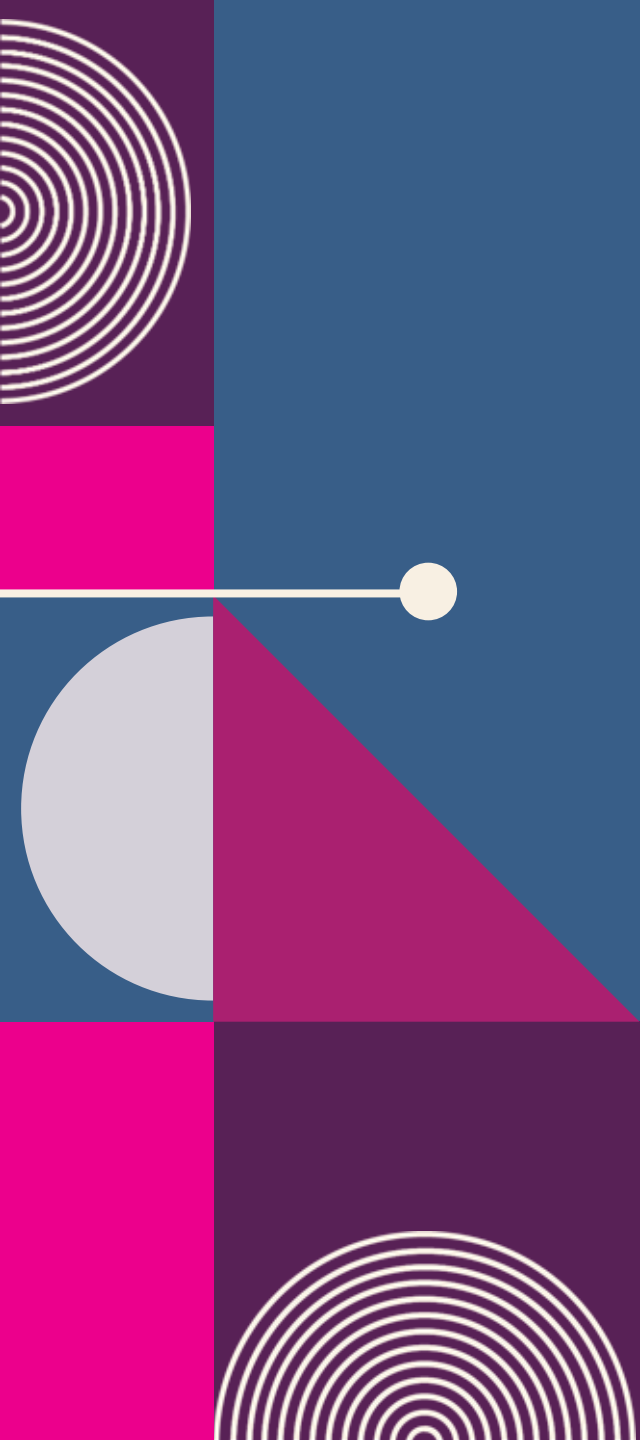
Challenges:

- ~ Not working together to solve community issues
- ~ A lack of central communication to access community news
- ~ Crime

Ideal Community in 5 Years:

- ~ Seeing more families and youth move in
- ~ Recreation centers
- ~ Mostly the same, will still look good

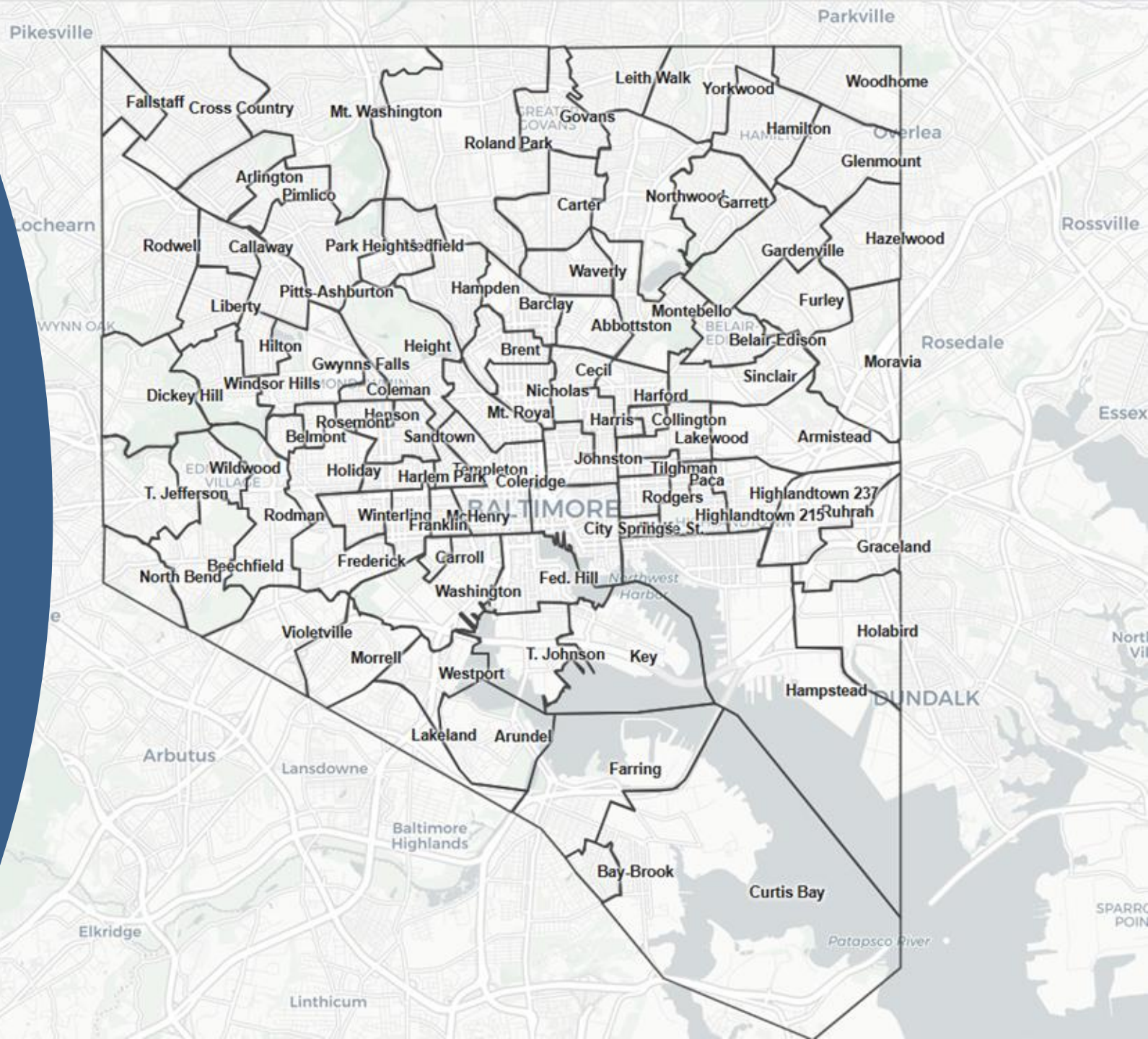




IDENTIFYING OUR ORGANIZING ISSUE

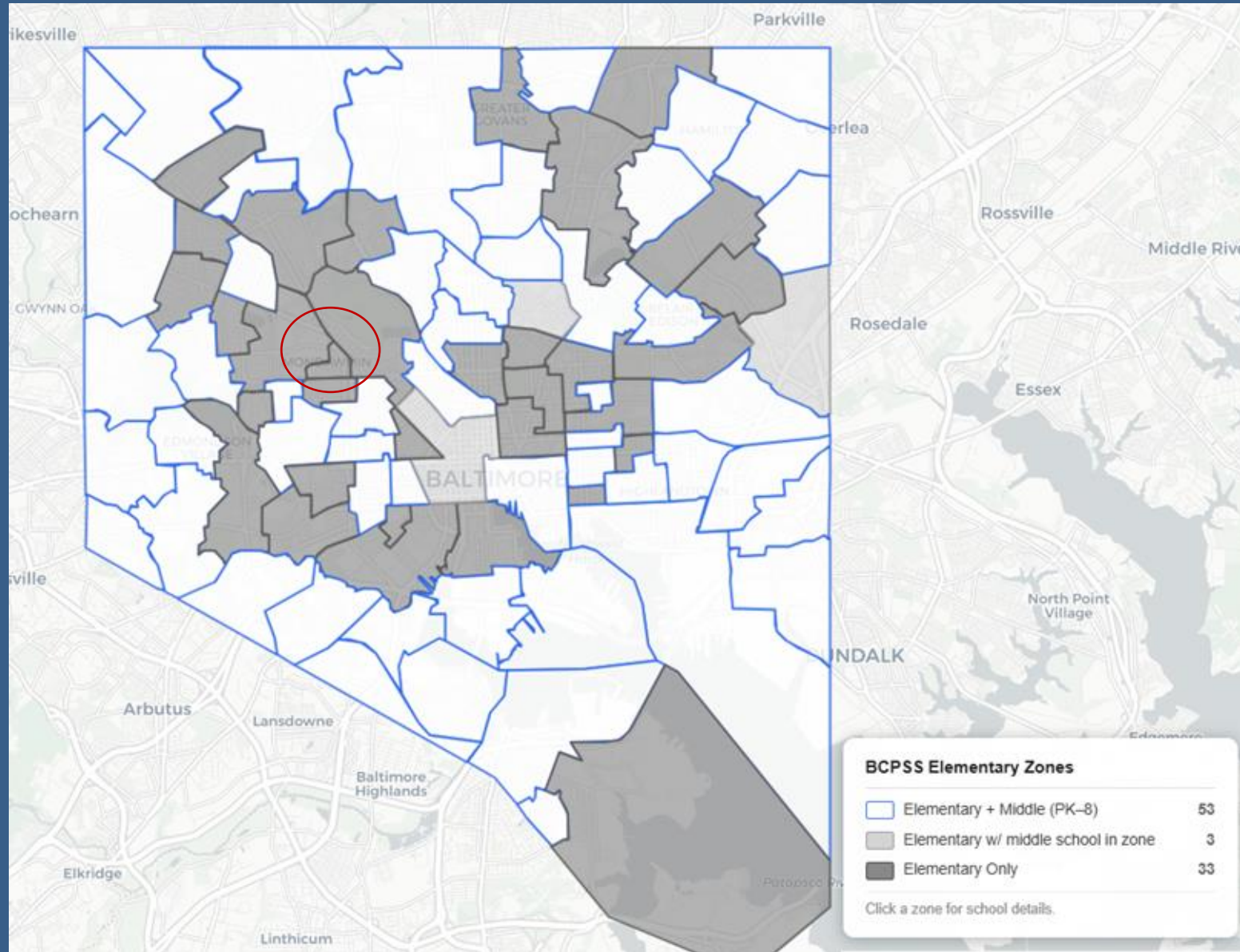
- Youth programming, youth involvement in community, quality education, and community school connection came up frequently and tied to many other issues.
- So did the neighborhood's identity as a place where you could go from "Pre-K to Phd"
- But there was a major gap in that pathway, and one that made all the above goals more difficult: Our community does not have a middle school

ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ZONES IN BALTIMORE CITY



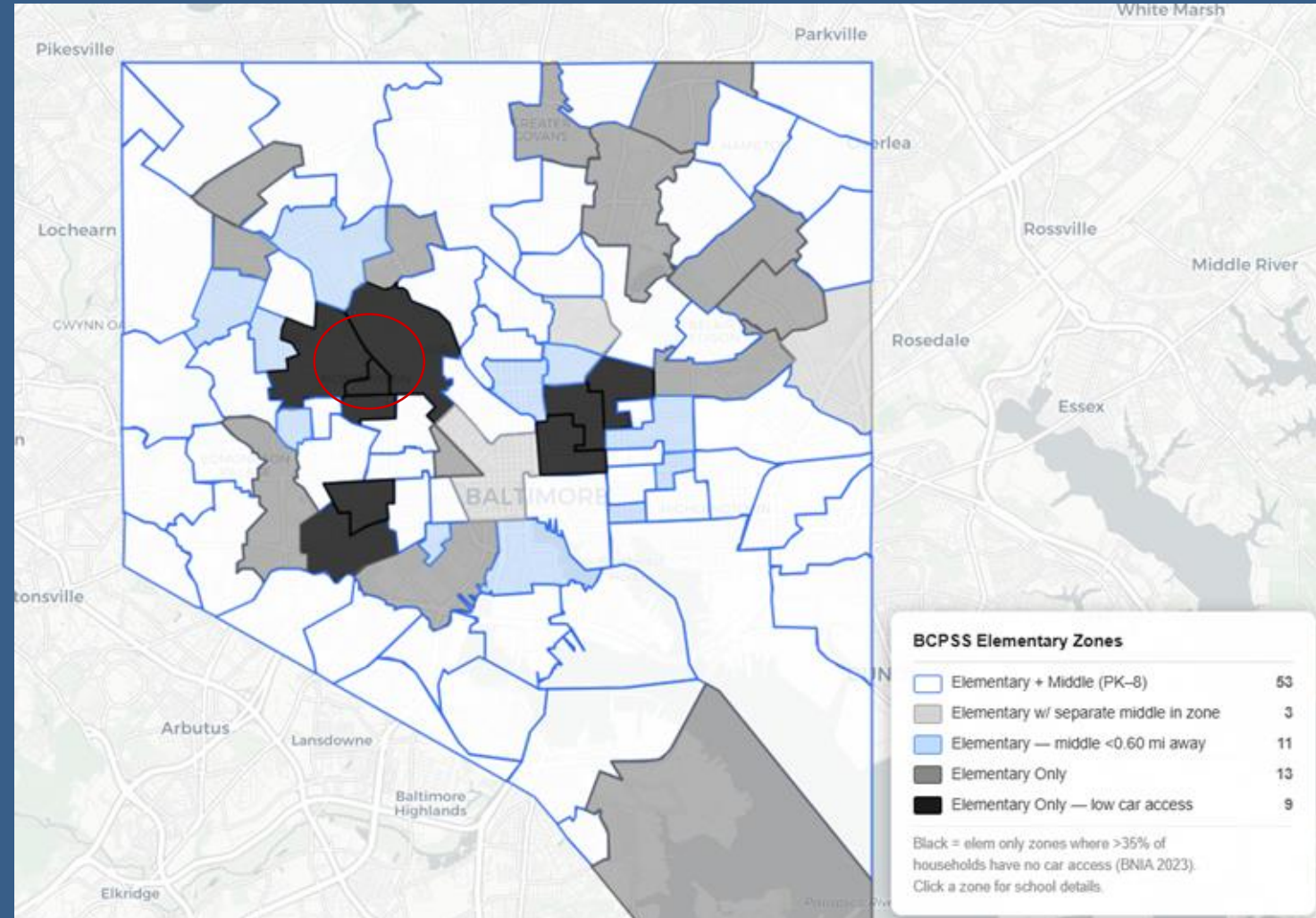
ELEMENTARY ZONE TYPES:

- Elementary only
- Elementary/Middle
- Elementary with a separate traditional public middle in the same zone



SCHOOL ZONES WITH NO WALKABLE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND LOW CAR ACCESS

- Grey: Elementary only with high car access
- Blue: Elementary only but nearest middle is less than 15-min walk
- Black: Elementary only, no middle in walking distance, >1/3 of residents do not have access to a car



MIDDLE SCHOOL CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

The no middle/low car access zones are in CSAs with far higher 6-8th grade chronic absenteeism (BNIA Vital Signs 24 data).

Spreadsheet of all school zones, their corresponding CSAs, and the Middle School Absenteeism Rate in those CSAs.

Zone Type	# Zones	Avg Absenteeism
Elementary + Middle	53	31.4%
Elementary w/ separate middle in zone	3	33.1%
Elementary w/ walkable middle outside zone	13	37.5%
Elementary Only — high car access	11	30.6%
Elementary Only — low car access (>35% no car)	9	44.7%
Baltimore City average	89	34.2%



The Schools in the center of the 3 Clusters:

The 3 clusters are all centered around an elementary school housed in a building over 50 years old:

- West Cluster, centered around Greater Mondawmin – Gwynns Falls Elementary (1957)
- Southwest Cluster centered around Southwest Baltimore – Mary Ann Winterling Elementary (1961)
- East Cluster centered around Greenmount East – Dr. Bernard Harris, Sr. Elementary (1971)