



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

ABELL  
FOUNDATION







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# Our Commitment

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Baltimore is brimming with potential, but because of historic segregation, disinvestment, and persistent racial discrimination, we have yet to fully realize all we can be. The Abell Foundation is committed to improving health, economic, and educational outcomes in Baltimore City so that all people can thrive.





Photo courtesy of ReBUILD Metro

## Foreword

In 2021, we weathered the continuing disruption and devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic. We celebrated the distribution of effective, groundbreaking vaccines and endured the waves of the delta and omicron variants. We also came to grips with how the pandemic revealed glaring, long-standing racial disparities in accessing critical resources, including quality medical services, healthy food, child care, education, technology, and secure housing.<sup>1</sup> The consequences of these disparities are profound as we mourn the 337 Baltimore residents lost to homicide, the 718 lost to COVID-19, and the 980 lives lost to overdose in 2021.<sup>2</sup>

In the face of all of this, Baltimoreans continued to inspire us—sometimes simply by carrying on, other times by pushing for transformational change.

This past year saw record-setting levels of approved public and private investment. The 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided \$641 million to the City of Baltimore in response to COVID-19 and its negative economic impacts. Those dollars, which will be allocated to public agencies and nonprofit organizations over the next three years, will support work that has been core to Abell's community partners for years: workforce training, green energy jobs, safe and stable communities, and digital equity. Baltimore also saw continued growth in private capital flowing to our city's innovative startups, with \$825 million invested—a 161% increase in dollars raised by startups—in 2021, compared to the national increase of 96%.<sup>3</sup> As these startups scale, they will create high-quality jobs and additional pathways to prosperity for more residents, particularly those who haven't historically had them.



The work profiled in these pages captures a sliver of the diverse, innovative ways Baltimoreans responded to the crisis of the pandemic; the deeper, systemic challenges we face as a city; and the opportunity to build on our many strengths. Some projects are neighborhood- or community-focused efforts to address an urgent, immediate need such as food insecurity or healing from trauma. Others are longer-term programs and initiatives targeting the effects of climate change, the needs of returning citizens navigating the transition home, the barriers to homeownership, the issue of increasing access to capital for local

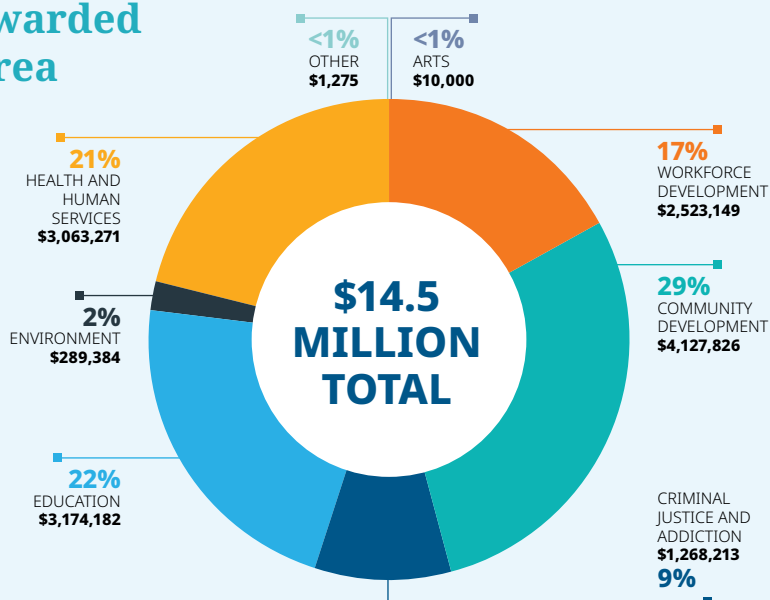
businesses, and the need for more individualized academic support in school. This report also highlights two long-term, ongoing campaigns led by Baltimore advocates to ensure safe, accessible, and affordable water for all, and to expand Medicaid coverage for vulnerable conditions and populations.

Collectively, the organizations profiled in these pages—and the hundreds of others we supported in 2021—inspire us by their vision, actions, and impact.

We are proud to share this report of our activities in 2021.

## Amount of funding awarded in 2021 by program area

*Reflects reduction for cancellations, refunds, and grant-related expenditures, and excludes grants with unmet conditions.*



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.usccr.gov/files/2021/04-20-MD-SAC-COVID-19-and-Health-Disparities-Advisory-Memo.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://homicides.news.baltimoresun.com/?range=2021>; <https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/>; <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/799cc6c21cf94e89a174fa06532febd9>

<sup>3</sup> <https://upsurgebaltimore.com/>



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## CASE STUDY:

# Water Affordability

In 2013, Abell Foundation grantees **Community Law Center** and **Maryland Volunteer Lawyers' Service** began noticing an increase in homeowners seeking help with property tax and water bill issues. Low-income households, predominantly senior Black women with incomes below the federal poverty level, were becoming increasingly burdened by bills for basic water and sewer service that had escalated far above the rate of inflation. For as little as \$350 in unpaid water bills or \$250 in property taxes owed, a Baltimore City owner-occupant was at risk of losing their home—along with all their equity—to lien foreclosure.

Working with legal advocates, housing counselors, and community-based nonprofits, a 2014 Abell Report, *The Steep Price of Paying to Stay*, found that Baltimore's long-established sale of delinquent municipal charges to the highest bidder enriched investors at the expense of the city's poorest homeowners. Comprising a large part of the municipal liens of homeowners, past-due water bills were actually driving owner-occupant households into tax sale. A 2016 Abell Report, *Keeping the Water On: Strategies for addressing high increases in water and sewer rates*

*for Baltimore's most vulnerable customers*, noted that water and sewer rates had risen 126.7% over the previous 10 years and spotlighted a growing dilemma for many major cities: how to pay for much-needed infrastructure improvements while ensuring that customers who are least able to afford steep hikes in water bills do not lose service—or their homes—over an unpaid bill. The report offered recommendations such as replicating income-based billing and assistance programs, and reforming the customer-service model to ensure that low-income residents could retain access to a basic service that supports human life: clean water.

In the past 10 years, through collective action, organizing, and media attention generated by numerous groups and elected officials, many hard-won successes have improved the outlook





for low-income homeowners and renters affected by steep water utility rate increases in Baltimore City. Abell grantee **Neighborhood Housing Services**, along with **Community Law Center** and **Community Development Network**, led the work to reduce harms to low-income owner-occupants in the tax sale process. Education around tax sale reforms resulted in more than doubling the threshold amount of liens that trigger sale, capping the amount of interest charged by investors purchasing homeowner liens, and ultimately removing water bills from tax sale entirely. Tenants' rights and legal defense organizations, including Abell grantees **Jews United for Justice**, **Public Justice Center**, and the **Right to Housing Alliance**, worked together to prevent thousands of water shutoffs for residents, while some of the city's largest property owners owed tens of thousands of dollars yet continued to receive service.

**Food & Water Watch** and **Jews United for Justice**, both Abell multi-year grantees for this work, led a coalition of more than 50 organizations to encourage Baltimore City to adopt a tiered water billing payment program modeled on a Philadelphia initiative launched in 2017. Approved by the Baltimore City Council and Baltimore City administration but delayed in implementation

due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Baltimore's new water affordability program, **Water4All**, began taking applications in 2022. The program caps water and sewer expenses for residents with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line (about \$53,000 for a family of four). As a result of targeted advocacy, renters, who routinely face eviction for unpaid water bills that they do not have direct responsibility for paying, will also be eligible for the new program. The new law also creates an Office of the Customer Advocate to help customers resolve billing disputes.

In addition to the 127% rate increase between 2006 and 2016, Baltimore residents have continued to face water and sewer rate increases of more than 9%. While rate increases were put on pause for FY2023, Baltimore residents would face water and stormwater rate increases of 3% and a sewer rate increase of 3.5% each of the next three years under a plan introduced by Mayor Brandon Scott's administration in May 2022. The work of legal services providers like **Maryland Volunteer Lawyers' Service** has shown again and again that in order to save a family home, be it owner-occupied or rental, we must collectively address the high cost of utility bills. This is especially critical considering the inextricable link between housing stabilization and addressing the barriers to wealth-building in Black communities.





#### CASE STUDY:

## Neighborhood Housing Services

### **Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore**

(NHSB) offers housing counseling and financial coaching services to lower- and moderate-income families citywide to create informed and prepared homebuyers. NHSB is both a community development financial institution (CDFI) and a HUD-certified counseling agency. Those designations facilitate its ability to expand access to credit and homebuyer assistance programs.

In 2021, the NHSB board of directors set an internal goal to create 1,000 new Black homeowners in Baltimore City over three years. Lower- and moderate-income residents can often afford regular, monthly mortgage payments. They struggle, however, to save the funds needed to meet closing costs, which can often exceed \$10,000 and create a significant barrier to homeownership. Providing down payment assistance to these borrowers makes

homeownership more accessible, as it offsets the financial burden families have to overcome and allows them to buy a house, which builds wealth and stabilizes their households. This process has a ripple effect across communities, as increased owner-occupancy also helps to address disinvestment.

With support from the Abell Foundation, NHSB offered 20 homebuyer education classes serving 879 households. Of those participants, 653 households completed one-on-one pre-purchase counseling, 143 participants are working to improve their financial outlook through coaching, and 26 people completed the financial coaching program. With the support of NHSB, 384 families purchased houses, and 210 utilized down payment assistance funds to aid in their purchases.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

### **4MYCITY INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$30,000**

In support of addressing food insecurity through food waste diversion and improving food waste composting in Baltimore City.

### **ADOPT A BLOCK INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$10,000**

In support of the costs associated with renovating a city-owned home that will be donated to a local family.

### **BALTIMORE BREW • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$110,000**

In support of the Baltimore Brew's provision of groundbreaking local accountability reporting during the pandemic.

### **BALTIMORE CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY BALTIMORE CIVIC FUND • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$63,000**

In support of the Emergency Broadband Benefit outreach initiative.

### **BALTIMORE CIVIC FUND • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$100,000**

In support of efforts to increase access to broadband internet for all Baltimore City residents through the creation of the Director of Broadband and Digital Equity role.

### **BALTIMORE COMMUNITY LENDING INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$80,000**

In support of improving and expanding access to capital to address gaps in the market, particularly focused on Black and Brown business owners and entrepreneurs.

### **BALTIMORE COMMUNITY TOOLBANK • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$17,500**

In support of the purchase of two tillers and staffing expenses to meet the current demand.

### **BALTIMORE CORPS • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$50,000**

In support of Kiva Baltimore to sustain and grow Black-owned small businesses and microenterprises located in Baltimore City.

### **BALTIMORE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$75,000**

In support of continuing the Baltimore Opportunity Zones and Impact Investment Coordinator (OZ-II Coordinator) role.

### **BALTIMORE TREE TRUST • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$50,000**

In support of the Community Forestry Corps program.

### **BANNER NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$35,000**

In support of the Banner Seniors program of home maintenance and wraparound services.

### **BANNER NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$80,000**

In support of the YouthWorks summer employment program for 140 youth ages 14-21.

### **BETAMORE • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$75,000**

In support of the Betamore Academy's Software Developer apprenticeship program in partnership with Catalyte.



**CHESAPEAKE CLIMATE ACTION  
NETWORK • TAKOMA PARK, MD**  
**\$60,000**

In support of Rebuilding Baltimore's Workforce campaign during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**CIVIC WORKS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$60,000**

In support of the Baltimore City Eviction Prevention Program.

**CIVIC WORKS, INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$200,000**

In support of Retrofit Baltimore, a program to strengthen the financial resilience of low-income Baltimore homeowners and renters through critical energy-efficiency, health, and safety improvement services.

**CIVIL JUSTICE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$46,350**

In support of the Tenant Debt Collection Defense Project.

**CLIMATE ACCESS FUND CORPORATION  
• BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$80,000**

In support of recruitment and education for the East Baltimore Community Solar Project.

**EMERGING TECHNOLOGY CENTERS INC. •  
BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$270,000**

In support of the 2022 Accelerate Baltimore competition of venture investment awards to five companies.

**FARM ALLIANCE OF BALTIMORE  
INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$35,000**

In support of the Double Dollars program.

**FUEL FUND OF MARYLAND •  
LUTHERVILLE-TIMONIUM, MD**  
**\$50,000**

In support of Silver Lights energy assistance for Baltimore City seniors.

**HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$150,000**

In support of Healthy Neighborhoods' core program.

**THE HERITAGE CROSSING RESIDENT  
ASSOCIATION, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY  
TURNING POINT • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$218,400**

In support of the installation of high-quality exterior security cameras and a safety monitoring system in the Heritage Crossing Community.

**INITIATIVE FOR A COMPETITIVE INNER  
CITY INC. • ROXBURY, MA**  
**\$30,000**

In support of the Inner City Capital Connections business assistance program for 2021.

**INNOVATION WORKS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$50,000**

In support of efforts to accelerate growth of social enterprises serving marginalized communities in Baltimore City.

**JEWS UNITED FOR JUSTICE • WASHINGTON, DC**  
**\$75,000**

In support of renters' rights and eviction prevention.

**JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY WHITING  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$150,000**

In support of Baltimore Healthcare Innovator Retention Program fellowship stipends for up to six Johns Hopkins University biomedical engineering students.

**LATINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
CENTER • WASHINGTON, DC**

**\$50,000**

In support of the Baltimore City Small Business Services and Lending Program.

**MARY HARVIN TRANSFORMATION  
CENTER CDC • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$250,000**

In support of Southern Views, a newly constructed 88-unit affordable family-housing community.

**MARYLAND CONSUMER RIGHTS  
COALITION INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$45,000**

In support of the Low-Income Forgotten Tax Credit (LIFT) program.

**MARYLAND CONSUMER RIGHTS  
COALITION INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$88,475**

In support of hiring a Tenant Assistance Case Manager.

**MARYLAND VOLUNTEER LAWYERS  
SERVICE • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$50,000**

In support of the Water Bill and Tax Sale Outreach and Advocacy Project.

**NATIONAL AQUARIUM INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$100,000**

In support of restoring the National Aquarium's iconic glass pyramid.

**NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN CENTER • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$35,000**

In support of implementing community-identified public space improvements in East Baltimore neighborhoods.

**NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF  
BALTIMORE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$50,000**

In support of providing affordable homeownership opportunities in Baltimore City through counseling, financial coaching, and the deployment of down payment assistance funds.

**NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST FINANCIAL  
PARTNERS • NEW YORK, NY**

**\$50,000**

In support of the TrustPlus financial coaching and self-empowerment initiative in Baltimore.

**NEW LIFE FOOD PANTRY INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$9,000**

In support of purchasing an outdoor, walk-in refrigeration unit to store food donations.

**NO BOUNDARIES COALITION  
INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$66,400**

In support of efforts to expand and increase the stability of the Food Justice Initiative.

**PARITY BALTIMORE INCORPORATED  
• BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$40,000**

In support of acquiring, renovating, and selling vacant, city-owned homes in Harlem Park to owner-occupants.

**PARKS & PEOPLE FOUNDATION •  
BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$35,000**

In support of providing environmental education, employment skills training, and green job internships for Baltimore City high school students through the Branches program.



**PATTERSON PARK AUDUBON  
CENTER • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$40,000**

In support of efforts to create a greener and more bird-friendly Baltimore.

**PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTER OF  
MARYLAND INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$74,000**

In support of the Tax Sale Prevention Project.

**PUBLIC JUSTICE CENTER INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$150,000**

In support of the Rent Court Reform and Eviction Prevention Initiative.

**PURPOSE BUILT COMMUNITIES CHERRY HILL  
INITIATIVE, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY DREAM  
BIG FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$50,000**

In support of year one efforts to revitalize the Cherry Hill neighborhood as a Purpose Built Community.

**RAILS-TO-TRAILS CONSERVANCY • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$60,000**

In support of advancing the Baltimore Greenway to bring nature, recreation, and connectivity to residents across the city.

**REBUILD METRO • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$75,000**

In support of Phase I of the Johnston Square transformation project.

**RIDGE TO REEFS • SYKESVILLE, MD**

**\$33,891**

In support of AgriHood Baltimore, an effort to enhance community capacity for healthy food production and access in Park Heights.

**THE SOS FUND, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY PARITY  
BALTIMORE INCORPORATED • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$35,000**

In support of building the SOS Fund's operational capacity.

**SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$10,000**

In support of enhancing security in Baltimore's business districts.

**TURNING POINT • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$139,980**

In support of installing 360-degree cameras in Baltimore City police cruisers.

**VENTURE FOR AMERICA • NEW YORK, NY**

**\$185,000**

In support of Venture for America's Baltimore program.

**WATERKEEPERS CHESAPEAKE • TAKOMA PARK, MD**

**\$32,500**

In support of expanding the rights of the public and enabling representative organizations to pursue environmental lawsuits in Maryland State Court.

**WHITELOCK COMMUNITY FARM,  
FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUSION  
PARTNERSHIPS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$25,000**

In support of the Whitelock Community Farm.

**THE YORK ROAD PARTNERSHIP, FISCALLY  
SPONSORED BY GEDCO • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$15,000**

In support of the Invest York Road community improvement project.



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# EDUCATION



Photo courtesy of the UMBC Reach Together Tutoring Program



## CASE STUDY: Tutoring

Learning to read and becoming proficient in basic math are two of the essential skills that our students need to master. They are also skills that can require extra support. During the COVID-19 pandemic, interruptions to schooling made the teaching and learning of these basic skills even more challenging, and fueled conversations about how to scale up targeted support and reinforcement so that all students can succeed.

Fortunately, Baltimore was already home to several proven tutoring programs, including **Reading Partners**, **Literacy Lab**, and **Success for All's Tutoring with the Lightning Squad**. Each of those programs, launched in Baltimore years earlier with Abell support, served hundreds of students in pre-K to third grade prior to the pandemic, and provided high-dosage tutoring, either 1:1 or in small groups, to help support the development of early literacy skills.

As more students returned to school buildings in 2021, and federal and state governments dedicated funds to academic recovery, the

Foundation published *Literacy Tutoring in Baltimore: What we know, where we are, and how to move forward*. The report identified tutoring best practices, documented the existing landscape of tutoring providers in Baltimore, and made recommendations for a scaled implementation that would best support the learning needs of children across Baltimore City Public Schools. The report validated the importance of high-quality programs aligned with best practices and reinforced the value of Baltimore's nonprofit tutoring providers. It also highlighted the need for new approaches to support unmet needs.

One of the report's key findings was the dearth of evidence-based programs to support struggling readers in middle school. This absence became an opportunity. With Abell funding, the team at Success for All adapted its successful elementary



program, Tutoring with the Lightning Squad, for middle school students in summer 2021 and launched a new pilot program entitled ThemeReads in three schools serving 50 students in the fall. ThemeReads uses a 1:4 tutor-to-student ratio and leverages adaptive computer technology to propel students' acquisition of skills. Despite the persistent interruptions from COVID-19 quarantines and student absences, ThemeReads has seen 0.82 years of average growth for participants over the six months of the intervention and is poised to expand in the 2022-2023 school year.

The pandemic also highlighted the need for rigorous mathematics tutoring programs. With funding from Abell Foundation, the **University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) Reach Together Tutoring Program (RTTP)** launched in fall 2021 to provide high-dosage mathematics tutoring for 350 students across four schools in South Baltimore.

UMBC RTTP seeks to improve mathematics skills by utilizing research-based best practices to provide personalized, small-group math instruction to students. The program recruits UMBC students to serve as mentor-tutors, pays them \$18 per hour, and tasks them with increasing student achievement in 1:1 or 1:2 tutoring sessions. Tutors meet with students twice a week for two 45-minute sessions during the regular school day.

Initial outcomes from RTTP have been very promising. Participating students have demonstrated growth in percentile rank from 4.994 to 7.522 from beginning of the year to middle of the year on the iReady assessment. When compared to the control group, which saw a percentile rank decrease of 0.52, participating students saw an estimated treatment growth of +2.477 percentiles.



## EDUCATION GRANTS

### **ATTENDANCE WORKS, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES • OAKLAND, CA**

**\$45,000**

In support of an integrated tutoring and attendance improvement intervention in Baltimore City elementary and middle schools.

### **BALTIMORE CORPS • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$78,000**

In support of the Baltimore City Mayoral Fellowship Program, which hosts 15 fellows in a summer internship program in Baltimore City departments and agencies.

### **BALTIMORE KIDS CHESS LEAGUE INC. •**

### **BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$65,000**

In support of the 2021-2022 afterschool chess program.

### **BALTIMORE'S PROMISE, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$300,000**

In support of the second phase of the Grads2Careers Program, providing occupational skills training to 825 opportunity youth.

### **THE BE.ORG, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY BMORE EMPOWERED INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$25,000**

In support of the Be.Virtual STEM, SEL, and workforce development program for opportunity youth in Baltimore.

### **BUILDING OUR NATION'S DAUGHTERS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$50,000**

In support of the BOND circle program to support an estimated 100 mother/daughter pairs.

### **BUILDING STEPS INC. • BROOKLANDVILLE, MD**

**\$60,000**

In support of the expansion of the Building STEPS model to include 10th graders, and for continued support of its STEM workshops, college advising, and STEM-related internships.

### **CARNEGIE INSTITUTION FOR SCIENCE • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$25,000**

In support of the BioEYES science experience operating in 25 Baltimore City schools.

### **CODE IN THE SCHOOLS • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$60,000**

In support of the youth apprenticeship program providing classroom and on-the-job training for 72 participants.

### **COMMODORE JOHN RODGERS, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$50,000**

In support of expanding the Tools of the Mind curriculum to 17 additional pre-K classrooms.

### **THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$20,000**

In support of instructional and organizational leadership at The Community School and its academic and mentoring program for high school youth in Baltimore.

### **FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$40,000**

In support of ongoing efforts to identify, promote, and advance opportunities to significantly improve outcomes for all students in Baltimore City Public Schools.

## Summer Funding Collaborative

The Abell Foundation participated again in the Summer Funding Collaborative, an aligned fund that directs resources to high-quality summer programs for low-income children in Baltimore City. The Foundation contributed a total of \$250,000 to support summer programs offered by the following organizations in 2022:

A Revolutionary Summer

Baltimore Curriculum Project

Child First Authority Inc.

Elev8 Baltimore

Little Flowers Early Childhood Center

Mindful Mentors Inc.

Patterson Park Public Charter School Inc.

Play On Purpose

Safe Alternative Foundation for Education Inc.

Soccer Without Borders Maryland

UMBC Foundation

### HIGHER ACHIEVEMENT BALTIMORE • BALTIMORE, MD \$50,000

In support of Higher Achievement's expansion to a third Baltimore City elementary/middle school, and for continued support of its tutoring, mentoring, and after-school programming.

### HOLISTIC LIFE FOUNDATION INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$25,000

In support of enabling Baltimore City students to practice mindfulness through the Mindful Moment program.

### IMENTOR BALTIMORE • NEW YORK, NY \$65,000

In support of providing postsecondary pathways and a next-generation workforce program for students in Baltimore.

### THE INGENUITY PROJECT • BALTIMORE, MD \$375,000

In support of the 2021-2022 Ingenuity Project, an advanced math, science, and research program for middle and high school students in Baltimore City.

### LIBRARIES WITHOUT BORDERS • WASHINGTON, DC \$50,000

In support of the creation of a learning center located at Stillmeadow Community Fellowship Church and PeacePark, which will serve as a hub for students in grades 3-12 to safely access digital tools and maintain social connections.

### THE LITERACY LAB • BALTIMORE, MD \$75,000

In support of literacy tutoring for Baltimore students in pre-K and grades K-3 during the 2021-2022 school year.

### MARYLAND ALLIANCE OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS • BALTIMORE, MD \$30,000

In support of advocacy for equitable and transparent conditions for public charter schools, and ongoing support for new and existing public charter schools.



**THE MARYLAND BOOK BANK INC. •  
BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$50,000**

In support of general operating costs and the purchase of books for high-dosage tutoring partnerships and home libraries.

**NEW LEADERS - BALTIMORE • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$20,000**

In support of a one-year program to prepare high-quality, equity-driven new principals in Baltimore City Public Schools.

**PATTERSON PARK PUBLIC CHARTER  
SCHOOL INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$100,000**

In support of capital improvements for the Clay Hill Public Charter School.

**STEM CHAMPIONS OF BALTIMORE INC. •  
BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$30,000**

In support of the STEM Champions Competition Clubs, which will engage 400 students in 32 middle and high schools in preparation for the National Science Olympiad.

**SUCCESS FOR ALL FOUNDATION INC. •  
BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$225,000**

In support of the research/development and evaluation components of the new ThemeReads middle school tutoring program.

**TEACH FOR AMERICA BALTIMORE •  
BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$125,000**

In support of Teach For America Baltimore's programming to maximize the leadership of its teachers, leaders, and alumni to impact education in Baltimore City.

**THREAD INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$300,000**

In support of Thread's general operations and start-up funding to grow its fee-for-service initiative.

**TOWSON UNIVERSITY • TOWSON, MD**  
**\$46,132**

In support of the University-Supported Middle School Tutoring Pilot.

**UMBC FOUNDATION • ADELPHI, MD**  
**\$75,000**

In support of the UMBC Reach Together Tutoring Program (RTTP), a pilot program providing high-dosage mathematics tutoring for 350 students across four schools in South Baltimore during the 2021-2022 school year.

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE  
FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$60,000**

In support of the Positive Schools Center (PSC) program, which partners with school leaders and staff throughout Baltimore City to build restorative and supportive school environments.

**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND  
FOUNDATION • ADELPHI, MD**  
**\$136,400**

In support of the NEXUS research project to examine outcomes for City Schools students enrolled in USM institutions, and to put in place a plan to improve pipelines to enrollment, college persistence, and graduation.

**URBAN TEACHERS • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$125,000**

In support of coursework, coaching, and wraparound supports for teacher residents in the Urban Teachers program.

Photo courtesy of B'More Community Food

# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



## CASE STUDY:

## B'More Community Food

At the start of the pandemic, J.C. Faulk, a diversity consultant and former OSI and Baltimore Corps Fellow, recognized that many of his neighbors in Baltimore's Greenmount West community were struggling with food insecurity as a result of pandemic-related job losses and school closures. In response, Mr. Faulk quickly set up an emergency food distribution effort in his community, purchasing food with his own funds and providing it to neighbors in need. What started as a small, neighborhood-based, food distribution program rapidly grew into the **B'More Community Food** (BCF) initiative, a citywide effort to address the twin problems of food waste and food insecurity: securing donations of food that would otherwise be thrown away and redistributing it to residents in need.

BCF picks up donated food and household goods from Amazon several times each week, and supplements these donations with food donated by local farms, bakeries, and the Maryland Food Bank. Volunteers sort and box the donated goods into 35-pound boxes that BCF distributes, free of charge, through six weekly events: two at BCF's warehouse in Remington, three at public housing

developments in West Baltimore, and one in Greenmount West. In addition to the community-based distribution events, BCF partners with several Baltimore nonprofit organizations, which purchase boxes of food for their clients at a discounted price.

During 2021, its first full year of operations, BCF distributed more than 1.7 million pounds of food and household goods with the support of Abell and others. It expects to increase the amount of goods it distributes to nearly 3 million pounds in 2022. Operating with just three full-time staff, assisted by several hundred volunteers, BCF is able to provide all of these goods to households in need at a cost of less than 30 cents per pound distributed.



Photo courtesy of Hon's Honey, a social enterprise of Drink at The Well



#### CASE STUDY:

## Drink at The Well — Hon's Honey

Curtis Bay, in South Baltimore, is one of the most isolated communities in Baltimore City. Surrounded by heavy industry and lacking employment opportunities, the community struggles with high rates of poverty, unemployment, and disinvestment. In 2013, a group of volunteers founded **Drink at the Well (The Well)**, a drop-in center designed to address some of the challenges facing women in Curtis Bay. The Well offers case management, mentoring, support groups, educational workshops, food and clothing, and flexible

financial assistance to women in the community who have experienced trauma. The women served by The Well come from a variety of backgrounds, with most having histories of addiction, domestic violence, and prostitution and/or sex trafficking. Staff and volunteers from The Well support these women as they rebuild their lives.

In 2018, The Well launched a social enterprise, called Hon's Honey, which sells honey and honey-based skin care products, and provides employment opportunities for the women in their program. With support from Abell, Hon's Honey currently employs 13 women from The Well's mentoring program. The women work in all aspects of Hon's Honey production, including two who hold managerial positions, one of whom is a certified beekeeper. Hon's Honey maintains its own beehives that produce some of the honey used in its products, and purchases the rest from nearby beekeepers.

In addition to providing meaningful, living wage employment, Hon's Honey generates revenues to support The Well's programming. In 2021, Hon's Honey generated \$350,000 in sales revenue, a 56% increase from 2020, through a combination of wholesale and online sales, as well as sales at farmers markets and fairs.



## ISSUE BRIEF

# Expanding Access to Medicaid

State Medicaid programs are responsible for designing, implementing, and co-funding the public health insurance system for low-income individuals. Medicaid coverage and reimbursement are critical elements of sustaining important health services, increasing access to those services, and reducing racial disparities in health outcomes. The Abell Foundation supports organizations that advocate for expanding health care services to low-income Marylanders using public dollars.

**Maryland Dental Action Coalition** (MDAC) is the state's leading nongovernmental oral health policy and advocacy organization. MDAC was originally founded in 2007 to ensure that Maryland children receiving Medical Assistance were eligible to receive dental care. Following that success, MDAC pivoted its focus to building the case and support for Medicaid dental coverage for adults as well.

The Abell Foundation has supported MDAC along the way, providing MDAC with multiple grants to support research and the implementation of a waiver program for adults who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. MDAC's efforts culminated with a huge victory this past legislative session, when the Maryland General Assembly passed Medicaid dental coverage for adults with Governor Hogan's support and signature. Starting in January 2023,

about 800,000 Maryland adults will have access to comprehensive dental benefits through Medical Assistance for the first time in over 30 years. MDAC is poised to help ensure that implementation is as equitable and effective as possible.

**The Public Justice Center** (PJC) pursues systemic change to build a just society. Its Access to Health and Public Benefits (Health Rights) Project focuses on protecting and expanding access to benefits and comprehensive health care for low-income individuals and families. The Abell Foundation has provided operating support to the Health Rights Project for the past three years.

One of the project's goals over the past several years has been to expand access to doulas to help reduce maternal mortality disparities: Black women in Maryland are 3.7 times more likely to die during or in the year following pregnancy than White women. Doulas provide social, emotional, and physical support to women during pregnancy, labor and delivery, and postpartum, and research has shown that having a doula can reduce birth complications and improve birth outcomes.

PJC co-founded Reproductive Health Equity Alliance of Maryland (RHEAM), which is a group of community-based birth workers, individuals with lived experience with birth complications, and policy and legal advocates. For several years, RHEAM has advocated for Medicaid reimbursement for doula services and the benefits of doula care. In late 2021, the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) and Maryland Medicaid Program agreed to use a combination of state and federal funds to provide Medicaid reimbursement for doula services for four years. In early 2022, Medicaid began training doulas as providers and covering up to eight individual visits plus accompaniment during



labor and delivery. In the coming years, RHEAM is focusing on increasing the reimbursement rate to support a livable wage for participating doulas, reaching out to eligible women so they know the service is available, and advocating for a permanent funding source.

**The Taghi Modarressi Center for Infant Study at the University of Maryland School of Medicine** (Center for Infant Study) provides high-quality and developmentally appropriate clinical services to families with young children. It is the state's leader in implementing HealthySteps, a model that embeds a child development professional into medical practices to promote positive parenting and healthy development for children birth to 5. Several national evaluations have found that HealthySteps increases

developmental screenings, breastfeeding initiation and duration, shared reading, vaccination and well-child visit adherence, and referrals for maternal mental health issues.

The University of Maryland currently serves more than 3,000 pregnant women and children every year through two HealthySteps sites. Like the HSCRC's expansion of doula care, the HSCRC announced that supporting and expanding HealthySteps would be part of its \$72 million investment of state and matching federal funds over four years. To support that effort, the Abell Foundation, in collaboration with other local funders, provided a grant to the Center for Infant Study to support robust data collection, which will fuel the case for permanent Medicaid reimbursement.



## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS

### **AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION • CHICAGO, IL** **\$74,968**

In support of the Breathing for Health Equity project to address pediatric asthma in Baltimore.

### **AN END TO IGNORANCE • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$100,000**

In support of Bmore Community Food.

### **ASYLEE WOMEN ENTERPRISE • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$130,474**

In support of providing immigration legal services for asylum seekers and forced migrants.

### **AZIZA PE&CE, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY ELIJAH'S BLESSING COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$25,000**

In support of general operations.

### **BALTIMORE FURNITURE BANK, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUSION PARTNERSHIPS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$30,000**

In support of general operating costs.

### **BALTIMORE REGIONAL HOUSING PARTNERSHIP • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$400,000**

In support of the Growing Assets and Income (GAIN) asset-building program for BRHP clients.

### **BALTIMORE SAFE HAVEN • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$60,000**

In support of launching the Baltimore Safe Haven Genesis Project for TLGBQ youth in Baltimore who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

### **BALTIMORE UNDER GROUND SCIENCE SPACE • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$137,000**

In support of the Open Insulin initiative.

### **BALTIMORE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$20,000**

In support of elementary and middle school programs during the 2021-2022 school year.

### **BLACK GIRLS COOK, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY BMORE EMPOWERED INC. • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$10,000**

In support of general operating costs.

### **BUILD • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$60,000**

In support of the COVID-19 emergency food program.

### **CATHERINE'S FAMILY AND YOUTH SERVICES • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$25,000**

In support of efforts to address food insecurity and other basic needs of families and seniors in Northwest Baltimore.

### **CENTER FOR HOPE • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$150,000**

In support of constructing the Center for Hope, a new, state-of-the-art building to house the Baltimore Child Abuse Center, along with LifeBridge Health's other violence prevention and intervention programs.

### **CIVIC WORKS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$70,000**

In support of the Affordable Produce Delivery Program for older adults.

### **CIVIL JUSTICE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD** **\$118,544**

In support of the Medical Debt Collection Defense Project.

**DRINK AT THE WELL – HON’S HONEY  
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$40,000**

In support of the Hon’s Honey social enterprise.

**EPISCOPAL HOUSING CORPORATION •  
BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$65,000**

In support of the renovation of a nine-unit permanent supportive housing development at 17 W. Mulberry St.

**FOOD & WATER WATCH • WASHINGTON, DC**  
**\$40,000**

In support of the implementation and promotion of the Water for All affordability program in Baltimore City.

**FRANCISCAN CENTER INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$50,000**

In support of client outreach efforts and direct client services.

**GOVANS ECUMENICAL DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$50,000**

In support of the GEDCO CARES eviction prevention program.

**HOMELESS PERSONS REPRESENTATION  
PROJECT INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$110,379**

In support of the Homeless Youth Initiative, which provides direct legal services for homeless youth in Baltimore, and advocates for local and state policy changes to prevent and eliminate youth homelessness.

**INTERCULTURAL COUNSELING CONNECTION,  
FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUSION  
PARTNERSHIPS • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$25,000**

In support of providing trauma-responsive mental health services for forced migrant survivors in Baltimore.

**INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE INC. •  
BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$49,000**

In support of emergency support for Afghan special immigrants.

**JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$250,000**

In support of year five of Vision for Baltimore, an effort to provide eye screening and glasses for children in grades K-8 at Baltimore City Public Schools.

**KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, DC**  
**\$50,000**

In support of general operations in Baltimore.

**LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD INC. •  
BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$30,000**

In support of providing used and excess sporting equipment to schools and community-based organizations that operate sports and fitness programs for low-income Baltimore youth.

**MARYLAND CITIZENS’ HEALTH INITIATIVE  
EDUCATION FUND INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$75,000**

In support of general operations.

**MARYLAND DENTAL ACTION COALITION INC. •  
COLUMBIA, MD**  
**\$25,000**

In support of efforts to pass legislation to expand Medicaid coverage to include dental benefits for adults.



**MARYLAND FAMILY NETWORK • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$40,000**

In support of the staffing needed to coordinate the cohort of Baltimore City child care providers participating in the Maryland Childcare Boost pilot program.

**MARYLAND FOOD BANK • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$75,000**

In support of continuing the School Pantry Program.

**MARYLAND HUNGER SOLUTIONS •**  
**BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$60,000**

In support of Maryland Hunger Solutions' Baltimore City SNAP outreach and enrollment campaign.

**MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$100,000**

In support of the St. Louis Project's charter flight to evacuate Afghan refugees.

**MOVEABLE FEAST INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$50,000**

In support of food preparation and delivery services in Baltimore City.

**THE SAMARITAN COMMUNITY • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$30,000**

In support of general operations.

**SOCCER WITHOUT BORDERS BALTIMORE •**  
**BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$60,000**

In support of the high school enrichment program for students who are newcomers.

**SOCCER WITHOUT BORDERS BALTIMORE •**  
**BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$50,000**

In support of the purchase of Soccer Without Borders Baltimore's current location at 3700 Eastern Ave.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF BALTIMORE INC. •**  
**BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$50,000**

In support of the Beans & Bread homeless day resource program.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF BALTIMORE INC. •**  
**BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$75,000**

In support of the Front Door Rapid Re-housing Program.

**SUGAR FREE KIDS MARYLAND, FISCALLY**  
**SPONSORED BY CENTER FOR A HEALTHY**  
**MARYLAND • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$75,000**

In support of preventing chronic disease through the reduction of sugary drink consumption.

**TURNAROUND INC. • TOWSON, MD**  
**\$41,506**

In support of providing legal services for victims of intimate partner and sexual violence.

**TURNAROUND INC. • TOWSON, MD**  
**\$64,000**

In support of providing comprehensive, trauma-informed services for survivors of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking.

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE**  
**FOUNDATION. • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$60,000**

In support of the Teen Parenting Success (TiPS) program in West Baltimore.

**UP2US SPORTS • BALTIMORE, MD**  
**\$28,000**

In support of expanding the Up2Us Coach program in partnership with Baltimore City Recreation and Parks.

Photo courtesy of BioTechnical Institute of Maryland



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



## CASE STUDY:

# Vehicles for Change

Without regular access to reliable transportation, it's almost impossible to get and maintain employment. Since 1999, when the Abell Foundation made the first grant to **Vehicles for Change** (VFC) and helped launch the program in Baltimore, VFC has been making low-cost cars available to low-income job seekers in Baltimore City, fueling economic opportunity.

In 2015, VFC took its programming to the next level. Needing trained automotive technicians to repair donated cars, and with unemployment rates among those recently released from prison exceeding 50%, VFC decided to launch an automotive technician repair program. Rather than create the program from scratch, VFC partnered with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to employ those who have been trained in auto repair during their incarceration.

With support from the Abell Foundation, VFC hires men and women who have been recently released from prison or who have been granted work release. Almost all program applicants have successfully completed the 600-hour Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Auto Maintenance and Light Repair training program, which is a training

program offered at five Maryland prisons. VFC requires each program applicant to receive a recommendation letter from an automotive repair instructor.

VFC employs a full-time master technician to supervise the newly hired auto techs. Those hired receive three to five months of paid work experience, earning \$10.50 an hour. The on-the-job experience is designed to build the trainees' resumes and overcome any reservations that employers have about hiring returning citizens. Each week, the trainees spend eight hours in the classroom and 32 hours working on cars at VFC's Full Circle Service Center, a social enterprise that offers oil changes and air conditioning inspection and repair, tire replacement and rotation, battery replacement, and other repairs. All trainees must pass at least three ASE certification tests; many trainees pass several of the additional eight tests.

To date, VFC has trained over 175 individuals, boasting a 90% completion rate, a 98% job placement rate of program graduates, an average starting wage of \$17.50 per hour, and a 95% one-year employment retention rate, although not all graduates are employed at their original job placement.

Civic Works' Center for Sustainable Careers,  
photo taken by Wide Angle Productions, a social  
enterprise of Wide Angle Youth Media

## CASE STUDY:

# Civic Works' Center for Sustainable Careers (CSC)

### Civic Works' Center for Sustainable Careers

(CSC) was founded on the belief that the growing green economy has the potential to address two of Baltimore's challenges: high levels of unemployment, particularly among returning citizens, and aging housing stock that is energy inefficient and fossil fuel reliant, and contains environmental contaminants.

The three-month entry-level solar and energy retrofit installer training programs provide one month of classroom-based instruction and two months of on-the-job training through Civic Works' energy programs. Trainees receive weekly stipends of up to \$200 during classroom and on-the-job training. They also receive bus passes, hot lunches, and individualized case management, focusing on the challenges that are preventing individuals from working, including help to reinstate suspended drivers' licenses due to unpaid parking tickets or child support arrears. CSC also offers a 1:1 match savings program to help participants buy their own vehicles.

Across its programs, CSC has trained over 100 Baltimore residents a year, maintaining an average job placement rate of 88%. Since 2010, 80% of graduates have remained employed for at least

one year. Throughout this time, some 92% of program graduates were formerly incarcerated or had a significant history of arrest and conviction, and 94% were African American men.

CSC is committed to improving job quality and equity. CSC has a community workforce agreement with 11 employment partners. The agreement requires employers to use CSC as the first source for their mid-level hiring, pay their mid-level workers at least \$15.50 an hour, and participate in an ongoing process for improving and measuring job quality. In exchange for this commitment, CSC connects the businesses with new customers. Signatory employers then compete for homeowner demand based on their track record and commitment to exceeding the baseline equity standards.

According to CSC, the current average wage of workers hired by signatory contractors is \$18.18 per hour, with all workers receiving a raise during the first year of employment. Nearly two-thirds of workers hired by these contractors have opportunities for professional development, and over half of the workers receive a promotion during their first year of employment.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

### ART WITH A HEART • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$50,000**

In support of general operating costs.

### BON SECOURS BALTIMORE HEALTH SYSTEM FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$88,000**

In support of Bon Secours Community Works' Returning Citizen program.

### CASA DE MARYLAND INC. • LANGLEY PARK, MD

**\$100,000**

In support of the Baltimore Regional Education and Employment Center.

### CASH CAMPAIGN OF MARYLAND • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$100,000**

In support of providing low-income individuals and families in Baltimore City with free tax preparation and asset-building services that increase financial security and promote economic mobility.

### CENTER FOR URBAN FAMILIES INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$300,000**

In support of CFUF's economic success programming, helping over 200 Baltimore residents to find and maintain employment.

### CIVIC WORKS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$100,000**

In support of expanding access to family-sustaining careers for Baltimore residents from historically marginalized communities.

### DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP OF BALTIMORE • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$150,200**

In support of the Downtown COVID-19 Cleaning Corps (DCCC), providing immediate transitional employment opportunities while supporting Downtown Baltimore's pandemic recovery.

### GROW HOME INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$50,000**

In support of the Baltimore Builders workforce development program.

### HUMANIM INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$170,000**

In support of a collaborative approach to job training, worker ownership, and economic equity through the Direct Support Professional Employee Cooperative.

### JANE ADDAMS RESOURCE CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$100,000**

In support of JARC's training programs to prepare low-income adults for entry-level positions in the manufacturing and construction industries.

### LIVING CLASSROOMS FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$225,326**

In support of Project SERVE, a transitional employment program that enrolls up to 150 returning citizens a year.

### MARYLAND NEW DIRECTIONS • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$120,000**

In continued support of Maryland New Directions' employment training programs and supportive services.

### NATIONAL CENTER ON INSTITUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$100,000**

In support of NCIA's vocational training programs for SNAP-eligible Baltimore residents.

### NPOWER INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

**\$100,000**

In support of the Baltimore Tech Fundamentals workforce development training program for young adults from underserved communities.



**ROSE STREET COMMUNITY  
CENTER • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$300,000**

In support of providing transitional housing, emergency shelter, daily community cleanups, and gang mediation.

**SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$99,623**

In support of the Clean Streets Partnership to reduce litter and illegal dumping.

**TURNAROUND TUESDAY INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$125,000**

In support of helping 200 Baltimore residents to secure jobs.

**VEHICLES FOR CHANGE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$200,000**

In support of providing 50 returning citizens with paid work experience and job placement in the automotive repair industry.



Civic Works' Center for Sustainable Careers,  
photo taken by Wide Angle Productions, a social  
enterprise of Wide Angle Youth Media



Charm City Care Connection, photo taken by Wide Angle Productions, a social enterprise of Wide Angle Youth Media

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND ADDICTION



## ISSUE BRIEF

# Supports for Reentry

At the end of March 2021, there were nearly 1.8 million people incarcerated in the United States. Approximately 95% of these individuals will be released to their communities with very little institutional or community support. This lack of support is compounded by a wide range of reentry challenges caused by legal barriers, stigma, mental health conditions, substance use disorders, limited employment opportunities, and

broken ties with family. Research has shown that wraparound services can make a big difference. The Abell Foundation supports several groups dedicated to ensuring that individuals returning to Baltimore City receive the necessary support and services to succeed in their reentry.

Stanley Mitchell, the founder of **No Struggle No Success** (NSNS), has been working on assisting returning citizens since his release in 2013 after 38 years in prison. Mr. Mitchell is part of “the Ungers,” a group of 232 individuals from Maryland who had served over 30 years in prison and who were released following the Unger decision in 2012. The recidivism rate for the Ungers is 1%, compared to the overall Maryland rate of 40%. One of the reasons for this low rate is the specialized reentry assistance the Ungers received from the University of Maryland (UMD). UMD provided case management and assistance in obtaining state ID and social security cards, birth certificates, benefits, transportation, housing, employment, and referrals to reentry programs.

NSNS’ programming is based on this comprehensive Unger reentry model. It serves adults and youth ages 14-18, many of whom (50%) were convicted for violent crimes such as murder, possession of a handgun, assault with a weapon, fourth degree sexual offense, and robbery. NSNS provides case management support to clients and connects them with one of over 20 businesses and local business owners who accept ex-offenders for employment. From May 2020-March 2022, NSNS received 259 referrals and enrolled 221 of those referred. During this time period, of the 221 individuals NSNS served, less than 1% returned to prison.



Photo courtesy of  
No Struggle No Success





Photo courtesy of PIVOT

**PIVOT** is a community reentry and workforce development program, specifically serving women who are seeking to rebuild their lives after incarceration, addiction, homelessness, or other life-changing events. PIVOT taps into Baltimore's rich resources and brings together more than 60 partner organizations to provide wraparound support to participants. PIVOT began in 2018 as a project out of the Johns Hopkins Social Innovation Lab. Starting as an all-volunteer organization, PIVOT has grown to employ six individuals and serves over 130 women through its eight-week intensive reentry program.

The re-offense rate of PIVOT graduates is less than 5%, and only one PIVOT graduate has been re-incarcerated. There is an 80% graduation rate for cohort participants, and more than 70% of graduates are placed into employment within two quarters of completing the program. PIVOT has provided security deposits and placed 50% of PIVOT graduates into their own stable housing with the housing voucher program. Many of those not placed with a voucher already had stable housing with family members.

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND ADDICTION GRANTS**

### **B-360 STEM EDUCATION PROGRAM, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUSION PARTNERSHIPS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$75,000**

In support of B-360's diversion program for Baltimore's dirt bike riders.

### **BALTIMORE HARM REDUCTION COALITION, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUSION PARTNERSHIPS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$150,000**

In support of efforts to increase community mobilization for harm-reduction policies including Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS).

### **BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$80,000**

In support of efforts to increase community mobilization for harm-reduction policies including Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS).

### **BALTIMORE YOUTH ARTS, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUSION PARTNERSHIPS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$25,000**

In support of the Studio Apprentice Program.

### **CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY HOUSING INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$100,000**

In support of providing supportive housing for men experiencing homelessness and substance abuse disorders through Earl's Place.

### **D.C. WITNESS • WASHINGTON, DC**

**\$250,000**

In support of bringing transparency and accountability to Baltimore's criminal justice system.

### **FROM PRISON CELLS TO PHD INC • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$20,000**

In support of the Prison-to-Professionals (P2P) initiative to provide case management, recidivism reduction planning, and career development assistance.

### **HELPING UP MISSION INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$200,000**

In support of expanding the capacity of the Women and Children's Center.

### **HISTORIC EAST BALTIMORE COMMUNITY ACTION COALITION INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$50,000**

In support of growing Dee's Place.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS FOR KIDS • WASHINGTON, DC**

**\$25,000**

In support of advancing human rights protections for children in Maryland's criminal justice system.

### **INTERFAITH ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (IAHR) • WASHINGTON, DC**

**\$25,000**

In support of strengthening education outreach on the abuse of solitary confinement in the Maryland penal system.

### **NO STRUGGLE NO SUCCESS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$65,000**

In support of the Youth and Adult Reentry Program.

### **OFFICE OF THE MAYOR • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$87,653**

In support of the warrant service analyst position for one year.

### **PREPARE: PREPARE FOR PAROLE AND REENTRY, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUSION PARTNERSHIPS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$100,100**

In support of providing information, materials, and support to enable people incarcerated in Maryland to make their best case for parole.



Photo courtesy of Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm and  
the U.S. Department of Agriculture

# ENVIRONMENT





energy bills and reduce harmful impacts of power plant emissions. By absorbing rainwater, trees buffer waterways and the Bay against pollution from stormwater runoff. Finally, trees can beautify and increase the market desirability of a neighborhood block and raise property values.

## CASE STUDY:

# Baltimore Tree Trust

The **Baltimore Tree Trust** (BTT) was formed in 2009 by a group of residents committed to restoring the urban forest through tree plantings, community education, and stewardship. Since 2011, the Abell Foundation has provided support for operations and equipment to grow the capacity of BTT to work with community partners in neighborhoods lacking in tree cover, and to train job-seeking unemployed and underemployed adults in landscaping and forestry. As of January 2022, BTT has planted and maintained 15,000 trees in Baltimore City.

Trees are environmental and public health powerhouses, benefiting air, land, and water quality, and ultimately improving human health outcomes. Baltimore has some of the highest rates of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in the country. Street trees and trees in parks and schoolyards can reduce air pollution, leading to fewer respiratory problems and lower health care costs. By providing shade coverage and air cooling, trees can help mitigate the “urban heat island effect” of asphalt and concrete surfaces that burdens many neighborhoods with high majorities of Black residents. Trees can also lower household

Unfortunately, urban environments can be hard on trees. The compacted soils, heavy air pollution, lack of proper care, and invasive vines put tremendous stress on trees, resulting in high mortality. BTT’s tree planting methods and two years of early tree care and watering contribute to increased survival and longevity, offsetting loss of trees taken down due to disease or storm damage and those slated for removal as part of development projects.

In 2007, Baltimore City set a goal to increase the tree canopy shading the city from 26% coverage to 40% coverage by 2037. According to a 2018 U.S. Forest Service study, Baltimore had a 1% net gain in the tree canopy, while the vast majority of cities contracted. Still the current estimated coverage of 27% is below the average American city’s 35%, and the urban canopy remains inequitably distributed throughout the city. BTT seeks to address both issues.

The three most recent Abell grants have supported the expansion of the BTT Neighborhood Forestry Initiative (formerly Community Forestry Corps), which creates viable employment pathways for people who have been marginalized by lack of education, discrimination, and unavailability of jobs matching their skill sets. The Community Forestry Corps also improves the health of residents and livability of neighborhoods, increasing environmental stewardship, addressing adverse climate change, and advancing equity.

## ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

**BALTIMORE CITY OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY,  
FISCALLY SPONSORED BY BALTIMORE  
CIVIC FUND • BALTIMORE, MD**

**\$57,684**

In support of providing equitable community outreach and engagement for the development of a citywide climate action plan update.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION • ANNAPOLIS, MD**

**\$150,000**

In support of restoring oysters in the Baltimore Harbor through innovation, restoration, and education.

**CHESAPEAKE LEGAL ALLIANCE • ANNAPOLIS, MD**

**\$35,000**

In support of efforts to reduce cumulative environmental burdens and impacts in Baltimore's underserved communities.

**ENVIRONMENT AMERICA RESEARCH  
& POLICY CENTER • DENVER, CO**

**\$26,000**

In support of conducting research on the viability of and launching an advocacy campaign to encourage solar installation on big-box retail stores.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND • NEW YORK, NY**

**\$17,500**

In support of the Clean Air for Baltimore initiative.

**ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY PROJECT •  
WASHINGTON, DC**

**\$50,000**

In support of the Baltimore Environmental Justice Campaign.





Photo courtesy of Arctaris



# MISSION- RELATED INVESTMENTS





#### CASE STUDY:

## Arctaris

Baltimore's business community is full of potential, but to accelerate progress, Baltimore needs sources of private capital that match the unique needs and challenges of established companies.

**Arctaris Impact Investors** is a national leader in providing affordable growth capital to successful urban businesses that have been declined by traditional bank lenders. Arctaris is committed to partnering with organizations typically led by persons of color that value both profitability and purpose, and that provide entry-level jobs and a pathway for economic growth for their employees.

In March 2020, Abell led a partnership with the Neighborhood Impact Investment Fund (NIIF) to bring Arctaris Impact Bond Fund to Baltimore City. Abell's \$4 million and NIIF's \$1 million secured

a \$25 million fund for Baltimore City expansion-stage businesses that generate new employment. Arctaris also offers Opportunity Zone equity funding that can complement its bond financing.

With a talented team dedicated to the local market, four investments have closed to date in Baltimore, supporting three Black-owned businesses with over 700 full- and part-time jobs at initial closing. These companies include Up-To-Date Laundry, Chimes Solutions, Family Home Healthcare, and Market Fresh Gourmet.



Photo courtesy of Bolton Hill Community Association

# Small Grants

In 2021, the Abell Foundation also awarded small grants of \$10,000 or less (in October 2021, the Abell Board increased the small grant cap from \$5,000 to \$10,000) to the following organizations:



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10:12 Sports

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Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church, Fiscally Sponsored by Pathway Forward Inc.

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APM Food Works, LLC, Fiscally Sponsored by No Boundaries Coalition Inc.

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Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance

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Baltimore Architecture Foundation

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Baltimore Bolts Inc.

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Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School

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Baltimore Civic Fund

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Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys

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Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs

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Baltimore Green Map Inc.

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Banner Neighborhoods Community Corporation

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Beginning Effective Recovery Together

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Betamore

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Better Waverly Community Organization Inc.

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Beyond Rhetoric Corporation

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Bolton Hill Community Association

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By Peaceful Means, Fiscally Sponsored by St. Frances Academy

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Charles Street Development Corporation

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City of Refuge Baltimore Inc.

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Citywide Youth Development, Fiscally Sponsored by Financial Empowerment Movement Inc.

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CollegeBound Foundation Inc.

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Downtown Partnership of Baltimore

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Ed Reed Foundation, Fiscally Sponsored by Players Philanthropy Fund

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Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel

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Focus on Children United for Success

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Greater Remington Improvement Association Inc.

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Groundswell

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Health Care for the Homeless Inc.

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House of Change Inc.

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Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

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The Lazarus Rite

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Liberty Elementary School, Fiscally Sponsored by Fund for Educational Excellence

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Liberty's Promise Inc.

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Life Empowerment Community Outreach

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Loch Raven Improvement Association

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Maryland Citizens for the Arts

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Maryland Philanthropy Network

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Maryland Public Policy Institute Inc.

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McElderry Park Community Association Inc.

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New Lens, Fiscally Sponsored by Fusion Partnerships Inc.

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No Struggle No Success Inc.

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The North Avenue Learning Initiative, Fiscally Sponsored by City of Abraham Church & Ministries

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Nu Direction

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Open Works

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Outcast Food Network

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PCs for People

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The P.E.A.C.E. Team

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Phase One Recovery Housing

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PIVOT Inc.

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POP Inc.

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Reconstruct & Rebuild, Fiscally Sponsored by Fusion Partnerships Inc.

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Santa's Helpers Anonymous Inc.

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Spotlighters Theatre

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St. Francis Neighborhood Center

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St. Luke's Youth Center Inc.

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Star-Spangled Banner Flag House and Museum

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Team Silk, Fiscally Sponsored by McElderry Park Community Association Inc.

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University of Maryland School of Medicine

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VISION

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# Publications

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## Abell Reports

[Disconnected in Maryland: Statewide data show the racial and economic underpinnings of the digital divide.](#) (January 2021) This report builds on the Baltimore-focused Abell Report of May 2020 to take stock of digital inclusion across Maryland. By examining data on two digital access tools—wireline high-speed internet and a working desktop or laptop—the report finds dramatic inequities across the state and helps fuel the case for statewide action.

[Literacy Tutoring in Baltimore.](#) (March 2021) Tutoring has long been identified as an effective strategy to support struggling students. The pandemic-induced disruptions to traditional schooling have fueled new conversations about the role of tutoring moving forward. This report summarizes national research on early literacy tutoring programs to identify best practices and evidence of successfully scaled models, presents an overview of the tutoring landscape in Baltimore City Public Schools, and offers recommendations for how Baltimore City should move forward.


[Reconsidering Teacher Recertification in Maryland.](#) (April 2021) Teachers in Maryland public schools are required to be recertified every six years, a process that costs significant time and resources. This report asks why do we do this? Do the outcomes justify the costs? What should Maryland do to reform the process in order to achieve the desired results?

[Child Care After COVID: Equity, efficiency, and effectiveness in the financing and delivery of child care in Baltimore and Maryland.](#) (June 2021) The pandemic-related closures of child care centers highlighted the always-fragile system of child care for Baltimore's youngest children. This report examines the existing cost model for supporting child care in Baltimore City, particularly through the state-supported Child Care Scholarship, and proposes changes to make the economic model more sustainable and equitable.

[Protecting Baltimore's Water Supply from "Forever Chemicals."](#) (August 2021) Maintaining the quality and safety of Baltimore's water infrastructure is an ongoing challenge. Increasingly, public water supplies across the country are facing a threat from PFAS, a "forever" chemical found in common household items that does not break down. This report explores this challenge—and potential solutions—and concludes with recommendations for Baltimore.

[Advancing and Sustaining the Community Health Worker Workforce in Baltimore.](#) (October 2021) Community Health Workers (CHWs) are frontline health personnel who share common attributes with the communities they serve. This report investigates the deployment of CHWs in Baltimore City and the ways in which statewide policies impact the financial underpinnings of the model.





It reviews best practices for training, oversight, and compensation, and makes recommendations that will support the long-term viability of the CHW model in Baltimore City.

[Turning up the Heat on Cooling Down the Planet: Comparing the climate leadership actions of Maryland and Massachusetts.](#) (December 2021)

Maryland was once a leader in environmental stewardship. This report compares the climate change programs in Maryland and Massachusetts with the goal of recommending a new set of benchmarks by which the state can regain its leadership position on addressing climate change and greenhouse gas reduction.

## Abell-Supported Research

[HECM Activity in Baltimore, MD, from 2010-2020.](#)

(May 2021) Concerned that the economic distress of the pandemic might lead to an increase in the number of Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECM), Abell Foundation supported The Reinvestment Fund to do an analysis of HECM originations in Baltimore City for 2010-2020. The data shows that the volume of HECMs, while high in the early part of this period, slowed to a trickle in the last few years.

[Greenhouse Gases from Maryland's Landfills.](#)

(June 2021) How much greenhouse gas is emitted from municipal waste landfills in Maryland? And

what does that mean for the health and safety of our environment? With support from the Abell Foundation, the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) examined the data. It found that household waste in Maryland's landfills released more than four times the amount of methane previously estimated by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

[Cooling Cities, Slowing Climate Change, and Enhancing Equity.](#) (July 2021)

With funding from Abell Foundation, the Smart Surfaces Coalition analyzed the costs and benefits of adopting "smart surfaces" in neighborhoods of Baltimore City where a high proportion of residents have low incomes. The report finds that investment in smart surfaces can sharply cut temperatures, provide long-term savings, and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods by making them cooler, greener, less polluted, and more shaded by trees.

[Public Health and Cannabis Legalization.](#)

(November 2021) Anticipating action by the Maryland General Assembly in the 2022 legislative session, the National Council on Alcoholism Maryland Chapter (NCADD) researched and wrote a report on the public health implications of the legalization of marijuana. NCADD reviewed actions taken by states that have already legalized cannabis, and presents an overview of policies and guidelines that Maryland legislators and public health officials should keep in mind should legalization move forward.

# Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2021 and 2020

|  | 2021                 | 2020                 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                    |                      |                      |
| Investments                                      | \$360,775,338        | \$336,129,318        |
| Direct investments                               | 22,702,578           | 22,500,042           |
| Program-related investments and other loans, net | 8,733,044            | 8,364,559            |
| Other assets, net                                | 6,143,710            | 6,013,078            |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                              | <b>\$398,354,670</b> | <b>\$373,006,997</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>              |                      |                      |
| Liabilities:                                     |                      |                      |
| Grants scheduled for future payment              | \$4,678,169          | \$6,029,600          |
| Guarantee liabilities                            | 35,651,880           | 35,267,206           |
| Payables and other liabilities                   | 2,379,714            | 2,190,009            |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                         | <b>42,709,763</b>    | <b>43,486,815</b>    |
| Commitments and contingencies                    |                      |                      |
| Net assets without donor restrictions            | 355,644,907          | 329,520,182          |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>          | <b>\$398,354,670</b> | <b>\$373,006,997</b> |

Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.



# Consolidated Statements of Activities

Years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

|  | 2021              | 2020              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>   |                   |                   |
| Dividends, interest, partnership revenues              | \$3,574,268       | \$5,250,008       |
| Realized gains (losses), net                           | 38,487,541        | (2,239,257)       |
| Unrealized gains (losses), net                         | 3,388,762         | 30,281,724        |
| Other  | 379,130           | 610,498           |
| <b>Total revenue</b>                                   | <b>45,829,701</b> | <b>33,902,973</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>  |                   |                   |
| Grants and grant related expenditures                  | 14,724,322        | 13,543,948        |
| Administrative expenses                                | 3,553,001         | 3,640,238         |
| Investment expenses                                    | 822,938           | 1,096,517         |
| Federal excise tax provision                           | 604,715           | 85,570            |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                                  | <b>19,704,976</b> | <b>18,366,273</b> |
| <b>Change in net assets without donor restrictions</b> | <b>26,124,725</b> | <b>15,536,700</b> |
| Net assets without donor restrictions:                 |                   |                   |
| Beginning  | 329,520,182       | 313,983,482       |
| Ending   | \$355,644,907     | \$329,520,182     |

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Photo courtesy of Chesapeake Bay Foundation



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