



Created in 2018, the Milestone Advocacy Teams Comprise of organization, non profit, grassroots, community based, faith based and new organizations that have a focus on supporting black boys and men of color. We focus on collective impact that focus solely on one milestone at a time that is chaired by a community organization or stakeholder(s).

The five milestones advocacy areas are based on the MBK National Milestones that support their metrics and pipeline of support for black men and boys. They are:

1. Entering School Ready to Learn & Reading at Grade Level by Third Grade **(Milestone 1)**

All children should have a healthy start and enter school ready – cognitively, physically, socially, and emotionally. All children should be reading at grade level by age 8 – the age at which reading to learn becomes essential.

2. Graduating from High School Ready for College and Career **(Milestone 2)**

All youth should receive a quality high school education and graduate with the skills and tools needed to advance to postsecondary education or training.

3. Completing Postsecondary Education or Training **(Milestone 3)**

Every American should have the option to attend postsecondary education and receive the education and training needed for the quality jobs of today and tomorrow.

4. Successfully Entering the Workforce **(Milestone 4)**

Anyone who wants a job should be able to get a job that allows them to support themselves and their families.

5. Keeping Kids on Track and Giving Them Second Chances **(Milestone 5)**

All youth and young adults should be safe from violent crime; and individuals who are confined should receive the education, training, and treatment they need for a second chance.

*MBK Durham has also identified the following as cross-cutting strategies that also remain core principles to our work:

- Enabling comprehensive, cradle-to-college-and-career community solutions;
- Learning from and doing what works;

- Making data about critical life indicators more transparent; and
- Empowering parents and engaging other caring adults

A few of our partners that are part of the Milestone Advocacy Teams are: Durham Pre K, Movement of Youth, Thomas Mentoring Leadership Academy, Book Harvest, Emily K Center, Made in Durham Student U, Bull City YouthBuild, Durham Literacy Center, Office of Equity and Inclusion, Men's Health Council, Durham Literacy Center, Project Build Uplift Project Incorporated, Project Uplift Inc., Duke Cancer Institute, Youth Opportunities Network, 100 Black Men, Audacity Labs, Duke Center for Child & Family Policy.

Based on the Milestone Advocacy Teams, we were able to be included in the MBK National Grant Database for eligibility for grant funds in which we collectively applied for **\$775,000** and made it to the second round of funding.

We successfully requested **\$55,000** in Mini Grant funding from the Board of County Commissioners in which we used the funds to support our organizations that were part of the Milestone Advocacy teams. This successful program funding was awarded to organizations who demonstrated success with programs and funding that has proven to be successful and has created community change working with boys and young men of color. The expectations of the mini grant exceed our expectations as it was detailed and met the needs of the community as it pertains to youth involvement, community engagement and collaboration that supports change in neighborhoods where boys and young men of color live.

We will also be using the recent Dominion Energy funding of **\$100,000** to continue to support our Milestone Advocacy Teams with capacity and needs while listening to better support long term. That put us at **\$200,000** in public private funding total (thus far) with the **\$100,000** we also received from **Aetna** to expand services and opportunities for our partners.

With the creation of the Milestone Advocacy Teams, we have gained new partners that have benefited from partnership networks, funding, resources and in-kind support with other organizations whose focus were boys of color.

MBK Durham assisted with the facilitation of a seamless partnership between Durham Public Schools Office of Equity and Inclusion with North Carolina Central University African American Male Institute where there was a memorandum of understanding creating to help NCCU serve as the partnering organization for 19 programs throughout Durham Public Schools whose sole purpose is to work with boys of color throughout the entire school year. Titled, "***We are Kings***", this program involved 19 innovative school programs that work to support boys who may need additional guidance from mentors. With NCCU African American Male Institute – 200 college males committed their community service hours to uplifting and supporting black boys throughout Durham Public Schools.

MBK Durham facilitated Bull City Pitch, a pitch program for high school students where their ideas could become funded and potentially implemented for additional funding. This program is now part of MBK

Durham and Square 1 Bank annual partnership events and activities. We also leveraged a total of **\$10,000** from this partnership where all the finalists received funding to use towards their endeavors.

In 2019, MBK Durham began a partnership with “Digital Lincs” and their team to bring more community engagement and health centered and awareness focus to the work. From that partnership a few things were formed, We hosted a Twitter Chat on National Mental Health Day on June 12 from Noon-1. Hosted a Barbershop Chat at Renaissance Barbershop June 18. Our annual FatherHood United Baseball Outing on June 26 that brought out 200 guests ·

Last year, we also sponsored a community engagement block party for National HIV Testing Day (June 27) that provided an opportunity for community-based organizations and local businesses to promote health and wellness among our most vulnerable residents in Durham with which we had 1,000 registered members.

MBK Durham continues to partner with Durham’s Youth Initiative Manager Lara Khalil to coordinate initiatives that support Youth Opportunity Durham, a listserv of over 300 partners that focus on resources, networks, funding and community engagement. gives youth summer employment, leadership training and job shadowing opportunities that gives them the opportunity to have additional options and career aspirations.

MBK Durham has a longstanding partnership with Durham Works to serve as our local partner for our clothing drive to donate our gently used professional attire. This will assist in their professional development opportunities and career fairs that are hosted at Durham Works monthly.

With the partnership between Durham Tech and Duke Energy a **\$200,000 Duke Energy Grant** was awarded for additional line workers to update the electrical grid and current linemen retiring. This new program came to MBK Durham for advice and counsel on how to proceed and we have been partnering with Durham Tech ever since. This partnership helps meet important community needs and provide a talent pipeline for industry and help us meet the needs of our surrounding community. Durham Tech was one of two North Carolina community colleges awarded a grant this year to start an Electrical Line Technician program.

Lastly, MBK Durham facilitated a partnership with the Thomas Mentor Leadership Academy and the Beta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, where TMLA selected 10 young men from their program to attend the seven-day all-expense paid camp experience in King, NC at the 800-acre ranch, Camp Hanes. This partnership creates ongoing relationships and exposure and mentoring, where both TMLA and Beta Phi can nourish for years to come.

We utilize the milestone advocacy teams to focus on MBK Durham's 5 Milestones, but allow the partnering organizations that have the expertise and data to simply work with similar organizations to network, strengthen the networking and support our collective findings. Our Milestone Advocacy Teams serves as our guiding committees that focus on policy and items related to the five milestones:: Entering School Ready to Learn & Reading at Grade Level by Third Grade, Graduating from High School Ready

for College and Career, Completing Postsecondary Education or Training, Successfully Entering the Workforce, Keeping Kids on Track and Giving Them Second Chances

Our Teams host monthly convenings, support events, track and share data, metrics and amended policies. We are always looking to grow our Milestone Advocacy Teams to provide greater community outreach. Please contact us to join or if you would like to contact us at mybrotherskeeper@dcconc.gov or at 919-560-8154.