



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

ABELL
FOUNDATION



Holistic Wellness
A Whole Person
Holistic-Wellness

Nature's Promise
EXTRA FINE
Pink Himalayan Salt
THIS SALT DOES NOT SUPPLY IODINE. 100% AUTHENTIC.

Nature's Promise
Organic
Blue Agave Nectar
60

ABELL
FOUNDATION

Table of Contents

Our Commitment	5
Foreword	6
Program Area Overviews	
Health and Human Services	8
Community Development	15
Education	21
Workforce Development	26
Criminal Justice and Addiction	30
Environment	36
Small Grants	39
Publications	42
Financial Statements	
Consolidated Statements of Financial Position	44
Consolidated Statements of Activities	45
Staff and Trustees	46

Cover photo: Patterson Park Public Charter School*

Inside cover photo: Farm Alliance of Baltimore Inc.

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

All other photos courtesy of grantee organizations.





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

The year 2023 was a milestone for Baltimore: It was the first since the death of Freddie Gray that did not see more than 300 people murdered in the city. That development was remarkable not just because of the lives saved and trauma spared but also because of the holistic public safety strategy that helped produce it. After decades of debate about policing and prosecutorial tactics, Baltimore leaders broadly embraced a view that the violence that has tragically defined this city for so long is not a problem in isolation but rather a product of complex, intertwined, and deeply seated disparities—in education, economic status, health, physical environment, and more—that are rooted in Baltimore’s history of segregation, disinvestment and persistent racial discrimination. For violence reduction strategies to be successful, they must address these disparities and their root causes.

During the past year, the Abell Foundation has supported a number of direct approaches to reducing violence and improving public safety—for example, helping to fund the oversight and evaluation of Baltimore’s Group Violence Reduction Strategy and several programs designed to reduce violence among the city’s youth, some of which are described in this report. But as has long been the case, the bulk of our funding has gone to help organizations that work to reduce disparities and the conditions under which violence took hold.

In the past year, that has included support for an innovative organization that helps people get

and keep the identification documents needed for everything from renting an apartment to getting a job; a tutoring program that helps City Schools students succeed by pairing them with local college students; a food program that not only addresses hunger but also trains clients for careers and entrepreneurship; and organizations that provide paid work experience for returning citizens and teenagers who face significant employment barriers. What these efforts share in common is a recognition of the complex challenges many of our neighbors face and of the great potential they hold.

The understanding that Baltimore’s chronic violence is deeply intertwined with its many other entrenched challenges is not new, but 2023 showed signs that as a city, we are at a rare point of resolve to act on it. ReBUILD Metro, which is profiled in these pages, was born two decades ago in the aftermath of a tragic act of violence, the murder of the Dawson family in East Baltimore. Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD) canvassed the community following the Dawsons’ deaths, with neighbors demanding investments to rehabilitate vacant and neglected housing in the Oliver neighborhood and a commitment to connect community residents to employment at anchor institutions and area businesses. In the time since, ReBUILD has achieved remarkable results in the redevelopment of Oliver, Greenmount West, and now Johnston Square, producing increased population, higher incomes, and lower crime without gentrification.

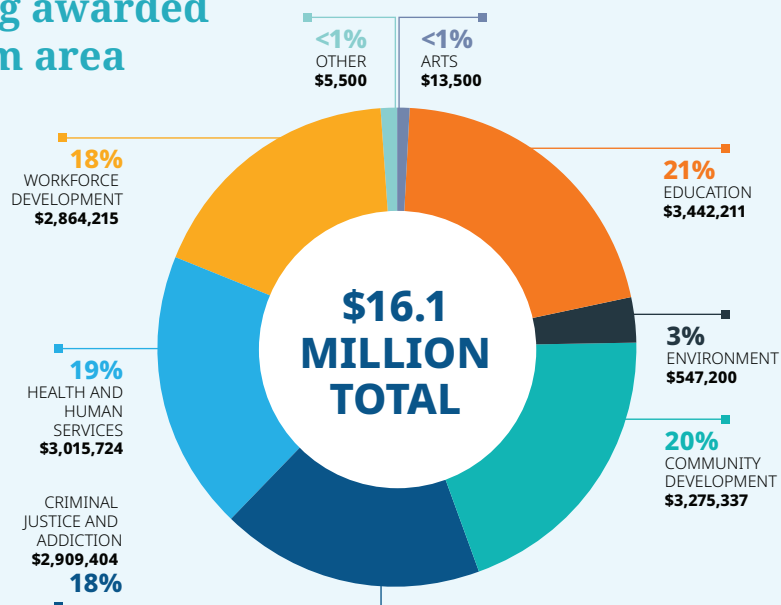
Building on a 2022 report funded by the Abell and Robert W. Deutsch foundations, ReBUILD became a crucial catalyst in a municipal conversation in 2023 about tackling the city's vacant housing crisis systematically and in a way that lifts up existing residents rather than forcing them out. It has gained the attention of ordinary Baltimoreans, corporate executives, and elected officials alike. Many obstacles and much work remain to replicate ReBUILD's success on a

city-wide level, but the collective resolve of faith, nonprofit, government, and business leaders reflects a new civic optimism.

Baltimore's challenges may be great, but they are not insurmountable. We are grateful for the opportunity to support the work of many organizations across the city that are dedicated to that proposition, and we are proud to share some of their stories here.

Amount of funding awarded in 2023 by program area

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



A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white quilted jacket and a red backpack, holding a young child with curly hair. They are standing in a hallway with light-colored walls. On the wall to the right, there is a small framed artwork made of colorful paper. In the background, a doorway is visible with a yellow sign above it. The image has a teal header and footer, and a dotted line border on the right side.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CASE STUDY

Identity Access Project

Personal identification documents such as birth certificates, driver's licenses, state IDs, and Social Security cards are required to access most essential services in the United States. Without an ID, an individual can't sign a lease, verify employment eligibility, access medical care, or open a bank account. For individuals who are homeless or unstably housed, it can be difficult to obtain and retain identification documents due to cost barriers and the lack of a secure place to store them.

Founded in 2021, Identity Access Project (IAP) is a Baltimore-based nonprofit that addresses this need by helping homeless and unstably housed individuals obtain copies of their vital documents. IAP has developed a streamlined process to obtain identification documents for clients—even from other states—and offers secure, cloud-based storage of the documents to reduce the need for replacement if they are lost or stolen. IAP is one of just six organizations in the nation that focuses solely on providing individuals with vital documents.

In 2023, with funding from the Abell Foundation, IAP partnered with the Franciscan Center, a drop-in center located in central Baltimore that offers food, job training, and case management services to individuals struggling with housing

and financial insecurity. IAP staff are on site at the Franciscan Center two days per week, assisting clients of the Franciscan Center and other agencies to obtain needed documents. In the first year of the partnership, IAP supported more than 700 individuals in securing the documents they need to rebuild their lives.

In addition to the direct benefit to the Franciscan Center's clients, the partnership with IAP has enabled the Franciscan Center's staff to spend more of their time assisting clients in their search for housing, employment and other needs—time that they previously spent tracking down vital documents for their clients.

“ We work in parallel with IAP to expand our services and our impact—to better serve our neighbors.”

Jeff Griffin, Executive Director, Franciscan Center





CASE STUDY

UEmpower of Maryland: The Food Project

UEmpower of Maryland uses food as an entry point to support residents and create community in Carrollton Ridge. Its flagship program, The Food Project, provides transitional employment to youth and young adults, as well as free, healthy meals to neighborhood residents.

Michelle Suazo launched The Food Project as an after-school program that focused on nutrition and cooking for elementary- to high-school-age

students. As a grassroots organization, it has evolved to meet the needs of its participants and now focuses on older youth and young adults, many of whom are disconnected from both school and formal work and want to earn money and plan for their futures.

The Food Project's core work involves preparing, packaging, and delivering 400-500 healthy meals a week to low-income residents in Carrollton Ridge and surrounding neighborhoods, including Ascension St. Agnes Hospital and Baltimore Medical System patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes. Two part-time chefs from the neighborhood lead the meal preparation process and teach the youth culinary skills. Youth receive their ServSafe certification and are responsible for preparing, packaging,

and delivering meals to families and individuals. UEmpower pays youth \$13-\$15/hour depending on the level of responsibility. UEmpower's small staff and other nonprofit partners also help participants meet other basic needs, such as transportation; access to physical and behavioral health services; and identity documents, with the goal of helping them move into other full-time work. Last year, five participants successfully transitioned to other full-time, food-related jobs, including in hospital food systems.

Youth often walk into UEmpower's doors looking for help, an opportunity, and community. To meet this demand, UEmpower has grown other social enterprises that reflect the youth's personal interests. For the past five years, the organization has produced a snack called SeedyNutty™, which is sold in local stores and Oriole Park at Camden Yards. UEmpower renovated a nearby home, which youth use to test out their own projects, including cooking food and beverages that are sold at a pop-up restaurant a few evenings a week, as well as fabricating clothing and art that are sold in the boutique space. As many of UEmpower's young participants are also parents, the initiative recently expanded to include early childhood programs. One participant, who is a young mother, is on her way to becoming a certified childcare provider with UEmpower's support. She aims to establish a daycare center within the UEmpower facility.

Between 2018 and 2022, the Abell Foundation awarded four discretionary grants of \$5,000-\$10,000 to UEmpower. As the organization continued to expand its programs and deepen its roots in Carrolton Ridge, the Abell Foundation awarded \$40,000 in general operating funds to UEmpower in 2022 and 2023.



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“I started to come to The Food Project in 2023 with my three daughters. We were sleeping on a sofa and looking for a job and housing. There I found resources and soon started working, helping with the pop-ups, private dinners and cooking the weekly homemade soup. I was able to get my ServSafe certification and take classes with Chef Cat. This experience helped me get a job at a hospital as a server. The best part was I able to get help with housing and for the first time my daughters had our own home. We are thankful to have a place like The Food Project in our community.”

Christina, The Food Project Participant

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2023 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS

AN END TO IGNORANCE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$50,000

In support of Bmore Community Food.

ASSOCIATED CATHOLIC CHARITIES INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$50,000

In support of promoting housing stability through eviction prevention and Traveler's Aid at the Samaritan Center.

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.

ASSOCIATED CATHOLIC CHARITIES INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$50,000

In support of the Esperanza Center's core operations team, enabling it to provide comprehensive immigration services.

BALTIMORE MEDICAL SYSTEM INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$100,000

In support of increasing access to family planning services for uninsured patients at the EBMC and Yard 56 clinics.

BALTIMORE OUTREACH SERVICES INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$25,000

In support of emergency shelter and services for homeless women and their children.

BALTIMORE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE • BALTIMORE, MD
\$25,000

In support of Baltimore Urban Debate League's general operations and transition to a new organizational structure.

BEAT THE STREETS—BALTIMORE, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY PLAYERS PHILANTHROPY FUND. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$30,000

In support of general operations.

CHASE BREXTON HEALTH CARE • BALTIMORE, MD
\$75,000

In support of a new social work position that will focus on connecting uninsured clients from Chase Brexton's Baltimore City clinic to affordable or free specialty care.

CIVIC WORKS • BALTIMORE, MD
\$50,000

In support of completing the renovation of a former firehouse to serve as a community food distribution hub.

DRINK AT THE WELL - HON'S HONEY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE • BALTIMORE, MD
\$60,000

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

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

In support of the Franciscan Center's 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.

HEALTHCARE ACCESS MARYLAND • BALTIMORE, MD
\$50,000

In support of the Returning Citizens Community Connections program.

HOMELESS PERSONS REPRESENTATION PROJECT INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$90,000

In support of the Economic Justice Program.

**HOMELESS PERSONS REPRESENTATION
PROJECT INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

\$123,000

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.

IDENTITY ACCESS PROJECT • BALTIMORE, MD

\$46,105

In support of a partnership with the Franciscan Center to provide vital documents for individuals experiencing homelessness and housing instability.

**INTERCULTURAL COUNSELING CONNECTION,
FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUSION PARTNERSHIPS
INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**

\$27,000

In support of Intercultural Counseling Connection's general operations.

JUST NEIGHBORS • ANNANDALE, VA

\$40,000

In support of Just Neighbors' expansion of immigration legal services for Baltimore City residents.

KIDS IN NEED OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, DC

\$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 Leveling the Playing Field—Baltimore's general operations.

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

\$75,000

In support of general operations.

**MARYLAND DENTAL ACTION COALITION INC. •
COLUMBIA, MD**

\$100,000

In support of a two-year patient outreach and engagement campaign to promote the new Maryland Medicaid Adult Dental Coverage Program.

**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.

**MEANS DATABASE DBA FOODRECOVERY.ORG •
WASHINGTON, DC**

\$20,000

In support of recovering food and decreasing food insecurity in Baltimore in collaboration with Sharing Excess.

MEDSTAR HARBOR HOSPITAL • BALTIMORE, MD

\$135,224

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

MOVEABLE FEAST INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$70,000

In support of Moveable Feast's food preparation and delivery services in Baltimore City and research to support Medicaid reimbursement for its services.

NEXT ONE UP FOUNDATION INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of construction costs for Base Camp, Next One Up's first program headquarters.

**NORTH AVE MISSION, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY
DELAWARE-MARYLAND SYNOD EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA • BALTIMORE, MD**

\$19,500

In support of North Ave Mission's general operations.

PAUL'S PLACE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$50,000

In support of general operations.

PRO BONO COUNSELING PROJECT • BALTIMORE, MD

\$30,000

In support of general operations.

PUBLIC JUSTICE CENTER INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$75,000

In support of the Health and Benefits Equity project.

SAINT AGNES FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of the Ascension Saint Agnes Mobile Health Clinic.

THE SAMARITAN COMMUNITY • BALTIMORE, MD

\$25,000

In support of general operations.

SHAREBABY • BALTIMORE, MD

\$55,000

In support of general operations.

SO WHAT ELSE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$25,000

In support of hunger relief programming in Baltimore City.

SOCCER WITHOUT BORDERS BALTIMORE • BALTIMORE, MD

\$40,000

In support of Soccer Without Borders Baltimore's school-year programs.

ST. FRANCIS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER • BALTIMORE, MD

\$200,000

In support of the final phase of St. Francis Neighborhood Center's capital campaign.

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

\$25,000

In support of the Promise Housing program, which provides rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing for young adults experiencing homelessness.

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

\$50,000

In support of the Beans and Bread Homeless Day 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.

TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER • BALTIMORE, MD

\$50,000

In support of general operations.

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 • BALTIMORE, MD

\$20,000

In support of integrating HealthySteps into University of Maryland electronic health record systems for clinical care and reporting.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

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



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CASE STUDY

ReBUILD Metro

Vacant houses, uninhabitable due to abandonment or lack of owner investment, exert a heavy cost on neighborhoods and perpetuate a cycle of disinvestment and population decline in Baltimore City. ReBUILD Metro's mission is to rebuild these abandoned properties into homeownership and rental opportunities to strengthen whole neighborhoods. Since 2008, the organization has provided high quality housing to over 450 households and families in East Baltimore, and it has renovated 235 abandoned rowhouses and vacant lots into mixed-income single-family homes. ReBUILD has supported construction of 189 affordable rental apartment units, redeveloped five retail storefronts, and consolidated 120 vacant lots into parks and greenspaces. The restoration of formerly distressed properties in the East Baltimore neighborhoods of Oliver, Greenmount West, and Broadway East has resulted in increased resident population, safer streets, and higher homeownership rates without displacement.

ReBUILD Metro's success is based on careful analysis of real estate market indicators, its experience with negotiating complex development and financing structures, and its work with Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development (BUILD) to create a community-driven plan to guide implementation and redevelopment. For the past several years, ReBUILD Metro has worked in partnership with Rebuild Johnston Square Neighborhood Organization and the City of Baltimore to implement a community vision plan to rebuild homes on whole blocks, create greenspaces, and revitalize the Johnston Square community.

ReBUILD Metro and BUILD believe that Baltimore can break the cycle of disinvestment through a whole block strategy steeped in experience and practice. Supported by funding from the Abell and Robert W. Deutsch foundations, their report, "Whole Blocks, Whole City" advocates for a new citywide approach of securing and deploying public capital in an equitable manner that addresses vacant and underinvested properties and restores whole blocks and insists on healthy neighborhoods for all Baltimoreans.

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"The Greater Baltimore Committee is honored to work closely with ReBUILD Metro and our public sector partners to drive impactful and lasting change by addressing one of our community's toughest challenges."

Mark Anthony Thomas, GBC President and CEO

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The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) joined BUILD and Baltimore City to lead advocacy for the business community, secure significant state government funding, and accelerate reinvestment.

"Revitalizing communities and creating vibrant neighborhoods are major pillars of our success as a thriving region," said GBC President and CEO Mark Anthony Thomas. "ReBUILD Metro's steadfast commitment and thoughtful data-driven approach to bold ideas have pushed our collective imagination of what's possible."

CASE STUDY

Baltimore Green Space

Throughout Baltimore City, neighborhood volunteers have worked to turn blighted spaces into temporary and permanent green spaces to grow food and flowers and host community activities. In most cases, though, these volunteers lack the technical expertise or resources to secure and sustain the land. Baltimore Green Space (BGS) was founded in 2007 to fill that gap. BGS is Baltimore's only environmental land trust that collaborates with neighborhoods by working with residents, Baltimore City government, and other institutions to protect green spaces from loss to private investors.

BGS has helped protect 19 green spaces over 62+ acres and 93 lots: eight food gardens, five parks, two forests, two farms, one horseshoe pit, and one urban wildlife refuge. BGS strives to ensure that all Baltimore City residents, regardless of income or ethnicity, benefit from green spaces that provide community building, recreation, civic engagement, neighborhood revitalization, access to natural beauty, and a healthier environment.

With support from the Abell Foundation, BGS works with resident leaders to protect the long-

term sustainability of and access to spaces in underserved neighborhoods. BGS works with sites on initiatives such as leadership succession planning and youth engagement and has provided consultation and resources to city residents who are looking to start new green space projects or are seeking assistance with the city's Adopt-a-Lot leasing program and community grants, thus creating a pipeline for future preservation of green spaces.

In partnership with Black Yield Institute, Urban Oasis, and Morgan State University, BGS is preparing to conduct a community needs survey in up to 20 Baltimore neighborhoods to explore residents' attitudes toward, and utilization of, the natural environment in their local communities, part of a multi-tiered community engagement strategy in neighborhoods where green space interaction is already occurring.

2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

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

In support of inventory enhancements and general operations.

BALTIMORE CORPS • BALTIMORE, MD **\$125,000**

In support of the Campaign for Citywide Service.

BALTIMORE DIGITAL EQUITY COALITION, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY MARYLAND PHILANTHROPY NETWORK • BALTIMORE, MD **\$75,000**

In support of general operations for the Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition.

BALTIMORE GREEN SPACE • BALTIMORE, MD **\$50,000**

In support of sustaining and bolstering green spaces by meeting community needs.

BALTIMORE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY REBUILD METRO • BALTIMORE, MD **\$100,000**

In support of implementing the Whole Blocks, Whole City report through creation of a Special Purpose Entity.

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

In support of empowering East Baltimore communities with life-enriching programs for youth and older adults.

BETAMORE • BALTIMORE, MD **\$75,000**

In support of Betamore Academy's two-year expansion.

CENTRAL BALTIMORE PARTNERSHIP INC. • BALTIMORE, MD **\$35,000**

In support of The Project: boosting Central Baltimore makers.

CENTRAL BALTIMORE PARTNERSHIP INC. • BALTIMORE, MD **\$100,000**

In support of Cecil Community Park and Midway neighborhood revitalization.

CITY LIFE COMMUNITY BUILDERS • BALTIMORE, MD **\$30,000**

In support of providing closing cost and down payment assistance to targeted professionals, including educators, firefighters, police officers, and community safety officers.

CIVIC WORKS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD **\$80,000**

In support of increasing low-income household participation in utility benefits, including water affordability, energy bill-pay assistance, and broadband access.

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

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

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

In support of the Tenant Debt Collection Defense Project.

CONSCIOUS VENTURE LAB NOVELLA CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP INC. • BALTIMORE, MD **\$300,000**

In support of the Conscious Venture Lab Accelerator Program and boot camp training for founders and entrepreneurs.

**DREXEL UNIVERSITY - NOWAK METRO
FINANCE LAB • PHILADELPHIA, PA
\$50,000**

In support of a partnership to assess Maryland's procurement economy and inclusive economic development.

**FARM ALLIANCE OF BALTIMORE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$90,000**

In support of general operating costs including the Double Dollars program, nutrition education, and hands-on training for beginning farmers at a new farm site in South Baltimore.

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

In support of Baltimore water accountability and affordability during the regionalization process.

**FUEL FUND OF MARYLAND • BALTIMORE, MD
\$50,000**

In support of Silver Lights: energy assistance for Baltimore City seniors and households with critical medical needs.

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

In support of Healthy Neighborhoods' core program and expansion of homeownership financing tools.

**HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$200,000**

In support of the Renew Baltimore Nonprofits Energy Program.

**INTERSECTION OF CHANGE • BALTIMORE, MD
\$75,000**

In support of renovating 583 Presstman Street to increase programming capacity and fill a key gap in the area's revitalization.

**JEWS UNITED FOR JUSTICE • WASHINGTON, DC
\$60,000**

In support of organizing for Baltimore renters' rights and policies to prevent eviction.

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

In support of the Baltimore Healthcare Innovator Talent Retention Program.

**LATINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER •
WASHINGTON, DC
\$25,000**

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

**MARYLAND PHILANTHROPY NETWORK •
BALTIMORE, MD
\$18,160**

In support of 2023 membership dues.

**MARYLAND VOLUNTEER LAWYERS SERVICE •
BALTIMORE, MD
\$75,000**

In support of the Housing Stability and Legacy Program.

**NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF BALTIMORE
INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$75,000**

In support of creating and preserving affordable homeownership.

**NORTH EAST HOUSING INITIATIVE • BALTIMORE, MD
\$25,000**

In support of staff and operating expenses for the NEHI Stewardship Program.

**PRO BONO RESOURCE CENTER OF MARYLAND INC. •
BALTIMORE, MD
\$89,250**

In support of the Tax Sale Prevention Project.

**PUBLIC JUSTICE CENTER INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$175,000**

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



REBUILD METRO • BALTIMORE, MD

\$135,000

In support of Phase I of the Johnston Square transformation project and implementation of the 10,000 Homes Campaign.

SOS FUND, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY PARITY

BALTIMORE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$65,000

In support of SOS Fund's executive director role, board development, and operations.

THE VENETOULIS INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL

JOURNALISM • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of the Baltimore Banner's reporting and in-depth investigations around gun violence in Baltimore.

VENTURE FOR AMERICA • NEW YORK, NY

\$185,000

In support of costs related to recruiting, selecting, training, and placing 16-20 Venture for America Fellows in Baltimore in 2023.

THE YORK ROAD PARTNERSHIP, FISCALLY

SPONSORED BY GEDCO • BALTIMORE, MD

\$34,927

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

WYPR-YOUR PUBLIC RADIO CORPORATION •

BALTIMORE, MD

\$20,000

In support of a three-day Baltimore film festival in August 2023.

EDUCATION





CASE STUDY:

University System of Maryland

In December 2021, the Abell Foundation provided a grant to the University System of Maryland (USM) to support the Nurturing Excellence for Undergraduate Success (NEXUS) research project. NEXUS sought to address two related questions: 1) what steps can be taken to increase the retention and graduation rates for Baltimore City Public School students at USM institutions and 2) how can we improve college readiness for more Maryland students? The NEXUS project worked to identify best practices to support City Schools students at risk of dropping out of USM institutions with the goal of positively impacting enrollment, retention, and graduation rates.

The NEXUS project published its findings in 2023, which led to several important outcomes for Baltimore City students moving to and through college. First, the University of Maryland Board of Regents elevated Baltimore City students as a key demographic for monitoring, particularly as it pertains to college persistence and graduation rates. Second, USM submitted the NEXUS project's findings to the U.S. Department of Education, resulting in a \$4 million grant for USM to implement the study's key findings, including establishing a

peer advising structure and programs with an increased emphasis on student belonging.

Following announcement of the grant award, teams from each USM institution gathered at Bowie State University for the first ever Student Success Summit. Attended by nearly 300 student affairs professionals working to improve college persistence on their campuses, the daylong summit provided a platform to share results from the NEXUS project, introduce the federal grant dollars slated for rollout at each of the 12 USM universities, and elevate innovative practices to increase undergraduate persistence. The USM Student Success Summit will be followed up with a much larger gathering in fall 2024. This convening, which will be sponsored by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, will focus on the importance of student retention at higher education institutions across the state.

CASE STUDY:

UMBC Reach Together Tutoring Program

At the close of 2023, Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) received a \$1.187 million grant from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to support mathematics tutoring in the city, specifically focusing on expanding opportunities for college students to serve as tutors. These new grant dollars aimed to replicate the successful University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) Reach Together Tutoring program (RTTP) with three additional university partners. RTTP launched in 2021 with start-up funds from the Abell Foundation and has since provided 1,400 students with regular mathematics tutoring led by graduate and undergraduate students.

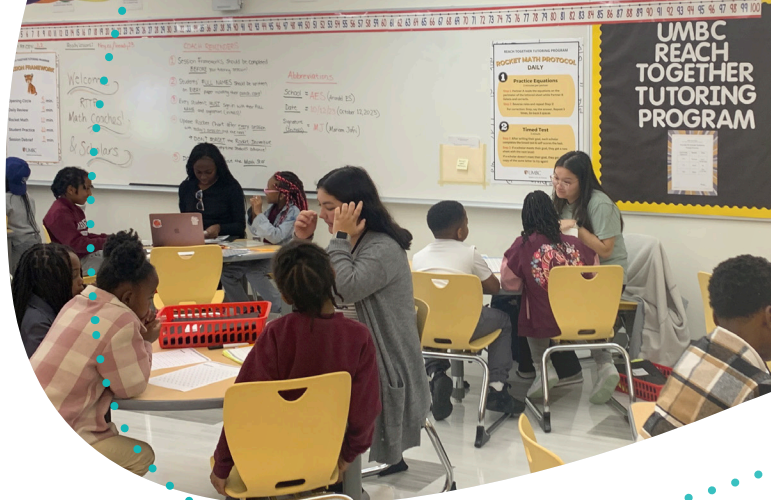
UMBC students administer RTTP tutoring twice a week for 45- to 60-minute sessions during the school day using a framework that includes community building, fluency practice, daily review of grade-level skills identified by classroom teachers, and student practice. During the 2023-2024 school year, RTTP completed nearly 20,000 tutoring sessions across nine school sites over the course of 24 weeks. Participating students grew an average of 19.6 scale score points on the iReady assessment from the beginning to the end of the year. Despite RTTP's focus on students in the bottom quartile of math proficiency in each of its five schools, RTTP students demonstrated iReady growth rates nearly commensurate with the top 75% of students at each school site (19.6 points of scaled score growth versus 20.3).

Mark Bongiovanni, principal at RTTP partner school Curtis Bay Elementary, said, "Through participation in the UMBC tutoring program,

students who had high anxiety about math gained confidence in their abilities and now look forward to practicing their math skills!"

Through the MSDE grant, City Schools plans to build additional partnerships in 2024 with Morgan State University, Johns Hopkins University, and Loyola University to recruit tutors to support middle-grade math students. Using the RTTP model as a roadmap, UMBC will support the new higher education partners while providing technical assistance in recruiting university students, scheduling visits, building school relationships, managing transportation, and implementing successful mathematics tutoring by drawing from its experience over the past three years. The goal is for each university to support one or two district schools and to recruit 50 tutors across the six new program sites.

In addition to serving as one of the first investors in UMBC's Reach Together Tutoring Program, the Abell Foundation has continued to support the expansion of math tutoring by committing additional funding to supplement transportation costs for university student tutors. With MSDE's substantial investment in expanding math tutoring statewide, City Schools aims to provide high-dosage math tutoring to around 1,500 students in the upcoming year to further improve math proficiency across Baltimore City.



2023 EDUCATION GRANTS

ARTS FOR LEARNING MARYLAND • BALTIMORE, MD **\$40,000**

In support of community schools capacity building.

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 serving nearly 700 students.

BALTIMORE KIDS CHESS LEAGUE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD **\$65,000**

In support of the 2023-2024 after-school chess program for nearly 1,700 K-12th grade students in 57 Baltimore City schools.

BALTIMORE'S PROMISE, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD **\$300,000**

In support of Phase II of the Grads2Careers Program.

BE ORG INC. • BALTIMORE, MD **\$35,000**

In support of general operating expenses for Be. Org, a mentoring, workforce development, and STEM-improvement program serving about 600 students.

THE BOOK THING OF BALTIMORE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD **\$30,000**

In support of general operations, with the goal of increasing organizational capacity and community access.

BUILDING STEPS INC. • BROOKLANDVILLE, MD **\$40,000**

In support of STEM workshops, college advising, STEM-related internships, and college-directed programming.

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

In support of the academic and mentoring program at The Community School, a fully accredited non-public high school educating around 18 students per year.

FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD **\$50,000**

In support of general operations.

IMPROVING EDUCATION • BALTIMORE, MD **\$100,000**

In support of expanding the All Children Ready initiative at 10 Baltimore Head Start centers and pre-kindergarten classrooms at four Baltimore City schools.

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

In support of the 2023-2024 Ingenuity Project, an advanced math, science, and research program for 867 middle and high school students in Baltimore City.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY • BALTIMORE, MD **\$66,160**

In support of developing a substitute teacher pipeline in Baltimore City comprising 25 undergraduate students from Johns Hopkins University.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY • BALTIMORE, MD **\$30,000**

In support of the BioEYES science experience operating in 40 Baltimore City Schools, serving an estimated 3,000 students.

KIPP BALTIMORE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD **\$200,000**

In support of the KIPP capital campaign to add four pre-kindergarten classrooms, 80 high-quality seats, and two media centers, and to renovate 17 bathrooms throughout the school.

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

In support of the Literacy Lab Pre-Kindergarten and K-3 literacy interventions for Baltimore students during the 2023-2024 school year.

THE LOYOLA SCHOOL • BALTIMORE, MD**\$250,000**

In support of the Loyola School Capital Campaign that will enable the school to grow and serve 140 additional students.

THE MARYLAND BOOK BANK INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**\$45,000**

In support of general operating costs and books for the home library project and high dosage tutoring partnerships.

MODERN CLASSROOMS PROJECT • WASHINGTON, DC**\$75,000**

In support of continued growth of the Modern Classrooms Project pilot in Baltimore, targeting an estimated 300 classrooms during the 2023-2024 school year.

**MORPHOLOGY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT,
FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD****\$28,356**

In support of general operations.

**PATTERSON PARK PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL INC. •
BALTIMORE, MD****\$250,000**

In support of Phase II renovations to the second-floor east wing of an underutilized building to provide more quality public school seats at Clay Hill Public Charter School.

SAINT LUKE'S YOUTH CENTER • BALTIMORE, MD**\$30,000**

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

**SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY AND ADVOCACY
PROJECT, FISCALLY SPONSORED BY FUND FOR
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD****\$100,000**

In support of a policy advocate position at the

Special Education Policy and Advocacy Project, which will work toward comprehensive special education reform across the state.

SPRINGBOARD COLLABORATIVE • PHILADELPHIA, PA**\$175,000**

In support of a five-week summer program and two 10-week after-school literacy programs for Pre-K to third grade students, which will operate in at least 35 Baltimore City public schools and serve an estimated 3,000 students.

**STEM CHAMPIONS OF BALTIMORE, FISCALLY
SPONSORED BY FUND FOR EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE • BALTIMORE, MD****\$40,000**

In support of the STEM Champions Competition Clubs, which will engage 500 students in 40 middle and high schools in preparation for the National Science Olympiad.

SUCCESS FOR ALL FOUNDATION INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**\$15,000**

In support of the Tutoring with the Lightning Squad and Tutoring with Theme Reads summer programs.

TEACH FOR AMERICA-BALTIMORE • BALTIMORE, MD**\$100,000**

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

THREAD INC. • BALTIMORE, MD**\$400,000**

In support of general operating expenses for Thread, which will serve 880 young people during the 2023-2024 academic year.

WIDE ANGLE YOUTH MEDIA • BALTIMORE, MD**\$203,300**

In support of Wide Angle Youth Media's Studios at the Service Center Capital Campaign.

Y OF CENTRAL MARYLAND • BALTIMORE, MD**\$75,000**

In support of New Horizons II year-round programming for 46 Baltimore City participants.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Paid Work Experience

Research has shown that providing teenagers with early work experience can positively affect their employment and earnings later in life and that youth participation in summer employment programs is associated with decreases in criminal activity and increases in school attendance. Two Abell Foundation grantees—Grow Home and Lydia's House—provide paid work experience to youth from underserved communities, allowing participants to explore different careers while developing positive work habits, self-confidence, and the ability to work cooperatively.

Last year, with support from the Abell Foundation, **Lydia's House** provided in-school job readiness training workshops to 65 students at five Baltimore City high schools. All the students were rising juniors and seniors, and they received a minimum wage stipend for participating in 24 hours of training over four weeks. Lydia's House also provided paid, on-the-job internships for 25 students. Interns worked for 12 weeks at the University of Maryland Medical System in various departments, including the front desk, security, and laundry. Students met daily with on-the-job supervisors and Lydia's House staff during training.

Grow Home works with community groups to clean up, improve, and maintain active parks and community gardens in the Brooklyn/Curtis Bay neighborhood. Over the past two years, with support from the Abell Foundation, Grow Home has provided first-time employment to more than 150 young people and helped 30 students secure employment after training. Last year, Grow Home provided 60 youth, mostly juniors, with weekly stipends as they participated in after-school Career and Technical Education training programs. During each six-week session, stu-

dents were introduced to different industries, including automotive maintenance, welding, culinary arts, urban agriculture, solar power, and plumbing. Participants earned \$400 over each six-week session, including \$100 for completing workforce essential skills training. Over the summer, students worked with Grow Home staff on community garden and property repair projects, with recent graduates now maintaining full-time employment in facilities management.

For adults returning from incarceration or who are in recovery, paid work experience addresses the need for immediate income and a supportive environment for learning new job skills. **Friendly Loving Opportunities (FLO)** receives donated furniture and artwork from hotels and individual donors, storing it in a large warehouse on Bayard Street. With support from the Abell Foundation, FLO trains apprentices, most of whom are in recovery and have experienced homelessness, to professionally clean and repair the furniture. FLO receives referrals of families in need of furniture from partner organizations, including Healthcare for the Homeless, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, Baltimore City Public Schools, and recovery programs.

After families have selected the furniture that they want, FLO fully furnishes their apartments, with FLO apprentices delivering and setting up the furniture in clients' homes. In 2023, FLO provided furniture to 166 homes, serving 64 men, 124 women, and 243 children. In addition to fully furnishing their homes, FLO provided clients with groceries, household essentials, and electronics such as computers and televisions. Currently, 10 FLO apprentices work three days a week at the FLO warehouse, learning essential work skills and helping FLO to fulfill its mission. Starting in 2024, SECU now provides free checking accounts for the apprentices, and four apprentices have been hired in full-time positions with other companies.

2023 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

BALTIMORE GREEN JUSTICE WORKERS COOPERATIVE • BALTIMORE, MD

\$50,000

In support of enhancing capacity to implement a green jobs pilot training program.

BIOTECHNICAL INSTITUTE OF MARYLAND INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$80,000

In support of training Baltimore City residents for careers in biotechnology.

BYTE BACK • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

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

CASH CAMPAIGN OF MARYLAND • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

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

CENTER FOR URBAN FAMILIES, INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$300,000

In support of CFUF's Economic Success programming for Baltimore residents to access and retain meaningful employment and create intergenerational wealth and family achievement.

CIVIC WORKS INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$50,000

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

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF THE CHESAPEAKE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$250,000

In support of capital costs to establish an Excel Center adult high school in Baltimore City.

GROW HOME INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$60,000

In support of expanding the Baltimore Builders School.

HEARTSMILES • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of youth leadership and career readiness training initiatives.

JANE ADDAMS RESOURCE CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of preparing low-income adults for pathways out of poverty in the manufacturing and construction industries.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES TASK FORCE • BALTIMORE, MD

\$150,000

In support of the BetterU Workforce Development Program and advocacy to reform policies that create barriers to employment.

LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of New American Cities - Baltimore.

MARYLAND NEW DIRECTIONS • BALTIMORE, MD

\$120,000

In support of Maryland New Directions' employment training programs.

PER SCHOLAS • BRONX, NY

\$50,000

In support of expanding access to thriving wages for diverse communities in Baltimore.

PROJECT JUMPSTART INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$50,000

In support of programming and capacity building.

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

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

**SOUTH BALTIMORE LEARNING CENTER •
BALTIMORE, MD**
\$50,000

In support of South Baltimore Learning Center's job readiness and workforce development initiative.

**SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION • BALTIMORE, MD**
\$149,965

In support of the Community Clean Up Collaborative.

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

In support of helping participants obtain livable wage jobs.

VEHICLES FOR CHANGE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$120,000

In support of providing cars to Baltimore City residents so that they can drive to work.

VEHICLES FOR CHANGE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD
\$200,000

In support of training and placing individuals with multiple barriers in high-paying career automotive jobs.

THE WORK FIRST FOUNDATION INC. • NEW YORK, NY
\$200,000

In support of the Baltimore Ex-Offender Reentry (BERE) Program.





CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND ADDICTION

CASE STUDY:

Marian House

Founded over 40 years ago, Marian House provides housing, meals, and support services to women experiencing homelessness, incarceration, substance use disorder, domestic violence, and more. Marian House's programs aim to improve self-esteem and overall mental health, establish sobriety, and teach skills that support emotional and economic independence. Clients receive referrals from a variety of sources, including the Office of the Public Defender, prison and jail staff, attorneys, advocacy organizations, treatment programs, and an ongoing Correctional Options Grant provided by the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). This agreement allows Marian House to provide long-term transitional reentry services to women under state supervision. During fiscal year 2023, Marian House received 18 referrals into its Transitional Housing Program, which the Abell Foundation has supported since the 1990s.

Marian House offers three levels of programming: transitional and rehabilitative programs for single women, independent living with a community structure for families, and programs focused on the transition to permanent housing. Every program level offers supplemental support services, including employment preparation and placement assistance, financial education, GED education, transportation for community services, and case management. Marian House's model of integrated care delivers clients' mental health and substance abuse treatment in tandem with these support services, allowing for efficient and connected treatment.

Of the 65 women who participated in Marian House's Transitional Supportive Housing Pro-

gram for Women and Children in 2023, 45% were actively justice-involved, and 74% struggled with a substance use disorder. Of the 20 participants who completed and exited the program, 95% completed with an increased income, 80% were employed at exit, and all were discharged into permanent housing.

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"Marian House is a program that a lot of women hope for. I was so glad to get in because I needed a stable place to go when I was released. Knowing that I have support and will continue to get support is something I haven't had before. Getting my finances in order and getting a job were really important to me feeling empowered."

Joyce, Current Resident

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An independent evaluation of Marian House's transitional housing program completed in 2015 revealed remarkable success rates. People who completed the program were found to earn and be employed at twice the rate as non-completers. Moreover, the recidivism rate for all completers was just 12%, significantly lower than Maryland's rate of 31.55%. These figures underscore the tangible difference Marian House is making in the lives of women in need.





ISSUE BRIEF

Juvenile Violence Prevention

While Baltimore City has made considerable progress in addressing violent crime, youth violence remains a pressing concern. A recent report by the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) highlights a four-fold rise in young individuals falling victim to gun violence over the past decade, with a disproportionate impact on youth of color. Three Abell Foundation grantees—National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform; Roca, in partnership with Treyway Multi Treatment Services; and the Tackling Chronic Absenteeism Project—are working to provide research, comprehensive wraparound services, and cognitive behavior therapy skills to decrease the number of youth experiencing violence, allowing them to thrive in school and beyond.

The **National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR)** received support from the Abell Foundation to conduct a comprehensive assessment of youth involved in gun violence across the state. The study revealed that nearly two-thirds of youth involved in shootings had previously been charged with a felony crime of violence. Many had clear and immediate risk factors, such as recent physical confrontations with other youth and/or family members, or involvement in violent crew or gang conflicts. Most were unable to attend traditional schools due to learning disabilities and/or school discipline issues. Additionally, there were lengthy delays in court processing, resulting in months or even years passing between when the youth were arrested and when they received any type of direct services.

DJS and NICJR used this research to develop a screening tool and an expedited process for enrolling youth in a new initiative called the Thrive Academy, which provides intensive community-based services to DJS-supervised youth who are at high risk of being involved in gun violence. The Abell Foundation also provided funding for a flexible youth and family support fund for those enrolled in the Thrive Academy.

Since 2018, Roca has operated a program for young men at risk of future violence and incarceration in Baltimore. Roca serves over 200 young men annually. In the past year, Roca has partnered with **Treyway Multi Treatment Services** to support its clients through the REMIX Program. Treyway offers services such as group and individual counseling, trauma therapy, medication management, housing assistance, transportation support, job and school referral information, and comprehensive case management. Since the partnership began, 18 young individuals dealing with homelessness and substance use have been served. Funding from the Abell Foundation allowed services to be extended to six more young people, with the capacity to house a total of 20 young people. To date, 38% of participants are maintaining employment, three have returned to high school or trade school, and those who are fathers are maintaining relationships with their children.

As one participant said, “The REMIX Program has given me a second chance at life. I never thought I could overcome my past struggles, but with the support and resources provided by Treyway and Roca, I’ve been able to build a better future for myself and my family.”

The University of Baltimore School of Law’s **Tackling Chronic Absenteeism Project (TCAP)** is dedicated to addressing truancy and school disengagement among at-risk youth through the provision of comprehensive support services. TCAP’s primary objective is to reconnect students and their families with the education system, aiming to diminish truancy rates and disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline. To achieve this, the program implements strategies such as mentoring, tutoring, referrals to social services, legal guidance, and case management. To ensure regular engagement and support, TCAP organizes weekly meetings and restorative classes/circles that span a minimum of 10 weeks in elementary and middle schools and 12-14 weeks in high schools during each fall and spring session. Beyond these regular meetings, the TCAP mentor, social worker, and attorney maintain frequent contact with participants and their families, offering additional support tailored to their unique circumstances.

Throughout the years, TCAP has tracked over 1,000 students for differing amounts of time and has demonstrated its efficacy in reducing juvenile crime. Notably, among these 1,000 students, only five were arrested while participating in TCAP.



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“I like it when that light comes on in the students’ eyes and it just clicks—they know they can do whatever they set their minds to. There is just no greater feeling.”

Miriam Hutchins, Retired District Court Judge
.....

Program leaders believe this is, in part, due to the frequency and consistency with which the TCAP team members check in with students.

When asked why she continues to volunteer with the program, Retired District Court Judge Miriam Hutchins responded, “The students...have so much untapped potential and I don’t want to see them waste that. By giving them just a little bit of guidance and motivation from someone outside of the school, I see it helps students to think about their goals and put into action concrete steps to change their lives and achieve their goals.”

2023 CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND ADDICTION GRANTS

BALTIMORE HARM REDUCTION COALITION •

BALTIMORE, MD

\$200,000

In support of efforts to increase community mobilization for harm reduction policies, including the establishment of Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS) in Baltimore and elsewhere in Maryland.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE INC. •

BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of expanding the Project Connections on the Street Program.

BELOVED COMMUNITY SERVICES CORPORATION •

BALTIMORE, MD

\$250,000

In support of restoring the Juanita Jackson Mitchell Law Center.

CENTER FOR HOPE • BALTIMORE, MD

\$100,000

In support of general operations for Safe Streets.

GAUDENZIA FOUNDATION INC. • NORRISTOWN, PA

\$35,000

In support of purchasing a used van to conduct harm reduction outreach and to facilitate access to treatment in Baltimore City and County.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR KIDS • WASHINGTON, DC

\$50,000

In support of protecting the human rights of justice system-involved children.

LIGHT OF TRUTH CENTER INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$29,606

In support of property maintenance installations and rodent control.

THE JUSTICE POLICY INSTITUTE • WASHINGTON, DC

\$50,000

In support of reducing the over-reliance on punitive responses and over-incarceration in the Maryland juvenile and criminal legal systems.

MARYLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES INC.

DBA PENN NORTH • BALTIMORE, MD

\$93,000

In support of deploying a new mobile behavioral health outreach van in Baltimore City.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES •

BALTIMORE, MD

\$50,000

In support of an initiative to reduce gun violence among Maryland Department of Juvenile Services-involved youth through intensive community-based interventions.

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

\$200,000

In support of technical assistance for Baltimore's Group Violence Reduction Strategy.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM • BALTIMORE, MD

\$150,000

In support of an initiative to reduce gun violence among Maryland Department of Juvenile Services-involved youth through intensive community-based interventions.

NEW VISION HOUSE OF HOPE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$150,000

In support of Chelsea Terrace Homes.

PREPARE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$150,000

In support of scaling PREPARE's parole hearing support and reentry preparation program to serve men incarcerated in Maryland.

PROJECT PLASE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$250,000

In support of capital funding toward the development of Beacon House Square in the old St. Joseph's Monastery School building, a project to provide housing for homeless adults and comprising 34 transitional and 56 permanent units.

ROCA INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$20,000

In support of REMIX: providing supportive housing for young adults engaged in trauma-responsive substance use disorder treatment.

SIGNAL 13 FOUNDATION • BALTIMORE, MD

\$50,000

In support of financial hardship grants and scholarships for Baltimore City police personnel and their families.

ST. AMBROSE HOUSING AID CENTER • BALTIMORE, MD

\$200,000

In support of piloting a Host Home program for individuals returning to Baltimore City from incarceration.

TUERK HOUSE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD

\$125,000

In support of completing the renovation of Tuerk House's 88-bed residential treatment facility located at 730 Ashburton St. in the Mosher neighborhood of West Baltimore.

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE FOUNDATION •

BALTIMORE, MD

\$50,000

In support of the Tackling Chronic Absenteeism Project at the University of Baltimore School of Law's Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE •

BALTIMORE, MD

\$200,000

In support of the Collaborative Violence Intervention and Prevention Program.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE •

BALTIMORE, MD

\$300,000

In support of the Youth Violence Intervention and Prevention Program (YVIPPP).

WOMEN'S HOUSING COALITION • BALTIMORE, MD

\$50,000

In support of helping individuals and families secure permanent, supportive housing.



ENVIRONMENT

RESEARCH BRIEF

The Trouble with STRIDE



The replacement of natural gas infrastructure became a public flashpoint in 2023 as some Baltimore residents raised loud objections to the installation of regulators on the outside of their homes. The debate about safety, historic preservation, and aesthetics led to threats to cut off gas supplies, litigation, and even the arrest of three protesters in Federal Hill before the Public Service Commission stepped in. But the issue goes far beyond a few neighborhoods. As the Abell report “The Trouble with STRIDE” documented, Maryland’s major regulated gas suppliers are engaged in a decades-long, state-sanctioned gas infrastructure spending spree that directly contradicts Maryland’s legislatively-mandated climate goals and threatens to saddle a dwindling number of ratepayers with billions in costs for decades to come, with the impacts likely disproportionately felt by low-income households.

Ten years ago, Maryland’s legislature passed a bill known as the Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement (“STRIDE”) Act to expedite utilities’ replacement of their natural gas pipes in the name of safety. Climate change was barely mentioned in the debate about the legislation, and the idea that the state might eventually wean itself from natural gas use didn’t come up at all. But since then, Maryland has adopted ambitious climate goals that will require the near elimination of natural gas use in homes by 2045. Yet the state continues to allow utilities to invest billions in replacing pipes, which consumers will have to

pay for—with a profit for the utilities—for decades to come.

In the report, Arjun Makhjani, president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, examines the impact of STRIDE in Maryland. The report found no evidence that the investments in new natural gas infrastructure had increased safety—the number of deaths, injuries, and serious incidents before STRIDE was small, and it has actually increased slightly since. But it did show the effects of billions of dollars in stranded costs that Maryland consumers will incur if the state stays on its current path.

Maryland’s plans to meet its goals for carbon reduction call for the use of natural gas to be cut 90% by 2050—meaning that the vast majority of homes and businesses will need to convert to electric appliances for heat, hot water, and cooking. Consequently, the customer base for natural gas will shrink, and the burden for paying back the utilities’ STRIDE investments will be divided among an ever smaller group of people—most likely those who are least able to afford it.

The report makes several recommendations, including ending the STRIDE program as it stands, so that regulators can address safety risks in the infrastructure in more targeted ways in the short term and the state can meet its climate goals in the long term.

2023 ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

BALTIMORE TREE TRUST • BALTIMORE, MD **\$75,000**

In support of capacity building for the Neighborhood Forestry Initiative, an urban forestry career pathways program for Baltimore City residents.

BLUE WATER BALTIMORE INC. • BALTIMORE, MD **\$70,000**

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 **\$60,000**

In support of a campaign to promote clean energy and reduce climate pollution in and around Baltimore.

CHESAPEAKE LEGAL ALLIANCE • ANNAPOLIS, MD **\$50,000**

In support of building legal resources and addressing environmental burdens in Baltimore's most vulnerable communities.

ENERGY JUSTICE NETWORK • PHILADELPHIA, PA **\$50,000**

In support of REBUILD Baltimore: mandating deconstruction instead of demolition for green jobs and zero waste.

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

In support of leveraging federal resources to implement port-related projects that reduce emissions harmful to human and ecological health and improve air quality in vulnerable Baltimore communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY PROJECT • WASHINGTON, DC **\$50,000**

In support of the Baltimore Environmental Justice Campaign.

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 programs.

RAILS-TO-TRAILS CONSERVANCY • WASHINGTON, DC **\$60,000**

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



Small Grants

In 2023, the Abell Foundation also awarded small grants of \$10,000 or less to the following organizations:

ARTS

Maryland Citizens for the Arts
Young Victorian Theatre Company

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Adopt A Block Inc.
Bridge Maryland
Charles Street
Development Corporation
Downtown Partnership
of Baltimore
GeN'xt! Ministries Inc.
Greater Baltimore Committee
Healthy Neighborhoods Inc.
Nature Sacred
Open Works
St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center
Technical.ly Media, fiscally
sponsored by Tiny News Collective
The Village Incorporated
Urban Manufacturing Alliance

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & ADDICTION

Beginning Effective Recovery Together
Family Support Network, fiscally sponsored
by Fusion Partnerships Inc.
House of Change Inc.
New Vision House of Hope Inc.
No Struggle No Success Inc.
No Turning Back Inc.
Open Justice Baltimore, fiscally sponsored
by Fusion Partnerships Inc.

RECTIFY, fiscally sponsored by United Charitable
University of Baltimore Foundation
University of Maryland, Baltimore

EDUCATION

Adelante Latina Inc.
Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance
Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
The Birthday Books Project
By Peaceful Means, fiscally sponsored
by St. Frances Academy
CHARM: Voices of Baltimore Youth, fiscally
sponsored by Fund for Educational Excellence
Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School
Child First Authority Inc.
CollegeBound Foundation Inc.
East Baltimore Community School
dba Henderson-Hopkins
Fund for Educational Excellence
Johns Hopkins University Whiting
School of Engineering
Liberty Village Project, fiscally sponsored
by Fund for Educational Excellence
Mariposa Child Success Programs
Mindful Mentors Inc.
UMBC Foundation
University of Baltimore Foundation

ENVIRONMENT

Forever Maryland
Groundswell
Trash Free Maryland

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Agoge Project Inc.

American Red Cross of Central Maryland

AZIZA PE&CE

Baltimore City Continuum of Care, fiscally sponsored by Baltimore Civic Fund

Behavioral Health System Baltimore

Bit Community Center Inc.

The Black Executive Directors Network

Brown Girl Wellness Inc.

The Club at Collington Square, fiscally sponsored by St. Matthew Catholic Church

Dent Education

Ed Reed Foundation, fiscally sponsored by Players Philanthropy Fund

Fishes and Loaves Pantry

For My Kidz Inc.

Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake

Heart's Place Services Inc.

Ho Ho Ho Inc. DBA Santa's Helpers Anonymous

Jaebonnah Blackie and Zobon Kingg Resource Center Inc.

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

JOY Baltimore

Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center Inc.

Maryland Center on Economic Policy

Nature Worx Inc.

Next Generation Language Access, fiscally sponsored by Fusion Partnerships Inc.

North Baltimore Mennonite Church
- Reservoir Hill House of Peace

Outcast Food Network

Park Heights Saints Community Center Inc.

Public Justice Center Inc.

St. Mary's Outreach Center

Team Silk, fiscally sponsored by McElderry Park Community Association Inc.

The Tender Bridge Inc.

Visions Select Baseball Inc.

Women's Wellness Lounge Inc.

OTHER

Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs

MedTech Innovator

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Baltimore Jewelry Center

Basic Automotive Training and Sponsorship Inc.

The Chill Station

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

Phase 3 Training Corporation

Publications

Abell Reports

[B'more for Healthy Babies: The Story Behind the Data](#) (February 2023) Infant mortality rates are a leading indicator of the health of a community, and for too long, Baltimore's infant mortality rates — and, more specifically, the infant mortality rate among African Americans in Baltimore — has been high. Within that context, B'more for Healthy Babies (BHB) has had success in improving birth outcomes and reducing racial disparities citywide, and even more so in two Baltimore neighborhoods (Upton/Druid Heights and Patterson Park) that have been provided more intensive interventions. This report digs into why the program has been so successful and offers lessons for expansion and other public health initiatives, while also raising concerns about funding challenges.

[Entry and Exit of Baltimore City Teachers Before and After COVID](#) (November 2023) Using data from the Maryland Longitudinal Data System, this report provides a descriptive analysis of changes in the teacher workforce in Maryland, with a special focus on Baltimore City. Given the current teacher shortage, this historical study examines trends from 2016-2017 to 2021-2022 and includes

a descriptive analysis of teachers who entered and exited before, during, and after COVID-19 school closures. The report dispels fears of a “mass exodus” of Baltimore City teachers post-COVID but points to issues with the pipeline of new teachers that contribute to shortages.

[The Trouble with STRIDE: Meeting climate goals and addressing natural gas system stranded costs](#) (December 2023) Baltimore Gas and Electric's replacement of its natural gas infrastructure became a public flashpoint this summer as some Baltimore residents raised loud objections to the installation of regulators on the outside of their homes. But questions about the replacement of gas lines extend far beyond the dispute between BGE and a few neighborhoods. Rather, it and the state's other major regulated gas suppliers are engaged in a decades-long, state-sanctioned gas infrastructure spending spree that directly contradicts Maryland's legislatively-mandated climate goals and threatens to saddle a dwindling number of ratepayers with billions in costs for decades to come, with the impacts likely disproportionately felt by those least able to afford them.



Abell-Supported Research

[Energy Efficiency for Everyone: How to Supercharge EmPOWER Maryland](#) (February 2023)

EmPOWER Maryland, the state's energy efficiency program, has saved Marylanders a lot of energy and money. But according to a new report from Maryland PIRG Foundation, EmPOWER Maryland, while successful, could spark more energy savings, deliver more for low-income customers, and more adequately support the state's climate goals.

[Whole Blocks, Whole City: Reclaiming Vacant Property Throughout Baltimore](#) (February 2023)

ReBUILD Metro has developed significant expertise in redeveloping neighborhoods in Baltimore that had been plagued by disinvestment and vacancy. In February 2022, Abell made a grant to ReBUILD Metro in support of a research report analyzing financing strategies to tackle Baltimore's vacant property crisis and actions to generate public support. The product is a comprehensive analysis of vacant and at-risk properties coupled with an ambitious vision for how they could be remedied holistically and equitably.

[Long-Term Services and Supports in Baltimore](#) (April 2023)

Direct care workers provide essential services but are often underpaid and undersupported. Maryland Direct Regional Services Collaborative researched and wrote a report aimed at improving job quality and creating a highly trained direct services workforce in Baltimore.

[Energy Affordability in Maryland](#) (December 2023)

The Institute for Energy & Environmental Research provides policymakers, journalists, and the public with understandable and accurate scientific and technical information on energy and environmental issues. With an Abell grant awarded in April 2022, IEER completed an equity study of Maryland's energy transition that centers adoption by low-income households and addresses cost burdens. This research study is the companion piece to IEER's Abell Report on Maryland's STRIDE law, "The Trouble with STRIDE."

Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Investments	\$299,098,793	\$279,488,422
Direct investments	20,454,097	22,937,242
Program-related investments and other loans, net	7,460,933	9,032,504
Other assets, net	7,662,985	6,630,435
Total Assets	\$334,676,808	\$318,088,603
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Grants scheduled for future payment	\$6,765,035	\$4,921,541
Guarantee liabilities	40,256,728	36,145,044
Payables and other liabilities	2,543,393	2,658,968
Total Liabilities	\$49,565,156	\$43,725,553
Commitments and contingencies		
Net assets without donor restrictions	285,111,652	274,363,050
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$334,676,808	\$318,088,603

Complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

Consolidated Statements of Activities

Years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
REVENUE		
Dividends, interest, partnership revenues	\$7,859,423	\$5,990,513
Realized gains (losses), net	9,994,022	25,428,658
Unrealized gains (losses), net	13,802,983	(93,993,351)
Other	1,365,979	370,374
Total revenue	\$33,022,407	\$(62,203,806)
EXPENSES		
Grants and grant related expenditures	\$16,279,733	\$13,475,118
Administrative expenses	4,257,560	3,637,200
Investment expenses	1,521,512	1,386,138
Federal excise tax provision	215,000	579,595
Total expenses	\$22,273,805	\$19,078,051
Change in net assets without donor restrictions	10,748,602	(81,281,857)
Net assets without donor restrictions:		
Beginning	274,363,050	355,644,907
Ending	\$285,111,652	\$274,363,050

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