



My Brother's Keeper Fairfax Initiative

Health and Human Services Committee Meeting

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Agenda

- What is My Brother's Keeper (MBK)?
- Why should Fairfax County join the My Brother's Keeper Alliance?
- What is MBK Fairfax going to focus on?
- How does this align with other County priorities?
- What are the next steps?

What Is My Brother's Keeper?

- President Obama launched My Brother's Keeper in February 2014 as a White House Initiative to address the persistent opportunity gaps boys and young men of color face and to ensure all young people can reach their full potential.
- Today, the My Brother's Keeper Alliance (MBKA) is a program of the Obama Foundation and works to unleash the power of communities working together to solve problems for boys and young men of color at a level to improve real life outcomes. They believe communities are the unit of change to realize improved life outcomes for our boys.
- MBKA's work is rooted in six key life milestones that research shows are especially predictive of later success, and where interventions can have the greatest impact. By focusing on these milestones, doing what works, and removing or avoiding roadblocks that hinder systems change, they are working to provide boys and young men of color the opportunity and the tools to get ahead.
- It is not solely about educational success - it is about success in life.

What Is My Brother's Keeper? (Continued)

MBK focuses on improving the following six key life milestones for boys and young men of color (BYMOC):

1. Kindergarten readiness: <https://www.obama.org/mbka2/our-work/healthy-start/>
2. Third grade reading: <https://www.obama.org/reading-grade-level/>
3. Graduating from high school college and career ready:
<https://www.obama.org/mbka2/our-work/graduating-high-school/>
4. Completing postsecondary education or training: <https://www.obama.org/mbka2/our-work/postsecondary-education-training/>
5. Entering the workforce: <https://www.obama.org/mbka2/our-work/entering-workforce/>
6. Keeping kids on track, and re-engaging them when they need it:
<https://www.obama.org/mbka2/our-work/second-chances/>

Why Should Fairfax County Join MBK?

- This initiative feeds into the One Fairfax racial and social equity policy and attempts to overcome negative outcomes for boys and young men of color in Fairfax County. They deserve it.
- MBKA acts as a solutions partner, working with communities that accept the My Brother's Keeper challenge to implement action plans and drive impact through key investments. They are both concerned with changing systems to work better for boys and young men of color and population level change at the community level.
- Since 2019, the MBKA has invested over \$6 million in its grantee communities, helping these communities impact approximately 367,000 youth. MBKA supports efforts on the ground in communities, through direct funding, technical assistance and training, convenings and networking, and we've built a community of practice for organizations and institutions that want to see population level change for our boys and young men.

Why Should Fairfax County Join the MBK Movement?

One Example from the Data

Educational outcomes vary widely when race and gender are factored in. One Fairfax is about ensuring that all children have an opportunity to succeed. This data is from the FCPS and VDOE websites.

Student Race & Gender	4-Year Adjusted Graduation Rate 2022	4-Year Adjusted Drop Out Rate 2022
All Students/All Races/All Genders	94.20%	4.80%
White, Not of Hispanic Origin Males	98.52%	0.83%
Asian Males	98.45%	0.99%
Non-Hispanic, Two or More Races Males	97.25%	2.50%
Black, Not of Hispanic Origin Males	95.95%	2.91%
Hispanic Males	79.26%	18.60%
American Indian or Alaska Native Males	71.43%	28.57%
English Language Learner Males	70.51%	27%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Males	<	<

What Will MBK Fairfax Focus On?

MBK Fairfax adopts all six of the key life milestones of MBKA, however, the Steering Committee is proposing an initial focus on graduating high school college and career ready; completing postsecondary education or training; successfully entering the workforce; and keeping kids on track and re-engaging them when they need it.

Specifically, MBK Fairfax will work to improve the following outcomes:

- a. Improving on time high school graduation rates for all BYMOC
- b. Increasing the #/% of BYMOC obtaining the advanced diploma
- c. Reducing the % of BYMOC who are dropping out of high school (this includes re-engaging those who have stopped/dropped out)

How Does MBK Align with Other County Priorities?

- MBK Fairfax brings a focus on improving outcomes specifically for BYMOC to our work - it does not replace work that is ongoing for all boys or even all students.
- MBK was identified by the Chairman's Task Force on Equity and Opportunity as a County-wide strategy to improve equity. As mentioned, it is also a One Fairfax initiative.
- Fairfax County can be a wonderful place to live, however, we want everyone to be able to join in the success of the County and flourish.

Next Steps

- Obtain the approval of the Health & Human Services Committee of the Board of Supervisors to accept the challenge
- Formal Board of Supervisors' vote in March 2023 to accept the challenge and register with the Obama Foundation
- Accept the challenge with the Obama Foundation
- Host the Local Action Summit and start brainstorming strategies and solutions for the work