

City of Biddeford
Budget Committee
April 20, 2023 5:30 PM Council Chambers & Zoom

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Status: In-Person and via Zoom; Council Chambers; 5:30 p.m.

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Discussion**
 - 3.1. My Place Teen Center FY24 Municipal Services Presentation
[My Place Teen Center FY24](#)
 - 3.2. FY24 Budget Discussion
- 4. Adjourn**



City of Biddeford

2023/2024 My Place Teen Center Application for Funding

MPTC is an innovative community-based organization with a vision and success built on trust with kids most impacted by adverse childhood experiences. We know best what solutions resonate for our kids, families, and neighbors – because we live and thrive in the same neighborhoods. This collaborative work is how we get to transformative solutions via equity-based, human-centered investments in infrastructure, program, and staff development.





1. **Contact:** donna@myplaceteencenter.org
2. **Amount Requested:** \$75,000
3. **Impact of Grant:** The award will impact 300 - 350 kids, with a daily census of 40 - 55 kids per day, year-round, five days per week, and 9,100 meals.
4. **Need:** Three additional staff, overhead, and daily meal support.
5. **Description of Request:** City funding will support MPTC expansion into Biddeford.
6. **The Top Four Things We Do:**
 - Meet basic needs - feed hungry kids and their families.
 - Demonstrate a sense of purpose and belonging amid a loving, supportive, albeit demanding environment.
 - Provide relevant, translatable job and life skills.
 - Mentor emotional health and well-being via small group instruction and programming.
7. **Summary of Programming:** Youth and young adults will gain competency, trust in school as an academic success pathway, and avoid high-risk activities such as substance use and behaviors resulting in teen pregnancy. Participants will increase their knowledge, skills, and attitudes regarding mental health wellness, managing difficult emotions, job and life skills, leadership scaffolding, financial literacy, adequate nutrition, proper hygiene, and exercise. Youth will understand what it takes to land a meaningful job, pursue higher education, and engage in civic-minded activities. Mental health will guide and underscore all endeavors to acknowledge pandemic exhaustion.
8. **Curriculum**
 1. **Youth Leadership Academy** - a specialized positive youth development program designed to increase developmental assets to reduce risky behaviors. Youth will attend year-long health and wellness units, Leadership and Social/Emotional competencies, STEAM, Workforce Readiness, and Character Education/Civic Engagement.



2. **Restaurant Job Training Program (RJTP)** - embedding life skills, workforce development modules, accountability protocols, STEM principles, and financial literacy practices, the RJTP allows teens to train as proprietors, cooks, servers, bussers, hosts, hostesses, and dishwashers in a restaurant-like environment, preparing meals in the teaching kitchen, and serving thousands of organic meals to their fellow teens in MPTC's dining room.

3. **Get Urban Kids Outside!** - getting city kids to explore and maintain the woods and local trails, share, listen and problem-solve teen angst, discuss healthy lifestyle choices outdoors, glean and forage fresh produce, and engage in ecology studies.

4. **Making Proud Choices!** is an evidence-based, safer-sex approach to teen pregnancy and HIV/STD prevention. An 8-module curriculum provides adolescents with the knowledge, confidence, and skills necessary to reduce their risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STIs), HIV, and pregnancy by abstaining from sex or using condoms if they choose to have sex.

5. **Adulting 101** - For ages 18-24, skill-building related to emotional maturity, prevention of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, job guidance, housing stability, financial literacy, life skills, healthy behavioral patterns, and decision-making. Adulting 101 focuses on the internal and external Developmental Assets needed for personal sustainability and family/community accountability.

9. **Projected Timeline:** July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

10. **Background of Leadership:** Donna Dwyer is My Place Teen Center's CEO and has held this position for eleven years. She has a Master's in Special Education and an MBA. Her creed: Operate with a nonprofit heart and function with a corporate mindset.

11. **Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy**

We value, respect, and elevate diversity in its many forms: justice, race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, marital status, physical and mental ability, genetic characteristics, military, or veteran status, and more. Diverse perspectives lead to better outcomes for our organization, participants, and community. Our talent engagement and retention practices aim to create as many opportunities as possible for all people to grow and thrive. Further, we believe that centering on the youth leadership, lived experiences, and conscious voices of young people who are BIPOC is the path to an emboldened community. We affirm that a healthy community is one in which everyone is engaged, represented, listened to, and supported regardless of race, gender, immigration status,



sexuality, ability, religion, or class. We are committed to challenging ourselves—and the institutions around us—to ensure no one is left behind in our quest for an embracing and more robust world.

12. 2021 - 2022 Update

According to our 2021 - 2022 administered Search Institute surveys, youth increased these key character strengths:

- 45% have a more positive view of the future;
- 71% feel they function with increased integrity;
- 67% demonstrate greater responsibility;
- 53% describe a greater sense of purpose;
- 48% indicate an increased interpersonal competence, including empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills; and,
- 63% feel they have better planning and decision-making.

Here's what their parents said:

- 80% of parents reported that their child is building confidence via MPTC's specialized programming.
- 73% of parents reported their child is learning responsible decision-making skills from MPTC.
- Parents overwhelmingly report that their child is engaged in academically enriching and social-emotional learning activities, such as STEM opportunities (74%) and character development/leadership skills (69%) while at MPTC.
- More than 9 in 10 parents (93%) are satisfied with MPTC.

Additionally, we collected the following data points:

- School attendance
- Program attendance
- Behavior in school
- Behavior in the program
- School retention and on-time grade promotion to 9th grade
- School retention and on-time graduation

