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# ANNUAL REPORT

2022

ABELL  
FOUNDATION





ABELL  
FOUNDATION



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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.









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





## 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.

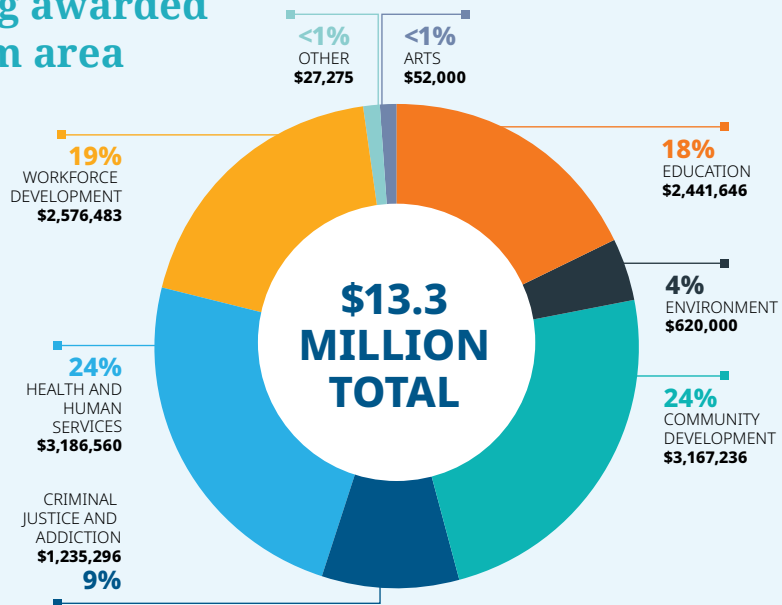
Meanwhile, we have worked to directly support innovative approaches to bettering the lives of Baltimoreans. Nearly 50 recipients of Abell funds were first-time grantees in 2022, up by a quarter from the year before. Helping to support those

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.

## Amount of funding awarded in 2022 by program area

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







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# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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 community-based 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.





# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

REVOLUTION  
WINDOW SYSTEMS



CASE STUDY:

## 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.

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**“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*  
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## CASE STUDY: **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.

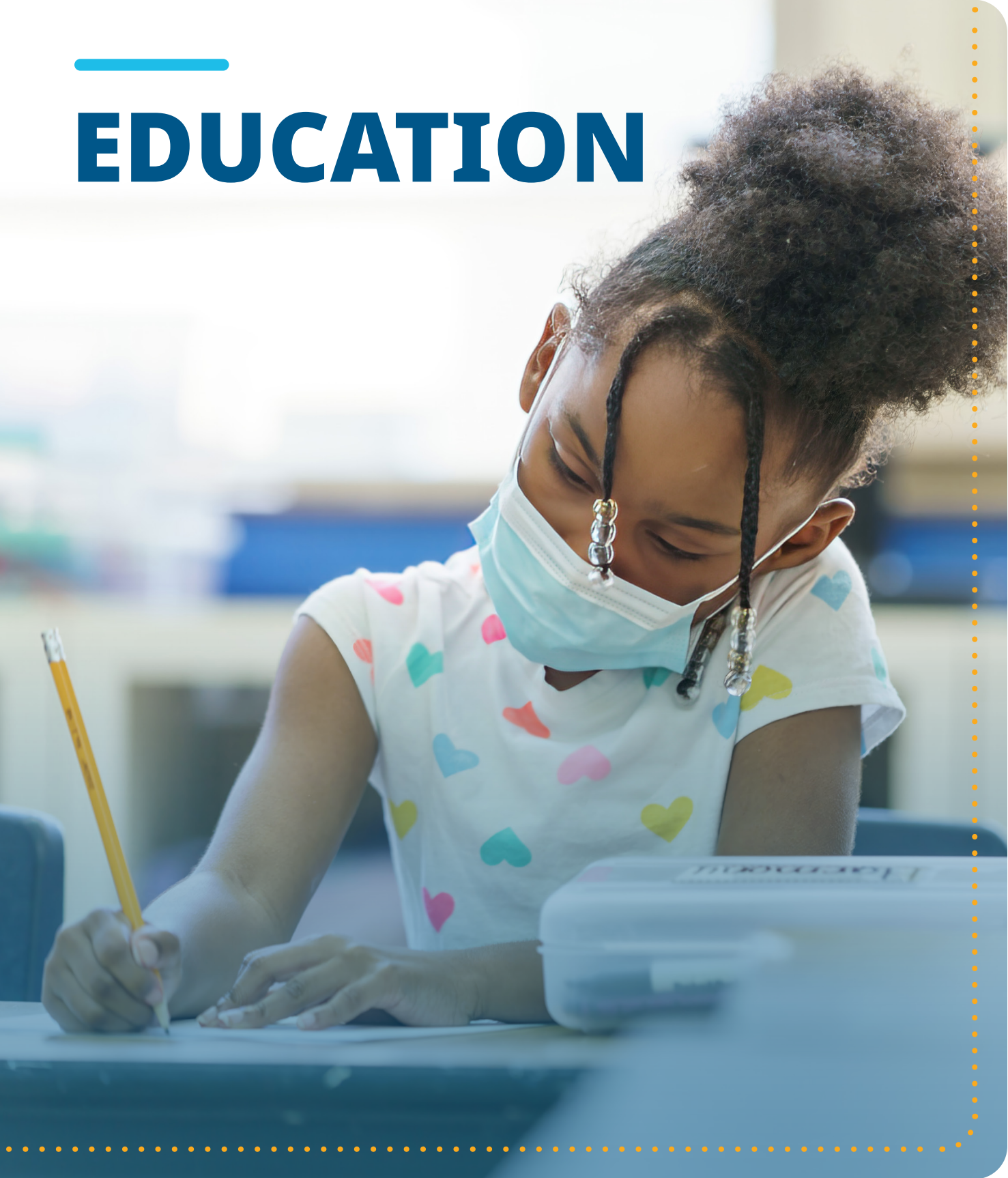
**THE YORK ROAD PARTNERSHIP, FISCALLY  
SPONSORED BY GEDCO • BALTIMORE, MD  
\$30,000**

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



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# EDUCATION



CASE STUDY:

# 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.

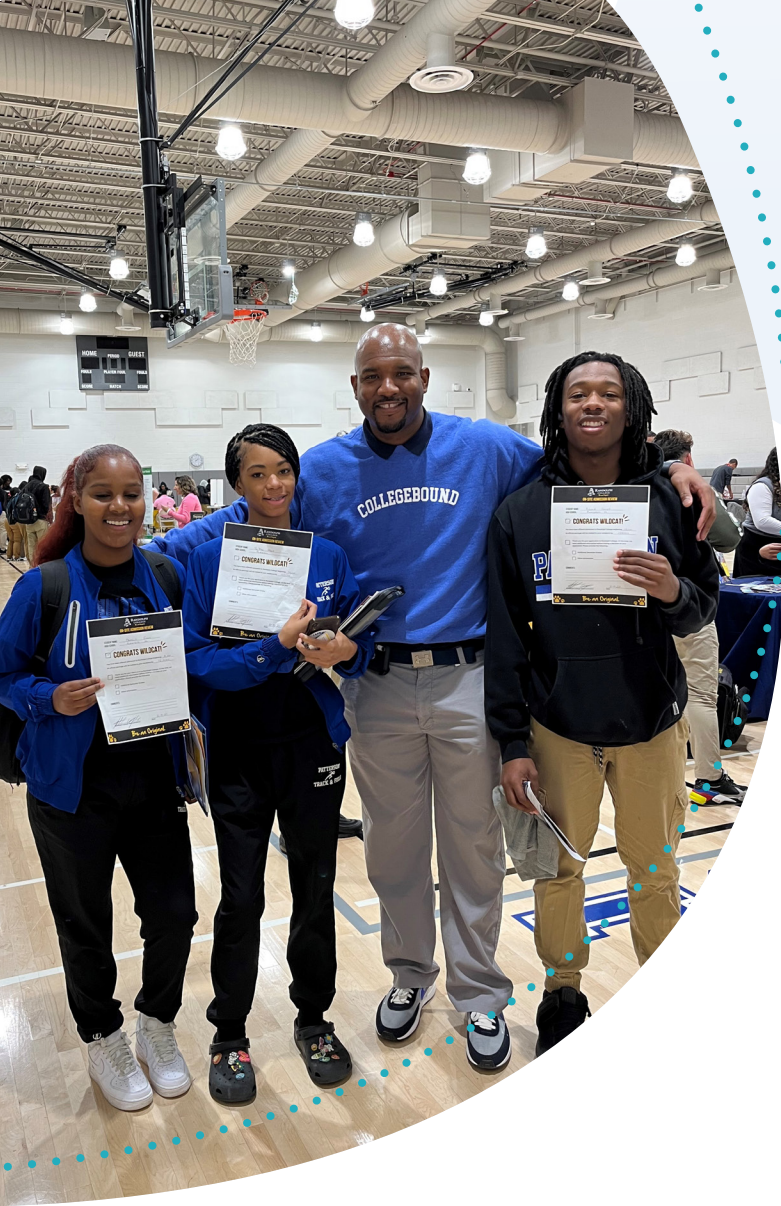
Funded in part by Baltimore City Public Schools, the Baltimore City Competitive Robotics Program's full-time robotics specialist manages all aspects of



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.





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.

## 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).

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-for-graduation 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 post-secondary 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.





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# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT





## CASE STUDY:

# 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 entry-level 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 family-sustaining 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.





# CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND ADDICTION

CASE STUDY:

## 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 eight-week 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.

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**“ 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*

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**CASE STUDY:**

## **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.





# ENVIRONMENT





CASE STUDY:

## 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.

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**“ 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*

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## 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.

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## 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.



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# MISSION-RELATED INVESTMENTS



## CASE STUDY:

# Astor Court Apartments

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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

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

Ability Alliance

Adelante Latina Inc.

Adopt A Block Inc.

Associated Black Charities

Ballet After Dark, Fiscally Sponsored by Bmore Empowered Inc.

Baltimore Architecture Foundation

Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School

Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs

Baltimore Development Corporation

Baltimore Jewelry Center

Baltimore Urban Baseball Association

Baltimore Urban Leadership Foundation

Baltimore Youth Sports Athletic Association

Banner Lake Club

Banner Neighborhoods Community Corporation

Beginning Effective Recovery Together

Belair Edison Area Revitalization

By Peaceful Means, Fiscally Sponsored by St. Frances Academy

Center for Climate Strategies

Center for Technology Access and Training

Challenge 2 Change Inc.

CHARM: Voices of Baltimore Youth, Fiscally Sponsored by Fund for Educational Excellence

Chase Brexton Health Care

Cloverdale AC/BBA

CollegeBound Foundation Inc.

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore

Family Survivor Network

Focus on Children United for Success DBA Focus on Communities United for Success

Food Rescue Baltimore, Fiscally Sponsored by Fusion Partnerships Inc.

Friends of Sisson Street Park Corp.

Fund for Educational Excellence

Greater Baltimore Committee

Greater Mount Holly Community Development Corporation

HTP Homes Inc.

Intersection of Change

Jaebonah Blackie and Zobon Kingg Resource Center Inc.

Johns Hopkins University

Led Ladies

Liberty Village Project, Fiscally Sponsored by Fund for Educational Excellence

Main Street Housing

Maryland Citizens for the Arts

Maryland Philanthropy Network

Mr. Mack Lewis Foundation Inc., Fiscally Sponsored by Historic East Baltimore Community Action Coalition

Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship

New Life Food Pantry Inc.

Next City

The No Boundaries Coalition

No Struggle No Success Inc.

North Avenue Mission, Fiscally Sponsored by Delaware-Maryland Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Open Works

The P.E.A.C.E Team

PeacePlayers International

PHILLIPS Programs

Project I CAN, Fiscally Sponsored by Banner Neighborhoods Community Corporation

Reconstruct & Rebuild, Fiscally Sponsored by Fusion Partnerships Inc.

Southeast Community Development Corporation

Susanna Wesley House

TAEL Enterprise Inc.

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

Technical.ly Media, Fiscally Sponsored by The GroundTruth Project

Tendea Family Inc.

TNTP Inc.

Todd Eustace and Irene Reyna Empowerment Scholarship Corporation

Transforming Youths Into Adults

UEmpower of Maryland

University of Maryland School of Medicine

ViSION

The Wildseed Gear Library, Fiscally Sponsored by Equity Matters

WombWork Productions Inc.

Yleana Leadership Foundation

You Artistry Collaborative Inc.

Young Victorian Theatre Company



# Publications

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## Abell Reports

### [Supporting Executive Function in Schools: 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 the country.

### [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 conversions 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.



# Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
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
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$318,088,603</b>	<b>\$398,354,670</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>		
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
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>43,725,553</b>	<b>42,709,763</b>
Commitments and contingencies		
Net assets without donor restrictions	274,363,050	355,644,907
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$318,088,603</b>	<b>\$398,354,670</b>

Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

# Consolidated Statements of Activities

Years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
<b>REVENUE</b>		
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
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>(62,203,806)</b>	<b>45,829,701</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
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
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>19,078,051</b>	<b>19,704,976</b>
<b>Change in net assets without donor restrictions</b>	<b>(81,281,857)</b>	<b>26,124,725</b>
Net assets without donor restrictions:		
Beginning	355,644,907	329,520,182
Ending	\$274,363,050	\$355,644,907



# Staff and Trustees

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**The Abell Foundation**

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