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Cover photo: Patterson Park Public Charter School* **Inside cover photo:** Franciscan Center

^{*} Photos taken by Wide Angle Productions, a social enterprise of Wide Angle Youth Media.

All other photos courtesy of grantee organizations.



A B E L L F O U N D A T I O N

Our Commitment

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.



Foreword

After two years of COVID, the pandemic began to fade from our daily lives in 2022, but not without lingering effects. From learning loss in our schools to deepened health and economic disparities, COVID exacerbated many of the challenges Baltimore has long faced. Homicide took the lives of more than 300 Baltimore City residents for the eighth year in a row in 2022, and despite some hopeful signs in the fight against violent crime in recent months, last year saw the emergence of a disturbing increase in violence among the city's youth. As a consequence of Baltimore's legacy and stubborn reality of structural racism and segregation, these burdens fell much more heavily on the city's Black and Brown residents – particularly those with the fewest opportunities and resources.

At the same time, the receding pandemic renewed the optimism, dedication, and creativity of the thousands of individuals and organizations dedicated to creating a better future for our city. From addiction treatment to workforce training to after-school programming, groups that were forced to pivot suddenly to virtual interactions in 2020 came together again in person, shed their masks, and reconnected with each other.

At Abell, we are fortunate to be able to support many of these groups and the work they engage in, whether they are providing direct services to Baltimoreans in need or advocating for systemic change in City Hall or the State House. In this report, we have profiled several of these groups, providing a snapshot of the many ways Baltimoreans are working to help their neighbors secure stable housing, better jobs, brighter futures for their children, and for those who badly need one, a second chance.

In 2022, Abell continued its leadership in mission and impact investing designed to grow jobs and create a brighter economic future in Baltimore. Much of that effort has gone into supporting Baltimore's emerging tech sector, which continued to grow impressively at a time when venture capital investing was on the decline nationally. Crucially, Baltimore's tech community has coalesced around a vision for an inclusive, equitable model of development, one that the Foundation is committed to supporting.

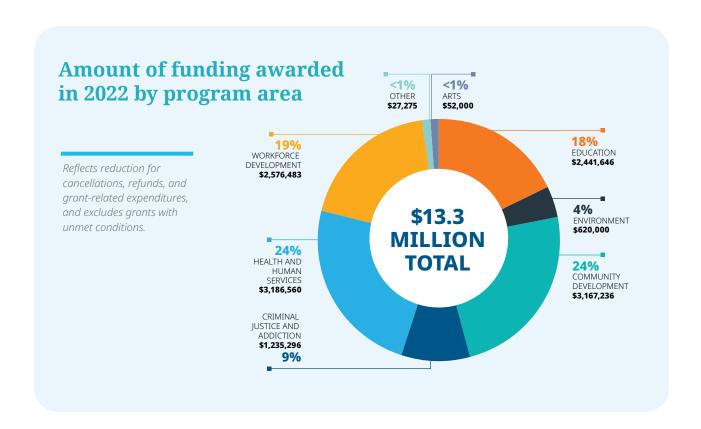
In this report, we tell the story of a different kind of mission investment, one inspired by the Foundation's commitment to advancing public education in Baltimore City and informed by Abell's experience in community development. The sale of the Astor Court apartments capped a successful experiment in providing high quality, affordable housing for Baltimore City schoolteachers, a model that has since been replicated by the private sector.

We also summarize the findings of an Abell report seeking solutions to one of the most difficult barriers nonprofit service providers face in Baltimore: the long-standing problem of delays in city reimbursement, which can make it difficult for community-based programs to serve residents. Our research documented reimbursement delays of a year or more and has led to advocacy for reform and renewed dialogue with the city about how to solve what all sides agree is a difficult and long-standing challenge.

Meanwhile, we have worked to directly support innovative approaches to bettering the lives of Baltimoreans. Nearly 50 recipients of Abell funds were first-time grantees in 2022, up by a quarter from the year before. Helping to support those

whose passion and lived experience give them a unique ability to make a difference in the city has long been core to Abell's mission. Over the years, many ideas and emerging leaders Abell has had the privilege to support have gone on to become stalwarts in Baltimore's nonprofit ecosystem.

Baltimore's complex challenges are deeply rooted, but so are the knowledge and passion within our community to address them. We are proud to share the stories of a few of the extraordinary groups and initiatives Abell supported in 2022, and we are eager to meet and support the next generation of Baltimoreans who will uplift our neighbors and make our city a more just, equitable, and prosperous place.





RESEARCH BRIEF

Costly Delays: Diagnosing and addressing operational delays in Baltimore's nonprofit contracting process

The health of Baltimore City is integrally tied to the health of its nonprofit sector. Nonprofit organizations deliver essential services to Baltimore residents facing food and housing insecurity, unemployment, and other pressing needs, particularly in Black and low-income communities. Many of these nonprofits rely on funding from the Baltimore City government to pay for their general operations and for specific services. Unfortunately, payments from government contracts often involve significant delays. And because many government contracts pay on a reimbursement basis – after services have already been provided – nonprofits often find themselves in a bind as they struggle to cover costs for months or even years before they receive payment.

For many years, the Abell Foundation has heard from grantees that have been adversely impacted by government contracting and payment delays. When these nonprofits are unable to provide services or are forced to scale them back because of payment delays, it hurts not only the nonprofit organizations but also the people who rely on them, who are often the most vulnerable and marginalized residents of our city. Although nonprofits of all sizes have reported experiencing payment delays, smaller Black- and Brown-led

organizations are most adversely affected. These organizations tend to have limited access to capital to support operations while they wait for the payments they have been promised, creating a major racial equity concern for the city and diminishing the viability of new, innovative, and community-driven providers.

In response to these concerns, the Abell Foundation engaged researchers Brendan Hellweg and Jake Mills to examine Baltimore's nonprofit contracting and payment system and identify opportunities for reforming those systems. The resulting report, **Costly Delays:** Diagnosing and addressing operational delays in Baltimore's nonprofit contracting process, published in December 2022, is a deep dive into the city's nonprofit contracting system, identifying bottlenecks that lead to delays in contract approvals and payments and highlighting key points in the process with opportunities for reform. The authors' interviews with Baltimore nonprofit leaders and an analysis of city-funded grants revealed that Baltimore nonprofits experience delays of a year or more in receiving payment for services delivered through government grant agreements, with the largest



delays occurring during the contracting stage. Some larger nonprofits with strong balance sheets are able to withstand these delays, but they disproportionately burden small organizations with lower access to credit.

The report highlights several actionable steps the city can take now to streamline the process, relieving the burdens that the current system imposes on nonprofits while still ensuring accountability for city funds. The Costly Delays report spurred discussion among philanthropic and nonprofit leaders and city officials about how to reform a system that all agree is not working well. City officials have begun implementing some reforms, including adopting a new technology platform, Neighborly, to manage some city contracts and payments; bundling Community

Development Block Grant contracts – one of the primary sources of funding for Baltimore nonprofits – for review and approval by the city's Board of Estimates, rather than sending them to the board for individual reviews; and creating a new Office of Accounts Payable, housed within the Comptroller's Office, which will focus on efficiently processing payments to organizations once their contracts have been approved.

While these are important steps that should lead to speedier and more efficient contracting and payments, much more needs to be done to ensure that our nonprofit partners can continue to provide essential services to our most vulnerable neighbors. The Abell Foundation is committed to continuing to advocate for these needed improvements in city processes.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS

29TH STREET COMMUNITY CENTER INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$80,000

In support of the 29th Street Community Center's renovation.

4MYCITY INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$100,000

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

ACTIVE SOCIAL COMMUNITIES INC. DBA VOLO KIDS FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD \$25,000

In support of Volo Kids' expanded youth sports programming in Belair-Edison and Cherry Hill.

AN END TO IGNORANCE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$100,000

In support of staff salaries for Bmore Community Food.

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

\$100,000

In support of Baltimore's Guaranteed Income Pilot Project.

BALTIMORE FURNITURE BANK, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUSION PARTNERSHIPS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$40,000

In support of general operations.

BALTIMORE REGIONAL HOUSING PARTNERSHIP • BALTIMORE, MD

\$112,500

In support of the Healthy Children Voucher Demonstration project.

BALTIMORE SQUASHWISE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$100,000

In support of construction costs for the new SquashWise Center.

BANNER NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD \$75,000

In support of the renovation of 1819 Preston St. to enable youth program expansion.

B'MORE FOR HEALTHY BABIES, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY BALTIMORE CIVIC FUND • BALTIMORE, MD

\$30,000

In support of strengthening B'more for Healthy Babies' outreach, referral, and client engagement strategies.

DRINK AT THE WELL - HON'S HONEY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE • BALTIMORE, MD \$40,000

In support of general operating costs for Hon's Honey social enterprise.

FAMILY RECOVERY PROGRAM INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$47,200

In support of facility upgrades and programmatic improvements.

THE FAMILY TREE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$70,000

In support of the Growing Opportunities in Family Child Care program.

FOOD & WATER WATCH • WASHINGTON, DC \$30,000

In support of the implementation and promotion of the Water4All affordability program in Baltimore City.

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

In support of general operations.

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

In support of the GEDCO CARES eviction prevention program.

HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of providing comprehensive care for people lacking health insurance.

HOMELESS PERSONS REPRESENTATION PROJECT INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$123,880

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.

I AM MENTALITY YOUTH MALE **EMPOWERMENT PROJECT • BALTIMORE, MD** \$40,000

In support of I AM MENtality's Leadership Development Academy, a community-based youth development and mentoring program.

IDENTITY ACCESS PROJECT • BALTIMORE, MD \$35.580

In support of a partnership with the Franciscan Center to help clients obtain vital documents.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (RALES HEALTH CENTER) • **BALTIMORE, MD** \$75,000

In support of 2022-2023 operating costs for the Rales Health Center at KIPP Baltimore.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY • BALTIMORE, MD \$80,000

In support of the HEAL Refugee Health and Asylum Collaborative's program manager position.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY • BALTIMORE, MD \$200,000

In support of maximizing the impact of Vision for Baltimore through School Vision Advocates.

KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE • ROXBURY, MA \$50,000

In support of Kids In Need of Defense (KIND)-Baltimore's general operations.

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

In support of the Baltimore Sports Equipment Program, which provides used and excess sporting equipment to schools and communitybased organizations that operate sports and fitness programs for low-income Baltimore youth.

LIBERTY GRACE CHURCH OF GOD • **BALTIMORE, MD** \$102,400

In support of the Interfaith Family Health Center of Baltimore (IFHC).

MARYLAND CITIZENS' HEALTH INITIATIVE **EDUCATION FUND INC. DBA HEALTH CARE FOR ALL • BALTIMORE, MD** \$75,000

In support of general operations.

MARYLAND HUNGER SOLUTIONS, AN INITIATIVE OF FOOD RESEARCH & ACTION CENTER • **BALTIMORE**. MD \$60,000

In support of initiatives to reduce hunger, stimulate economic growth, and advance equity in Baltimore City.

MEALS ON WHEELS OF CENTRAL MARYLAND INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$25,000

In support of Phase II of the Food Access and Support Services Team (FASST) project.

MEDSTAR GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL • BALTIMORE, MD

\$150,000

In support of MedStar Health's Multi-Visit Patient Plus (MVP+) Program at MedStar Harbor Hospital.

MENTORING MENTORS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$30,000

In support of Mentoring Mentors' community-based afterschool program.

MOVEABLE FEAST INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$56,000

In support of Moveable Feast's food preparation and delivery services in Baltimore City.

PRO BONO COUNSELING PROJECT • BALTIMORE, MD \$30,000

In support of general operations.

PUBLIC JUSTICE CENTER INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$50,000

In support of the Health and Benefits Rights project.

ROBERTA'S HOUSE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$65,000

In support of hiring a data specialist to strengthen data collection, analysis, and reporting.

THE SAMARITAN COMMUNITY • BALTIMORE, MD \$30.000

In support of of general operations.

SHAREBABY • BALTIMORE, MD \$30,000

In support of addressing diaper need and material insecurity among Baltimore's most vulnerable young children.

SO WHAT ELSE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$25,000

In support of the Emergency Hunger Relief Program in Baltimore City.

SPRINGBOARD COMMUNITY SERVICES • BALTIMORE, MD \$60,000

In support of the Springboard Community Services Youth Resource Center.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF BALTIMORE INC. -BALTIMORE, MD

\$50,000

In support of the Front Door Rapid Re-housing Program, which helps households experiencing homelessness obtain and maintain permanent housing.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF BALTIMORE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$50.000

In support of the Beans and Bread Homeless Day Resource Center.

TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER • BALTIMORE, MD \$50,000

In support of pro bono legal and social services for immigrant women and girls in Baltimore City who are survivors of gender-based violence.

UEMPOWER OF MARYLAND • BALTIMORE, MD \$40,000

In support of the Food Project, which aims to increase food security and provide transitional employment in Southwest Baltimore.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD \$100,000

In support of the Oral Health for Uninsured and Underserved Children program.





Black Women Build – Baltimore

Black Women Build – Baltimore (BWB-B) is a homeownership and wealth-building initiative that trains Black women in residential construction skills by restoring vacant and disinvested houses in West Baltimore. The homes are available for purchase to those who have contributed time and work to the renovations.

In December 2020, Abell awarded a \$30,000 grant to BWB-B for down payment and closing cost assistance for three first-time homebuyers purchasing houses renovated by the organization. Two houses were fully renovated and sold in August 2021, and the rehabilitation and purchase of the third house was completed in early 2022. Purchase prices for the renovated houses ranged from \$80,000 to \$95,000. The buyers each had incomes less than 80% of the area median, and monthly mortgage payments are less than \$500 per month for each purchaser. In June 2022, Abell awarded a subsequent grant of \$110,000 to support purchasers with down payment and closing cost assistance for an additional seven houses under construction and several others under acquisition.

As an experienced carpenter and builder, executive director Shelley Halstead provides construction skills training to women she recruits to renovate the houses for purchase. During the training and home purchase preparation period, each participant is required to make and keep a budget; learn the importance of credit and how to improve a credit score; and work with a financial counselor to ensure pre-qualification for a mortgage loan.

The goals of the project are to address persistent housing vacancy through renovation; build the knowledge and technical skills of Black women in construction and home systems maintenance; ensure more Black women and their families achieve pride of ownership and housing stability; and create the potential for wealth accumulation through growth in home equity.

"Black Women Build – Baltimore helps women learn skills and purchase homes – yes. But its critical beneficiaries are legacy residents who again have neighbors on their block."

Annie Milli, Executive Director of Live Baltimore



SOS Fund

In August 2020, as the city's annual tax sale loomed, putting thousands of Baltimoreans at risk of losing their homes over what are frequently minor debts, representatives from Parity Homes, Fight Blight BMore, and Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Services began knocking on doors in West Baltimore. Their efforts to inform residents whose properties were at risk about available resources to preserve their homes evolved into the Stop Oppressive Seizures (SOS) Fund, which takes a multi-faceted approach to protecting homeownership and preserving residents' ability to stay in their homes. Ninety percent of SOS clients have an income that falls below 80% of the area median, and 81% identify as Black or African American.

With support from the Abell Foundation, the SOS Fund added two full-time staff members – a program manager and a client coordinator – who developed a customer relationship

management system to track client interactions and leverage data for ongoing advocacy. With this infrastructure in place, the SOS Fund joined housing advocates and other mission-aligned organizations to remove 2,900 local homeowners from the 2022 tax sale. SOS Fund uses what it learns from engagement with residents to raise awareness about strategies that can reduce neighborhood vulnerability to displacement. By participating in the city's tax sale reform committee, SOS Fund advocates for changes to the tax collection process and provides recommendations to improve existing programs that target housing disparities.

In 2022, SOS Fund worked with 81 new clients – referred by legal service providers and nonprofit housing services – and made 15 payments totaling over \$20,000 to residents from its "tax sale bailout fund." In addition to leveraging its own funds, the SOS Fund connected 42 residents to housing counselors across the city to help them apply to the Homeowner's Assistance Fund for back property taxes, water bills, and home repair.

This work positioned the SOS Fund to successfully compete for and secure a three-year, \$700,000 grant through the American Rescue Plan Act that will help it significantly expand its efforts to help struggling homeowners in West Baltimore and beyond.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

AEQUO FOUNDATION INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$30,000

In support of homebuyer incentives for three houses developed as part of the Hollins Market neighborhood revitalization strategy in Southwest Baltimore.

APM FOOD WORKS LLC, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY BALTIMORE HUNGER PROJECT • BALTIMORE, MD \$50,000

In support of improving human and ecological health and resiliency in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE BREW, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUSION PARTNERSHIPS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$110,000

In support of the Baltimore Brew's local accountability reporting.

BALTIMORE COMMUNITY TOOLBANK • BALTIMORE, MD \$15,000

In support of sustaining the ToolBank's operations.

BALTIMORE CORPS • BALTIMORE, MD \$50,000

In support of Kiva Baltimore's Campaign for Social Innovation.

BALTIMORE CORPS • BALTIMORE, MD \$125,000

In support of the Campaign for Citywide Service.

BALTIMORE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD

\$75,000

In support of continuing the Baltimore Opportunity Zones & Impact Investment Coordinator role.

BALTIMORE GREEN SPACE • BALTIMORE, MD \$75,000

In support of sustaining and bolstering green spaces during COVID-19.

BANNER NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD

\$20,000

In support of the staffing and programming among seven nonprofit organizations in Southeast Baltimore employing summer YouthWorks participants.

BANNER NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD \$100,000

In support of general operations for staff and programs supporting senior homeowner repair, summer youth employment, and youth sports in Southeast and East Baltimore.

BLACK WOMEN BUILD - BALTIMORE • BALTIMORE, MD

\$110,000

In support of homebuyer incentives for Black women to purchase formerly vacant houses they help to renovate in West Baltimore.

CIVIC WORKS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$70,204

In support of the Baltimore City Eviction Prevention Outreach Initiative.

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

In support of strengthening the financial resilience of low-income Baltimore homeowners through critical energy efficiency, health, and safety improvement services.

CIVIC JUSTICE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$80,000

In support of the Tenant Debt Collection Defense Project.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDERS, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY MARYLAND PHILANTHROPY NETWORK • BALTIMORE, MD

\$36,750

In support of the MD Neighborhood Exchange & Crowdfund Baltimore, which deepens community investment in Baltimore to grow local, minority-owned businesses and community wealth.

ECONOMIC ACTION MARYLAND (FORMERLY MARYLAND CONSUMER RIGHTS COALITION INC.) • BALTIMORE, MD

\$57,850

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

ECONOMIC ACTION MARYLAND (FORMERLY MARYLAND CONSUMER RIGHTS COALITION INC.) • BALTIMORE, MD

\$119,600

In support of the Bilingual Financial Counselor position.

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS • BALTIMORE, MD \$150,000

In support of attorney training and placement to prevent evictions and increase housing stability through the Equal Justice Works Housing Justice Program.

FARM ALLIANCE OF BALTIMORE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$40,000

In support of operating and expanding the Double Dollars Program and providing nutrition and cooking education.

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$180,000

In support of Healthy Neighborhoods' core program and leadership transition.

INITIATIVE FOR A COMPETITIVE INNER CITY INC. • ROXBURY, MA

\$40,000

In support of the Inner City Capital Connections and Building for Growth programs for Baltimore businesses.

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 efforts to protect renters' rights in Baltimore, prevent evictions, ensure affordable water billing for low-income households, and to support Baltimore Renters United to become a strong tenants' rights coalition.

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.

MARYLAND PHILANTHROPY NETWORK • BALTIMORE, MD

\$24,200

In support of the Abell Foundation's 2022 membership dues.

MARYLAND VOLUNTEER LAWYERS SERVICE • BALTIMORE, MD

\$75,000

In support of the Housing Stability and Legacy Program.

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY BALTIMORE CIVIC FUND • BALTIMORE, MD

\$42,400

In support of a short-term project manager position at the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF BALTIMORE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$50,000

In support of efforts to create and preserve affordable homeownership in Baltimore City.

NORTH EAST HOUSING INITIATIVE • BALTIMORE, MD \$25.000

In support of general operating expenses for the Community Land Trust Stewardship Program in the Four-by-Four neighborhood.

THE NO BOUNDARIES COALITION • BALTIMORE, MD \$60.000

In support of community food access programs and relaunching the "Fresh at the Avenue" produce stall at the Pennsylvania Avenue public market after the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

\$86,000

In support of the Tax Sale Prevention Project.

PUBLIC JUSTICE CENTER INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$150,000

In support of legal services and advocacy to reduce evictions and advance tenants' rights to safe, habitable housing.

REBUILD METRO • BALTIMORE, MD \$50,000

In support of a research report analyzing financing strategies to tackle Baltimore's vacant property crisis and actions to generate public support.

REBUILD METRO • BALTIMORE, MD \$80.000

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

REBUILDING TOGETHER BALTIMORE • BALTIMORE, MD \$50,000

In support of operating costs.

VENTURE FOR AMERICA • NEW YORK, NY \$185,000

In support of costs related to recruiting, selecting, training, and placing 20 Venture for America Fellows in Baltimore in 2022.

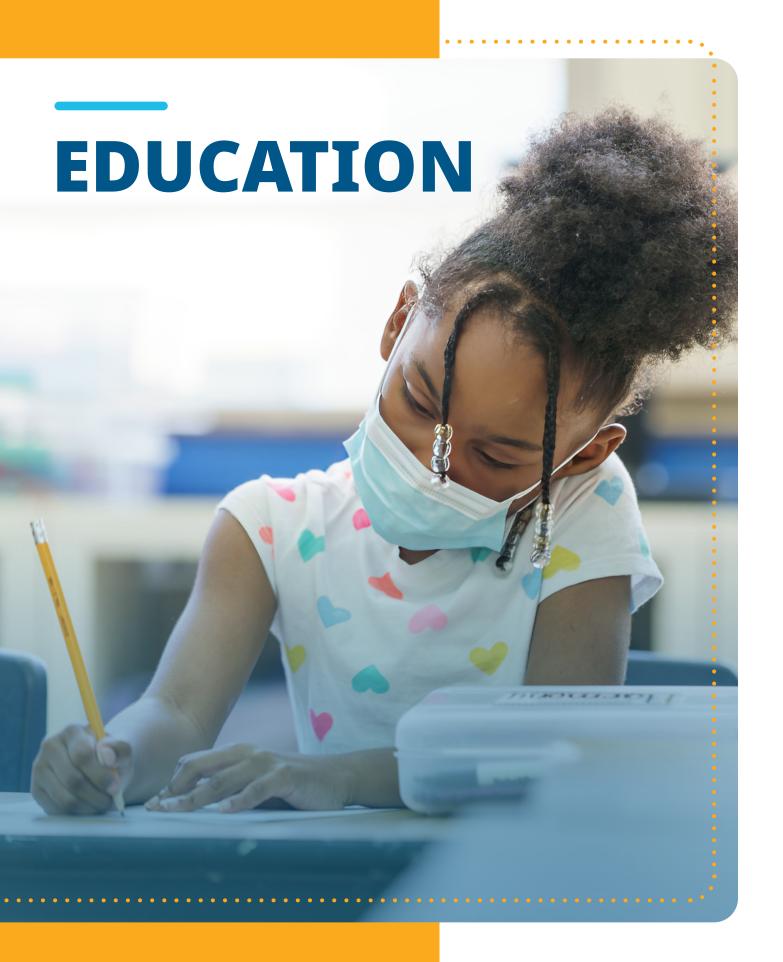
WE RISE, A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of general operations.

THE YORK ROAD PARTNERSHIP, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY GEDCO • BALTIMORE, MD \$30,000

In support of the Invest York Road program for community development and wealth building in Greater Govans.



Baltimore City Competitive Robotics Program

The Baltimore City Competitive Robotics Program - the extracurricular robotics program for Baltimore City Public Schools – trains students to design, build, and program robots for team competitions, encouraging teamwork, leadership, and problem solving with adult mentors while buttressing in-school academic performance. With support from the Abell Foundation, it has grown from a program struggling with participation numbers, staff and student retention, and high costs to a thriving enterprise with about 140 registered after-school robotics teams from 60 schools throughout the city and approximately 500 active student participants. In 2013, Baltimore City had three nationally competitive robotics teams. Today, with the support of the Abell Foundation, there are nearly 50 such teams. The program is also ranked third in the country in terms of teams per capita among large cities.

To prepare for larger regional and national tournaments, teams meet weekly and participate in the city league and local open competitions on the weekends. Each competition features various design challenges, with the opportunity to refine and reprogram robots between matches. This year's challenge required teams to design a robot that can remove plastic disks from a variety of dispensers and score them in different goals like hockey pucks.

Funded in part by Baltimore City Public Schools, the Baltimore City Competitive Robotics Program's full-time robotics specialist manages all aspects of



the program, including recruitment, registration, training, and tournaments, and provides materials and resources to participating schools. The Abell Foundation complements this work by funding coach stipends during both the school year and summer. Robotics coaches lead weekly after-school practices and prepare their teams for at least three league events during the season. The top teams compete up to six times from October to May.

This year's Maryland state robotics championship competition yielded many winners from Baltimore City Public Schools. Teams took home the titles of tournament champions and robot skills champions for both the elementary and middle school levels. They also took home runner-up finishes; the Create Award, Inspire Award, and Energy Award; and multiple Judges Awards, Amaze Awards, and Sportsmanship Awards. Fifteen teams from the city qualified for the May 2023 world championship event in Dallas, the largest number of teams to qualify in Baltimore history.



ISSUE BRIEF

Building a Web of College Completion

About 4,000 students graduate from the Baltimore City Public Schools System (City Schools) each year, and approximately half of them matriculate to a two- or four-year college. Unfortunately, only 9% of students who begin ninth grade in City Schools graduate from a four-year or a two-year college within six years of completing high school (2020 Baltimore Education Research Consortium College Factbook).

Abell Foundation grantees iMentor Baltimore, the CollegeBound Foundation, Building STEPS, and the University System of Maryland are working to improve college outcomes for City Schools students. Not only do they work to increase college application and acceptance rates, but they also support persistence initiatives to ensure enrolled college students graduate, ultimately increasing the quality and quantity of professional opportunities available to Baltimore's young people.

Launched in 2019, **iMentor Baltimore** focuses on increasing college acceptance rates at two high schools – Baltimore Design School and the Academy for College and Career Exploration. The program matches each eligible 11th and 12th-grade student with a volunteer mentor. During the school day, students participate in weekly college preparation and career access classes facilitated by an iMentor school-based program manager and develop individualized post-secondary pathway plans. In the most recent 2021 cohort, 41% of iMentor students enrolled in a four-year college, 18% enrolled in a two-year college, 5% enrolled in a certificate or vocational program, and 30% went directly into the workforce.

College acceptance rates for iMentor Baltimore students were 61% at the Academy for College and Career Exploration, compared to a historical average of 24%, and 96% at Baltimore Design School, compared to a historical average of 69%.

Founded in 1988 to address the need for an educated workforce in Baltimore City, the **CollegeBound Foundation** helps Baltimore City

Public Schools students succeed in postsecondary education. CollegeBound employs and trains more than 20 college advisors who provide on-site, year-round support at 19 high schools, and it offers need-based scholarships, advising, and mentoring to students to persist through college. With a grant from the Abell Foundation, CollegeBound established the College Completion Program (CCP) in 2016. CCP fills the through-college support gap with ongoing mentoring, academic support, financial counseling, and the allocation of stopgap resources. CCP has yielded impressive results, including an 83% overall retention rate for program participants and a 75% on-track-forgraduation rate.

In 2022, Abell provided seed funding to establish CollegeBound's Finishers' Fund, which helps upperclassmen and near-completers who require additional funding to graduate after losing financial aid or facing family financial hardship. In its first year, eight students received support from the Finishers' Fund, with an average award of \$2,100. All eight of these students went on to complete their college degrees.

"It's not enough that more City Schools graduates get into college — we need to help make sure they get through college and obtain their degrees. That's what's going to make the biggest difference in their lives and in our community."

Alicia Wilson, CollegeBound Foundation Board Chair Since 2000, **Building STEPS** has grown from serving 16 students at three schools to serving 180 students at 15 Baltimore City high schools, as well as 245 college students and nearly 100 college alumni. Building STEPS provides college readiness supports, including a summer experience, college visits, STEM seminars, individual advising, and scholarship support to students who maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average. Through the mentorship and guidance of the Building STEPS team, nearly 65% of participating students earn a college degree within six years. A 2019 economic analysis of 80 Building STEPS college graduates living in Maryland found that earnings averaged \$65,185 per graduate (Regional Economic Studies Institute).

The **University System of Maryland (USM)** comprises 12 public higher education institutions and three regional higher education centers. With a total student population exceeding 170,000, USM accounts for more than 70% of all students enrolled in a four-year university in Maryland.

Abell funded the Nurturing Excellence for Undergraduate Success (NEXUS) research project to address two related questions: 1) what steps can be taken to increase retention and graduation rates for Baltimore City Public Schools students at USM institutions, and 2) how can we improve college readiness for more Maryland students?

NEXUS is using current and retrospective data to identify best practices to support City Schools students at risk of dropping out of USM institutions. Based on their research, teams at each USM institution will begin piloting university-level projects alongside their partners at City Schools with the goal of improving student enrollment, retention, and graduation rates.

EDUCATION GRANTS

ARTS FOR LEARNING MARYLAND • BALTIMORE, MD \$30,000

In support of funding for durable supplies to be used during the Arts for Learning After School Arts and Learning Academy occurring in six schools and serving 570 students.

BALTIMORE CORPS • BALTIMORE, MD \$97,500

In support of the Mayoral Internship Program for 15 interns working in Baltimore City government agencies.

BALTIMORE CURRICULUM PROJECT INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$250,000

In support of the capital project to expand the footprint of Hampstead Hill Academy.

BALTIMORE KIDS CHESS LEAGUE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$60,000

In support of the 2022-2023 after-school chess program for nearly 1,000 K-12th grade students from over 45 Baltimore City schools.

BALTIMORE CITY COMPETITIVE ROBOTICS PROGRAM, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUND FOR **EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD** \$100,000

In support of coach stipends, equipment costs, and tournament fees for the Baltimore City Competitive Robotics Program, a citywide initiative providing competitive robotics to nearly 500 students.

BE.ORG INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$30,000

In support of general operating expenses for The Be.Org, a mentoring, workforce development, and STEM program serving 250 students across eight school sites.

BUILDING STEPS INC. • BROOKLANDVILLE, MD \$30,546

In support of STEM workshops, college advising, STEM-related internships, and college-directed programming provided to students in the Building STEPS Baltimore program.

COLLEGEBOUND FOUNDATION INC • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of the CollegeBound Finishers' Fund for graduates of Baltimore City Schools.

THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL • BALTIMORE, MD \$25,000

In support of the academic and mentoring program at The Community School.

FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD

\$50,000

In support of general operating costs.

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

In support of general operating expenses for Higher Achievement's after-school program at three Baltimore City schools, which will serve 150-200 students during the 2022-2023 school year.

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

In support of implementing the Mindful Moment Program in 16 partner schools across Baltimore City.

IMENTOR BALTIMORE • BALTIMORE, MD \$80,000

In support of iMentor Baltimore's expansion to a third site and continued development of the postsecondary pathways program.

IMPROVING EDUCATION • BALTIMORE, MD \$75,000

In support of the All Children Ready initiative at five South Baltimore Head Start centers and teacher supports in pre-kindergarten classrooms at four Baltimore City schools.

INGENUITY PROJECT INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$370,000

In support of the 2022-2023 Ingenuity Project, an advanced math, science, and research program for 924 middle and high school students in Baltimore City.

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

In support of the Literacy Lab Pre-K and K-3 literacy interventions for Baltimore students during the 2022-2023 school year.

MODERN CLASSROOMS PROJECT • WASHINGTON, DC \$50,000

In support of launching a Modern Classrooms Project pilot with 50 Baltimore City teachers during the 2022-2023 school year.

MOTHER SETON ACADEMY • BALTIMORE, MD \$25,000

In support of general operations.

PARKS & PEOPLE FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD \$35,000

In support of a newly reimagined Branches program focused on workforce development and green STEM career exploration for up to 80 high school students in Baltimore City.

SAINT FRANCES ACADEMY • BALTIMORE, MD \$120,000

In support of the Sister Mary of Good Counsel Wellness Center, which provides services for Saint Frances scholars and parents, and community residents.

SAINT LUKE'S YOUTH CENTER • BALTIMORE, MD \$20,000

In support of general operations for Saint Luke's Youth Center community programs.

SPRINGBOARD COLLABORATIVE • PHILADELPHIA, PA \$50,000

In support of a 10-week after-school literacy program for Pre-K-3rd grade students operating in at least 30 Baltimore City public schools.

STEM CHAMPIONS OF BALTIMORE, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD \$35,000

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

STRONG SCHOOLS MARYLAND, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD \$40.000

In support of general operating expenses for Strong Schools Maryland as it monitors and engages stakeholders in the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

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

In support of general operating expenses.

THREAD INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$400.000

In support of general operating expenses for Thread to provide support and wrap-around services to approximately 800 young people during the 2022-2023 academic year.



UMBC FOUNDATION • ADELPHI, MD \$45,000

In support of the UMBC Reach Together Tutoring Program (RTTP), a program providing high-dosage mathematics tutoring for 450 students across five schools in Baltimore during the 2022-2023 school year.

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

In support of the Positive Schools Center's restorative training and coaching for 25 Baltimore City Public Schools.

THE URBAN ALLIANCE FOUNDATION INC. • WASHINGTON, DC

\$50,000

In support of the Urban Alliance Healthcare Pathway program, a pilot to prepare high school seniors in Baltimore City for careers in health care through sector-based internships, industry training, professional mentoring, and case management.

URBAN TEACHERS • BALTIMORE, MD \$100,000

In support of general operating expenses for the Urban Teachers educator training and support program.





Turnaround Tuesday

Universities and hospitals often serve as the largest local employers in their communities and are vital to their local economies. These "anchor institutions" may be rooted in place but disconnected from the neighborhoods that surround them.

Since 2014, the Abell Foundation has supported the Turnaround Tuesday jobs initiative, created by BUILD (Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development) to connect Baltimore's largest anchor institutions to unemployed neighborhood residents. With support from Abell, Turnaround Tuesday has grown into a significant employment pipeline to Johns Hopkins Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland Medical Center, and MedStar Hospital. In its first year, Turnaround Tuesday placed 98 people into jobs, with 30 placed into environmental services jobs and other entrylevel positions within Johns Hopkins Medicine, and 25 placed into jobs in the construction industry.

In 2022, Turnaround Tuesday celebrated its 1,500th job placement. That year alone, it placed 260 people into jobs, with a median starting wage of \$16.84 an hour. Turnaround Tuesday defines 68% of those jobs as being quality jobs, which offer full-time employment, over \$15 per hour, medical and vacation benefits, and a career pathway. Of those placed into jobs, 47% were

male, 93% were African-American, and 64% were justice-involved.

Turnaround Tuesday provides personal and professional coaching to participants, including mapping out career pathways. It is designed to create community leaders and advocates for creating more quality jobs at anchor institutions. Turnaround Tuesday is built on trust, taking the uncertainty out of the hiring process for both employers and job seekers: employers can trust that applicants have been vetted, and applicants can trust that by participating in the training program, they can at least land an interview with a major employer for a quality job.

Turnaround Tuesday is now a separate 501(c)(3) organization, independent from BUILD, and it is attracting national interest in expanding its programming. In 2019, Turnaround Tuesday (with BUILD as its fiscal sponsor) was awarded a \$2.9 million forgivable loan over five years from the New World Foundation to build the necessary infrastructure to scale its program and place 1,000 people in quality jobs over five years. That investment led to a \$500,000 planning grant from Blue Meridian Partners in 2022, pairing Turnaround Tuesday with consultants to map out how best to scale operations to triple the number of Baltimore residents it serves.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

BALTIMORE ALLIANCE FOR CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$95,000

In support of expanding the BACH Apprenticeship program's Certified Medical Assistant and Licensed Practical Nurse career tracks.

BIOTECHNICAL INSTITUTE OF MARYLAND INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$80,000

In support of the BioSTART to Laboratory Associates program.

BYTE BACK • LANGLEY PARK, MD \$100,000

In support of free digital literacy and tech training in Baltimore.

CASH CAMPAIGN OF MARYLAND • BALTIMORE, MD

\$120,000

In support of providing low-income individuals and families 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 services and supports for Baltimore residents to overcome obstacles, develop skills, and earn family-sustaining wages.

CIVIC WORKS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$100,000

In support of expanding access to familysustaining careers for Baltimore residents from historically marginalized communities.

FRIENDLY LOVING OPPORTUNITIES • BALTIMORE, MD

\$40,000

In support of the FLO Apprenticeship Program.

HOLY NATIVITY AND ST. JOHN'S DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD \$50,000

In support of Conscious Heads Barbering Boot Camp.

JANE ADDAMS RESOURCE CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of welding and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) training programs to prepare low-income adults for entry-level positions in the manufacturing and construction industries.

LIVING CLASSROOMS FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD \$200,000

In support of Project SERVE.

LYDIA'S HOUSE IN SOUTHEAST • BALTIMORE, MD \$75,000

In support of the Leaders In Transition (LIT) Program.

MARYLAND NEW DIRECTIONS • BALTIMORE, MD \$120,000

In support of Maryland New Directions' employment training programs.

MARYLAND REGIONAL DIRECT SERVICES COLLABORATIVE • WASHINGTON, DC

\$30,000

In support of producing and disseminating a report on improving job quality and creating a highly trained direct services workforce in Baltimore.

NATIONAL CENTER ON INSTITUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES • BALTIMORE, MD \$100,000

In support of occupational skills training for SNAP recipients in Baltimore City.



NPOWER INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$125,000

In support of providing 150 young adults and 50 military veterans with IT certification training and paid internships in the IT industry.

ROSE STREET COMMUNITY CENTER, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD \$300,000

In support of expanding Rose Street's community cleanups to additional neighborhoods while continuing to provide transitional housing, emergency shelter, and gang mediation.

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD \$113,550

In support of a community cleaning and workforce collaborative designed to reduce violence, trash, and blight in the Ellwood Park and McElderry Park neighborhoods.

TURNAROUND TUESDAY INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$125,000

In support of Turnaround Tuesday's workforce development and job placement services.

THE WORK FIRST FOUNDATION INC. • NEW YORK, NY \$400,000

In support of providing employment services to returning citizens and an alternative to incarceration for those awaiting trial.



From Prison Cells to PhD

As a young man, Stanley Andrisse was convicted of three felonies and sentenced to 10 years in prison for drug trafficking. Now, he is now an endocrinologist and assistant professor at Johns Hopkins and Howard universities. Passionate about giving back, Dr. Andrisse created Prison-to-Professionals (P2P) to help formerly incarcerated individuals pursue higher education and reenter the workforce.

P2P serves up to 80 individuals in several cohorts over the course of a year. P2P clients receive literacy and math tutoring, college application assistance, and career readiness training. Components of the program include an eightweek skills training workshop and 10 months of case management that includes weekly peer mentoring, executive coaching, and tutoring. The program takes place at the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Transition Center, Morgan Cares in East Baltimore, and on Zoom. Funding from the Abell Foundation supports salaries and flexible funds for participants to help them access supports such as housing, IDs, tools/clothes for work, transportation, and food. To date, P2P has helped 234 individuals complete the program. Of those, 93.5% have matriculated into post-secondary education, and 70% have obtained full-time employment. Only 1.5% of program participants have recidivated.

P2P is also collaborating with Baltimore City Community College and Howard University on a five-year National Institute of Health (NIH) grant – the Bridges to Baccalaureate program – that will provide full scholarships to 36 individuals. The NIH grant supports underrepresented minority students as they complete associate's degrees and transfer to four-year institutions to earn Bachelor of Science degrees in a STEM field. P2P is constantly evolving to meet the needs of its clients and has engaged in several programmatic evaluations.

"Trying to readjust back into society while being on home confinement was a challenge. ... I believed that I would only be able to obtain certain jobs and trades, but P2P has given me hope and the push I needed to pursue greater endeavors. **Networking with individuals** that not only can relate to being justice impacted but have also risen above the limitations society tends to put on us gave me so much encouragement. I now know that even with a conviction, there are no limits. I am capable and deserving of more."

Rachelle Hankerson, P2P Cohort 24 Scholar



UB Human Trafficking Prevention Program

The Human Trafficking Prevention Project (HTPP) seeks to reduce the collateral consequences of criminal justice involvement for survivors of human trafficking, who often have records of prostitution or other related charges, exacerbating their victimization. With Abell Foundation support, HTPP is transitioning from a clinical law program at the University of Baltimore School of Law to an independent nonprofit organization, enabling it to serve significantly more clients.

Beginning in 2015, UB student attorneys provided direct legal representation to survivors of trafficking who were seeking to vacate, expunge, or shield charges on their criminal records.

Student attorneys also assisted clients with quashing warrants and represented survivors convicted of federal crimes stemming from their trafficking experience in federal and state clemency and pardon petitions. In 2016, HTPP expanded to include a partnership with Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service to address civil legal needs of trafficking survivors. These needs include cases related to divorce and child custody, denial of housing or other public benefits, and consumer debt matters.

With funding from the Abell Foundation, the organization is staffed by an executive director, two staff attorneys, and a paralegal. This transition and staff expansion increases HTPP's direct representation of clients by an additional 80 individuals, on top of the more than 200 it traditionally has served each year. HTPP will be able to maintain and expand its presence in Baltimore City, adding two to four additional outreach locations where it will provide on-site legal assistance and referrals. Meeting with potential clients at a familiar location where they have already developed trust removes one of the many barriers that survivors face when accessing services.

In addition to providing direct legal services to clients, HTPP provides approximately 30 trainings to attorneys annually, teaching them how to petition the court to vacate trafficking-related criminal convictions under Maryland's criminal record relief law and how to petition for expungement of qualifying offenses, which would remove portions of their client's criminal records from public inspection.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE GRANTS

AMERICAN WITNESS • WASHINGTON, DC \$150,000

In support of Baltimore Witness's efforts to bring transparency and accountability to Baltimore's criminal justice system.

CHARM CITY CARE CONNECTION • BALTIMORE, MD \$50,000

In support of general operations.

COMMUNITY MEDIATION PROGRAM INC. DBA BALTIMORE COMMUNITY MEDIATION CENTER • BALTIMORE. MD

\$40,167

In support of general operations.

FROM PRISON CELLS TO PHD INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$45,000

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

HISTORIC EAST BALTIMORE COMMUNITY ACTION COALITION INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$75,000

In support of Dee's Place.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR KIDS • WASHINGTON, DC \$50,000

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

INTERFAITH ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS • WASHINGTON, DC \$50,000

In support of ending prolonged isolation (solitary confinement) in Maryland's prisons.

THE JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE • WASHINGTON, DC \$50,000

In support of general operations to help inform efforts to support parole and pretrial justice reform in Baltimore City and Maryland.

MARIAN HOUSE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$100,000

In support of transitional supportive housing for women and children.

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT • BALTIMORE, MD

\$170,938

In support of continuing the warrant service analyst position.

NO STRUGGLE NO SUCCESS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$100,000

In support of the No Struggle No Success Youth & Adult Reentry Program.

ROCA • CHELSEA, MA \$250,000

In support of the capital campaign to purchase and renovate Roca Baltimore's building at 880 Park Avenue.

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD

\$114,182

In support of the Human Trafficking Prevention Project.

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD

\$25,000

In support of the Truancy Court Program at the University of Baltimore School of Law's Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts.





Blue Water Baltimore

Blue Water Baltimore (BWB) plays an important citizen watchdog role in watershed protection and enhancement by delivering on its mission to strengthen communities, improve public health, and advance water quality improvements. The organization employs targeted advocacy to address adverse impacts of inadequate stormwater and wastewater systems through infrastructure improvements and deploys green infrastructure assets such as trees, bioswales, and rain gardens.

Over the past 10 years, Abell funding has supported BWB's operating budget – including partial salaries for water quality scientists and outreach, advocacy, and communications staff – in an effort to decrease pollutants in Baltimore's waterways and build climate equity and resiliency among Baltimore City communities.

Like many other municipalities, Baltimore City is under a federal court consent decree to fix its failing sewer system and end sewage overflows into streams, rivers, and the Baltimore Harbor. The court granted BWB status to intervene in the federal and state enforcement suit in 2016, enabling direct input on issues of public health, transparency, violations, and enforcement. Of particular concern are the thousands of sewage backups into residents' basements that occur each year. BWB has consistently argued that systems solutions, not solely household prevention, are needed to reduce the preponderance of basement backups in residences. BWB has successfully advocated for robust and easily accessible financial assistance to households and onsite cleanup to reduce and eliminate the burden of cleanup on residents.

Working directly with communities and residents, BWB has found that those impacted by the environmental and health impacts of failing infrastructure and the changing climate are most often low-income communities of color. By amplifying concerns and building capacity for advocacy, BWB helps facilitate timely and accountable completion of urgent public health and environmental goals with city, state, and federal agency partners, particularly for residents on the front lines of environmental injustice.

"BWB's range of programs, staff, and volunteers not only work alongside and show residents how to do their part by getting out and working to restore their communities and the environment, but also by using water quality monitoring, science, advocacy and our legal system when necessary to hold polluters accountable for preventing pollution and reversing any damage they have caused."

Bob Summers, BWB Board Member and

former Maryland Secretary of the Environment

ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

BALTIMORE TREE TRUST • BALTIMORE, MD \$60,000

In support of expanding the Neighborhood Foresters Initiative to train a workforce by increasing the tree canopy in Baltimore City.

BLUE WATER BALTIMORE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$50,000

In support of decreasing the pollutants in Baltimore's waterways and building climate equity and resiliency among Baltimore City communities.

CHESAPEAKE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK • TAKOMA PARK, MD \$85,000

In support of the Maryland Climate Justice Campaign and an updated study of the potential for additional offshore wind in Maryland.

CIVIC WORKS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD \$65,000

In support of providing low-income households with updated appliance and heating systems that will create healthier homes, reduce energy consumption, and strengthen household finances.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND • NEW YORK, NY \$75,000

In support of leveraging federal resources toward securing clean air, climate, and health-protective solutions in vulnerable Baltimore communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY PROJECT • WASHINGTON, DC \$50.000

In support of the Baltimore Environmental Justice Campaign.

INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH • TAKOMA PARK, MD \$35,000

In support of an equity study of Maryland's energy transition that centers on adoption by low-income households and addresses cost burden.

MARYLAND PIRG FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD \$40,000

In support of the Smart Energy Solutions campaign to improve implementation and impact of Maryland's energy efficiency program to achieve greater and more equitable consumer and climate benefits.

SIERRA CLUB MARYLAND CHAPTER, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY MARYLAND PHILANTHROPY • RIVERDALE, MD

\$105,000

In support of Climate Partners to advance implementation of the Climate Solutions Now Act.

WATERKEEPERS CHESAPEAKE • TAKOMA PARK, MD \$35,000

In support of using Baltimore as a case study for creating change in Maryland environmental enforcement.

ARTS GRANTS

MOUNT VERNON VIRTUOSI • BALTIMORE, MD \$35,000

In support of hiring a full-time staff member to lead the growth of free community-centered concerts and music education initiatives in Baltimore.



CASE STUDY:

Astor Court Apartments

Quality teachers are critical to improving educational outcomes of Baltimore City public schoolchildren, but city schools face strong competition in recruiting and retaining them.

Two decades ago, the Abell Foundation saw a need to help attract new teachers to Baltimore and support them in their first years of the profession. Abell combined its commitments to education, community development, and mission-related investments in a unique effort to provide teachers with affordable housing and a supportive community of fellow educators. In 2005, Astor Court Apartments became one of the first purpose-built housing projects for teachers in the country.

For nearly 10 years prior, Astor Court Apartments sat vacant and open to the elements a mere six blocks from the Johns Hopkins University campus in Charles Village. Eventually, the building was foreclosed upon for delinquent taxes and accumulated water bills. Working together with the new owner and developer, Abell helped layer 13 sources of tiered financing, including city, state, and federal historic tax credits and loans to keep the rent structure appropriate for beginning teacher salaries. Abell also provided credit enhancements, flexible capital to close financing gaps, and staff support to overcome construction obstacles and enhance connections to schools for leasing.

The building, which dates from the 1920s, received an exterior face-lift and interior renovation. With attention to restoring the building's historic elements – including large retail windows, marble steps, and original tile floors – the developers

reconfigured three residential floors into 36 spacious and attractively designed apartments with modern amenities and created four first-floor commercial spaces. Since opening in 2005, the building has maintained full occupancy with a make-up of approximately two-thirds teachers and one-third other professionals and graduate-level students.

Astor Court became a catalyst for similar developments in Baltimore. In the intervening years, Baltimore's Seawall Development Corporation brought award-winning Miller's Court and Union Mill to market, proving not only the economic viability of the teacher housing model but also its attractiveness to tenants and design experts alike.

"Astor Court was really the first example in Baltimore of this kind of product," said Seawall Development's Thibault Manekin. "We learned a lot from how they put the project together and what it could mean for a neighborhood."

Astor Court Apartments sold in early 2023 at top value through competitive bids, fully repaying all outstanding loans and generating a significant return to further Abell's mission. The new owner was selected based in part on their commitment to maintaining housing for teachers. Astor Court achieved multiple strategic purposes – the redevelopment project created quality, affordable housing for new teachers; repurposed a vacant building into a productive tax-paying property; and breathed new life into the Old Goucher College historic district, spurring additional investment in the area.



Small Grants

In 2022, the Abell Foundation also awarded small grants of \$10,000 or less to the following organizations:

Ability Alliance Challenge 2 Change Inc. Liberty Village Project, **Southeast Community** Fiscally Sponsored by Fund **Development Corporation** CHARM: Voices of Adelante Latina Inc. for Educational Excellence Baltimore Youth, Fiscally Susanna Wesley House Adopt A Block Inc. Sponsored by Fund for Main Street Housing TAEL Enterprise Inc. **Educational Excellence Associated Black Charities** Maryland Citizens Team Silk, Fiscally for the Arts Chase Brexton Health Care Ballet After Dark, Fiscally Sponsored by McElderry Sponsored by Bmore Cloverdale AC/BBA Maryland Philanthropy Park Community Empowered Inc. Network Association Inc. CollegeBound **Baltimore Architecture** Mr. Mack Lewis Foundation Inc. Technical.ly Media, Foundation Foundation Inc., Fiscally Fiscally Sponsored by Downtown Partnership Sponsored by Historic East The GroundTruth Projec Baltimore Chesapeake Bay of Baltimore **Baltimore Community Outward Bound School** Tendea Family Inc. **Action Coalition** Family Survivor Network Baltimore Council on TNTP Inc. **Network for Teaching** Focus on Children Foreign Affairs Entrepreneurship United for Success DBA Todd Eustace and Irene **Baltimore Development** Focus on Communities New Life Food Pantry Inc. Reyna Empowerment Corporation **United for Success Scholarship Corporation Next City** Baltimore Jewelry Center Food Rescue Baltimore, Transforming Youths Fiscally Sponsored by The No Boundaries **Baltimore Urban** Into Adults Fusion Partnerships Inc. Coalition **Baseball Association UEmpower of Maryland** Friends of Sisson No Struggle No **Baltimore Urban** Success Inc. Street Park Corp. University of Maryland Leadership Foundation School of Medicine Fund for Educational North Avenue Mission, **Baltimore Youth Sports** Excellence Fiscally Sponsored by Athletic Association **ViSION** Delaware-Maryland Synod Greater Baltimore **Evangelical Lutheran** Banner Lake Club The Wildseed Gear Committee Church in America Library, Fiscally Sponsored Banner Neighborhoods **Greater Mount Holly** by Equity Matters **Community Corporation** Open Works Community Development WombWork **Beginning Effective** Corporation The P.E.A.C.E Team Productions Inc. **Recovery Together** HTP Homes Inc. PeacePlayers International Yleana Leadership Belair Edison Area Intersection of Change PHILLIPS Programs Revitalization Foundation Jaebonnah Blackie Project I CAN, Fiscally By Peaceful Means, You Artistry and Zobon Kingg Sponsored by Banner Fiscally Sponsored by Collaborative Inc. Resource Center Inc. Neighborhoods St. Frances Academy **Community Corporation** Young Victorian Johns Hopkins University Center for Climate **Theatre Company** Reconstruct & Rebuild, Strategies Led Ladies Fiscally Sponsored by

Center for Technology Access and Training Fusion Partnerships Inc.

Publications

Abell Reports

the country.

A Look at Three Promising Program Models (January 2022) Recently, researchers interested in improving cognitive performance have turned their attention to interventions aimed at improving executive function. This report explains the research behind improving executive function, documents three programs that are currently being implemented at a limited scale in

Baltimore City Public Schools, and describes the

implementation and outcomes in other parts of

Supporting Executive Function in Schools:

Evaluating the Cost of Lead Hazard Control and Abatement in Baltimore City (April 2022) This report researches and estimates the cost to eradicate residential lead hazards in Baltimore City. It utilizes methods of widespread abatement that have been implemented in other cities together with estimates of contractor costs and housing stock specific to Baltimore City.

Investigating the Geothermal Potential of Baltimore (July 2022) We need to develop sustainable, clean, and affordable sources of energy. Can heat from the Earth's interior offer a potential solution? This Abell Report examines the science of geothermal energy and evaluates whether it's a viable alternative for Baltimore.

Examining the Opportunities and Challenges of the Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)

Program in Baltimore (November 2022) RAD is a mechanism by which Public Housing

Authorities can preserve their deeply affordable public housing stock through conversion to

Project-Based Vouchers or Project-Based Rental Assistance. Twenty-three housing developments in the city have undergone RAD conversations in the first two phases of the project, with 12 more in the pipeline. This report assesses the impacts of the program on preserving Baltimore's deeply affordable housing stock.

Costly Delays: Diagnosing and addressing operational delays in Baltimore's nonprofit contracting process (December 2022) Baltimore nonprofits have struggled for years with obtaining timely payments of government grants that they rely upon to fund their operations. While the pandemic may have exacerbated this issue, it is clear the problem long predated the COVID-19 pandemic. This report explores some of the reasons for the delayed payments and offers solutions to streamline the government grants process while still ensuring accountability for public funds.



Abell-Supported Research

Solar on Superstores (January 2022) America has only just begun to tap its solar potential. To accelerate the transition to a future of 100% clean and renewable energy, America must take advantage of untapped solar energy opportunities, including on the rooftops of "big box" superstores. With funding support by the Abell Foundation, Environment America Research and Policy Center produced a new report that captures the scope of the opportunity and the urgency to take immediate action.

The Costs of Baltimore's Vacant Housing

(September 2022) In this report, Mary Miller and Mac McComas of the Johns Hopkins 21st Century Cities Initiative estimate that Baltimore's vacant housing accounts for at least \$100 million in lost tax revenue annually and an additional \$100 million in annual public expenses. The report argues that understanding the true costs of vacant properties is the first step in developing a broader economic plan for increasing residency in the city.

Taking Stock of Digital Inclusion in Maryland

(October 2022) Developed as a collaboration between technology consultant John Horrigan, the

Community Development Network of Maryland, and Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, this mapping tool sheds light on the geography of disconnection in Maryland and underscores the need for urgent action.

Maryland Offshore Wind: Estimating the Costs and Benefits of Offshore Wind Energy Development

(December 2022) There is an urgent need for affordable, sustainable renewable energy. With Abell funding, Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) undertook a technical analysis of what it would take to expand the size and scope of Maryland's offshore wind program and estimated the costs and benefits of such an expansion in terms of both electricity rates and of health and environmental impacts.

Standing Last in Line: The Hurdles to Bringing
Environmental Accountability Lawsuits in Maryland

(December 2022) Guided by the view that judicial remedies due to environmental harms should be the same for everyone, regardless of income, race, or ethnicity, Waterkeepers Chesapeake, in partnership with Chesapeake Legal Alliance and Center for Progressive Reform, released a joint report on the legal hurdles to communities and individuals bringing lawsuits on environmental matters in Maryland.

Abell Foundation Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Investments	\$279,488,422	\$360,775,338
Direct investments	22,937,242	22,502,578
Program-related investments and other loans, net	9,032,504	8,933,044
Other assets, net	6,630,435	6,143,710
Total Assets	\$318,088,603	\$398,354,670
-		
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Grants scheduled for future payment	\$4,921,541	\$4,678,169
Guarantee liabilities	36,145,044	35,651,880
Payables and other liabilities	2,658,968	2,379,714
Total Liabilities	43,725,553	42,709,763
Commitments and contingencies		
Net assets without donor restrictions	274,363,050	355,644,907
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$318,088,603	\$398,354,670

Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

Abell Foundation Inc. and Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statements of **Activities**

Years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
REVENUE		
Dividends, interest, partnership revenues	\$5,990,513	\$3,574,268
Realized gains (losses), net	25,428,658	38,487,541
Unrealized gains (losses), net	(93,993,351)	3,388,762
Other	370,374	379,130
Total revenue	(62,203,806)	45,829,701
EXPENSES		
Grants and grant related expenditures	13,475,118	14,724,322
Administrative expenses	3,637,200	3,553,001
Investment expenses	1,386,138	822,938
Federal excise tax provision	579,595	604,715
Total expenses	19,078,051	19,704,976
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	(81,281,857)	26,124,725
Net assets without donor restrictions:		
Beginning	355,644,907	329,520,182
Ending	\$274,363,050	\$355,644,907

Staff and Trustees

Staff

Tracey M. Barbour-Gillett, Program Officer, Community Development and Arts

Robert C. Embry, Jr., President

Wanda D. Gresham, Office Manager

Beth Harber, Senior Program Officer, Community Development and Environment

Alice Jones, Executive Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer

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111 S. Calvert Street Suite 2300 Baltimore, MD 21202-6174

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