



WEST BALTIMORE RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

Annual Report

January 2022

Introduction and Background

The West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation (“WBRF”) is pleased to present its first annual report highlighting the work and activities that have taken place since grantmaking began in the fall of 2020. WBRF was formed as a separate nonprofit organization to manage funding allotted by the Health Services Cost Review Commission to LifeBridge Health linked to the November 2019 acquisition of what is now Grace Medical Center. Funds through the HSCRC are supporting grantmaking activities focused on the social determinants of health as well as the creation of the Factory: A West Baltimore Opportunity Center.

The work of WBRF is overseen by a Board of Directors as well as dedicated staff that includes an executive director, part time program officer, and administrative support.

WBRF actively began work in January 2020 but paused for several months when the initial wave of Covid-19 impacted the United States. Work restarted in earnest in the summer of 2020 as a framework for decision making, priorities, and organizational policies began to be formulated. The Board evaluated health needs, existing community programming, socio-economic issues as well as feedback from extensive community outreach and briefings to guide work forward.

WBRF Board

Neil M. Meltzer (LifeBridge Health), Chair
Daniel Blum (LifeBridge Health)
Edith Gillard-Canty (Community Director)
Letitia Dzirasa, M.D. (Baltimore City Mayor’s Office)
Mark Martin, Ph.D. (Maryland Department of Health)
Arsalan Sheikh, D.O. (LifeBridge Health)
Sr. Mary Shimo (Bon Secours Baltimore Health Corporation)

WBRF Staff

Kurt Sommer, Executive Director
Regina Merritt, Manager for Partnerships
Karen Adams, Administrative Assistant

Grantmaking Activities

To support community needs and programming, WBRF makes available two types of grant opportunities including Small Neighborhood Grants (“SNG”) and Program Related Grants (“PRG”). The grant process is open for interested nonprofit organizations and begins on WBRF’s website at www.wbrenaissance.org.

SNGs are intended to support one-time events or smaller strategies to build community in zip code 21223/ areas immediately surrounding Grace Medical Center and are limited to awards of \$2500 or less. PRGs provide deeper funding to support ongoing and dedicated programming in four portfolio areas including workforce development, youth mentoring, food access, and population health. These grants can support programming for one or more years and awards have ranged from about \$10,000 to \$350,000 to date. Organizations are asked to prioritize their focus and emphasis on four key zip codes comprising West Baltimore: 21223, 21229, 21216 and 21217. Organizations may, however, incorporate participants from other areas and zip codes.

Guiding work and grantmaking, WBRF has set out a series of values (see text box) and programmatic priorities (below) within and across its portfolio areas. These elements are intended to encourage applicants to emphasize key elements and outcomes in their work that lead to positive results for West Baltimore.



WBRF Values

- Intentionally address racial socio-economic or health disparities.
- Expand and advance technology access for West Baltimore residents.
- Build on existing work and /or create lasting improvements for residents and communities.

Programmatic Priorities

WORKFORCE

Teach soft skills and job readiness necessary for success.

Provide the opportunity to achieve a lasting credential or industry recognized certification.

Support the removal of barriers to employment and connect individuals to aligned services and supports.

Provide strong opportunities for job placement and a living wage.

MENTORING

Help students pursue educational opportunities including basic high school, technical/trades school or college.

Build positive relationships with children in the community and their guardians, teachers and schools.

Supporting youth across a variety of needs and measuring progress over time.

FOOD ACCESS

Partner with local businesses to enhance healthy food access.

Provide cooking and food education.

Blend healthy eating and living including exercising.

Expand access to grocery stores including cooperatively owned establishments.

POPULATION HEALTH

Support clinical and or social wrap around programs to improve the health of the community.

Assist in connecting to and create a continuity for healthcare services.

Provide financial education, homeownership counseling, foreclosure/eviction prevention services.

Address trauma and violence.

Awards to Date

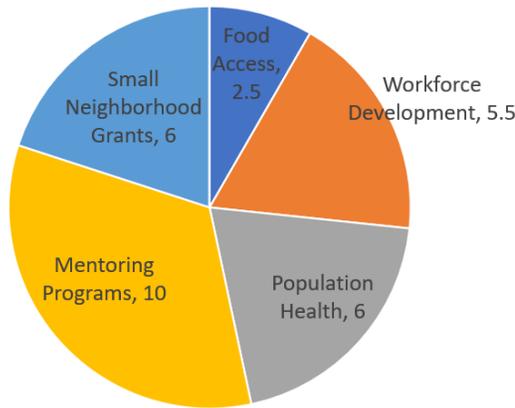
As of November 1, 2021, WBRF has awarded 51 grants to nonprofit organizations in West Baltimore including 30 awards in FY 21 totaling approximately \$2.3 million and 21 awards in FY 22 covering \$1.9 million . The pie charts below break out the distribution of awards reflecting SNG awards as well as the types of PRG including mentoring, food access, workforce and population health. FY 22 awards also reflect grants to support programming in the Factory.

In its early grantmaking efforts, the WBRF was very intentional about identifying and supporting organizations directly serving the West Baltimore community. The WBRF has awarded 45 grants to organizations based in West Baltimore, have a local partnership, or are in the process of growing their presence in area. Helping grow new services has also been important. WBRF has awarded grants to six start-up organizations that are in very early stages of programming and ten established organizations that are adding a new service or programming for West Baltimore.

WBRF Grant Awards by Portfolio and Fiscal Year

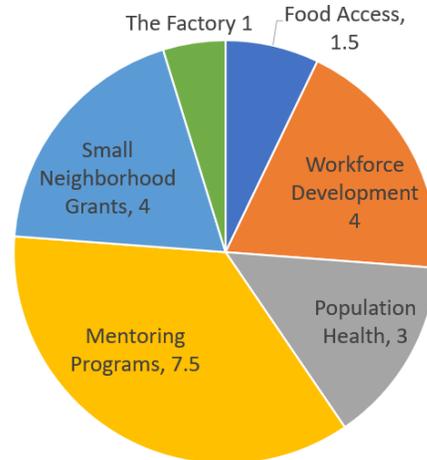


FY 21 Awards by Portfolio (30 Total)



\$2.3 Million

FY 22 Awards by Portfolio (21 to Date)



\$1.9 Million

Please visit our website for the FY 2021 and FY 2022 grantee list and activity summaries.

Mentoring

Mentoring services for youth represent the largest share of grants that WBRF has made to date with a total of 18 organizations receiving awards. Collectively, grants support more than 1800 participants and focus on a range of sectors with many providing supportive services such as tutoring, social emotional learning, and mental health. Some of the mentoring programs have focused mainly on summer programming while others operate year-round.

Food Access

The WBRF is supporting a range of strategies that help expand food access in West Baltimore with an emphasis on healthy foods. Eight grants have been made to support food programming but often the strategies touch on other components and portfolios. The WBRF has been seeking out strategies that go beyond just providing food and incorporate broader services, education, training, or aligned programming.

Workforce Development

WBRF has made ten awards to support workforce development programming. Grant funds support over 500 seats of job training in a variety of fields including healthcare, biotechnology, information technology, automotive, the building trades, culinary arts, general job readiness services as well as case management supporting employment programming.

Population Health

This portfolio represents the broadest category of programming and can include strategies that support homeownership, foreclosure prevention, financial education, trauma counseling, reentry programming or strategies that can help address gaps that make clinical programming more successful. WBRF has made nine awards to date in this portfolio that will reach more than 3000 individuals.

Addressing Community Health Needs Assessment Findings

A recent Community Health Needs Assessment (“CHNA”) identified a wide range of issues impacting West Baltimore. Some of these issues were prioritized and reaffirmed through early community engagement efforts by WBRF and LifeBridge Health staff. The table below highlights which CHNA topic areas that WBRF grants awarded to date (FY 21 and early FY 22 awards to date) are working to address. Some grantees do cover multiple areas (for example we are supporting an automotive training and vehicle access strategy) but we have flagged their primary core mission below. The WBRF is pleased to be able to help directly tackle community needs through grantmaking activities.

WBRF Investments Addressing CHNA Findings

Identified Community Issues from 2019 CHNA	CHNA Priorities Established	LifeBridge Health Listening Tours	FY 21 PRG Grantees	FY 22 PRG Grantees
Crime and Related Trauma	X	X	1	1
Behavior Health / Substance Abuse/ Opioid				
Access to Primary Care Physicians				
Chronic Conditions			1	1
Children’s Health				
Health Education/Public Education System	X	X	1	1
Youth Services	X	X	8	7
Access to Healthy Foods	X		3	1
Employment and Workforce Development	X	X	4	5
Community Engagement				
Housing and Homelessness	X	X	1	
Financial Counseling and Literacy			1	1
Coordination of Services Across Community		X (Grime)	2	
Senior Support Services	X		1	
Transportation			1	

The Factory: A West Baltimore Opportunity Center

Construction is now underway on “the Factory.” The WBRF acquired 5 N. Calhoun Street which is a 33,000 square foot, two story, former gelato production facility located approximately 6 blocks east of Grace Medical Center. It includes a commercial kitchen, large walk in freezer, and has ample space to host a variety of programming. Feedback



from the community as well as other area stakeholders has identified interest in health, mental health, food/nutrition, workforce, and youth services. To accommodate these activities as well as work towards sustainable services, the WBRF is moving forward with a hybrid approach for the building that will feature tenant spaces for nonprofit organizations at affordable rates as well as direct programming that can be rotated based on changing community needs or issues.

Designs for the building enable this approach. Five tenant suites are being planned each ranging from 1700 to 3400 square feet. The existing commercial kitchen and former gelato production space would be updated and include a teaching kitchen with 5 stations. A classroom, computer lab, and variety of meeting spaces will also be included. One meeting area will be able to host gatherings of up to 75 internally and with retractable garage doors, more can be accommodated with indoor/outdoor programming.

Three LifeBridge Health entities will be in the building including VSP’s PATH program which offers workforce development in the healthcare field, Center for Hope’s West Baltimore trauma and violence prevention staff, as well as WBRF staff. NAMI Baltimore will also have part time space in the building hosting mental health services and programming.

Looking Ahead

The past year has been a very busy but rewarding as investments made by the WBRF are starting to show initial results. Looking ahead, the WBRF is seeking to move forward capacity building opportunities for its grantees as well as finding ways to help them continue to maximize programming that can benefit the community. With construction at the Factory underway, we are very excited about and looking forward to the resources our new facility will offer.

West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation
 Summary of Grant Awards Approved by the WBRF Board
 Fiscal Year 2021
 January 5, 2022

	Amount Awarded	Purpose
Small Neighborhood Grants		
Central Baptist Church (FY 2021)	\$2,500	Central Baptist Church will provide turkey kits for 28 individuals and 75 holiday gift bags for youth
Fayette Street Outreach (FY 2021)	\$2,500	Fayette Street Outreach will coordinate a thanksgiving meal for 200 individuals and holiday gifts, person protection equipment and educational related/essential clothing gifts for approximately 150 youth.
Southwest Sports and Fitness Alliance	\$2,500	SFA will coordinate a 5K race for approximately 400 participants featuring local landmarks uniting neighbors, families, and local resources to create active healthy communities.
Friends of SOWEBO / Hollins Roundhouse	\$2,500	Funding will support community building for Hollins Roundhouse that will include a movie night, African drum lessons, and painting party for 95 individuals.
Franklin Square Elementary Middle / St. Luke's Youth Center (FY 2021)	\$2,500	Funding will support an end of school year celebration for Franklin Square Elementary Middle School featuring music, entertainment, prizes, food, refreshments, and games for approximately 300 students.
Franklin Square Community Association	\$2,500	Franklin Square Community Association will host a community anniversary celebration for Kirby Lane Park for 60 individuals.
Program Related Grants		
<i>Food Access</i>		
American Heart Association	\$50,000	The American Heart Association will provide soup and healthy snacks for approximately 200 individuals a week at Unity Property Senior Buildings along with survey of food needs and programming outcomes.
U Empower of MD - The Food Project	\$75,000	Facilitating youth employment/workforce development for 20 individuals as well as healthy food access through the distribution of food boxes as well as 500+ prepared / delivered meals per week.
Baltimore Public Market Corporation	\$150,000	Baltimore Public Market Corporation will create a multi-purpose pop-up stall at Hollins Market to support emerging food businesses with emphasis on those that are minority owned or West Baltimore based.
<i>Mentoring</i>		
Parks and People Foundation	\$100,000	The award will support three core youth programs including SuperKids, Branches and Middle School Sports that will include more than 1500 participants annually, but will target 200 participants in West Baltimore. The parks program will focus on the creation of 3 parks in West Baltimore.
Safe Alternative Foundation for Education	\$150,000 (\$50,000 per year)	SAFE will be launching operations of a new woodshop program linked to ongoing mentorship programming serving 40 -76 individuals as well as the

	for 3 years)	creation of a new training program to serve 24-36 adults ages 18-24 years in construction and technical skills.
Green Street Academy	\$150,000	Green Street Academy will be advancing student technology access and educational opportunities through new computers and a 3D printer at the Elijah Cummings Innovation Center as well as programming to support 140 students at the new Ag-Tech and greenhouse through student employment, new equipment and supplies for a Community Supported Agriculture program, a pop-up business and other programming.
Mentoring Male Teens in the Hood	\$30,000	MMTH will provide tutoring sessions 3 days a week, monthly inspirational speakers, career and life opportunity programming, and two field experiences including a visit to a university and Camp Letts for 30 to 40 young men.
Black Girls Cook	\$52,800	Black Girls Cook will provide culinary and edible gardening programming to 40 young women in the spring and summer of 2021.
National Football League Alumni Association / ABC Park Seminoles Sports Agency	\$50,000	ABC Park and the NFL Alumni Association will support 150 youth across 4 sports with broader activities and supports including health, a job incubator for 10 to 15, and financial literacy.
B360	\$50,000	B360 will transition 200 youth and young adult riders in West Baltimore out of traffic into programming and safe space to grow transferable skills, increase economic justice, disrupt the prison pipeline and help add sustainability.
I AM MENTality	\$50,000	I AM MENTality will provide workforce training, financial literacy, character development, health & wellness, effective communication and professionalism for 40 to 50 young men.
10:12 Sports	\$40,000	10:12 Sports will provide mentoring for over 250 youth through sports and wrap-up around programming with a goal to grow the number of individuals served by 31 and build a network of job training programs supporting at least 15 youth with workforce transition.
Cody Young Empowerment Youth Charities	\$30,000	The grant will support the creation of Cody's Cave hosted at Center for Urban Families and the mentoring of 25 young men linked to Douglas High School and/or reside in 21217 through tools, programs and resources to combat negative thoughts, and manage stress and trauma to prevent gun violence.
<i>Workforce Development</i>		
BioTechnical Institute of Maryland	\$100,000	The BioTechnical Institute of Maryland will train 14 West Baltimore residents in 2021 in BTI's BioSTART to Laboratory Associates Program.
VSP – Sinai	\$310,804	VSP – Sinai will provide 50 West Baltimore residents with vital workforce development services as part of the PATH Program to achieve career direction, work readiness in a healthcare setting, job search skills, and job placement services, leading to stable employment.
NPower	\$125,000	NPower will provide job training to 190 individuals, with a challenge goal of 50 from West Baltimore, by teaching in-demand IT skills, providing certification, social support and job placement that moves individuals from poverty to life-time careers in tech.

Center for Urban Families	\$250,000	Center for Urban Families will expand case management support by 3 staff members to assist 1000 individuals with case management services including 280 individuals who will complete intake from West Baltimore zip codes.
Southwest Partnership	\$10,080	Southwest Partnership, in coordination with Bon Secours Community Works, will administer a corridor improvement/maintenance strategy in the 1100 to 1600 blocks of West Baltimore Street supporting jobs/ training for 10 individuals.
<i>Population Health</i>		
Grace Community Health and Wellness	\$21,784	Grace Community Health and Wellness team will administer virtual classes of a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) to residents living in Bon Secours Unity Properties apartment buildings. Funding will support the purchase of 12 laptops and program materials.
Garwyn Oaks Northwest Housing Resource Center	\$51,000	GO Northwest will provide financial education and coaching, homeownership education, counseling, resources, and opportunities for 110 individuals from the school community (parents/caregivers, staff) of Liberty Elementary, Calvin Rodwell Elementary/Middle, and Forest Park High schools to help them achieve financial capacity and homeownership.
No Struggle No Success	\$50,000	No Struggle No Success Inc. (NSNS) will serve as an advocate for approximately 220 individuals returning from prison helping youth and adults navigate a full range of services and resources to reduce program participants from reoffending.
Parity Baltimore	\$50,000	Parity Baltimore will help prepare 75 individuals for homeownership while supporting eviction prevention and displacement strategies for 100 elderly and legacy residents of Harlem Park.
Vehicles for Change	\$54,000	Vehicles for Change will provide 20 refurbished cars to individuals targeting West Baltimore residents and WBRF grantees to support workforce, health care and other transportation access needs. The grant will also indirectly support 125 individuals in automotive job training.
Baltimore Child Abuse Center	\$354,040	Support the expansion of the hospital violence response programming to Grace for 250 individuals, mental health and case management programming for 100 individuals, community engagement strategies, a strategic plan, and client emergency assistance resources.

West Baltimore Renaissance Foundation
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 Fiscal Year 2022 To Date
 January 5, 2022

	Amount Awarded	Purpose
Small Neighborhood Grants		
Central Baptist Church (FY 2022)	\$2,500	Central Baptist Church will provide turkey and meal kits for 125 individuals as well as holiday gift bags at Christmas for 100 youth.
Fayette Street Outreach (FY 2022)	\$2,500	Fayette Street Outreach will provide a Thanksgiving meal for 200 individuals as well as Christmas dinner meals and toys for 150 community residents.
St. Luke's Youth Center MOMs Program (FY 2022)	\$2,500	St. Luke's MOM's Program will host a Thanksgiving celebration for families, neighbors, school staff and partners.
James McHenry Elementary Middle School / United Way	\$2,500	James McHenry will sponsor a Holiday Showcase and Gingerbread build for 150 students / families.
PeacePlayers International	\$2,500	PeacePlayers will be hosting an event at Steuart Hill Academy in honor of Martin Luther King that will combine sports programming with peacebuilding and leadership education for 60 young people.
Program Related Grants		
<i>Food Access</i>		
So What Else / For My City	\$250,000	This grant will support mentoring for 300 youth, fresh and healthy food distribution reaching 35,000 residents, and sustainability strategies and education.
The Y in Central Maryland	\$42,033	The Y will use grant funds to support programming at community pantries located in 5 schools while providing coaching, leadership building and hands on workshops in food systems for more than 30 students.
<i>Mentoring</i>		
The Be.Org	\$25,000	Through Be. Virtual, 45-60 students will participate in a a STEM/workforce development program that uses a virtual reality programming curriculum to teach coding and Social Emotional Learning (SEL).
Project Pneuma	\$150,000	Project Pneuma will teach 42 boys forgiveness and self-control through meditation, yoga, breathing techniques, martial arts, and focus drills. Through this work they will seek to build bonds of trust, love, and respect through social emotional learning wholeness, trauma informed care, healing centered engagement, mentorship, and health and wellness, in congruence with community network building between law enforcement and boys of color.
Ed Reed Foundation	\$20,000	Ed Reed Academy provides access to healthy activities for local youth at the Booker T. Washington School. Programming will include flag football, dance, volleyball, and baseball through multiple community partnerships.

Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative	\$50,000	EJJI will be expanding their Black-Eyed Susan Report into West Baltimore working with 20 youth with a curriculum covering a range of media and key topics journalism, history, public health, environmental justice, activism and more.
Omega Baltimore Foundation	\$50,000 (\$25,000 for 2 years)	Omega Baltimore will offer a range of programming at the Easterwood Recreation Center including football, mentoring, and food access.
Wide Angle Youth Media	\$250,000	Wide Angle Youth Media will support 72 middle school students in Baltimore Speaks Out workshops; 96 high school students with intermediate-advanced media concentrations; and 14 individuals in media related apprenticeship and internship programs.
Code in the Schools	\$75,000	Code in the Schools will recruit 40-50 young people from West Baltimore neighborhoods into the Prodigy Program that helps prepare individuals for positions in the technology field.
Thread	\$100,000	Thread will match 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.
St. Luke's Youth Center	\$34,000	SLYC After School will provide tuition-free social-emotional learning, academic interventions, enrichment, and leadership development to over 40 children of all ages in West Baltimore.
<i>Workforce Development</i>		
Intersection of Change	\$75,000	Intersection of Change at Strength to Love II will support 15 individuals through workforce development, employment opportunities for 5 returning citizens plus the distribution of 3 tons of local food sold to community members and businesses.
B&O Railroad	\$250,000	The B&O Railroad Museum will provide training for 30 individuals over 3 years in partnership with the Community College of Baltimore County administering a 6 month, 40-hour week, paid, skilled trades job training program with wrap-around services while providing students an opportunity to apply their work on the Museum's 40-acre campus in Southwest Baltimore.
Faith and Work Enterprises	\$54,000	Faith and Work Enterprises will administer workforce development programming for 16 to 24 men each year through training and workforce experience in a social enterprise making and selling chocolate.
Paul's Place	\$61,500	Through Groundworks Kitchen, funding will support workforce development programming for 60 economically disadvantaged adults for jobs in the food service each year.
Innovation Works	\$100,000	Innovation Works, through its Neighborhood Strategy, will be supporting the development and expansion of social enterprises in West Baltimore.
<i>Population Health</i>		
The Urban Oasis	\$25,000	Funding will support a Health and Wellness initiative at focusing on the physical and mental health of West Baltimore residents through year-round exercise programs of Pilates, Aerobics, Zumba, Yoga and Cycling.

NAMI Metropolitan Baltimore	\$97,500	Grant funds will support a part-time employee dedicated to serving the mental health needs of the West Baltimore neighborhoods. The individual will facilitate 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.
University of Maryland, CEC	\$70,000	University of Maryland, CEC and MD Cash Campaign will provide a comprehensive package of services to 1200 West Baltimore residents including financial education and coaching, tax preparation, and benefits screening to help families access programs such as energy assistance, health, and nutrition services that boost income.
Clergy United for the Transformation of Sandtown	\$300,000	CUTS will serve as the anchor for a collaborative education and outreach strategy with LifeBridge Health Population Health team to address cardiovascular disease. CUTS will enroll 75 residents in healthcare insurance; provide cardiovascular disease prevention and educational information and referrals to 75-150 individuals; and link 50 hard to reach individuals with healthcare services.