

### WEST BALTIMORE RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

# **Excitement Builds** as Factory Set to Open!



# ANNUAL REPORT FY 2024

March 2025







Dear Friends of the West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation,

As we look back on another remarkable year at the West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation (WBRF), we are filled with a profound sense of gratitude and determination. In our fifth year, we continue to push forward with unwavering commitment to addressing the deep socio-economic and health challenges faced by the communities of West Baltimore. This year was a testament to the power of collaboration, resilience, and shared vision.

Our collective efforts have driven substantial progress. Together, data reported from grantees as of November 2024, we have supported over 1,300 job placements for youth and adults, created over 10,000 opportunities for youth engagement, and supported the distribution of 2.9 million meals or equivalent. Through these programs and initiatives, we are not just supporting individuals and families—we are fostering a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant West Baltimore. Every dollar invested, every partnership forged, and every grant awarded represents a step closer to transforming lives and communities.

This year, we also continued to make progress on The Factory: A West Baltimore Opportunity Center.

This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a beacon of opportunity, designed to house nonprofits and LifeBridge Health entities that provide critical services in workforce training, youth mentoring, food access, and violence interruption. Its doors will open in early 2025, marking a pivotal moment in our mission to empower individuals and strengthen neighborhoods.

We are incredibly proud of the partnerships and collaborations that fuel our work. None of this would be possible without the steadfast support of our funders, community leaders, grantees, and the many individuals who share our commitment to West Baltimore. Together, we are addressing systemic challenges, creating pathways to success, and building a foundation for sustained growth and opportunity.

While we celebrate our successes, we remain acutely aware of the work ahead. The persistent impact of historical disinvestment and structural inequities in West Baltimore requires a continued focus on innovative solutions, strategic investments, and community engagement. With your support, we are poised to take on these challenges with vigor and purpose.

On behalf of the Board, staff, and the countless individuals we serve, thank you for standing with us. We invite you to explore the pages of this report to see how your contributions are making a meaningful difference. Together, let us continue to work towards a brighter future for West Baltimore.

With deepest gratitude,

Kurt Sommer, Executive Director West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation

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WEST BALTIMORE RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

### **WBRF Impact**

Coming up on its 5th anniversary, WBRF is excited about the progress the organization is advancing in West Baltimore working alongside community leaders and stakeholders to support critical programs, projects and services addressing the community's deep socio economic and health needs. Investments to date have led to over 1,300 job placements for youth and adults, over 10,000 youth programming opportunities, 2.9 million meals, and have enabled 13,500 individuals to access critical supports and programs such as legal and childcare services, health education and outreach, violence interruption, mental health programming, financial literacy, and more.

Through active grantmaking focused on programming and services for West Baltimore, this past year WBRF awarded an impressive 75 grants totaling \$6,117,382 across two grant types including 11 Small Neighborhood Grants (SNGs) and 64 Program Related Grants (PRGs). Grants are made within four portfolio areas including Food Access, Workforce Development, Youth Mentoring, and Population Health.

As of November 2024, through four years of grantmaking, the WBRF has cumulatively awarded 264 grants to 113 organizations serving the West Baltimore community. The total grant awards, including early FY 2025 commitments, now stand at an impactful \$21.8 million. Investments are focused on core areas of West Baltimore between Mondawmin Mall, Carroll Park, Martin Luther King Blvd, and the city county line. Organizations serving these communities have been the focus of outreach and engagement to connect investment to local programming and priorities.



#### **WBRF Grantees**

- O Population Health
- O Workforce Development
- O Youth Mentoring
- Food Access





### West Baltimore Renissance Foundation by the Numbers

#### \$21.8 MILLION

Invested to support West Baltimore programs and services

#### **113 ORGANIZATIONS**

serving West Baltimore accessing resources to bolster programming and expand operations

#### 4.4 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD

providing 2.9 million meals/meal equivalents

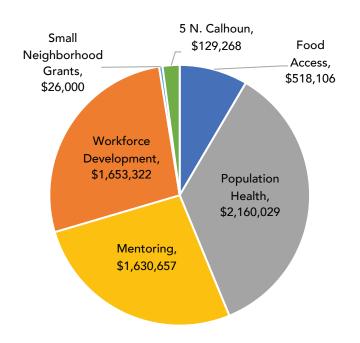
#### 10,562 YOUTH

participated in mentoring programming

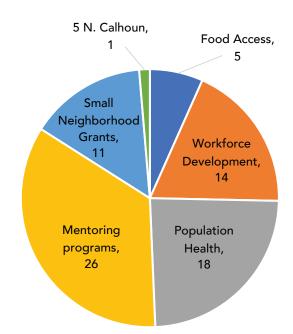
#### Cumulative Grants Made (11/24): 264

Food Access:	17.5
Workforce Development:	50
Population Health:	58
Mentoring:	87.5
Small Neighborhood Grants:	43
Factory Programming:	4
Grants for:	
Start-Up Organizations:	22
Program Expansion:	26
West Balt Based/Partnership:	229

#### FY 24 Value of All Awards by Portfolio



#### FY 24 Number of Awards by Portfolio 75 Total



### YOUTH MENTORING

West Baltimore is a dynamic community, rich in diversity but also marked by challenges that significantly impact its youth. The area faces a combination of limited access to quality education and extracurricular activities, economic inequality, and social issues such as violence and substance abuse. These factors contribute to troubling statistics; only 58% of high school students in West Baltimore graduate within four years, as reported by Baltimore City Public Schools.



Additionally, the Maryland Department of Labor reported that the unemployment rate for young adults (age 16-24) in Baltimore City is nearly double the state average. These data points underscore the critical need for comprehensive youth programming that includes academic support, mentorship, vocational training, and resources supporting mental health, health services and more.

To address these pressing needs, WBRF supports over 25 youth mentoring organizations that offer a variety of targeted programs and wraparound services. These programs range from arts, sports, media, and technology to dance, tutoring, and collegiate pathways, all designed to create safe environments and provide health, wellness, and career development resources. This past year, WBRF grants have funded initiatives that expose young people to career opportunities, training, and summer or part-time jobs, while also integrating social-emotional learning and mental health strategies. These multifaceted approaches aim to help West Baltimore's youth overcome challenges, build resilience, and reach their full potential. These programs include initiatives that are crucial for tackling the area's

10,562
883
3,187

**Cumulative Impact** 

Culinary/Nutrition:	883
Education/Tutoring:	3,187
SEL/Soc Serv/Therapy:	712
STEM:	686
Media:	705
Athletic:	1627
Environmental:	314
Health/Wellness:	278
Career/Job Readiness:	153
Job Placement:	393
Source: WBRF Grantee Reporting	Data

challenges, such as low high school graduation rates and high youth unemployment.

Investment in mentoring and youth related programming totaled \$1,630,657 across 26 grants at an average of \$62,717 per award. Programming hosted by grantees varied considerably and supported youth after school, during school, on weekends, or just during the summer. As part of this portfolio, WBRF continued work with a dozen other funders as part of the Summer Funding Collaborative to help award over \$4.2 million to 72 organizations selected from 160 applicants across the city. The WBRF selected five West Baltimore serving nonprofits to support for summer programming through a total contribution of \$200,000.

### **Baltimore SquashWise**

Baltimore SquashWise received a grant for \$75,000 and achieved significant outcomes this year, advancing their mission to provide holistic youth development through squash and educational support. Among the 80 students and alumni in the program, 70% reside in West Baltimore. This year, 77% of SquashWise students played in at least one competitive squash match advancing equity in the sport, and 86% showed growth in social-emotional development, as measured by the Hello Insight pre- and post-survey tool.



Figure 1: Baltimore SquashWise Participants

#### I AM MENtality

I AM MENtality received a grant to deliver health and wellness, financial literacy, and leadership development programming for male youths ranging in age from 7 to 18. Programming was delivered by mentors and inspiring community members and included supports such as therapy and weekly tutoring sessions.



Figure 2: I AM MENtality Participants

Through the Leadership Academy program, nearly 60 youth were supported several West Baltimore locations. Sessions focused on topics such as hygiene, emotional intelligence, managing emotions, and conflict resolution. Activities included relationship-building and physical fitness workshops including mindfulness, boxing, preparing for Sk runs, bike rides, outdoor exposure trips and several certifications including CPR and Stop the Bleed.

### **POPULATION HEALTH**

WBRF's Population Health portfolio is often described as those strategies that assist the "whole" person. It invests in a range of programs that support individuals working to overcome the community's pressing socio-economic and health factors. The 2023-2024 CHNA for Sinai Hospital and Grace Medical Center finds a troubling and unfortunately familiar list of health and social and environmental topics that community members identified as key needs that they face through surveys. Many health challenges are interrelated and significantly driven by the environmental challenges and community conditions such as a vacant housing, vacant and limited retail, limited transportation options, and public safety that culminated from decades of structural racism and disinvestment. Services supported by the WBRF in this portfolio range from legal services, homeownership readiness, staffing support for community/commercial development strategies, financial literacy and tax preparation assistance, violence response programming, case management services, health outreach and education, reentry services, home and safety improvements for seniors, mental health programming, and homeless services. Overall, WBRF awarded \$2,160,029 in Population Health grant funds to 18 organizations in FY 2024.

**Center for Hope,** through support from WBRF, continues to make significant strides in addressing mental health needs and supporting individuals affected by violence in the community. Over the past three years, the program has successfully expanded its mental health services, providing 1,663 therapy appointments to survivors of community violence, with 1,275 appointments attended. The introduction of the Grace Violence Response Team has further enhanced support for individuals in crisis, with the team assisting 181 individuals in the second half of 2024 alone. This proactive approach to violence response has facilitated vital connections between community members and necessary resources, reinforcing the program's impact on improving mental health outcomes and overall community well-being.

Additionally, the **Pathways to Advocacy Against Violence Everyday (PAAVE)** program has reached over 1,000 individuals, providing crucial resources and support through group events and case management. The program focuses on long-term healing and advocacy for children and families exposed to violence, successfully linking participants to essential services and minimizing duplication of efforts through collaborative partnerships. With a commitment to fostering resilience and community engagement, the program has established itself as a trusted resource for West Baltimore residents facing the chalenges of trauma and violence.

Other strategic grants by the WBRF in this portfolio include continued support for a faith-based and community health outreach strategies by the Clergy United for the Transformation of Sandtown and the Y of Central Maryland who are both using Community Health Workers to connect individuals to food, health services, and social service supports. WBRF renewed a grant with NAMI Baltimore to support peer lead mental health programming and provided funding to Friendly Loving Opportunities which has dual mission of training/employing individuals in the recovery space while providing free furniture and food to families in need. WBRF also awarded two capital grants in this portfolio including funding for a new youth tot lot at Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School and to Fayette Street Outreach to help expand their community center.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

More than ever, today's job seekers continue to need strong skills to compete for jobs in an ever changing economy. A region that was once dominated by manufacturing and production had positions available for those with limited education. With regional employment now resting heavily in healthcare, education, government, and professional services, greater educational attainment and more specific skills are needed including in technology across all sectors.



The Baltimore City economy remains strong for those in the workforce even after unemployment has ticked up slightly to 4.6% in July of 2024 over its April 2023 low of 2.2% according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. WBRF continues to posture workforce investments in those key sectors where there is continuing demand. And while the unemployment rate for the city as a whole may be quite low from historical standards, data from Baltimore Neighborhood Indicator's Alliance indicates there are numerous West Baltimore neighborhoods with unemployment over 10% in 2022 (the most recent data available at the lower geographic level). It is also important to note that the unemployment rate captures those that are in the labor force. There are thousands of others in the community that are not in the labor force. To address these

Cumulative Impact		
Participants:	1471	
Internship/Diversion:	182	
Placed in Jobs:	963	
Source: WBRF Grantee Report	ting Data	

#### Career Sectors Construction/Building Trades Informational Technology Biotechnology Healthcare Cultural arts Case Management & Job Readiness Transitional Employment

disparities, WBRF also supports job readiness strategies for those that need more help and supports through case management, general job readiness, reentry services, and transitional

WBRF awarded 14 grants in FY 24 totaling \$1.6 million for workforce development programming. Key sectors supported by grants are flagged in the side chart. Over the past 4 years, WBRF investments have supported workforce services for over 1,400 individuals which have led to jobs for over 900 adults with job placement activities for recent cohort graduates still underway.

**Faith and Work Enterprises,** through support from WBRF, has made significant strides in advancing case management and workforce development for West Baltimore and nearby communities. In the past two years as a WBRF grantee, the organization enrolled 558 in the program. Of those, 451 progressed to case management, and 153 completed workforce preparation skills training. The program's success is evident in its employment outcomes, with 77 participants securing sustainable employment after completing training, demonstrating the effectiveness of its personalized case management and strong partnerships with workforce organizations like Vehicles for Change, Per Scholas, and Maryland New Directions. These collaborative efforts have broadened vocational pathways and enabled participants to achieve meaningful employment.

### **FOOD ACCESS**

West Baltimore continues to face high needs as it relates to food and healthy food access. Large swaths of West Baltimore are a "food desert" or "healthy food priority area." The area's economic limitations and continued loss of residents strains the continued viability of retail establishments. This past year, the Giant grocery store on Edmondson Avenue dosed and the CHNA flagged as a top need that area residents can't afford healthy foods.

The CHNA also flagged that residents need help preparing healthy foods. Some good news has unfolded though. In Southwest Baltimore, Jumbo Fresh opened in Mt. Clare through support from City and State agencies replacing a store that dosed

#### **Cumulative Impact**

Participants:	10,562
Specializations:	
Culinary/Nutrition:	883
Education/Tutoring:	3,187
SEL/Soc Serv/Therapy:	712
STEM:	686
Media:	705
Athletic:	1627
Environmental:	314
Health/Wellness:	278
Career/Job Readiness:	153
Job Placement: Source: WBRF Grantee Reporti	<b>393</b> ng Data

several years ago. In addition, in September, Hollins Market reopened and now includes a small grocery market supported by a WBRF grant enabling individuals to buy basic items as well as fresh produce. WBRF has now invested in healthy food strategies in the two West Baltimore public markets. In the Avenue Market in Upton, WBRF has supported No Boundaries Coalition which is combining healthy food access and a workforce training strategy. Joint strategies that connect food with other forms of sustainable strategies for residents is a key element WBRF looks for when considering food requests. Other grantees that combine food with workforce or youth programming include the Food Project, Intersection of Change, and 4MyCiTy. This past year, WBRF also invested in a new food and community health worker

strategy led by the Y in Central Maryland and helped provide start up operational costs for a new urban farming strategy by the Black Yield Institute. These strategies have yielded over 4.4 million pounds of produce and 2.9 million meals for the community over the past 5 years. Total food investments in 2024 made by WBRF reached \$518,106 and are structured alongside additional grants also linked to food but in the workforce and youth portfolios.

**The Y in Central Maryland** is enhancing its Community Health Worker (CHW) initiative, supported by WBRF, to address health disparities in West Baltimore. This expanded program offers essential services such as access to healthy food, insurance, harm reduction and referrals to other services and supports. A cornerstone of the effort, the Y Fresh Mart is open three times a week and provides high-quality, nutrient-dense food serving an average of 375 neighbors weekly. The food distributed at the market equates to 11,135 meals and over 22,000 lbs of produce. Through a partnership with Plantation Park Heights Urban Farm (zip code 21215), 4,800 pounds of the fresh produce was purchased and distributed during the first 6 month of the grant.



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### **Other WBRF Strategies and Focus Areas**

#### **Evaluation of the WBRF**

In the spring of 2024, WBRF contracted with an independent evaluation firm, Community Science, to assess past work and community impact as well identify opportunities to continue to make impactful nvestments as we go forward. The firm used a variety of methods in their evaluation including interviews with staff, WBRF Board, subgroups of grantees by portfolio, community leaders, and surveys. The evaluation suggested a wide range of recommendations for WBRF to consider. They also included some strategic ideas to facilitate collaboration, leverage WBRF's growing network of nonprofits, unique role operating as a funder to convene other funders, and ways to further health outreach working with community-based organizations. WBRF Board and staff are considering these recommendations and will be working on setting out a strategic direction for the organization over the next 6 months as future HSCRC funding decisions are clarified.

#### Senior Health and Addiction Strategy

A June Baltimore Banner series highlighted some of the systemic health and addiction challenges facing seniors across the city. Over the summer and into the fall, WBRF staff worked with three entities to formulate a pilot health and addiction strategy in a handful of senior affordable housing properties in West Baltimore. In November of 2024, the WBRF Board approved over \$500,000 to support a collaborative strategy. Programming will include health and addiction services led by Grace Medical Center; building staff and resident training including safe practices led by Leading Age Maryland; and outreach, enrollment help with public benefits tax credits as well as programming led by Civic Works. The goal is to deploy services and engagement in four to eight senior buildings over a two-year period and measure a series of outcomes.

#### **Capacity Building**

After completing a survey in the fall of 2023 identifying capacity building interests and needs, WBRF renewed a grant to Maryland Nonprofits to offer workshops, focused cohorts, and consultant services to grow the strength of WBRF grantees. This two-year strategy included twelve workshops on key topics of interest ranging from individual giving strategies to using artificial intelligence to internal financial controls. Maryland Nonprofits will also be structuring two more intense cohorts for 10 to 12 organizations. One cohort, which was held in the summer of 2024, was focused on Fundraising and Sustainability. A second cohort focused on Leadership Development for newer Executive Directors will open in 2025.

In addition to the programming hosted by Maryland Nonprofits focused on grantees, WBRF provided continued grant support to Innovation Works and the Black Executive Director's Network which also providing capacity building programming for nonprofit organizations.



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### **Other WBRF Strategies and Focus Areas**

#### Housing

West Baltimore continues to face significant challenges, including high vacancy rates, deteriorating properties, and unaffordable housing. To address these issues, WBRF supports several organizations dedicated to improving housing conditions and stability:

**Parity Homes:** Parity is an equitable development company proudly headquartered in West Baltimore that acquires and rehabilitates abandoned properties by the block to create affordable home ownership opportunities. Their work is focused on the Harlem Park neighborhood.

**Requity:** Engages high school students in renovating vacant properties into energy-efficent homes for low-income families, teaching construction skills and applying passive building principles. Their nrighborhood revitalization efforts include solar lighting, landscaping, and targeted home repairs.

**Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS):** Promotes homeownership through education, financial coaching, and redevelopment. In 2023, 151 individuals recieved homebuyer education, leading to 35 home purchases in West Baltimore. NHS also repaired 43 legacy homes and rehabilitated 20 vacant properties, nine of which were sold.

**Rebuilding Together Baltimore (RTB):** Completed 17 home repair projects in the 21223 zip code, addressing critical upgrades like roofing, plumbing, and electrical work, RTB prioritizes low-income homeowners, particularly older adults, improving safety, stability, and overall well-being.

**Southwest Partnership (SWP):** A coalition of seven neighborhood associations and anchor institutions, SWP adopted a new housing plan in 2023 to guide reinvestment across Southwest Baltimore neighborhoods.

**St. Vincent de Paul:** With WBRF's support, a Resource and Education Coordinator at Sarah's Hope Family Shelter has been hired to coordinate financial literacy and housing readiness programs, alongside mental health and support services.

### THE FACTORY: A WEST BALTIMORE OPPORTUNITY CENTER

WBRF is pleased to report the The Factory is expected to begin opening in early 2025. After being delayed by more than 18 months because of utility issues, final components are being worked on to enable move in.

The Factory is intended to foster a safe space for people of all walks of life as they seek opportunity, health, and wellness. The Factory's focus is on hosting programming addressing the critical factors influencing health and economic opportunity in West Baltimore such as workforce development, youth programming, food access, and human services. As a community space, it will be open for neighborhood engagement as well as a convening space and capacity building component for WBRF's deep networking of nonprofit partners serving the area. The building's planned tenants will be a mix of nonprofit organizations as well as community facing LifeBridge Health entities delivering workforce training in health care and construction, digital literacy, and IT programming, entrepreneurship, youth mentoring and programming, healthy food access, and violence interruption and response services. The building features a classroom, conference room, computer lab, and a large convening space for use by tenants as well as outside organizations. Pending additional funding, future phases will include a commercial and teaching kitchen that will host food distribution and production space for social enterprises.



Located on West Baltimore Street retail corridor in the heart of Southwest Partnership's commercial redevelopment area, the Factory is a catalyst for reinvestment helping advance the community set plan for the area.

### The Continuing Work Ahead

This past year, LifeBridge Health joined with the Baltimore City Health Department as well as other hospitals to conduct the 2023/2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).

Through surveys, focus groups, and research, key health and social needs impacting the community were identified. The tables below highlight the top needs for areas around Sinai Hospital and Grace Medical Center from the CHNA over the past seven years. Violence, housing, food, and workforce challenges dominate the social issues. These social issues are interrelated and can be attributed as a causation of the top health issues identified including mental health, diet and stress related diseases, as well as addiction.

These challenges are deep and systemic outlining a continued need for collaboration and investment in both people and place-based needs for West Baltimore. Community members, health systems, community development organizations, public partners, and philanthropy must continue to find new pathways to invest in a better future. WBRF is humbled to work in this intersection and looks forward to making continued investments and convening partners in the Factory to make inroads into these challenges.







### TOP HEALTH AND SOCIAL NEEDS OVER TIME SINAI AND GRACE MEDICAL CENTER 2017-2023

#### **SOCIAL NEEDS**

2023 Survey		2020 Survey		2017 Survey	
Gun Violence	30.5%	Lack of Job Opportunities	32.4%	Neighborhood Safety/Violence	34.0%
Can't afford healthy foods	29.6%	Housing/ Homelessness	28.5%	Lack of Job Opportunities	31.8%
Poor neighborhood safety	26.4%	Neighborhood Safety/Violence	26.7%	Housing/ Homelessness	21.5%
Housing problems/ Homelessness	26.0%	Limited Access to Healthy Foods	21.6%	Availability/Access to Insurance	17.8%
Limited knowledge about healthy foods	24.6%	Ability/Access to Doctor's Office	18.4%	Limited Access to Healthy Foods	17.8%

Source: Sinai and Grace Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment

### **HEALTH NEEDS**

2023 Survey		2020 Survey		2017 Survey	
High Blood Presure	54.5%	Alcohol/Drug Addiction	59.7%	Alcohol/Drug Addiction	48.9%
Diabetes/High Blood Sugar	50.3%	Mental Health (Depression/Anxiety)	44.5%	Diabetes/High Blood Sugar	42.3%
Addiction or Substance Use	48.9%	Diabetes/High Blood Sugar	33.3%	Heart Disease/Blood Pressure	33.7%
Mental Health (Depression/Anxiety)	40.4%	Heart Disease/ Blood Pressure	31.4%	Overweight/Obesity	27.1%
Chronic Pain and Arthritis	33.4%	Smoking/Tobacco Use	22.9%	Smoking/Tobacco Use	24.7%

Source: Sinai and Grace Medical Center Community Health Needs Assessment

### **ABOUT US**

West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation ("WBRF") was created as part of the November 2019 acquisition of Bon Secours Hospital Baltimore, now known and Grace Medical Center, by LifeBridge Health (LBH). West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation operates as a nonprofit organization created to administer grant dollars from the Health Services Cost Review Commission and to oversee the acquisition, redevelopment and programming of the Resource Center known as The Factory: A West Baltimore Opportunity Center. Activities that are funded by the WBRF serve residents of West Baltimore. As a guideline, the WBRF emphasizes programs and activities that benefit individuals in zip codes 21223, 21217, 21216, and 21229 in its grantmaking.



#### MISSION

To empower West Baltimore residents and communities through strategic investments that expand services, amenities, and opportunities that lead to a lasting impact on health and quality of life.

#### VISION

The West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation is a portal of health and wellness to the West Baltimore Community. We take responsibility for improving the health of our community through care management, enhancing workforce development, providing access to healthy food and providing family support. We engage our community at all points by caring Bravely.

#### WBRF Board Members as of June 30, 2024

Leslie Simmons, RN, MA, FACHE, Chair, LifeBridge Health

Amy Shlossman, President, LifeBridge Health

Camilla Blake Fall, Maryland Department of Health

Charles Jackson, Baltimore City Mayor's Office

Edith Gillard-Canty, Community Director

Trecia Henriques, M.D., J.D. LifeBridge Health

Sr. Mary Shimo Bon Secours Baltimore Health Corporation

#### WBRF Officers and Staff as of June, 2024

Leslie Simmons, Chair of the Board of Directors, (Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of LifeBridge Health)

Amy Shlossman, President, (President of Sinai Hospital and Grace Medical Center, LifeBridge Health)

David H. Krajewski, Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice-President, LifeBridge Health)

Jason H. Weiner, Secretary (General Counsel and Senior Vice-President, LifeBridge Health)

Kurt Sommer, Executive Director

Anna Tatro, Program Manager

Daisa Johnson, Administrative and Building Coordinator

# FISCAL YEAR 2024 GRANTEES: SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
Baltimore Community Toolbank (FY 24)	\$2,500	Baltimore Community Toolbank will host its second annual event to provide resources from variety of vendors for the community as well as food, music and giveaways.
Fayette Street Outreach (FY 24)	\$2,500	Christmas toy drive, dinner and give a way to provide community residents with toys, gloves, hats and COVID-19 information. The event will take place December 22, 2023 at 3-5 p.m., expecting to serve 200!250 community residents.
Franklin Square Community Association	\$2,500	The Association will be hosting 4 music and community building events between May and October 2024 in Franklin Square Park.
Friends of Kirby Lane Park	\$1,000	The Kirby Lane Park Anniversary Crab Feast is held the third Saturday of August each year to commemorate the first Kirby Lane Park Pop-Up Park (Fall 2017) and the date of park completion (Fall 2019). The event brings together new and old friends and neighbors of the park for a time of reflection, celebration, and socializing.
Friends of SOWEBO/Hollins Roundhouse (FY 24)	\$2,500	Friends of SOWEBO will be hosting the SOWEBO Festival featuring art, food, music, kids programming, and health services on Memorial Day weekend.
Nehemiah Central Community Development Corporation (FY 24)	\$2,500	Nehemiah Central will purchase and distribute holiday gifts, hats, gloves and scarves for 100 needy children during the Christmas holiday.
Pathway Forward (FY 24)	\$2,500	Pathway Forward and Allen AME Church will serve 4 elementary/middle schools in zip code 21223 including Mary Ann Wintering, Franklin Square, James McHenry, and Frederick with back to school events and supplies including uniforms, clothes, back to school supplies and hygiene products.
Pigtown Main Street (FY 24)	\$2,500	On, Saturday, September 30, 2023, 12-7 Pigtown Main Street will present the 20th Annual Pigtown Festival, a family-friendly event celebrating the character and history of one of Baltimore's most unique neighborhoods. 7000 people are expected to attend this year's festival as in previous years. This funding will go towards the kids zone.

# FISCAL YEAR 2024 GRANTEES: SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
Southwest Sports and Fitness Alliance (FY 24)	\$2,500	Grantee will be coordinating a race featuring local landmarks, and uniting neighbors, families, and local resources to create active healthy communities. To have 400-500 participants in healthy fitness-oriented activity while offering free participation for youth.
UEmpower of MD/ The Food Project (FY 24)	\$2,500	To support community building and holiday festivities for a 150 youth of Carrollton Ridge.
United Way of Central Maryland (FY 24)	\$2,500	United Way is collaborating with other partners to host a large back to school event for Poppleton. The event is planned for August 21, 2024 and will include on- site free services including haircuts, health screenings, backpacks, school supplies, and hygiene kits.





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GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
4MyCity (FY 24)	\$150,000	Through their 4 Phase Sustainability Plan, 4MyCiTY seeks to address issues of food insecurity, environmental issues and employment. 4MyCity will focus on three areas of work: Food rescue, food distribution, and workforce development for youth.
Black Yield Institute/Maryland Philanthropic Network (FY 24)	\$100,000	BYI has an active distribution network aiding Baltimore's underserved neighborhoods and is expanding their work into West Baltimore via a new urban farming. The project aims to equip residents to implement effective solutions that address community needs through food distribution, employment and education. BYI will hire a Director of Agriculture and two Marketplace Assistants, managing the farmers' market and distribution, ensuring fresh produce/goods reach these residents.
Intersection of Change (FY 24)	\$7,500	Intersection of Change, through Strength to Love II farm, will addresses community food apartheid issues, offer employment to community residents and support youth programming. Goals include youth programming for 20, employment for 1 to 2 returning citizens, and to achieve 4000 lbs of produce.
So What Else? (FY 24)	\$125,000	So What Else will provide food access in underserved and low-income communities. Funding will also go to Youth Programs allowing the organization to hire additional staff, build programming capacity for operational sustainability, and further develop the Resource Center in Carrollton Ridge.
U Empower of MD- The Food Project (FY 24)	\$125,000	The Food Project's food production and meal distribution program increases food access and provide job opportunities to at-risk youth in 21223. They intend to employ up to 25 youth, provide 2000 meals monthly and distribute 45,000 lbs of food a month.

	GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
	10:12 Sports (FY 24)	\$55,000	10:12 Sports Mentoring and Workforce Development Program matches 250+ participants with mentors, in a 6:1 ratio. Teens also participate in sports, job readiness training, get assistance with obtaining documents needed for employment, and have opportunities for job placement or training with partner organizations, and internally.
	Access Art (FY 24)	\$58,701	Access Art will deliver an in-person 6-week summer program offering comprehensive visual arts classes, hands on S.T.E.M. activities, arts integrated literacy classes, community action art projects, and leadership development activities for 195 youth ages 7-18.
DRING	Art with a Heart (FY 24)	\$25,000	The requested grant will support Art with a Heart's (AWAH) visual art programs, workforce development, teen leadership, and community art efforts. They expect to work with 50 youth. A portion of this request is the design, facilitation and installation of a community art project for The Factory with WBRF.
MENTORING	B360 (FY 24)	\$50,000	B360 will teach the engineering design process and create safe spaces to apply engineering and rider safety. A minimum of 300 West Baltimore youth under 16 will work in cohort models with at least 15 young adults' instructors to complete over 240 hours of programming with instructors receiving a paid stipend for training and work hours.
	Baltimore SquashWise (FY 24)	\$100,000	SquashWise combines squash coaching and competition with tutoring, college and career readiness, social emotional learning, and long-term mentoring to ensure that each student develops holistically to achieve their goals. They support over 100 middle, high school and graduates and more than 70% of their students reside in West Baltimore neighborhoods.
	Code in the Schools (FY 24)	\$75,000	Recruit 40-50 young people from West Baltimore neighborhoods into the Prodigy Program The Prodigy Program is an advanced job skills education and mentoring program with several components that engages young people in technology and job skills development courses starting in middle school through age 24.

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
Cody Young Empowerment Youth Charities (FY 24)	\$60,000	Cody's Cave (CC)is a safe and mentoring space for 25 boys 14 to 18 years old that live in zip code 21217 Youth learn tools to combat negativity, manage stress and prevent gun violence. Groups are offered on mental health, job readiness, art, computers, finances, healthy eating, exercise, conflict resolution and more. Youth will test for their safe serve certification and cpr certification.
Higher Achievement (FY 24)	\$100,000	Higher Achievement will provide academic and social- emotional learning for 120 5th - 8th grade scholars through high school readiness, mentoring, academic skill-building, and enrichment through an afterschool program.
I AM MENtality (FY 24)	\$70,000	Programming includes health & wellness, financial literacy and leadership development for 60 young men They intend to register 100 for therapy. They provide multiple weekly tutoring sessions.
Let's Thrive Baltimore (FY 24)	\$85,000	This youth leadership program provides year-round mentoring. Youth participants meet a total of 160 days every year with programming offered four times weekly (2 times in person) to host youth-led training online (Instagram), research relevant topics to share with their peers. For 12 weeks during the summer, youth leaders receive 25 hours per week of training that includes an additional 150 students in the summer through Youth Works. The program focuses on the Sandtown-Winchester and Harlem Park neighborhoods.
Light, Health, and Wellness (FY 24)	\$100,000	To support the expansion of services for LIGHT's childcare program, the LIGHT Rock Child Care Center in elevation to the LIGHT Rock Village Academy. LHW will hire additional staff members, one Child Care Co-Director and two Teachers, and increase enrollment by 20 new children.
Little Flowers Early Childhood and Development Center (FY 24)	\$50,000	GRASP is a 9 week/ 7 hours per day/ 6 days per week, with Saturday (virtual), interactive camp with lots of fun activities serving 100 0-5th grade youth. "Lights, Camera, Action" performing arts will kick off the summer session.
Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood (FY 24)	\$30,000	MMTH Mentorship activities span across basic human needs (nutrition); education (tutoring sessions); and workforce development (enrichment field trip). The Mentoring program includes twice-monthly meetings on Saturdays, includes three tutoring sessions per week, drop-in office hours, and off-hour mentoring by appointment as necessary. The annual calendar is loaded with special events, including holiday banquets, field trips to professional sporting events, parks, and local points of interest; and a weekend trip to Tuskegee University. Funding will also support a 2024 summer camp.

MENTORING

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
Mindful Mentors (FY 24)	\$27,050	Mindful Mentors reduces the barriers that prevent student- athletes from achieving academic success. The goal of Mindful Mentors is to increase or maintain the academics of student athletes and their physical exercise. They will work with 40 4-8th grade students.
Nehemiah Central Development Corporation (FY 24)	\$80,101	Don't Follow Me is a program designed to engage at-risk students in Baltimore City Public Schools with returning citizens from the Maryland Correctional System to assist with behavior modification and academic support.
Omega Baltimore Foundation (FY 24)	\$25,000	Easterwood Recreation Center will operate Monday-Friday as a recreation center providing nutrition, mentoring, and sports programming. Omega in partnership with the Collegiate School for Boys will begin a Saturday mentoring programming.
Parks & People Foundation (FY 24)	\$135,000	Parks & People, Inc. will advance the development of academic enrichment opportunities for Baltimore City students and the creation of green spaces in West Baltimore neighborhoods. Over 600 youth with more than 200 from West Baltimroe will participate in programming and 4 parks will be created or improved.
ED Reed Foundation/Player Philanthrophy Fund (FY 24)	\$45,000	Through Ed Reed Academy, middle school athletics are sponsored at Booker T. Washington Middle (Boys Basketball, Flag Football, Cheer/Step, Girls Basketball, Volleyball, Track). Reed Feeds Thanksgiving Blessings initiative, through a true collaborative effort, provides 10,000+ Baltimore community members with holiday meals and the food pantry provides another 280 families with food annually, feeding over 1,000 individuals.
R.I.S.E. Arts Center of Baltimore (FY 24)	\$33,449	R.I.S.E Arts Center of Baltimore's Summer Camp program engages 40 youth ages 5-13 living with Autism in reading literacy and writing through a high-quality art education summer program. During the five-week intensive program, participants gain hands-on experience in arts-focused enrichments such as art & drama therapy, comic book story development, poetry, and African Dance in partnership with Keur Khaleyi African Dance Company.
Requity (FY 24)	\$25,000	Requity's project Pleasant Presstman includes work-based learning for culinary, construction, and interactive media trade students, providing meal deliveries, landscaping and clean-up services, and targeted home improvement to residents living in the Greater Rosemont neighborhood.

MENTORING

	GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
	St. Luke's Youth Center (FY 24)	\$100,000	Providing positive impacts through engagement, well-being, and academic outcomes through their programs: Moms On a Mission, SLYC Summer, and SLYC After School Club. They offer in-school and out of school supports on a daily basis.
	Thread (FY 24)	\$100,000	Thread matches ninth graders academically performing in the bottom 25% of their class with multiple volunteers to form a Thread Family that represents a diverse cross-section of Baltimore.
	Unlimited Potential (FY 24)	\$20,000	Offerings include after-school programming twice per week, mentoring, and community events. The after-school component includes visual arts, dance, theater, cooking, homework help, character development, entrepreneurship, leadership opportunities, field trips, and sports. Monthly offerings include barbershop talks and haircuts for young men and salon talks for young women. Community field days are hosted quarterly including a back-to-school event, winter holiday event, and sports days.
	Wide Angle Youth Media (FY 24)	\$185,000	WYAM programming centers around access to high-tech media equipment, mentoring, and career/college readiness skills. 200 media artists ages 10 - 24 will produce 150 videos, photographs, social design projects, and client deliverables. 35% of students will be from West Baltimore.
	Xaala Mainama, Inc. Community Development Center/Obasi Foundation (FY 24)	\$30,800	The program will support 50 participants ages 14-24 year old with a range of activities to provide a holistic learning environment. each day the program integrates character development skills sessions. In addition, hands- on enrichment activities like sewing, art, STEM, dance, and movement. Students are provided breakfast and lunch daily. Weekly field trips and/or special guests are included.
	Youth As Resources (FY 24)	\$25,000	Youth As Resource (YAR) will expand, strengthen, and sustain Task Force, a community organizing and workforce development strategy. Task Force is the group of 8 YAR youth Board members (4 from West Baltimore) who organize peers to bring about community and institutional change. Task Force's purpose is to provide the training and support peers need to identify and address issues on their own terms and to broaden their base and ensure the authentic inclusion of youth voices.

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
BioTechnical Institute of Maryland (FY 24)	\$100,000	BTI will support 15 West Baltimore City residents who will be enrolled in programming including the BioStart and Lab Associates programs. An industry recognized certificate of completion and the opportunity to earn 7-credits towards an associates degree in biotechnology from Baltimore City Community College are awarded to graduates.
Center for Urban Families (FY 24)	\$250,000	CFUF will enroll 110 students in the STRIVE program, enroll 50 in Fatherhood program, 360 members will receive 850 hours of in-depth, one-on-one mobility coaching, and 41 West Baltimore participants will receive intial job placement support.
Dwyer Workforce Development	\$100,000	Dwyer Workforce Development will recruit and enroll twenty-five (25) participants from West Baltimore core zip codes to train and recieve a CNA or GNA. Overall, they will serve more than 150 from West Baltimore. 80% of those participants are predicted to complete training and earn certification. 80% certified scholars are expected to be placed with an employer within six months of training.
Faith and Work Enterprises (FY 24)	\$75,000	Faith and Work Enterprises will offer 130 clients the Individualized Workforce Development Process aimed at disrupting the conditions of generational poverty in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood and overcoming the barriers created by trauma. Through individualized case management, clients progress through a six-stage process where they build capacity for living wage employment and establish the support system needed to sustain their progress.
Franciscan Center (FY 24)	\$50,000	The Franciscan Center will administer three cohorts of the Dignity Plates Training Academy with 12 participants being from West Baltimore. DPTA is a no-cost culinary arts training programr. Over the course of 13 weeks, students learn practical cooking skills- such as building flavor profiles and preparing dishes and ingredients before the beginning of service- and the soft skills involved in working successfully as part of a team. Participants also earn a ServSafe Certification and are assisted with jobs.
Friendly Loving Opportunities (FY 24)	\$103,744	Targeting homelessness and workforce development in West Baltimore, FLO creates opportunities for formerly homeless/ incarcerated, low-income individuals to gain employment, earn a wage, and give back to their own community. They deliver and assemble furniture for low-income families with children that need gently used furniture, toiletries, food, and household goods. The Furniture Assistance Program serves over 260 individuals.

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
Goucher Prison Education Partnership	\$110,844	The Goucher Prison Education Partnership (GPEP) supports workforce development by offering a college education to 18 West Baltimore residents currently incarcerated in Maryland prisons.
Innovation Works (FY 24)	\$100,000	IW works will continue to support and grow social enterprises and entrepreneurs supported through technical assistance, a loan fund and variety of coaching and mentoring support. In addition, IW will hold their first Neighborhood Economic Summit, formalizepartnerships with lead organizations in key neighborhoods, and develop/pilot neighborhood-specific offerings initiatives that drive social entrepreneurs' (SEs) commitment to W/SW Baltimore. They support over 45 West Baltimore social enterprises.
No Boundaries Coalition (FY 24)	\$100,000	No Boundaries Coalition provides resources for young adults (18-25) to receive mentorship, learn workforce skills and earn money, and gain access to and education about healthy food. Throughout 12 culinary modules, 16 trainees learn about the connection of food to the social and political climate through an investigation of food apartheid. Trainees put their knowledge to use weekly by preparing and selling food at the Fresh at the Avenue stall.
Paul's Place (FY 24)	\$100,000	Paul's Place's culinary arts training program will prepare 60 economically disadvantaged adults for food service careers each year. Graduates will earn industry-recognized credentials and receive workforce development and job placement assistance.
Per Scholas (FY 24)	\$80,000	Per Scholas Baltimore will enroll 150 Baltimore learners, offering in-demand, technical training in IT Support, Software Engineering, and Cloud Computing. While in our program, learners spend 80% of their time on technical skills training and 20% on professional development; critical components to landing that first job and moving up the tech career ladder. Of enrolled learners, 85% will graduate, 80% of graduates will earn an industry-recognized credential, and 80% of graduates will launch tech careers at average starting wages of \$21/hour. Upon completion, graduates will have access to support services for two years post-graduation.

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
Phase 3 (FY 24)	\$20,000	Phase 3 Training Corporation provides job training for individuals interested in electrical, elevator, and HVAC careers for 30 students, it is projected that at least 25 students will gain at least 1 industry credential. Of the 25 students gaining credentials, we expect at least 20 students will complete our program. Of the 20 students completing our program, they expect 16 students will pursue a Maryland Registered Apprenticeship or a career in the building trades.
Turnaround Tuesday (FY 24)	\$100,000	Turnaround Tuesday is a job movement that was launched in 2014. This grant will support Turnaround Tuesday's West Baltimore efforts to train and support individuals, often with barriers to employment, and work to place them in jobs including those in the healthcare industry. The program projects 300 job placements including 115 from West Baltimore with an 80% job retention rate.
VSP - Sinai (FY 24)	\$300,000	Partnering with Civic Works, and other established local community workforce development partners, VSP proposes to provide 50 residents with vital employment services to achieve career direction, life skills training and work readiness in a healthcare setting, job search skills, and job placement services, leading to stable employment.

	GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
	BLK ED Network (FY 24)	\$35,000	The BLK ED Network's Executive Director will oversee implementation of BLK Leadership Accelerator, a ten- month cohort program designed to build individual and organizational capacity while also countering systemic issues. This will include recruitment and enrollment of 12 Black leaders from West Baltimore nonprofits. The curriculum, including small-group exercises, guest speakers, and facilitated conversations, will address the unique needs of Black founders and executive directors leading nonprofits in West Baltimore.
N HEALTH	Center for Hope/ Baltimore Child Abuse Center (FY 24)	\$200,000	The West Baltimore Response to Violence and Trauma through the Center for Hope provides mental health services, case management and advocacy services, violence prevention and intervention services, and community engagement within West Baltimore to improve the wellbeing and reduce the effects of trauma for children, adults, families, and the community. Funding supports three distinct programs including Mental Health, the Grace Violence Response Team (GVRT), and the Pathways to Advocacy Against Violence Everyday (PAAVE).
POPULATION HEALTH	Clay Pots (FY 24 - Capital)	\$20,000	Clay Pots will begin the predevelopment phase of construction and planning for their building's unfinished upper floors adding bathrooms, office, and meeting space. This renovation will provide space to further serve the community by establishing designated spaces for longstanding programs.
	Clay Pots (FY 24 - Program)	\$40,000	The vision of Healing Within is to continue to foster an environment that promotes health and wellness, engages the community in healthy lifestyle choices, and promotes the well-being of the community. Healing Within will continue to provide community members with supportive practices and health education to explore healthy choices and help heal their bodies and minds.
	Clergy United for the Transformation of Sandtown (FY 24)	\$310,000	CUTS Programming will include CVD outreach and education, health insurance enrollment and education, proactive engagement with high risk patients with handoff to healthcare providers and other health outreach strategies. They will enroll at least 200 Sandtown adult residents in the health care insurance via the Maryland Health Connection or Medicaid. CUTS will link 150 "hard-to-reach" residents to primary care providers and provide 200-225 residents with Train-the-Trainer CVD prevention education skills.

	GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
	Fayette Street Outreach (FY 24)	\$200,000	Funding will support the redevelopment of the Fayette Street Outreach community center. The project calls for the expansion into three buildings enabling larger community meetings, programming and services.
	Kaboom	\$125,000	KABOOM! will transform the Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School playground into a kid-designed space that supports the unique developmental needs of students, providing them a dedicated space to play, learn, and thrive.
	Maryland NonProfits (FY 24)	\$132,425	Maryland Nonprofits will provide capacity building offerings for 2024-2025 to support WBRF grantees. Programing will include a workshop training series for all WBRF grantees, a cohort program on fundraising and sustainability, and a cohort experience for executive directors focused on building their proficiency and skill as nonprofit business leaders and strategists.
	NAMI Metropolitan Baltimore (FY 24)	\$40,000	NAMI Metropolitan Baltimore will create space for open conversations, provide resources, support and education to people living with mental health conditions and their families, and work to eradicate additional barriers. Through classes, support groups, mental health forums, and presentations NAMI anticipates providing 650 community touchpoints in year one and 1,300 touchpoints in year two.
	Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore (FY 24)	\$150,000	Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore, Inc. will create and sustain homeownership in West Baltimore by providing renter outreach, homeownership counseling, financial coaching, home repair, tax credit application assistance, and affordable housing development to support a total of 250 residents.
	No Struggle No Success (FY 24)	\$100,000	NSNS delivers direct programming planning and implementation of re-entry services and resources for prerelease and post-release within the state of Maryland. They maintain advisory and case management services for 220 individuals, about 40 at a time. 115 clients will be from West Baltimore
	Pigtown Climbs (FY 24)	\$10,000	Pigtown Climbs will be coordinating climbing and outdoor activities for youth and the community while advancing a capital project. Goals include providing outdoor and climbing programming for 50 active participants and reaching 300 – 600 community participants through events.

	GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
	Rebuilding Together Baltimore (FY 24)	\$250,000	Rebuilding Together Baltimore (RTB) will provide critical home repairs for low-income homeowners in Southwest Baltimore. The focus of repairs will be on structural issues, home systems, and health & safety issues. 30-40 predominately elderly low-income households in 21223 will be served with improvements.
EALTH	Southwest Partnership (FY 24)	\$115,000	Funding will support Southwest Partnership's commercial development programming focused on West Baltimore Street, Hollins Market, and the Pigtown Main Street. The requested funds would support the staff costs for a Commercial Development Program Manager, who would be responsible for advancing the SWP's commercial development strategy.
POPULATION HEALTH	Southwest Partnership-Capital (FY 24)	\$50,000	Southwest Parntership will use this award towards the renovation and reopening of the Poppleton Recreation Center. After renovation of the recreation center, Southwest Sports and Fitness Alliance is expected to become the lead tenant of the building where they will host offices and operate programming.
	St. Vincent de Paul/ Sarah's Hope (FY 24)	\$90,000	St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore will hire a new Resource and Education (R&E) Coordinator at Sarah's Hope family shelter, which provides 24-hour services for families experiencing homelessness in West Baltimore. The new position seeks to develop mental health and support groups, provide education on financial literacy and housing readiness, and work with partner agencies and volunteers to coordinate other resources for families. Service to 125 familes with 80% exiting into permanent housing.
	The Y of Central Maryland (FY 24)	\$150,000	To intentionally address health inequities in the Upton/Druid Hill community, the Y will pilot a health outreach initiative that will focus on leveraging Community Health Workers (CHWs) to engage the community proactively providing health education, awareness, and referral to additional health resources. Through this grant the Y will hire a full time Community Health Director and four Community Health Workers to engage community members in healthy living and connection with health resource providers.

GRANTEE	AMOUNT AWARDED	PURPOSE
University of Maryland Baltimore Community Engagement Center (FY 24)	\$70,000	The University of Maryland, Baltimore Community Engagement Center and the CASH Campaign of Maryland will provide a comprehensive package of services to 1200 West Baltimore residents including financial education, coaching, free tax preparation, and benefits screening to help families increase their financial stability.
Vehicles of Change (FY 24)	\$60,000	Vehicles for Change will assist 20 families living in West Baltimore by providing access to employment, health care, quality food sources and opportunities for children through car ownership. The recipient pays a small fee for their car and can receive a 12-month, VFC guaranteed loan and a 6-month/6,000 mile warranty. As long as they own the car they can have it repaired at the VFC facilities at a discounted price.