

THE  
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ABELL  
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FOUNDATION

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ANNUAL REPORT  
2009

SINCE ITS  
INCEPTION,  
THE ABELL  
FOUNDATION  
HAS BEEN  
DEDICATED  
TO THE  
ENHANCEMENT  
OF THE  
QUALITY  
OF LIFE IN  
BALTIMORE  
AND MARYLAND.



## A HISTORY OF THE ABELL FOUNDATION

The Abell Foundation, formerly known as The A. S. Abell Company Foundation, was established on December 31, 1953, on the initiative of the late Harry C. Black, philanthropist and then chairman of the board of the A. S. Abell Company, the former publisher of the *Baltimore Sun*. Since its inception as a private foundation incorporated in Maryland, The Abell Foundation has been dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life in Maryland, particularly Baltimore City.

From its beginnings, the Foundation has supported a wide range of community needs. Early records show gifts to hospitals, educational institutions, culture and the arts, and human services, including the Associated Jewish Charities and the United Negro College Fund of Baltimore, Inc.

The Foundation's mission, though shaped early on by Harry C. Black, was given firmer definition over the years by his nephew and successor, Gary Black, Sr. With the passing of Mr. Black in October 1987, the mantle of leadership was passed to his son, Gary Black, Jr., who had trained a lifetime for the position.

The Foundation's leadership over the years has been supported by persons of remarkable dedication and community involvement: William S. Abell, W. Shepherdson Abell, Jr., George L. Bunting, Jr., Thomas B. Butler, Robert C. Embry, Jr., Harrison Garrett, Robert Garrett, Benjamin Griswold III, Jacqueline C. Hrabowski, William L. Jews, William E. McGuirk, Jr., Sally J. Michel, Edwin F. Morgan, Donald H. Patterson, William F. Schmick, Jr., John E. Semmes, and Walter Sondheim, Jr.

A new generation of leadership has made its impression on the Foundation's mission to act as an agent of change. The mission has been broadened to include special emphases on public school reform, community development, workforce development, and health-related human services, including drug treatment and transitional services for returning ex-offenders.

The Foundation's current assets reflect the financial success of the *Baltimore Sun* and the generosity of Mr. Harry C. Black, who left a portion of his estate to the Foundation. On October 17, 1986, the resources of the Foundation were increased substantially by the sale of the A. S. Abell Company.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### CIVIC WORKS/WEATHERIZATION OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The Abell Foundation approached Civic Works to determine its interest in developing training opportunities for home energy efficiency improvements and weatherization, specifically, how skills could best be developed and where they could best be applied. Civic Works has a 20-year history of community service, neighborhood improvement, and skills development for underemployed youth in Baltimore City. Over the past two years, Civic Works has successfully launched a home energy saving program called Project Lightbulb. Project Lightbulb deploys teams of two AmeriCorp volunteers to help homeowners and renters reduce energy consumption in their homes, offering to replace light bulbs, insulate hot water heaters and six feet of water pipe, adjust thermostats and temperatures for the hot water heater and refrigerator, and install faucet aerators. Funding for the program is provided by The Abell Foundation, the Baltimore Community Foundation, the Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Foundation, and the Maryland Energy Administration, along with the donation of 1,000 CFL light bulbs from the local utility company, Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. At a cost of approximately \$220 per household, the project creates energy savings for the household that exceed the amount invested in just more than two years. Civic Works determined that the next level of cost-effective improvements for a household beyond Project Lightbulb would involve identifying places where outside air and drafts enter a home and addressing them through sealing and insulation to create heating and cooling efficiencies that lower energy costs and increase comfort.

In the fall of 2007, to build staff skills and competence in this area, the Foundation provided grant funding for Civic Works to receive training in air sealing and insulation techniques from a Canadian firm, Zero Draft. The multi-day training took place in a house under renovation in Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello, providing a hands-on opportunity to identify leaks and apply foam sealing to reduce outside air exchange. A subsequent grant from the Foundation enabled Civic Works to purchase a blower door, a diagnostic tool for measuring where and how much air passes through leaks and cracks in the house.

To maximize the impact of the air sealing and insulation demonstration project, the Foundation and Civic Works decided upon nonprofit supportive housing programs that offer both housing and services to vulnerable residents. These programs house up to eight individuals in a single house; have intensive energy usage as residents use heat and lights, cook, take showers, and use electronics; and have operating budgets that are adversely impacted by increases in energy costs. The Foundation identified two programs, A Step Forward and Transitioning Lives, both of which were struggling with rapid increases in utility

costs. Civic Works identified ten houses owned by the two programs in which to implement a pilot nonprofit weatherization and air sealing project.

In the fall of 2008, with a \$50,000 grant from the Foundation, Civic Works created a team of four people, which was later expanded to eight, to work as evaluators and installers. The team completed 30 hours of online coursework in Building Science, along with 30 hours of in-field training. Civic Works contracted with TerraLogos, a local private energy auditing firm, to evaluate each of the ten houses, provide diagnostic training for Civic Works' crew, and determine a priority for the scope of work for each house. The Civic Works team was trained in the use of the blower door and devices that detect carbon monoxide levels, as well as the use of an infrared camera as a tool for detecting heat transfer. Air sealing was recommended in all ten homes. In five of the homes, leaks from one or more of the furnace, water heater and stove were detected. Each of these safety issues was addressed, including replacement of a faulty furnace that was creating unsafe levels of carbon monoxide. These improvements were followed by foam air sealing and, in one case, cellulose insulation for the attic. In addition, Project Lightbulb was applied to each house to replace light bulbs, wrap hot water heaters and pipes with insulation, set thermostats, switch faucets and showerheads, and provide helpful tips on energy savings.

For each house, Civic Works measured the air infiltration before and after services were performed, resulting in improvements of 15 percent to 25 percent. It will again measure the difference in winter energy consumption, adjusted for number of residents before and after services were performed, to determine the actual amount of energy and cost savings. The experience of this project and interest in furthering training opportunities has led Civic Works to compete for, and be selected as, a qualified contractor for the city's federally funded low-income weatherization program, as well as successfully compete for \$175,000 in Maryland Energy Administration funding and \$86,000 in Community Development Block Grant federal stimulus dollars to extend the air sealing and weatherization services to low-income households.

**FOOD RESEARCH & ACTION CENTER/MARYLAND  
HUNGER SOLUTIONS/PILOT INSTALLATION OF  
ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (EBT) MACHINES AT  
BALTIMORE FARMERS' MARKETS**

Maryland Hunger Solutions designed a year-long pilot project to install Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) machines at two Baltimore City farmers' markets that enable farmers to accept federal food benefit payments. Funded jointly by the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and The Abell Foundation, the goal of the \$40,000 project is to provide outreach to recipients of the federal nutrition benefits program, so as to encourage purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' market locations in Baltimore City.

In Baltimore City, more than 150,000 households lack resources to buy sufficient food, and are dependent upon federal nutrition programs to meet family needs. At the same time, many neighborhoods in Baltimore City lack full-service grocery stores. Convenience and corner stores stock, for the most part, packaged goods and processed foods, and do not often offer fresh fruits and vegetables. This lack of access to healthy foods in neighborhoods contributes to disproportionately higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and hypertension – any one or all of which lead to expensive interventions and health treatments.

Concern about resident nutrition and the geographic disparities in accessing nutritional food led to the creation of the Baltimore Food Policy Task Force, convened by the Baltimore City Health and Planning Departments. The Task Force final report lists promotion and expansion of farmers' markets as the number one goal, with acceptance of EBT benefits as a primary method to achieve this.

Federal nutrition program benefits, recently named the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), are now provided to recipients entirely through EBT cards, similar to debit cards. Because farmers' markets do not generally have available electricity and phone lines, the elimination of paper benefits has had the unintended consequence of limiting federal food benefit recipients from accessing farmers' market vendors.

In the past several years, a number of pilot projects have been started at farmers' markets around the country to enable beneficiaries to convert their SNAP debit funding into tokens, which can then be used at individual farmer and vendor stands. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, at the end of FY 2008, 735 farmers' markets in 24 states were authorized to accept SNAP, an increase of 34 percent from the previous year. The level of sales after acceptance of electronic benefits charges by the farmers' markets varies by size, location, and the extent of outreach conducted. Some of the most promising fresh food repeat purchases at farmers' markets come from programs that initially combine monetary incentives with EBT access and outreach.

The Baltimore project is modeled on a pilot initiated by parent organization Food Resource & Action Center at four farmers' markets in Washington, DC, which have resulted in fresh produce purchases at farmers' markets by SNAP recipients. Following the examples of programs throughout the country, Maryland Hunger Solutions' Baltimore pilot will maintain a significant outreach component, incentive vouchers to maximize household beneficiary participation and purchases, and a quantitative and qualitative evaluation to measure the results.

Two pilot markets will be selected in Baltimore City based on

neighborhood accessibility and farmers' market management interest, and each market will be provided with a wireless EBT machine, operational costs for one year, and monetary incentives for SNAP recipients. To increase the sustainability of the project, the EBT machine will accept debit cards and charge a minimal convenience fee on debit transactions that will be used to cover the monthly wireless service charge. Each market will be offered training and technical assistance on EBT project implementation, utilizing a national trainer who has been involved in implementation efforts in numerous states. Maryland Hunger Solutions will launch an extensive outreach and promotional effort to attract SNAP beneficiaries to farmers' markets through service and benefits providers and community organizations.

During the year, the organization will periodically survey and interview farmers' market customers on awareness of the EBT projects, attitudes about using EBT cards at the markets, effectiveness of outreach efforts, and challenges or barriers to implementation. At the conclusion of the pilot, the organization will measure the number of transactions and the volume of sales, and evaluate the market's EBT revenues to assess future financial sustainability of the EBT projects.

#### **BELAIR-EDISON NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.**

The neighborhood of Belair-Edison in Northeast Baltimore has 6,700 residents, and a thriving commercial district, in addition to other assets such as two public parks and a nearby golf course. However, it is plagued with foreclosure filings, with a 40 percent increase in filings from year to year. Belair-Edison Neighborhoods, Inc. (BENI) preserves community assets through sustainable homeownership, and with ongoing Abell Foundation support of \$17,500, it is gaining national recognition and exposure for its efforts addressing foreclosure prevention and neighborhood stabilization.

While the current increase in foreclosure filings is due in part to the economy, a great majority of foreclosures in Belair-Edison can be attributed to investors who purchased properties for quick resale and are now unable to sell them. However, BENI encourages qualified potential homeowners to take advantage of below-market Healthy Neighborhoods loan products. BENI has provided homeownership counseling to 524 clients, and has held homebuyer education classes for 310 potential homeowners.

Additionally, BENI has met with 337 buyers for individualized post-purchase counseling: 80 percent (271) required foreclosure prevention counseling, and 20 percent required assistance with home maintenance and/or financial management. Positive outcomes for concerned homeowners include

bringing the mortgage current, modification of the mortgage, mortgage refinance, budget counseling/debt management plan development, referrals for legal assistance, reverse mortgages, or the sale of the home. BENI's foreclosure counselors work with homeowners to determine the best strategy to address their individual circumstance. A new staff position, Foreclosure Prevention Specialist, provides front-line support to foreclosure counseling staff and attends community meetings in an effort to raise resident awareness of the foreclosure issues. BENI stays connected with homeowners after the purchase of their homes, making its resources and staff available when homeowners face challenges that could lead to missed mortgage payments and, ultimately, foreclosure.

In addition to individualized one-on-one counseling with prospective and troubled homeowners, BENI partners with a number of organizations, including St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Civil Justice, Community Law Center, and Civic Works, leveraging the impact and reach of homeownership preservation services. Expansion beyond its core community in Northeast Baltimore has helped BENI to become a regional housing counseling presence, providing expertise and capacity for organizations that do not currently have it. BENI recently partnered with the Neighborhoods of Greater Lauraville, Inc. (NOGLI), which has no counseling capacity, to provide one-day-a-week counseling support on site at NOGLI's offices to receive clients from a 3,000 population target area (Waltherson, Lauraville, and Hamilton Hills). BENI has also partnered with the Coldstream-Homestead-Montebello neighborhoods to provide similar services to their 3,000 households.

BENI's foreclosure prevention model also includes direct mail outreach to residents, informing them of the on-site counseling support that could help them to save their homes. Additionally, BENI is engaging area institutions, such as universities and hospitals, in holding employee informational events that could ultimately lead to an increase in stable homeownership in Belair-Edison. BENI focuses on preservation and engagement of existing homeowners, supporting homeowners in danger of losing their homes, and promoting the benefits of living in their community.

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND ADDICTIONS**

### **SAFE AND SOUND CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, INC. PUBLIC SAFETY COMPACT**

Beginning in 2003, the Safe and Sound Campaign established what is now known as the Maryland Opportunity Compact. The Compact uses private sector resources to seed effective strategies that improve lives and reduce the need for *last resort* public expenditures on efforts such as foster care, juvenile detention, and prison. The initial investment of private funds to launch the Compact strategies demonstrates the savings that can result from more proactive strategies such as drug treatment, case management, and jobs, and acts as leverage to secure the ongoing commitment of the public sector for these initiatives.

Baltimore City is home to two-thirds of the ex-prisoners who are released from Maryland prisons each year (averaging 9,000 returnees to Baltimore City annually). The Maryland Compact for Public Safety (the Public Safety Compact) seeks to help these ex-prisoners to successfully reenter communities in Baltimore City by linking in-patient substance abuse treatment provided by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) to community-based reentry treatment services and effective community supervision by the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) for 250 ex-offenders. Participants will have completed substance abuse treatment in prison and will have been released early on parole realizing savings. In collaboration with other private foundations, The Abell Foundation awarded a two-year grant of \$500,000 to the Safe and Sound Campaign to support the expanded drug treatment in the community and community-based case management/reentry services of the Public Safety Compact.

The Public Safety Compact model features three tiers of services: in prison, pre-release, and community-based. In prison, services provided by DPSCS include: assessment and screening of substance abuse and other programming needs; a minimum of 12 months of cognitive, behavioral, education, health and mental health services, and/or substance abuse treatment appropriate to the needs of the client in either a therapeutic community or standard outpatient treatment and counseling. These services will be in-kind donations by DPSCS. During the pre-release phase, DPSCS and DPP will work with the community-based provider to transition the client to the community with many appropriate wraparound services including substance abuse treatment provided by Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems (BSAS).

An evaluation of the Compact will focus on outcomes for

participants such as drug use, re-arrest, employment, and the gathering of economic data such as cost of treatment, case management and community supervision, and avoidance of the costs of incarceration. If, as expected, the pilot proves successful, the savings will be reinvested into ongoing support and expansion of the Public Safety Compact.

## **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING GROUP**

More and more families are finding themselves homeless or are being forced to “double up” in overcrowded conditions, due to job loss or foreclosure. Once homeless, a family’s alternatives for housing are severely limited. For the majority of women with children, the only alternative is substandard housing in neighborhoods beset by crime, drugs, and violence. Even before the current national economic crisis, the need for transitional housing already exceeded availability on a 3:1 basis. The Supportive Housing Group (SHG) receives approximately 1,300 calls a year from families about to lose their housing and seeking a place to live. Between July 2006 and July 2009, SHG has been home to 111 families with 178 children. Sixty-seven of these families have moved on to permanent housing.

In 2005, SHG took over a location at 1600 Rutland Avenue, a former elementary school, which had been converted to subsidized housing in 1988. At this facility, SHG provides transitional housing with on-site support services designed to help families obtain permanent housing. Support services are provided to address the causes of homelessness, including substance abuse, mental or physical health problems, unemployment, and lack of education. An on-site work readiness program allows residents to receive stipends for positions such as maintenance assistant, front desk assistant, floor leader, and hospitality coordinator. Residents who successfully complete their transitional housing program at SHG are placed at the top of the list to receive a HUD Section 8 voucher for permanent housing. The Abell Foundation awarded a grant of \$50,000 to SHG to support its ongoing operations and to make necessary updates and repairs to the facility.

SHG serves 36 families for a 12- to 16-month period. Apartment rents are subsidized by the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and residents pay 30 percent of their adjusted income for rent, including utilities and maintenance. Each of the 36 apartments has a fully equipped kitchen; private bath, dining area, and sleeping areas; and laundry facility, and is video monitored 24/7. The Lanvale facility has a total of 55,000 square feet, of which 20,000 are available for development. SHG’s vision is to double the number of apartments available to women with children, as well as develop the Lanvale site as a true community resource.

## **EDUCATION**

### **THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Since 1982, The Community School, operating out of a storefront “school” in the Remington neighborhood, has provided a quality academic and mentoring program for young people. Founded by the community, the school re-engages students ages 15 to 18 who have not been successful in traditional schools. Many of these students are the first in their families to earn a high school degree. The program’s rigorous, customized curriculum creates the pipeline to earning a GED, college enrollment, and gainful employment.

The full-time day program serves 16 students at a time, most of whom remain for two years in order to complete the college prep and career readiness curriculum. Emphasis is placed on the development of positive work habits, as well as personal and community responsibility. A voluntary summer program is provided for all students to reinforce math and reading skills. The Community School’s daily attendance rate is 99.2 percent, with a passing grade of no less than 80 percent. In a city where, on average, less than 35 percent of those taking the GED test succeed, 75 percent of Community School students earn a GED. Nearly 60 percent of the Class of 2009 are now enrolled in college.

In the past year, The Community School has developed a college placement and support program that helps students be successful at local colleges. Students carrying at least nine college credits per semester may also apply for part-time employment at The Community School, providing administrative support to the school and mentoring current students.

Additionally, The Community School provides education counseling to families in the community who need further services for their children attending local schools. The program has also collaborated with the Baltimore City Public School System as it expands its educational options for out-of-school and other disengaged youth. The school is planning to offer access to the External Diploma Program for adults in the community.

### **PROJECT EARLY ID**

Project Early ID was launched in 2005, with three-year funding of \$395,500 from The Abell Foundation. With the goal of solidifying literacy skills in early childhood students, the pilot program aimed to prevent reading difficulties (and referral to special education) through early intervention in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade. A final grant of \$46,000 was approved for the 2008-2009 school year.

To achieve this, Project Early ID used a three-tier “response to intervention” (RTI) model to deliver services to children who demonstrated weaknesses in early literacy skills, particularly those related to phonological processing. Beginning with a cohort of pre-kindergarten students in two Baltimore City public schools, the project worked with three cohorts of students through first grade and compared findings to similar students in other schools. Project Early ID later expanded to six city schools.

Additionally, Project Early ID employed a full-time reading interventionist who initially conducted informal assessments of the entering pre-K students. Children who had difficulties meeting the classroom teacher’s instructional reading goals were given more intensive instruction. Tier 2 of the RTI framework offered small group (1:4) supplemental instruction daily for 20 minutes during 30-day cycles. At the end of each cycle, the classroom teacher and the Project Early ID reading teacher decided whether the students returned to Tier I in the classroom, stayed in Tier 2, or proceeded to Tier 3 for more intensive (1:1 or 1:2) instruction. At the same time, Project Early ID staff compiled effective lesson plans and practices at each grade level (pre-K to grade one) to train other early childhood educators in RTI methodology.

By the end of first grade, Project Early ID students were, on average, less likely to have weak overall reading skills than the comparison group. For example, in the second cohort, no Project Early ID students were retained in first grade and only one was referred to special education as opposed to two student retentions and four special education referrals in the comparison group.

Now that the formal pilot is completed, one of the co-directors of Project Early ID has been appointed to head the Early Childhood Division of the Baltimore City Public School System, ensuring that the curricula, professional development, and lessons learned from Project Early ID will inform future direction.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

### **HOMELESSNESS IN BALTIMORE:**

According to Baltimore City’s 2009 homeless census, an estimated 3,420 individuals are homeless on any given day – a 14 percent increase from 2007. The overwhelming majority of Baltimore City’s homeless are African American; most are men, but a growing percentage are women, and nearly one-quarter are children. Some live on the street, some with friends or family; many rely on shelters or transitional housing facilities, but all have one thing in common – lack of a home of their own.

In 2009, The Abell Foundation awarded a number of grants to support programs that address the myriad needs of the homeless. Highlighted below are three of those grants.

### **BALTIMORE HOMELESS SERVICES/ HOUSING AND RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS**

In January 2008, then-Mayor Sheila Dixon unveiled Baltimore's ten-year plan to end homelessness, called "The Journey Home." The plan was the culmination of a year-long process that brought together key stakeholders from agencies serving the homeless. It provided a comprehensive framework for meeting the needs of Baltimore City's growing homeless population and outlined a number of strategies aimed at addressing the four primary factors contributing to homelessness: lack of affordable housing, lack of health care, limited incomes, and an inadequate array of services.

One of the key strategies in "The Journey Home" was the development of a year-round, 24-hour shelter where homeless clients can access the supportive services needed to get back on their feet and move into homes of their own. As the agency responsible for implementing the city's ten-year plan to end homelessness, Baltimore Homeless Services took on the task of developing a year-round, 275-bed housing and resource center for the homeless in downtown Baltimore. With the help of a \$250,000 capital grant from The Abell Foundation, together with funding from the state, city, and other private foundations, construction of the facility began in July 2009, and is expected to be completed by September 2010.

Once completed, the facility will provide shelter and supportive services for 275 homeless individuals at any given time. A portion of the building will be designed as a convalescent care wing, providing nursing care for up to 25 medically fragile individuals recently released from hospitals. There will be no maximum length of stay for residents, although the goal will be to move people quickly into permanent housing.

Through contracts with private agencies, Baltimore Homeless Services will provide case management and housing search assistance to residents of the new center. Residents will have access to rental vouchers that have been earmarked for homeless individuals by the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. Additional services, including job training and placement, health care, and mental health and substance abuse treatment, will be provided through partnerships with other agencies. In addition to committing capital funds for this project, Baltimore City has committed to funding the center's operating costs, estimated at \$3 million per year.

## HOMELESS PERSONS REPRESENTATION PROJECT

Homeless Persons Representation Project (HPRP) was created in 1987 as a *pro bono* project, making volunteer attorneys available to homeless shelters to provide representation to people experiencing homelessness. Since its inception, HPRP has focused attention on complex legal and systemic issues facing the homeless, and has a successful history of addressing these issues in Baltimore and statewide.

In 2008, HPRP turned its attention to Baltimore City's Housing First program, a cornerstone of Baltimore City's ten-year plan to end homelessness. Housing First is a national model program that focuses on placing chronically homeless people in stable housing as a first priority, and following up with supportive services provided by outreach workers. Several studies have documented the effectiveness of this model and the resulting cost savings realized by reduced hospitalizations and arrests of the chronically homeless.

For the past several years, Baltimore Homeless Services has been implementing the Housing First model, beginning with a small and highly successful pilot project in 2005. Based on the success of this project, the city significantly expanded its Housing First program in 2008, pledging to lease 500 Housing First units to individuals who have been homeless for an extended time or have multiple barriers to housing. While this expansion presents an opportunity to serve more chronically homeless people, service providers and advocates were concerned about how the program would be administered and wanted to ensure it would meet the needs of the individuals it was designed to serve.

With grants of \$75,000 each in 2008 and 2009, The Abell Foundation has supported HPRP's work monitoring implementation of Baltimore's Housing First program. These grants support an HPRP staff attorney, who has concentrated efforts in three primary areas:

- Representing homeless individuals who have been denied admission to the program or are threatened with eviction from a Housing First rental unit;
- Training Housing First case managers and clients on legal rights and responsibilities under the Housing Choice Voucher program, the federal Fair Housing Act, and other laws pertaining to Housing First implementation; and
- Advocating with Baltimore Homeless Services and the Housing Authority of Baltimore City for modifications to the Housing First program designed to reduce barriers to admission.

In light of the city's increasing emphasis on Housing First as a key

strategy in its effort to end homelessness, HPRP's continued vigilance is vital to ensure that the program is implemented in a way that best serves Baltimore City's homeless population.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES/  
OUR DAILY BREAD EMPLOYMENT CENTER/  
MY SISTER'S PLACE WOMEN'S CENTER**

Through its Community Services Division, Catholic Charities has provided a continuum of care for the homeless and disadvantaged for nearly 30 years. Beginning in 1981, with the establishment of Our Daily Bread, Catholic Charities has provided meals to the homeless, relying on thousands of volunteers who donate, prepare, and serve more than a quarter of a million meals each year to homeless individuals and families.

In June 2007, Catholic Charities relocated Our Daily Bread and expanded the scope of its human services when it opened Our Daily Bread Employment Center (ODBEC) in downtown Baltimore. ODBEC houses Maryland's largest meal-service program, along with job readiness and job placement services for homeless individuals, screening for public benefits, and the Christopher Place Employment Academy for formerly homeless men. Since opening, ODBEC has seen significant growth in the demand for its services. In FY 2009, ODBEC served 5,126 clients and 267,000 meals, a 24 percent increase over 2008. Although its clients face considerable barriers to employment, ODBEC succeeded in placing 430 clients in jobs during FY 2009, with an average hourly wage of \$9.53. ODBEC expects to see greater demand for services in 2010, when Baltimore Homeless Services completes construction of its Housing and Resource Center across the street from ODBEC.

With the relocation of Our Daily Bread to the new ODBEC center in June 2007, Catholic Charities has been able to transform the former Our Daily Bread site into a new day center for homeless women and children, known as My Sister's Place Women's Center (MSPWC). Opened in November 2008, MSPWC provides three hot meals daily, showers, laundry facilities, case management, and adult literacy and employment services. In FY 2009, MSPWC served more than 1,200 clients and nearly 30,000 meals. Case managers assisted 114 women to find housing in FY 2009, and placed 36 women in jobs.

Although the two programs collectively serve more than 6,000 homeless and low-income clients each year, both have struggled to engage clients in supportive services beyond meals and day shelter services. A \$500,000 grant from The Abell Foundation, awarded in September 2009, is helping to build the capacity of both programs to better engage clients in services with the potential to transform their lives, and help them move out of homelessness and poverty. The



grant funds support existing and new staff at both facilities and provide supportive services for clients, including on-site health and mental health care, inpatient drug treatment, and flexible funds for such needs as client identification documents, security deposits and eviction prevention, and utility assistance funds. Grant funds will also be used to upgrade the computers in ODBEC's computer lab, which clients use for job searches and résumé writing. With this grant, ODBEC and MSPWC will be able to provide the necessary supports for more of their clients to transition from homelessness to stable, permanent homes.

## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

### **YEAR UP WASHINGTON, INC.**

Since January 2008, The Abell Foundation has been supporting Year Up Washington, a nonprofit organization that provides low-income high school graduates, ages 18 to 24, with a year of information technology (IT) training, leading to technical careers with starting salaries of \$30,000 or more. During the first six months of the program, participants are paid weekly stipends and attend classes focusing on IT Help Desk and Desktop Support. For the second six months of the program, students are placed in paid apprenticeships with local partner companies to gain work experience in IT. In 2008, Year Up served more than 1,500 young adults in Boston, Providence, New York City, and Metro Washington, DC. Year Up has also developed a network of more than 60 corporate partners who accept Year Up participants as apprentices.

In 2006, Year Up opened an office in Arlington, VA, to serve the Washington, DC area. More than 450 young adults have graduated from the program, including 40 students from Baltimore City. All Baltimore area students commute daily to Arlington five days a week for classes, with the commute averaging three hours roundtrip. Students receive a \$185 weekly stipend and are reimbursed for the cost of the commute. The program is posting impressive outcomes:

- 90 percent of graduates are placed in jobs within four months of graduation, averaging \$38,000 a year;
- More than 85 percent of Year Up's corporate partners continue to renew their commitment to future classes (partners include Freddie Mac, Bank of America, and Radio One); and
- 91 percent of corporate partners express satisfaction with apprentices.

Year Up Washington's instructors are also adjunct professors with Cambridge College, which has a campus in Chesapeake, Virginia. Through this partnership, students earn 18 hours of college credit for their participation in the program.

With funding from The Abell Foundation, the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Employment Development, Year Up is opening an office in Baltimore in September 2010. Year Up is also exploring a cost-sharing agreement with the Community College of Baltimore County, where students would earn college credit for their participation in the program.

### **THE WORKFIRST FOUNDATION, INC./AMERICA WORKS**

Research has shown that gainful employment is associated with reduced criminal behavior, and that employment facilitates an individual's return to society following release from prison.

America Works, a private workforce development firm that finds jobs for hard-to-place workers, has launched ex-offender employment initiatives around the country to help reduce recidivism. In 2009, in Oakland, CA, 330 young adults, ages 18 to 35, achieved a one-year recidivism rate of 6 percent (recidivism is defined as re-incarceration). In Newark, NJ, America Works provides ex-offender programming for 180 participants, with a one-year recidivism rate of 2.5 percent and a three-month job retention rate of 51 percent. In Detroit, 300 ex-offenders have been placed into employment, with a 5 percent recidivism rate and 65 percent three-month job retention rate.

With a \$400,000 grant from The Abell Foundation, America Works has partnered with the Baltimore City Circuit Court, the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, and the Maryland Department of Probation and Parole to launch its Baltimore Ex-Offender Reentry Program. By 2011, America Works will serve 100 ex-offenders, who will attend two-week job readiness workshops. Participants will be assessed to determine what types of jobs they would be suitable for (e.g., anyone with a theft conviction would not be allowed to work as a cashier), and America Works has completed a list of more than 70 employers who have been willing to hire ex-offenders, mostly in entry-level warehousing and stocking positions. America Works estimates that program graduates will be placed into jobs paying \$8.50 per hour and most will move from temporary to permanent positions, where employers will "try them out" before hiring them. Based on the results of its ex-offender programming in other cities, America Works estimates that with employment, program participants will be able to avoid returning to prison, resulting in cost savings to Baltimore City and the state of Maryland.

THE  
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2009 GRANTS

## EDUCATION

**ACLU Foundation of Maryland, Inc. . . . . \$50,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the Baltimore City Education Reform Project, designed to ensure that schools serving disadvantaged students receive equal funding and resources. The grant will also provide for monitoring of the Baltimore City Public School System's budget allocations in an effort to assess the impact of increased expenditures on academic achievements.

**Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support and expansion of programs developed to integrate arts studies into the curriculum of Maryland's public schools.

**Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers . . . . . \$100,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued funding of Supporting Public Schools of Choice, an advocacy and technical assistance project designed to strengthen charter, new, innovation, and transformation schools in Baltimore City, with a focus on increasing the achievement of students in these schools. Along with the Coalition of Baltimore Charter Schools, the initiative advocates for a collective voice of Baltimore City's charter and other new schools, greater local autonomy, a stronger state charter law, and positive outcomes for children attending these schools.

**Baltimore City Public School System/  
Baltimore Montessori Charter School . . . . . \$30,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward final expenses of roof repairs necessary to bring the former Mildred Monroe Elementary School building up to code. The charter school is serving as Baltimore's first public school to offer the Montessori curriculum.

**Baltimore City Public School System/  
National Academic League . . . . . \$155,950**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of the 2009-2010 National Academic League (NAL) in 26 Baltimore City public middle grades schools. The NAL games are designed to function as an athletic event, with team practices after school two to three times a week under the guidance of teacher mentors (coaches). Interscholastic competitions are held every two weeks. Teams that place first and second go on to compete in the national tournament through video conferencing. The goal is to strengthen student knowledge in all disciplines, particularly mathematics.

**Baltimore City Public School System/  
National Academy Foundation High School (NAF) . . . . \$5,000  
Baltimore, MD**

Toward expenses in support of creating a preliminary design concept for renovations of the former Dunbar Middle School building to accommodate the NAF Preparatory School.

**Baltimore City Public School System/  
National Academy Foundation High School (NAF) . . . \$60,000  
Baltimore, MD**

Planning grant for the establishment of an Academy of Engineering for the 2011-2012 school year. NAF will expand its career and technology program with an Academy of Engineering designed to prepare graduates for entrance into post-secondary engineering and technology curricula.

**Baltimore County Agricultural Resource Center . . . . . \$5,000  
Monkton, MD**

For the rental of a diesel tractor to be used for the establishment of the Great Kids Farm Project run by Baltimore City public schools. The farm equipment will help transform the abandoned 33-acre former Bragg Nature Center into a functioning organic farm for an educational and vocational training setting linked to the Baltimore City Public School System's Farm to Cafeteria initiative.

**Baltimore Reads, Inc. . . . . \$21,680  
Baltimore, MD**

Toward the creation of a business plan for financial stability of the Baltimore Reads Book Bank, which provides donated books to city schools and community programs. The plan will explore a social entrepreneurship model to create a Book Exchange as a revenue stream.

**Boys' Latin School of Maryland . . . . . \$5,000  
Baltimore, MD**

To provide tutoring, a meal plan, and related expenses for a former Baraka School student for the 2008-2009 school year.

**CollegeBound Foundation . . . . . \$49,400  
Baltimore, MD**

For fourth-year support of the College Retention Project for Last Dollar Grant scholarship recipients at nine participating colleges with the goal of increasing college graduation rates. The grant provides for the hiring of two advisors who will have the responsibility of linking students with appropriate campus-based services, such as peer advising, faculty mentoring, academic tutoring, and lifestyle and financial counseling.

**The Community School, Inc..... \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of an alternative school with emphasis on academics and mentoring, serving youth and adults in the Remington and Hampden communities. In addition to a full-time individualized ten-hour day program for high school students, The Community School is offering a college support program and part-time employment for students who have enrolled in college.

**Fund for Educational Excellence ..... \$25,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For the development of the Urban Teacher Center (UTC), the mission of which is to prepare teachers for the country's neediest urban schools. The center recruits candidates, equips them with state-of-the-art training, and links certification to the performance of their students. UTC fellows must make a four-year commitment: one year of residency, followed by three years as a full-time teacher in a high-needs urban school.

**HOPE Worldwide Baltimore ..... \$60,000**  
**Ellicott City, MD**

Two grants toward support of the TRUTH Youth Services Program for at-risk males at Northeast Middle School through the 2009-2010 school year. The program, a year-round effort, provides cognitive development, field trips, career exploration, mentoring, reading, and training in life-skills, and a summer learning camp for 40 young men displaying risk factors in the sixth grade.

**Incentive Mentoring Program ..... \$69,056**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support and expansion of an intensive mentoring program at Dunbar High School to include identification of a new cohort of ninth-grade students during the 2009-2010 school year. The program offers community service activities, after-school tutoring, SAT preparation, and college access and retention support over the course of seven years. Teams of eight to 12 mentors, primarily from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, work with each of the 15 students in each cohort to provide family-style, one-on-one mentoring two to seven times a week.

**The Ingenuity Project ..... \$400,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of the 2009-2010 Ingenuity Project, a gifted and talented math, science, and research magnet program serving 465 students in three Baltimore City public middle schools and at Baltimore Polytechnic High School. The program is designed to qualify students as nationally competitive, college-bound math, science, and engineering scholars.

**Johns Hopkins University/  
Center for Social Organization of Schools . . . . . \$50,000  
Baltimore, MD**

Toward continued support of the Baltimore Education Research Consortium (BERC). BERC is a partnership of the Baltimore City public schools, Johns Hopkins University, Morgan State University, and other civic and community partners. BERC's mission is to conduct and disseminate long- and short-term strategic data analysis and research that informs decisions about policy and practice to improve the educational life outcomes of children in Baltimore.

**Johns Hopkins University/  
Center for Social Organization of Schools . . . . . \$14,033  
Baltimore, MD**

Fourth- and fifth-year funding for an evaluation of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at Vivien T. Thomas and Augusta Fells Savage High Schools. The evaluation will study EOP, a sequential mentoring program designed to increase graduation rates, and determine whether, by assessing various criteria, EOP merits replication.

**KIPP Baltimore, Inc. . . . . \$50,000  
Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the extended day program at the KIPP Ujima Village Academy and the new elementary school, KIPP Harmony, which opened in fall 2009. The longer school day and week, and the summer school, are key components of the program designed to move student achievement to the top 10 percent in the Baltimore City Public School System.

**Maryland Disability Law Center . . . . . \$5,000  
Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the CityWide Special Education Advocacy Project for Baltimore City public school students with disabilities. The project brings together diverse voices to discuss strategies that hold promise of making an impact on the delivery of special education services and outcomes in the areas of funding, discipline, high school completion, and transitional services.

**Maryland Institute College of Art . . . . . \$16,000  
Baltimore, MD**

Last Dollar support toward tuition and related fees for a Baltimore City public school graduate for the 2009-2010 school year.

**New Leaders for New Schools . . . . . \$150,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the New Leaders-Baltimore program to recruit and develop school principals for Baltimore City public schools, for the 2009-2010 school year. Following the one-year residency training, 9 percent of New Leaders “residents” are placed as principals. There are now more than 40 New Leaders principals leading city schools.

**Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the Music Teacher Mentoring Program, designed to provide professional development for more than 70 first-year and returning music teachers in Baltimore City public schools. Two Peabody mentors offer enhancements to the curriculum: age-appropriate materials and lesson plans, strategies on effective classroom management skills, and new methodologies to encourage student engagement.

**The Piney Woods School . . . . . \$79,250**  
**Piney Woods, MS**

To provide scholarships for nine male students from Baltimore City to attend a college preparatory boarding school for the 2009-2010 school year, and for the salary of a retention counselor. The counselor provides a range of services: monitoring class attendance and participation, overseeing study hall and dormitory behavior, and acting as a liaison and advocate for students and their families.

**Teach For America-Baltimore . . . . . \$135,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Two grants for the continuation and expansion of an initiative to double the number of recent college graduates recruited and trained to 160, and to provide ongoing support for the 80 returning Teach For America corps members in Baltimore City public schools.



## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**Advocates for Children and Youth (ACY) . . . . . \$30,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward continued support of programming designed to improve the outcomes of Baltimore City children in the child welfare system. ACY will monitor the implementation of the new family-centered case practice model and assess the level of in-home supportive services for families.

**Agape Family Empowerment Center . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward expenses related to the Park Heights Saints football and cheerleading program for 165 youth in the Park Heights community.

**American Civil Liberties Foundation  
of Maryland, Inc. (ACLU) . . . . . \$150,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the Regional Housing Equity Project. ACLU will focus on developing a regional housing remedy to enable thousands of public housing residents to live in high-opportunity areas.

**The Avenue Bears/Pop Warner Little Scholars . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward the costs of equipment, uniforms, and insurance for a new Pop Warner Metropolitan Baltimore football and cheerleading club for 200 youth, ages 5 to 14, in the Pennsylvania Avenue and Upton communities.

**Baltimore Homeless Services, Inc. . . . . \$250,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Capital funding toward the development of a housing and resource center for homeless persons at 620 Fallsway. In response to the increasing number of homeless individuals in Baltimore City, the center will offer housing accommodations and case management for up to 275 homeless individuals at any one time.

**Baltimore Stars Coalition/AAU . . . . . \$40,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the volunteer-operated Baltimore Stars Basketball Program for 120 inner-city boys, ages 8 to 17. The program provides opportunities to compete in AAU state and national basketball tournaments. In addition to teaching basketball skills, teamwork, and good sportsmanship, the Stars program provides educational support for players, including mentoring, tutoring, and SAT preparation.

**Catholic Charities . . . . . \$500,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

In support of the Project to Transform Lives program at My Sister's Place Women's Center (MSPWC) and for the Pathways to Hope Project at Our Daily Bread Employment Center (ODBEC). The programs are designed to expand basic services with on-site medical services and mental health treatment. MSPWC clients are encouraged to participate in budgeting, financial literacy, and adult education classes; ODBEC clients have the opportunity to participate in a variety of job training programs, including building maintenance, environmental services, commercial driver's licenses, and weatherization tech training.

**Civic Works . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For startup costs of the Real Food Farms at Clifton Park. The goals of the urban farm project are to provide fresh organic food to the Lake Clifton High School cafeteria, hands-on educational opportunities for students, the engagement of neighbors in growing produce, job training opportunities, and green jobs. Starting with three hoop greenhouses in which to grow produce year-round, the pilot project will eventually expand to 20 hoop greenhouses.

**The Downtown Sailing Center . . . . . \$15,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For general operating costs of the 2009 Community Outreach initiative for at-risk, disadvantaged, and disabled youth in Baltimore City. The program teaches disadvantaged youth to sail, while providing lessons in safety, self-confidence, communication, leadership skills, and teamwork.

**DRU/Mondawmin Healthy Families, Inc. . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

To provide supportive services for pregnant women, infants, and children in the Druid Heights, Reservoir Hill, Upton, and Mondawmin catchment areas.

**Food Research & Action Center . . . . . \$25,000**  
**Washington, DC**

Toward continued support of Maryland Hunger Solutions, an anti-hunger advocacy program designed to facilitate access to federally funded nutrition programs for low-income residents of Baltimore City. Focus will be on expanding the classroom breakfast program, advocating for improved administrative and legislative policies to eliminate barriers, and assisting to implement Maryland's newly approved after-school, weekend, and holiday supper program for qualifying children and adults. It will also continue to serve as a resource for updates on hunger statistics.

**Franciscan Center . . . . . \$30,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward support of the Emergency Services Energy Assistance Program. Services include utility and eviction prevention grants, emergency food, transportation vouchers, prescription co-pay assistance, financial counseling, and case management.

**Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation . . . . . \$25,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward staffing and administrative costs of CARES, a food pantry and emergency utility assistance, eviction prevention, and prescription drug assistance program serving more than 4,400 low-income Baltimore City residents.

**Healthy Teen Network . . . . . \$25,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

To develop a strategic plan to reduce the teen birth rate in Baltimore City by using the Getting to Outcomes planning model. The program will assess needs and resources, define goals, and evaluate and determine sustainable programming to help ensure that adolescent reproductive health efforts are effective.

**Historic East Baltimore Community  
Action Coalition, Inc. . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of an after-school program three days a week at the Hattie N. Harrison Community Center for 30 children in need of supervision and academic support. The staff develops a portfolio for each participant to mark the progress of work and projects completed over the course of the year.

**Homeless Persons Representation Project, Inc. . . . . \$75,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the Housing First advocacy project, designed to reduce barriers to housing for homeless persons through advocacy, training, legal representation, and monitoring of Baltimore's Housing First program.

**House of Ruth . . . . . \$25,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward support of the Emergency Client Support program designed for victims of domestic violence and their children. The fund will be used to address the barriers that victims experience in securing safe accommodations by helping to pay for short-term motel stays, security deposits and rent assistance, transportation expenses, emergency health expenses, and help in securing identification and citizenship documents.

**Housing Authority of Baltimore City . . . . . \$200,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Continued support to provide security deposits to as many as 275 families moving to nonimpacted areas outside Baltimore City. Tenants are given Housing Choice vouchers to move into the private rental market which offers the opportunity to enjoy greater safety and security, better schools, and improved health outcomes.

**Johns Hopkins Children's Center . . . . . \$28,810**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of a study to determine the effectiveness of the Mothers and Babies Course, a postpartum depression prevention program serving low-income African-American women in three Baltimore home visiting programs. Clients will be screened to determine individual risk for developing postpartum depression based on personal or family history. Those determined to be at risk will be randomly assigned to a treatment group, which will receive a six-session intervention, or a control group, which will receive standard home visiting services. If proven effective, the Mothers and Babies Course will be implemented on a broader scale.

**Loving Arms, Inc. . . . . \$65,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward start-up operating costs and for the purchase and installation of a fire escape for a short-term residential group home for eight emotionally disturbed youth in Baltimore City.

**Maryland Food Bank . . . . . \$25,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support and expansion of the School Pantry Program to 84 Baltimore City public schools. In exchange for volunteering in the schools, needy parents receive free bags of food when their monthly food stamps run out. Over the course of the school year, counselors connect participating parents to other community resources and soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters in the immediate area. The parents are encouraged to attend nutrition education classes.

**Mission Possible Ministries, Inc. . . . . \$15,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For electrical upgrades, fencing, and backyard concrete for three existing transitional houses that provide housing for 27 homeless men in West Baltimore. Residents are encouraged to develop life and job skills and work toward self-sufficiency.

**Northeast Youth Association . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward operating costs of a football league for youth ages five to 15 in the Mid-Govans community. The season starts in August with a two-hour practice five days a week during the summer, and three days per week during the school year, in addition to six Saturday games.

**Parks & People Foundation . . . . . \$60,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the Hooked on Sports program serving more than 1,000 Baltimore City public school students in grades four through 12. While being taught the basic fundamentals of playing organized sports and the value of teamwork and fair play, participating students are required to maintain a “C” average and a 95 percent school attendance rate.

**Paul’s Place, Inc. . . . . \$50,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the Hot Lunch and Emergency Assistance programs for residents of Washington Village/Pigtown. Funding allows the programs to accommodate basic needs of long-time residents in an area of entrenched poverty.

**Pimlico Road Youth Program . . . . . \$35,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Challenge grant toward operating costs of an academic and arts program for children and youth. The program is a collaboration between St. John’s Lutheran Church and Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, and offers a safe place for 45 neighborhood children. The after-school program provides academic assistance, a computer lab, art, music, and dance instruction, and recreational activities five days a week.

**Public Justice Center . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward production costs of an educational film to be shown in the Baltimore Juvenile Courthouse for youth entering the foster care system. The film gives a first-hand glimpse into the process foster youth face when entering the system, and provides them with a better understanding of how the Juvenile Court works, individuals’ rights and responsibilities, and how to maximize system benefits.

**The Salvation Army . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For general support for the homeless and needy.

**Santa Claus Anonymous . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of the 2009 Santa Claus Anonymous Campaign.

**The Shepherd's Clinic . . . . . \$50,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward operating costs to provide primary and specialty health care to uninsured persons in Baltimore City. With an extensive network of volunteer medical personnel and its longstanding partnership with Union Memorial Hospital, Shepherd's Clinic will be able to provide high quality, low-cost health care to more than 750 uninsured Baltimore City residents.

**South Baltimore Emergency Relief, Inc. . . . . \$20,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For general operating support of the food pantry and energy assistance programs. The center, which is open Monday through Thursday, provides food, toiletries, and infant products; and utility, eviction, and prescription assistance.

**South Baltimore Neighborhood Association . . . . . \$12,500**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the South Baltimore Youth Council, a mentoring and educational program for at-risk youth. The purpose of the program is to engage at least 30 young people each week in youth-led council activities. One of the educational programs focuses on issues related to crime investigation and trial preparation. Participants will undertake at least three service projects in collaboration with community-based organizations.

**St. Francis Neighborhood Center . . . . . \$25,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward support of The Power Project, an after-school educational, mentoring, and arts program for 30 at-risk youth, ages five to 18, in Reservoir Hill. In an effort to increase academic achievement and self-confidence, the program conducts academic and social needs assessments, and creates individualized short- and long-term plans for each child.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND ADDICTIONS

**A Step Forward, Inc.** . . . . . \$23,295  
**Baltimore, MD**

For completion of renovations for an Oxford Model Housing Project serving eight men recovering from substance abuse. The house, in the Harlem Park community, is a democratically run, self-supporting, and drug-free home for residents planning to live in permanent housing.

**A Step Forward, Inc.** . . . . . \$5,000  
**Baltimore, MD**

For paying utility bills at two transitional housing facilities serving Baltimore City men and women recovering from substance abuse.

**The Answer, Inc.** . . . . . \$5,000  
**Baltimore, MD**

For the purchase of appliances and payment of one month's utility bill for a faith-based residential substance abuse recovery program providing services to seven clients for up to a six-month stay.

**The Baltimore Station** . . . . . \$50,000  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward final construction costs for expansion and renovation of a residential substance abuse treatment program serving 91 homeless men. The residents are provided with HIV screenings, physical exams, mental health assessments, follow-up treatments, and referrals to GED programs and job training.

**Beginning Effective Recovery Together (BERT)** . . . . . \$5,000  
**Baltimore, MD**

For replacement furniture in residences served by the BERT supportive housing program. The goal of BERT is to assist men and women in developing life skills in preparation for successful reentry into the community.

**Community Mediation Maryland** . . . . . \$5,000  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward an evaluation of a pilot program providing reentry mediation to inmates preparing for release from correctional facilities in Baltimore City.

**Dayspring Programs, Inc.** . . . . . \$250,000  
**Baltimore, MD**

Capital funding for the renovation of a former school building to expand services for homeless persons recovering from substance abuse. The building will house Dayspring offices, four Head Start programs, and ten transitional housing units. The construction of a three-story, 24,500 square-foot addition will contain 18 apartments, increasing total housing capacity by ten units and consolidating Head Start programs.

**Deborah's Place, Inc. . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward costs of completing the renovation of a transitional housing facility for eight women in recovery in the Park Heights community.

**Echo House Multi-Service Center . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For funding an architectural conceptual design for a new and expanded substance abuse treatment facility in West Baltimore.

**Episcopal Community Services of Maryland . . . . . \$60,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

To provide transitional housing stipends for 75 ex-offenders enrolled in the Jericho Reentry Program. Jericho provides stable housing for clients while they pursue job training and reconnect with family and friends.

**Fountain of Hope, Inc. . . . . \$10,000**  
**Edgewood, MD**

Two grants for emergency costs of supplies and utilities toward expenses of a housing program serving persons recovering from substance abuse.

**Humanim, Inc. . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the Reality Resource Group residential housing program in support of Baltimore City residents recovering from substance abuse.

**The Light of Truth Center, Inc. . . . . \$50,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward renovations of 244 North Patterson Park Avenue, a permanent supportive housing facility for eight formerly homeless women recovering from substance abuse.

**Manifest Wonders Christian Center . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward the purchase of furniture and appliances for a new transitional housing facility to accommodate ten ex-offender women in recovery.

**Maryland Community Health Initiatives, Inc. . . . . \$50,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Two-year funding for support of expanded health care and drug abuse treatment services at the Penn North Neighborhood Center. Operating five days a week, the center provides acupuncture, peer recovery supportive services such as NA/AA meetings, relapse prevention groups, life skills, GED classes, and referrals to traditional treatment and wraparound services.



**New Vision House of Hope, Inc. . . . . \$27,065**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward repairs and renovations to a transitional housing facility serving eight men in the reentry/recovery program.

**New Vision House of Hope, Inc. . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward utility and water bills incurred in the operation of a transitional house.

**No Turning Back, Inc. . . . . \$20,000**  
**Randallstown, MD**

Toward the purchase and renovation of a property for expansion of support services for ten ex-offenders recovering from substance abuse.

**Recovery In Community (RIC) . . . . . \$98,175**  
**Baltimore, MD**

To continue funding of placements and outreach services for RIC clients recovering from substance abuse. RIC provides three months of transitional housing for up to 35 clients who had been living in environments inappropriate for recovery.

**Supportive Housing Group, Inc. . . . . \$50,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

To provide transitional housing and wraparound services to 36 homeless women and their children for a 12- to 16-month period. In addition to providing apartments, Supportive Housing Group offers counseling, a work readiness program, tutoring for children, N/A meetings, and access to health care in preparation for moving into permanent housing.

**Together We Can, Inc. . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward the cost of furniture and appliances for two new facilities providing housing and support services to men and women reentering the community.

**Transitioning Lives, Inc. . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For administrative expenses related to the operation of a program designed to address the needs of returning ex-offenders.

**Tuerk House, Inc..... \$34,250**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward the purchase of software, to provide training, and to support the salary of a database coordinator for expansion of programs for men and women recovering from substance abuse.

**TuTTie's Place ..... \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For the purchase of appliances to be used in a residential group home for adolescents.

**United Ministries, Inc..... \$50,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Two-year funding for continued support of Earl's Place, a transitional housing facility for recovering addicts who are homeless and/or HIV positive. By providing stable housing for up to 17 homeless men at any given time, Earl's Place offers residents the opportunity to enroll in GED classes and/or participate in job training programs until they complete the program and are employed, earning sufficient income to cover the cost of moving into permanent housing.

**Women's Housing Coalition..... \$20,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Two-year funding to continue support of the Relapse Prevention/Mental Health Program for homeless women in Baltimore City. This initiative includes the training of case managers to detect warning signs of relapse and strategies so as to assist clients with medication management.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Adopt A Block, Inc. . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward expenses incurred by Compassion Commission, a youth-driven program that assembles 200 youth to participate in a week of volunteering. Projects include renovating a vacant rowhouse, cleanup of alleys and neighborhood streets, community greening, and painting recreation centers and public schools in the Greenmount, Station North, and Oliver Street neighborhoods.

**The Baltimore Community Foundation, Inc. . . . . \$40,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Two grants for support of the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge pilot project that will operate in selected low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The project is designed to instruct residents on how to reduce high energy costs and consumption. Civic Works will train neighborhood leaders using their own houses as models.

**Banner Neighborhoods Community Corporation . . . . \$20,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the Home Maintenance Program developed to assist more than 130 elderly, low-income homeowners to remain in their homes in Southeast Baltimore. Banner Neighborhoods makes minor repairs, undertakes general maintenance, and provides education about energy-saving measures.

**Center for Emerging Media . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For general operating support of the Marc Steiner radio show. The daily interview format with selected guests, along with follow-up call-in questions, addresses timely topics of community interest.

**Civil Justice, Inc. . . . . \$90,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of an initiative, "Filling a Vital Gap in Foreclosure Prevention Through Pro Se Bankruptcy." In addition to counseling, the project provides legal assistance in an effort to create a plan to assist homeowners facing foreclosure.

**Food Research & Action Center . . . . . \$20,000**  
**Washington, DC**

Toward support of the Maryland Hunger Solutions' pilot project to enable low-income households to purchase fresh produce at two Baltimore City farmers' markets using their federal nutrition program benefits. The pilot will provide outreach and incentives to eligible households and the equipment and training for the farmers' markets to accept payment through electronic benefit transfers and debit cards.

**Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. . . . . \$75,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For general support of a partnership of banks, foundations, government agencies, and community organizations committed to strengthening 15 underserved neighborhoods targeted for revitalization. Healthy Neighborhoods provides grants for marketing, community organizing, and block projects in an ongoing effort to preserve and improve the real estate values in selected neighborhoods.

**Johns Hopkins Institute for Policy Studies. . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For the 2009 Abell Foundation Award in Urban Policy. This award is given to a graduate student who researches and writes an essay identifying an urban problem, and proposes a data-based solution.

**Johns Hopkins University . . . . . \$150,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward the establishment of The Lieber Institute, a psychiatric research facility, at the Johns Hopkins Science and Technology Park. Scientists conducting the research will focus on schizophrenia.

**Maryland PIRG Foundation . . . . . \$20,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward continued support of the Smart Energy Solutions Program, a statewide campaign designed to promote energy policies on energy efficiency and conservation.

**Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore, Inc. . . \$25,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of home rehabilitation services created to enable elderly and low-income residents to remain in their homes.

**Progressive Maryland Education Fund . . . . . \$15,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of a study on Maryland's living-wage law. The study will analyze the number of workers who have benefited from the law, the amount of additional income they have received, the cost to the state to implement the law, and the cost to the state if exemptions were to be eliminated.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Alternative Directions, Inc. . . . . \$50,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward child support modification workshops in the Maryland Reception, Diagnostic and Classification Center; the Maryland Transition Center in Baltimore; and the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women in Jessup. The objectives of the workshops are to assist 515 incarcerated individuals in preparing requests to have their child support orders modified and following-up with the child support system to ensure that the support orders have been modified.

**Art with a Heart, Inc. . . . . \$20,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support and expansion of the 2009 Summer Job Program, a visual arts program for 30 at-risk youth in the Rose Street community. As part of the six-week summer work experience, the students created art pieces, including decoupage furniture and mosaics for sale at Artscape.

**Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of a part-time staff position to facilitate the Workforce Development Affinity Group.

**Baltimore Healthcare Access . . . . . \$50,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward the implementation of the *Earn*Benefits Baltimore Program in the Baltimore City Detention Center. Baltimore Health Care Access will serve 487 Baltimore City Detention Center inmates for benefit eligibility.

**CASA of Maryland, Inc. . . . . \$100,000**  
**Takoma Park, MD**

For continued funding of the Baltimore Worker Employment Center for day laborers and low-income workers. The formal hiring center offers a safe and organized way to help workers find jobs in construction, landscaping, home improvement, sanitation, and other day-to-day low-skilled physical labor-intensive jobs. The center provides a place to receive workplace rights education, health and safety training, legal counseling, basic vocational training, and identification cards.

**Center for Urban Families . . . . . \$300,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of STRIVE Baltimore, a job training and placement service for men and women. In a three-week intensive workshop focusing on job readiness, the STRIVE model emphasizes attitudinal training, job placement, post-placement support, one-on-one and group counseling, parenting skills, and case management.

**Harbor City Services, Inc. . . . . \$15,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward general operating costs of a document management, moving/storage, and warehouse business providing sheltered employment to Baltimore City residents with psychiatric disabilities.

**Job Opportunities Task Force . . . . . \$47,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward renovation costs of 812 North Rose Street to accommodate four additional beds for disadvantaged residents transitioning into the workforce. The program provides on-the-job training and real-world construction experience for six JumpStart program graduates.

**Job Opportunities Task Force . . . . . \$50,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of the Baltimore CASH Campaign, an initiative to increase the use of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), now expanded to 20 free tax preparation sites. The campaign identifies EITC-eligible populations and connects them to asset building resources including benefits screening through the *EarnBenefits* software, college financial aid filing assistance, and credit-repair counseling.

**Maryland Center for Arts and Technology, Inc. . . . . \$50,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support and expansion of job training programs for unemployed and underemployed youth and adults in Baltimore City. The center recruits and trains individuals for positions in health care and other high growth/high shortage industries.

**Maryland Office of Employment Development . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of the YouthWorks 2009 summer jobs program.

**Rose Street Community Center . . . . . \$300,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of rehabilitation services for homeless youth and adult ex-offenders recovering from substance abuse. The center provides transitional housing and case management for up to 52 individuals; and offers opportunities for employment; stipends for living expenses; referrals to drug treatment; on-site GED classes; job training; and homework assistance, peer mediation, and art activities, all designed to reduce gang-related crime.

**Seedco . . . . . \$75,000**  
**New York, NY**

For expansion and continued support of *Earn*Benefits Baltimore, a technical assistance initiative designed to help low-wage workers and individuals access 24 different federal, state, and city benefits and income supports.

**St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore, Inc. . . . . \$80,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of the Learn to Earn job training program at the St. Ambrose Outreach Center. In addition to training in child care, medical terminology, nursing assistant certification, and culinary arts, the center offers opportunities for clients to improve in language arts, math, and computer skills.

**Vehicles for Change, Inc. . . . . \$110,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Two grants for the continuation and expansion of an initiative that sells cars at a very low cost to low-income persons in Baltimore City.

**The Workfirst Foundation . . . . . \$400,000**  
**New York, NY**

For the implementation of the Baltimore Ex-Offender Reentry Employment Program. Participants receive up to four weeks of job readiness training that includes résumé writing, mock interviews, computer basics, financial literacy, anger management, and conflict resolution. After being matched with job opportunities, graduates are placed into employment.

**Year Up Washington, Inc. . . . . \$115,000**  
**Arlington, VA**

For continued support and expansion of the Year Up Baltimore Program, a workforce development initiative for 40 talented at-risk young adults, ages 18 to 24. The training prepares participants for entry-level positions in information technology.

## CONSERVATION

**1000 Friends of Maryland . . . . . \$15,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For continued support of staffing and expenses related to the Partners for Open Space campaign, and to advocate for conservation to be a lead legislative issue. With the use of electronic mail, regional polls, a website, and timely media events, the coalition of 155 conservation organizations in Maryland will maintain a voice for protecting open space for parks, preserving agricultural lands, and seeking full funding for Program Open Space.

**Chesapeake Bay Foundation . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Annapolis, MD**

In support of the 2010 Environmental Legislative Summit.

**Chesapeake Climate Action Network . . . . . \$15,000**  
**Takoma Park, MD**

To underwrite staffing costs for the Legal Enforcement Project, focused on abating local power plant emissions through legal action against repeated violations of the Maryland Clean Air Act.

**Environmental Integrity Project . . . . . \$35,000**  
**Washington, DC**

Toward support of the Maryland Open Government Initiative, a collaborative effort with the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. The goal is to encourage state and federal enforcement entities to do a more effective job in ensuring the health and safety of Maryland residents, and to protect them from dangerous levels of air pollution.



## ARTS AND CULTURE

**Baltimore Clayworks, Inc. . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Planning grant for the expansion of a satellite location at the Newborn Ministries Jubilee Arts Center in Sandtown-Winchester. This initiative will connect artists with communities that would otherwise have limited or no access to an art center.

**Baltimore Community Foundation . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Seed funding for support of a conservation and maintenance assessment program and restoration plan for 50 pieces of outdoor sculptures at 45 Baltimore City public schools. This initial grant will provide the necessary information to develop a plan for preserving 10 pieces of artwork a year, over a five-year period.

**Baltimore Community Foundation . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

In support of the TEDxMidAtlantic conference held at the Maryland Institute College of Art. As part of a global series of events, the conference presented talks by technologists, artists, scientists, and entrepreneurs, intended to ensure entrepreneurship and creativity in Baltimore.

**Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts. . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of the 2009 Baltimore Book Festival. The festival, an annual regional event, features more than 200 authors, workshops, exhibits, storytellers, street performances, walking and library tours, and live music over a three-day period in Mount Vernon Place.

**Baltimore Shakespeare Festival . . . . . \$5,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward the implementation of the Shakespeare for a New Generation program, designed to provide free access for students to experience the power of live theatre and the work of William Shakespeare. The program includes teacher workshops, in-school teaching artists' visits, study guides, live performances of *The Comedy of Errors*, and post-performance discussions in 12 to 14 Baltimore City public schools.

**Maryland Historical Society . . . . . \$7,500**  
**Baltimore, MD**

Toward research, editorial, design, and printing costs of Joseph R. L. Sterne's book, *Combat Correspondents: The Baltimore Sun in World War II*.

**Museum of Ceramic Art . . . . . \$34,000**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For support of the 2009-2010 in-school and after-school ceramic art programs in 46 Baltimore City public middle schools. Aligned with the Maryland State Content Standards and integrated with core subjects, the program reinforces students' reading, writing, and creative skills. The nine-month program provides each teacher with wheels, kilns, supplies, a stipend, coaching, professional training workshops, and monthly networking. While student works of art are temporarily exhibited in public venues such as the Baltimore Visitor Center at the Inner Harbor, arrangements are also made for participating schools to create ceramic murals for permanent installations in various locations in Baltimore City.

**OTHER**

**Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers . . . . . \$7,500**  
**Baltimore, MD**

For 2009 membership dues.

**ADDITIONAL GRANTS OF \$5,000 OR LESS HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:**

**EDUCATION**

Baltimore Curriculum Project, Inc.....	\$3,000
BCPSS/Baltimore City College.....	\$2,430
BCPSS/Matthew A. Henson Elementary School.....	\$2,500
CollegeBound Foundation, Inc.....	\$500
Saint Frances Academy.....	\$3,000

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

The Family Tree .....	\$2,806
Women’s Housing Coalition.....	\$3,315

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND ADDICTIONS**

A New Beginning, Inc.....	\$4,612
Bernie’s Place .....	\$4,850
Druid Heights Community Development Corporation .....	\$1,824
Druid Heights Community Development Corporation .....	\$3,150
Druid Heights Community Development Corporation .....	\$2,377
Nu Direction Transitional House/LEAP .....	\$900

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Baltimore City Foundation/BMOREFIT .....	\$4,350
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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore.....	\$400
Federal Hill Main Street, Inc .....	\$1,650
Neighborhood Design Center.....	\$1,500
Southeast Community Development Corporation .....	\$1,650

**CONSERVATION**

Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers.....	\$2,500
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**ARTS AND CULTURE**

High Zero Foundation, Inc .....	\$2,500
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## GUIDELINES FOR GRANTSEEKERS

The Abell Foundation seeks to serve the needs of Maryland in general, and Baltimore in particular. The Foundation meets the changing needs of the community by responding to unsolicited requests initiated by organizations demonstrating a high priority unmet need, requesting proposals for special programs, initiating programs that address key issues that show promise of effecting systemic change, and commissioning studies to gather pertinent information about communitywide issues.

The Foundation's interest is focused on public educational institutions with programs that encourage higher levels of achievement, further basic skills and enrichment, promote professional development, enhance curricula, increase parental involvement, and encourage the pursuit of higher education among the less affluent. The Foundation also supports the efforts of private institutions to provide educational opportunities for the economically disadvantaged.

The Foundation considers requests from health and human services organizations to support programs designed to help underserved, disadvantaged, and at-risk populations achieve fuller and more meaningful participation in the community, and to address issues of hunger and homelessness. Support is given to community development-related activities designed to expand the Baltimore region's economic base, job opportunities, tourism, and neighborhood revitalization. Workforce development initiatives designed to meet the needs of the unemployed and underemployed are also of interest.

The Foundation also focuses on support for programs and initiatives that increase public safety and reduce recidivism, with a special emphasis on transitional services for returning ex-offenders that promote successful community reentry and decrease the likelihood of reincarceration. It provides support for programs that increase the availability and effectiveness of substance abuse treatment for uninsured and underserved individuals within Baltimore City.

The Foundation provides funds to cultural organizations that are committed to building a diverse base of support and conducting strong outreach and educational programs. It also supports environmental programs that seek to preserve and protect Maryland's ecologically significant and

endangered natural resources – land, air, and water.

Only organizations with a 501(c)(3), 509(a)(1), 509(a)(2), and certain qualifying 509(a)(3) tax-exempt status are funded. Four types of grants are awarded: planning, seed funding (for start-up and demonstration projects), program development, and capital. Though grants are awarded on a one-time basis, the Foundation may make multi-year grants in exceptional cases. Decisions on the Foundation's funding preferences rest on criteria that include:

1. Demonstration of need;
2. Clearly defined goals and objectives;
3. Evidence of strong fiscal management and ongoing operational support;
4. Impact or benefit to the community;
5. Applicant's capability to achieve stated goals;
6. Determination that the project is not a duplicate effort;
7. Availability of other sources of financial support; and
8. Ability to evaluate effectiveness of the program.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Requests for grants should be initiated by a one-page letter describing the applicant's mission and scope of activities, along with a summary of the project with its goals and objectives, and amount requested. Should the Foundation be interested in the preliminary proposal, the applicant will be asked to submit a formal detailed application.

Grants are awarded six times a year. Each applicant will be notified of any action that the Board of Trustees may take, usually within a week of the bi-monthly meetings. Deadlines:

January 1	for February meeting
March 1	for April meeting
May 1	for June meeting
August 1	for September meeting
September 1	for October meeting
November 1	for December meeting

Proposals should be addressed to Mr. Robert C. Embry, Jr., President, The Abell Foundation, 111 South Calvert Street, Suite 2300, Baltimore, MD 21202-6174.

## ABELL PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### NEWSLETTERS

#### MARCH

**Heritage Tax Credits: Maryland's Own Stimulus to Renovate Buildings for Productive Use and Create Jobs, an \$8.53 Return on Every State Dollar Invested.** The Maryland Historic Tax Credit Program is well established as a community revitalization engine, a key element in the renewal of downtown and older established communities. Less recognized, but defined and quantified here for the first time, is the role of the tax credit in creating jobs, reinforcing Smart Growth, lowering greenhouse gases, improving water quality, saving green fields, lowering demand for landfill space, and making better use of existing infrastructure.

#### APRIL

**Conflict of Interest Policies in Clinical Care Among Baltimore's Health Care Systems.** Johns Hopkins Hospital, University of Maryland Medical Center, and Med Star Health were the studied systems, and data showed conclusively that, consciously or not, physicians who receive gifts feel an obligation to the gift giver.

### FULL REPORTS

**Charting the Future of Baltimore's Industrial Waterfront.** Demands for new commercial development along Baltimore City's waterfront present growing competition for land with the existing industrial uses that are protected by zoning regulations until 2014. The report examines the elements of the current zoning regulations and makes recommendations on conditions of their extension to 2024 to strengthen buffers between uses and to encourage better annual reporting of the economic benefits of protecting industrial waterfront.

**Improving Educational Opportunities: A Randomized Study of A High School Dropout Prevention Program.** This is a four-year, longitudinal, randomized study that focuses on the effects of a drop-out prevention program (Educational Opportunity Program) that incorporates the characteristics of personalization found to have positive effects in previous research and is typical of the type of programs implemented in many high schools nationwide.

**Doing the Math: Are High School Math Students Adding up to College Success?** The report examines the alignment among Maryland's Voluntary State Curriculum for High School Mathematics, the Algebra I High School Assessment, and the Accuplace College Placement Tests.

**Study of the CollegeBound Foundation's Last Dollar Grant Program 2000-2008.** Last Dollar Grant recipients have much higher college completion rates than graduates of Baltimore City public schools overall (nonrecipients).

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